

Alerte patrimoine : Menace immédiate pour la forêt urbaine de Jingu Gaien, Tokyo, Japon. Environ 3,4 ha d'espaces verts et 3 000 arbres faisant partie du patrimoine voués à disparaître à cause d'un réaménagement

Communiqué de presse
7 septembre 2023

L'ICOMOS, en collaboration avec son Comité national japonais et son Comité Scientifique International sur les Paysages Culturels (ISCCL), publie une Alerte patrimoine appelant au retrait du projet de réaménagement de Jingu Gaien – comprenant le plan d'abattage de plus de 3 000 arbres – qui devrait débuter en septembre 2023. La forêt est vitale et assure la préservation et la continuité du cœur du système de parcs de Tokyo Garden City, créé au XVIIIe siècle.

La construction prévue de trois gratte-ciels ainsi que le remplacement et le déplacement des stades de baseball et de rugby existants par de nouveaux stades entraîneront la destruction complète de la forêt urbaine qui s'est formée et a été cultivée au cours du dernier siècle.

Les promoteurs du projet sont Mitsui Fudosan Co. Ltd., le sanctuaire Meiji Jingu, le Conseil japonais des sports et Itochu Co. Ltd. Le gouvernement métropolitain de Tokyo a approuvé le plan de réaménagement en l'absence d'un dialogue approprié avec les citoyens locaux et les autres parties prenantes.

Les parcs urbains sont des lieux de loisirs pour la population et contribuent également au maintien d'une biodiversité riche. Ils atténuent l'effet d'îlot de chaleur dans les villes et offrent un abri en cas de catastrophes naturelles telles que des tremblements de terre. Jingu Gaien, créé grâce aux dons et au travail bénévole des citoyens, représente un patrimoine culturel exceptionnel, sans équivalent dans l'histoire des parcs urbains du monde entier.

Au vu de ce qui est énoncé précédemment, l'ICOMOS lance une Alerte Patrimoine et appelle:

1. Les promoteurs du projet - Mitsui Fudosan Co. Ltd, Meiji Jingu Shrine, Japan Sports Council, et Itochu Co. Ltd. - à retirer immédiatement le projet de réaménagement du Jingu Gaien, en assumant leurs responsabilités sociales et éthiques en tant qu'entreprise internationale, association religieuse et promoteur loyal et honnête du sport;
2. Le gouvernement métropolitain de Tokyo à revoir les décisions d'urbanisme pertinentes, en reconnaissant que sa décision de supprimer ce parc urbain en faveur de la construction de gratte-ciels privera définitivement les citoyens de leur droit d'utiliser le parc et que l'évaluation de l'impact environnemental réalisée pour le projet de réaménagement présente des lacunes fondamentales et doit être réexaminée sur la base d'une meilleure méthodologie;
3. Le sanctuaire Meiji Jingu à se retirer immédiatement du projet, sur la base que Jingu Gaien a été créé grâce aux dons et au travail bénévole des citoyens, et que la promesse de "conserver ce beau parc pour l'éternité" serait tenue;
4. Les arrondissements de Minato, Shinjuku et Shibuya à œuvrer pour que Jingu Gaien soit désigné comme un lieu de beauté scénique, dans l'intérêt des générations futures;
5. Le gouvernement national du Japon à intervenir et ne pas considérer qu'il s'agit d'un problème de la ville de Tokyo uniquement.

L'ICOMOS Japon a présenté un plan alternatif qui n'implique pas l'abattage de nombreux arbres et évite les émissions de carbone – qui résulteraient des plans actuels. L'ICOMOS appelle à la création d'un forum où diverses parties prenantes peuvent contribuer à la discussion sur l'avenir du parc.

[Lire la lettre envoyée par l'ICOMOS \[Anglais\]](#)

Contact: ICOMOS Japon - [jpicomos\[at\]japan-icomos.org](mailto:jpicomos[at]japan-icomos.org)

Le Conseil international des monuments et des sites (ICOMOS) est une organisation internationale unique, non gouvernementale et sans but lucratif, qui s'engage à promouvoir la conservation, la protection, l'utilisation et la mise en valeur du patrimoine culturel mondial. L'ICOMOS est dédié au développement de doctrines communes, à l'évolution et à la diffusion des connaissances, à la création de techniques de conservation améliorées et à la promotion de l'importance du patrimoine culturel. L'organisation a construit un cadre philosophique, doctrinal et managérial solide pour la conservation durable du patrimoine dans le monde entier. En tant qu'organe consultatif officiel du Comité du patrimoine mondial pour la mise en œuvre de la Convention du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO, l'ICOMOS évalue les propositions d'inscription et donne son avis sur l'état de conservation des biens inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial.

ICOMOS Japon, le Comité National de l'ICOMOS au Japon, a environ 500 membres.

www.icomos.org

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Immutable Infrastructure Supporting Urban Vitality Garden City Park System in Tokyo since 17th Century



Fig.1 - Jingu Gaien, the core of the Garden City Park System, facing immediate threat by urban redevelopment

Created by Laboratory of Green Infrastructure in Research and Development Initiative, Chuo University. Graphics by graphic designers Noriko & Isao Tsunoi.



