

# A Brief History of JR East

<b>1987</b>	April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JR East established through division and privatization of JNR</li> <li>• Tokyo Regional Operations Headquarters, Tokyo Region Marketing Headquarters, Tohoku Regional Headquarters, Niigata Branch, and Nagano Branch established</li> </ul>	<b>1989</b>	April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Safety Research Laboratory</i> and <i>General Training Center</i> established</li> <li>• Fares revised in connection with introduction of Japan's national consumption tax</li> </ul>
	April 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Railway Safety Promotion Committee</i> meeting convened for the first time</li> </ul>		May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New-type ATS-P (Automatic Train Stop) devices introduced to enhance safety</li> </ul>
	April 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>American Potato</i> new-style directly operated beer garden restaurant opened in Shimbashi Station</li> </ul>		October 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JR East InfoLine English-language information service began</li> </ul>
	May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Casualty insurance agency business begun</li> </ul>		December 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ATS-SN devices introduced</li> </ul>
	May 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catch phrase "From your neighborhood all the way to the future" adopted</li> </ul>	<b>1990</b>	March 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Safety Seminar held</li> </ul>
	June 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Green Counter</i> customer feedback desk opened</li> </ul>		March 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timetable revised</li> <li>• Tokyo–Soga section of Keiyo Line opened</li> </ul>
	July 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic travel marketing business begun</li> </ul>		March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ATS-P use begun on Tokyo–Nakano section of Chuo Rapid Line and Nakano–Chiba section of Chuo/Sobu Local Line</li> </ul>
	July 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tokyo Ekikon</i> station concert series begun</li> </ul>		April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morioka Office and Akita Office upgraded to branches</li> </ul>
	October 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Huasa di Croma</i> voluntary tip system rest room facility opened at Shimbashi Station</li> </ul>		April 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resort Limited Express <i>Super View Odoriko</i> debuted</li> </ul>
	October 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General travel agency business begun</li> </ul>		June 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shin Ojiya electric power generation plant began operating</li> </ul>
<b>1988</b>	February 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First interregional personnel transfer implemented</li> </ul>		September 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tokyo Region Marketing Division and Tokyo Region Operations Divisions merged to create Tokyo Regional Headquarters</li> </ul>
	March 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timetable revised</li> <li>• <i>Seikan Tunnel</i> (Aomori–Hakodate) completed, and <i>Hokutosei</i> Ueno–Sapporo sleeper train service launched</li> </ul>		September 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Railway Safety Symposium held</li> </ul>
	March 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First directly operated building, <i>Arcade Akabane</i>, opened in Akabane Station</li> </ul>		September 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>atré Yotsuya</i> full-scale, directly managed station building opened at Yotsuya Station on the Chuo Line</li> </ul>
	April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takasaki branch, Mito branch, Chiba branch established</li> <li>• Bus service operations separated into JR Bus Tohoku Co., Ltd., and JR Bus Kanto Co., Ltd.</li> <li>• <i>Tokyo Station Gallery</i> museum opened within Tokyo Station</li> </ul>		October 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Future21</i>, management plan toward the 21st century, announced</li> </ul>
	July 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hotel Metropolitan Sendai</i> opened</li> </ul>		October 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First International Railway Safety Conference held</li> </ul>
	September 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Challenge Safety Campaign</i> implemented nationwide</li> </ul>		December 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Gala Yuzawa</i> Station opened</li> <li>• Station-linked <i>Gala Yuzawa Ski Resort</i> opened</li> </ul>
	September 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>JC Shinagawa Store</i> in-station convenience store opened</li> </ul>	<b>1991</b>	March 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>IO Card</i> automatic ticket reader-compatible prepaid card sales launched</li> </ul>
	December 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shin-Kiba–Nishi Funabashi/Minami Funabashi section and Chiba Minato–Soga section of Keiyo Line opened</li> </ul>		March 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timetable revised</li> <li>• Sagami Line completely electrified</li> </ul>
	December 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train collision occurred on Chuo Local Line at Higashi Nakano Station</li> </ul>		March 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narita Airport Station opened</li> <li>• <i>Narita Express</i> limited express trains debuted</li> </ul>
<b>1989</b>	March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timetable revised</li> <li>• <i>Super Hitachi</i> express train launched on Joban Line</li> <li>• Double-decker <i>Green Cars</i> introduced on Tokaido Line</li> </ul>		June 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JR East JR Furukawa Soccer Club, <i>JEF UNITED</i>, established</li> </ul>
