

Preface

This book builds on a research project that was undertaken from 2003 to 2010 by the Mega-City Research Group at the Center for Sustainable Urban Regeneration, at The University of Tokyo, and the international workshop on world megacities held 7–8 March 2008 by the Center for Sustainable Urban Regeneration (cSUR) at The University of Tokyo.

Obviously, the sustainability issues of megacities including Tokyo, which is the largest megacity in the world, has been one of the major topics studied by cSUR since it was established in 2003. In September of 2004, cSUR held an international conference on sustainable urban regeneration, and we invited research on varied sustainability issues of Asian megacities including Seoul, Beijing, Manila, Bangkok, and Tokyo. With the basic knowledge derived from the conference and the preliminary study of the sustainability challenges of Tokyo, we held a presentation titled “Toward a Comparative Study on Spatial Planning Issues and Approaches in Diverse Megacities” at the 2006 World Planning School Congress, 11–16 July 2006 in Mexico City, at which we invited core research members engaged in comparative studies of the sustainability problems of world megacities from the point of view of urban form and spatial planning. Thus, the core editorial team of this book, consisting of André Sorensen, Alfonso Valenzuela, Haryo Winarso, Akito Murayama, and myself, was established in early 2007. This team planned the workshop, invited candidate authors, and held the workshop in March 2008 in Tokyo.

In the workshop, 20 papers on 20 megacities were presented. It was an intensive, exciting and fruitful workshop. At the closing session, all participants decided to publish those papers and discussions as a book for researchers, experts, students, and all those who are interested in the challenges of sustainability of world megacities. It is my great happiness to see this book, which is the fruit of the labor of all authors and editorial staff.

I would particularly like to thank André Sorensen for taking on the editing duties, Philippa Campsie for her careful copy-editing work, and the editorial staff members at Springer Japan for their work in shepherding the book into print. cSUR is grateful for the generous funding (as a 21st Century COE Program 2003–2008 and a Global COE program after 2008) from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Technology that allowed us to hold the workshop and produce this volume. Finally, on behalf of cSUR, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Sustainable Urban Regeneration (COE) program and the megacity research project. We will continue to pursue the theme, and we welcome your comments and responses to the following pages.

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Megacities

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