Fig. 2 – Alternative Proposal by ICOMOS Japan: Jingu Gaien--A bridge for the Peaceful World
Created by Laboratory of Green Infrastructure in Research and Development Initiative, Chuo University.

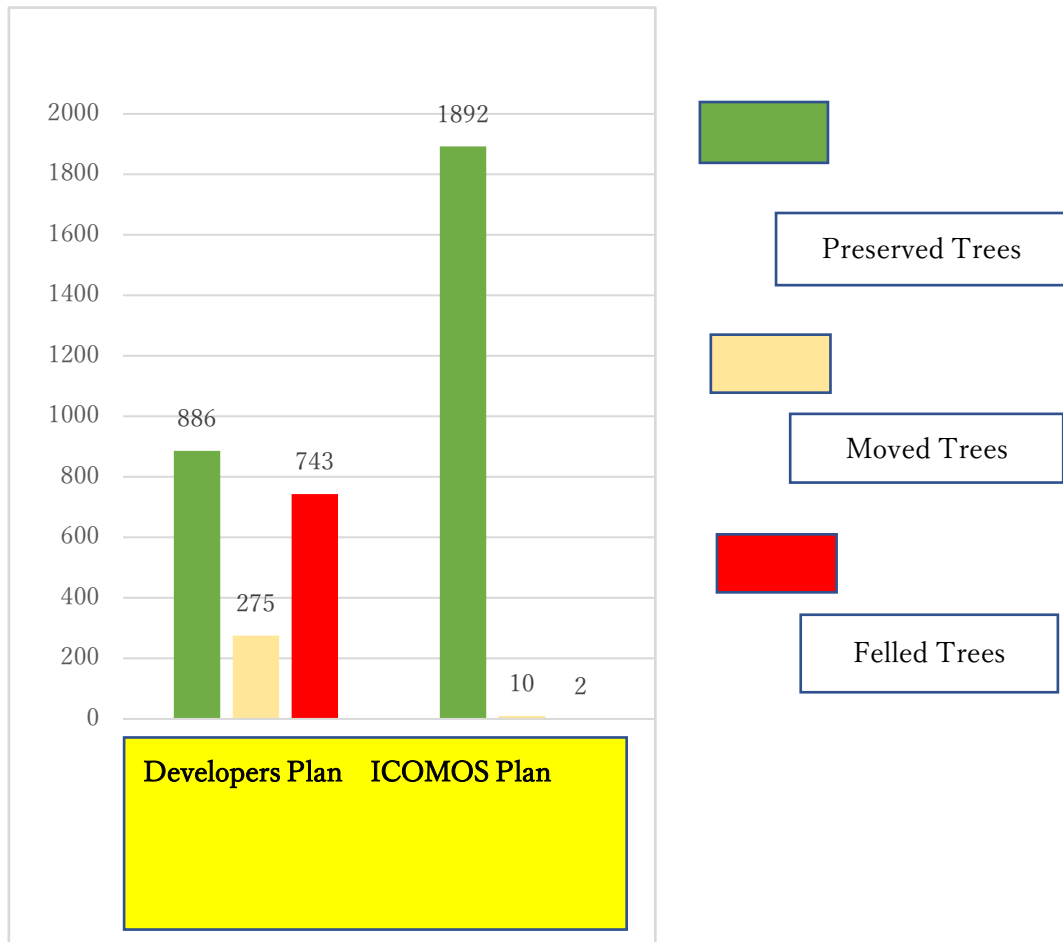


Fig. 3 - Comparison of Number of Trees (Preserved/Moved/Felled) between Developer's Plan and ICOMOS Plan



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Appendix 1

March 29, 2023

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Statement calling for a withdrawal of Jingu Gaien Redevelopment Plan

Jingu Gaien created and nurtured by the people of Japan, is a public space that represents the modern era of Japan, and its beautiful park landscape is a cultural heritage that we are proud to share with the world. The redevelopment plan for Jingu Gaien has been approved by Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) in March 2022 and the project is currently underway by a corporate group.

Since last year, as the details of this plan were becoming clear, ICOMOS Japan conducted on-site investigations and have come to the conclusion that this redevelopment project, under the guise of good urban development, will greatly damage Jingu Gaien where the Ginkgo promenade and historic trees have been preserved very well through the efforts of many people.

This is not compatible with the report of the project promoter who conducted the environmental impact assessment. Nevertheless, TMG has accepted the report and is proceeding with procedures that ignore the wishes of the people, such as making decisions that reduce the park area and approving projects without responding to errors and unscientific methodologies in the environmental impact assessment report.

ICOMOS Japan cannot afford to overlook this redevelopment. Since Dec. 2021, when we submitted our opinions on the "City Planning Jingu Gaien Area District Plan" to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, we have visited the Bureau of Urban Development and the Bureau of Environment of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and offered many proposals and requests both to the developers and TMG, as shown in the attached



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sheet. During this period, the Environment Bureau of TMG encouraged dialogue between the developers and ICOMOS Japan, but unfortunately, the developers did not respond to our requests, and TMG never took the opportunity to respond in any way. The redevelopment project of Jingu Gaien began without any changes to the original plan.