				June 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tohoku/Joetsu Shinkansen Tokyo Station opened</li> <li>• <i>View Bus</i> service to tourist areas in Tohoku region begun</li> </ul>
				September 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Railway Crossing Accident Prevention</i> campaign implemented</li> </ul>
				October 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tohoku and Joetsu Shinkansen railway facilities acquired</li> </ul>

<b>1991</b>	December 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timetable revised</li> <li>• Number of six-door cars on Yamanote Line trains increased by 1, to 11</li> <li>• JR East Telephone Center established</li> </ul>
<b>1992</b>	March 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>East Japan Railway Culture Foundation</i> established</li> </ul>
	April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Committee on Ecology</i> held for the first time</li> </ul>
	April 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial operation on Tokaido Line of double-decker, new-type 215 series commuter railcars begun</li> </ul>
	April 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing of units in <i>Fiore Kitsuregawa</i> housing development in Tochigi Prefecture begun</li> </ul>
	July 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fukushima–Yamagata section of Yamagata Shinkansen Line opened and <i>Tsubasa</i> Shinkansen trains debuted</li> </ul>
	August 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total separation of smoking and nonsmoking areas at all Yamanote Line stations begun</li> </ul>
	October 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First <i>Service Symposium</i> held</li> </ul>
	November 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation agreement with Deutsche Bahn AG of Germany arranged</li> </ul>
<b>1993</b>	February 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>View Card</i> service begun</li> </ul>
	March 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All-day smoking ban expanded to include all Tokyo suburban stations and all major train stations</li> </ul>
	March 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timetable revised</li> <li>• 209 series commuter railcars introduced on Keihin-Tohoku Line and other lines</li> </ul>
	June 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. 2 generating unit at Kawasaki Thermal Power Plant began operating</li> </ul>
	July 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timetable revised</li> <li>• <i>View Wakashio</i> and <i>View Sazanami</i> limited express trains debuted on Uchibo and Sotobo lines</li> </ul>
	October 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JR East shares listed</li> <li>• 2.5 million shares of JR East stock sold</li> </ul>
	November 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Asia Railway Safety Seminar</i> held</li> </ul>
	November 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yamagata Terminal Building (<i>Hotel Metropolitan Yamagata</i> and <i>Metro Plaza</i>) opened</li> </ul>
<b>1994</b>	March 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Safety Basic Plan</i> announced</li> </ul>
	May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sales of units at JR East's first condominium development project, <i>Patios 1-bangai</i>, begun</li> </ul>
	May 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First lodging-oriented business hotel, <i>Hotel METS Kumegawa</i>, opened</li> </ul>
	June 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Niitsu Rolling Stock plant established</li> </ul>
	June 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First post-listing regular general meeting of shareholders held</li> </ul>
	July 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Max</i> double-decker Shinkansen trains debuted</li> </ul>
	September 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First R&amp;D Symposium held</li> </ul>
	November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test runs of TRY-Z testing cars for conventional tracks begun</li> </ul>

<b>1994</b>	December 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timetable revised</li> <li>• <i>Super Azusa</i> trains began operating on Chuo Line</li> <li>• E217 series railcars introduced on Sobu Rapid Line and Yokosuka Line</li> </ul>
<b>1995</b>	April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>View Gift Certificate</i> sales launched</li> <li>• Economically priced (¥6,800/day) rent-a-car service begun (from June used <i>Torenta-kun</i> logo)</li> </ul>
	May 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial operation of E127 series railcars in Niigata region begun</li> </ul>
	July 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of multilevel platform for Chuo Line at Tokyo Station begun</li> </ul>
	July 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First long-term residential hotel, <i>Folklore Tono</i>, opened</li> </ul>
	September 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation agreement with Ferrovie dello Stato S.p.A of Italy arranged</li> </ul>
	November 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of COSMOS Shinkansen transport operation system introduced</li> </ul>
	November 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation agreement with Societe Nationale des Chemins de fer Francais (SNCF) of France arranged</li> </ul>
	December 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timetable revised</li> <li>• <i>Nasuno</i> trains on Tokyo–Nasu–Shiobara section of Tohoku Shinkansen Line debuted</li> <li>• E501 series commuter-type railcars introduced on Joban Line</li> </ul>
<b>1996</b>	February 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Units in first condominium development project in Sendai region, <i>View Park Minami Sendai</i>, launched</li> </ul>
	March 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JR East website opened</li> </ul>
	March 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timetable revised</li> <li>• Saikyo Line extended to Ebisu</li> <li>• Hachioji–Komagawa section of Hachiko Line opened</li> </ul>
	March 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>JR East's Response to Environmental Problems</i> brochure released</li> </ul>
	May 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Touch-panel ticket vending machines introduced</li> </ul>
	May 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hotel METS Kokubunji</i> and integral station-type child-care facility opened</li> </ul>
	August 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Michinokuekikon</i> concerts at stations in Tohoku region held</li> </ul>
	October 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yokohama Branch established</li> </ul>
	November 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hotel Metropolitan Nagano</i> opened</li> </ul>
	December 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ATOS Tokyo Region transport operation system introduced</li> </ul>
<b>1997</b>	March 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timetable revision</li> <li>• Akita Shinkansen Line opened and <i>Komachi</i> trains debuted on that line</li> <li>• <i>Hokuetsu express</i> HokuHoku Line opened</li> <li>• Smoking banned at all stations and on all local trains</li> </ul>

1997	April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fares revised in connection with hike of national consumption tax rate to 5%</li> </ul>	1999	October 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>View Card Cashing Service</i> begun in cooperation with cooperating banks and post office branches throughout Japan</li> </ul>
	September 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New head office building opened</li> </ul>		December 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timetable revised</li> <li>Yamagata–Shinjo section of Yamagata Shinkansen Line opened</li> </ul>
	October 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timetable revised</li> <li>Nagano Shinkansen Line opened and <i>Asama</i> Shinkansen trains debuted</li> <li><i>Tanigawa</i> trains introduced on Joetsu Shinkansen Line</li> <li><i>Fresh Hitachi</i> limited express trains debuted on Joban Line</li> </ul>		December 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>EcoTrain</i> operation begun</li> </ul>
	October 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train collision occurred at Otsuki Station</li> </ul>		2000	March 11
1998	January 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JR EAST PASS sales launched</li> </ul>	April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>View Card</i> started to collaborate with Visa</li> <li>JR East General Education Center established</li> </ul>	
January 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E@Station website established</li> </ul>	April 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internet seat reservation system launched</li> <li><i>Ekinet</i> Internet shopping mall launched</li> </ul>		
January 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First directly managed supermarket, <i>Mercado J Nishi Funabashi</i>, opened</li> </ul>	May 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JR East Management Reform Seminar international conference held</li> </ul>		
March 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TRAINING campaign begun</li> </ul>	June 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E231 series railcars introduced on Utsunomiya and Takasaki lines</li> </ul>		
April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hachioji Branch established</li> <li>Tokyo Region Headquarters renamed Tokyo Branch Office</li> <li>Tohoku Regional Headquarters renamed Sendai Branch Office</li> </ul>	July 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JR Sendai Hospital and <i>Heart Gobashi</i> nursing care facility opened</li> </ul>		
April 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Executive Council Seminar held at head office building</li> </ul>	September 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Onuma Furusato Afforestation Program</i> organized in cooperation with JR Hokkaido</li> </ul>		
October 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JR East Art Center/<i>Shiki Theater</i> opened</li> </ul>	November 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>New Frontier 21</i> JR East Group medium-term management plan announced</li> </ul>		
October 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total passengers on Tohoku, Joetsu, and Nagano Shinkansen lines surpasses one billion</li> </ul>	December 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JR East became first company to be an Accredited Railway Operator based on Railway Law</li> </ul>		
November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Flore Shinagawa</i> shopping mall in Shinagawa Station opened</li> <li>Use of Shinkansen early-warning earthquake detection system begun</li> <li>Marketing of <i>Traincle</i>, the world's lightest folding bicycle, begun</li> </ul>	2001	April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Omiya Branch established</li> </ul>	
December 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timetable revised</li> <li><i>Komachi</i> Akita Shinkansen trains converted to six-car configuration</li> </ul>	April 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cash management system launched</li> </ul>		
1999	February 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Safety Plan 21</i> announced</li> </ul>	April 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Ekinet Travel</i> comprehensive travel site launched in cooperation with Japan Airlines and JTB</li> </ul>	
February 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board of Directors voted on resolution regarding problem of supplementary burden from transfer of pension program</li> </ul>	July 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women-only railcars introduced on Saikyo Line</li> </ul>		
March 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. 3 generating unit at Kawasaki Thermal Power Plant began operating</li> </ul>	July 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Otona no Kyujitsu Club</i> established</li> </ul>		
April 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Granduo Tachikawa</i> in Tachikawa opened</li> </ul>	October 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JC and <i>Mini Convenience</i> stores merged to create the <i>NEWDAYS</i> chain of in-station convenience stores</li> </ul>		
April 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>SL Banetsu Monogatari</i> trains began operating</li> <li>Station service managers introduced</li> </ul>	November 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Suica</i> noncontact-type IC card system service introduced</li> </ul>		
July 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operation of <i>Cassiopeia</i> Ueno–Sapporo sleeper trains begun</li> </ul>	December 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised JR Company Law took effect</li> <li>Timetable revision</li> <li>Shonan-Shinjuku Line began operating</li> <li>E257 series railcars introduced for <i>Azusa</i> express service on the Chuo Line</li> </ul>		
August 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second tranche (one million shares) of JR East shares marketed</li> </ul>	2002	February 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yamanote Line railcar body advertising launched</li> </ul>	
			February 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>atré Ueno</i> opened</li> </ul>	
			February 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Ekipara</i> station building portal site launched</li> </ul>	
			March 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Chabuzen</i> (set-menu restaurant), first commercialization of <i>J-Tomorrow</i> business, opened in Ueno Station</li> </ul>	

<b>2002</b>	April 1	• <i>atré Meguro</i> opened in JR Tokyu Meguro Building	<b>2004</b>	October 23	• Niigata Prefecture Chuetsu Earthquake occurred • Joetsu Shinkansen <i>Toki 325</i> train derailed	
	April 21	• E231 series railcars (incorporating information technology) introduced on Yamanote Line		November 26	• <i>JAPAN SNOW PROJECT</i> , a cooperative travel promotion campaign, begun in cooperation with Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways	
	June 21	• Japan Railway Construction Public Corporation (JRCC) sold 500,000 shares in JR East and full privatization of JR East achieved		<b>2005</b>	January 4	• Issuance of <i>JAL Card Suica</i> cards begun
	November 1	• Accident History Pavilion opened within JR East General Education Center			January 24	• <i>New Frontier 2008</i> medium-term management plan announced
<b>2003</b>	December 1	• Timetable revision • Tohoku Shinkansen Morioka–Hachinohe section opened (adopting digital Automatic Train Control (DS-ATC)) • Tohoku Shinkansen <i>Hayate</i> service launched • Mutual line-sharing arrangement for direct trains on the Saikyo Line and the Rinkai Line of Tokyo Waterfront Area Rapid Transit Co., Ltd.	February 22	• <i>Suica Station Ueno</i> begun		
	March 1	• Full privatization celebrated with Customer Appreciation Month	March 1	• Timetable revised • New-type railcars introduced in all Limited Express <i>Hakutaka</i> trains and number of such trains increased by one		
	April 10	• Former Shimbashi rail yard renewed	March 5	• <i>ecute Omiya</i> opened		
	May 6	• Trial operations of <i>NE Train</i> begun	June 1	• <i>Otona no Kyujitsu Club: Zipangu</i> card service begun		
	July 1	• <i>View Suica</i> card service begun • Collaboration with JCB begun • JR East Travel Service Center established at Narita Airport Terminal 1 and Airport Terminal 2	June 25	• <i>FASTECH 360S</i> Shinkansen high-speed test run begun		
	October 12	• <i>Suica FREX</i> commuter pass service begun	July 9	• Timetable revised • E531-series railcars introduced on Joban Line local trains		
	October 26	• <i>Suica</i> service in Sendai area begun	October 1	• <i>Otona no Kyujitsu Club: Middle</i> service begun • <i>ecute Shinagawa</i> opened		
	November 1	• Central Health Management Center relocated and renamed JR East Health Promotion Center	December 10	• Timetable revised • Smoking completely prohibited on Nagano Shinkansen, <i>Narita Express</i> , and Boso limited express trains		
	December 21	• <i>Digital ATC</i> system use begun on Minami Urawa–Tsurumi section of Keihin-Tohoku Line	December 25	• The Inaho No.14 limited express train on the Uetsu Line derailed		
	<b>2004</b>	February 29	• <i>Hotel Dream Gate Maihama</i> opened	<b>2006</b>	January 10	• Use of <i>View Suica</i> cards with commuter pass functions begun
March 3		• <i>JR Shinagawa East Building</i> and <i>atré Shinagawa</i> opened	January 21		• <i>Suica</i> service in Niigata area begun	
March 5		• <i>Safety Plan 2008</i> announced	January 28		• <i>Mobile Suica</i> service begun	
March 12		• Timetable revision • Honjo Waseda Station of Joetsu Shinkansen Line opened	February 1		• <i>Disaster Prevention Research Center</i> established	
March 22		• <i>Suica</i> shopping service (e-money) launched	March 18		• Timetable revision • Limited express through services in cooperation with Tobu Railway Co., Ltd.	
May 29		• <i>Adataro Reforestation Project</i> implemented	May 14		• Transportation Museum closed	
August 1		• <i>Suica/ICOCA</i> interchangeable service begun	September 4		• JR East baseball team finished in semifinals of the 77th Intercity Baseball Tournament	
October 16		• Timetable revision • Number of trains on Shonan-Shinjuku Line increased and running times on that line reduced • Introduction of <i>Green Cars</i> on Shonan-Shinjuku, Utsunomiya, and Takasaki lines	October 1		• Automatic charging service for <i>View Cards</i> with <i>Suica</i> functions begun	
			December 26		• E233 series railcars introduced on Chuo Line	
			<b>2007</b>		March 8	• <i>Sapia Tower</i> completed as first main element of <i>Tokyo Station City</i>
		March 18	• <i>Suica/PASMO</i> interchangeable service in Tokyo metropolitan area begun			