It is clear that Jingu Gaien is now in a critical condition. This redevelopment project will eventually destroy this precious cultural heritage in Tokyo. ICOMOS Japan urges TMG and the developers, to take heed of the voices of the people who cherish Jingu Gaien, as well as the voices of the residents and people from all over the world, and to change this redevelopment plan as quickly and as profoundly as possible.



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List of documents issued by ICOMOS Japan regarding the Jingu Gaien Redevelopment Project

Website: [ICOMOS Japan](https://www.jpicomos.org/)

March 7, 2023: Request for verification of pedestrian traffic safety caused by the relocation of Chichibunomiya Rugby Stadium and pending tree cutting.

March 7, 2023: Request for the preservation of "Jingu Gaien Kasumigaoka Gate" to be destroyed by the relocation of Chichibunomiya Rugby Stadium.

February 20, 2023: Request for the answer from the developers about the "false report" identified by ICOMOS Japan regarding the environment assessment report.

January 29, 2023: Urgent Request - Request pursuant to Article 91, Paragraph 1, Item 5 of the Tokyo Metropolitan Ordinance on Environmental Impact Assessment.

January 23, 2023: Request for Retrial of Environmental Impact Assessment Report, concerning destruction of ecosystems caused from unscientific methodologies on surveys, forecasts, and assessments; Unsustainable forest mitigation due to massive tree cutting and inappropriate transplanting plans; Destruction of the cultural heritage created by the power of citizens.

December 25, 2022: Urgent Request: Do not "lift the restriction on implementation" (Article 61 of the ordinance) by "public notice" (Article 59, Paragraph 1 of the TMG Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance).

December 24, 2022: Urgent Request for a "review of fine root cutting and ring peeling treatment" and for the introduction of the comprehensive study of ginkgo trees toward permanent conservation.

December 16, 2022: Urgent Survey Report, "Ginko Promenade of Jingu Gaien"
October 3, 2022: Proposal for conservation and succession of Jingu Gaien, a cultural heritage representing public space in modern Japan - Toward Conservation of "Urban Green Space, as Common Social Capital".



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April 26, 2022: Proposal to avoid cutting down trees and restore Jingu Gaien, a masterpiece of modern Japan.

February 7, 2022: Proposal for the succession to the future of Jingu Gaien, an outstanding cultural heritage created by the public's donation, dedication and service.

February 1, 2022: Trees planned to be cut down or transplanted according to the Jingu Gaien Area District Plan.

December 28, 2021: Opinion on the " City Planning Jingu Gaien Area District Plan"

Resolution to Protect the Natural, Historical and Cultural Value of Jingu Gaien

Jingu Gaien (Meiji Jingu Outer Gardens) was originally created in the Taisho period (1912-1926) as an integral part of the sacred forest of the Meiji Jingu Shrine, which was built in dedication to the deceased Emperor Meiji. In honor of the legacy of Emperor Meiji, many people from all over Japan participated as volunteers in its creation. The trees planted by them at that time are now over 100 years old, providing precious open space for people's recreation rich in natural features and exhibiting historical and cultural value that is appreciated not only by Japanese people but also internationally. It can be considered to be an early example that is compatible with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals that we advocate today. It also serves as an evacuation site for local residents of the broad surrounding area in the event of a disaster.

However, the Jingu Gaien redevelopment project recently permitted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government has a number of issues of grave concern, including the cutting of thousands of trees, the re-construction of a baseball stadium threatening to kill some of the beautiful ginkgo trees, and eventually to destroy the ginkgo promenade, negative visual impacts to be caused by new skyscrapers, and the possibility of people suffering from stronger "building winds".

To protect the present wonderful scenic beauty and rich natural features of Jingu Gaien, together with its economic value benefitting the surrounding area, too, as well as its venerable historical value, we strongly request that the ginkgo promenades of Jingu Gaien be designated and protected by the national government of Japan as a Place of Scenic Beauty under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties and that the redevelopment project of Jingu Gaien be fundamentally reviewed and duly revised.

December 2022

Diet Members Caucus for the Protection of
Nature, History, and Culture of Jingu Gaien

Hajime Funada, Member, House of Representatives of Japan
Leader of the Diet Members Caucus



Diet Members Caucus for the Protection of Nature, History, and Culture of Jingu Gaien

神宮外苑の自然と歴史・文化を守る国会議員連盟

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参議院議員 Councilors	福島 みずほ Mizuho Fukushima	5	社民 SDP
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June 15, 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS

To: Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike regarding
the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the Jingu Gaien Redevelopment
Plan

From: The Japan Branch of the International Association for Impact Assessment
(IAIA)



Emergency Recommendations

1. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government should invite ICOMOS Japan specialists to the deliberation council and hold a public discussion in order to clarify, from a scientific standpoint, whether there is any false or erroneous data in the EIA.
2. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government should withhold its approval and order the developers to stop any work until the points in questions are cleared up as the advisory body of UNESCO, ICOMOS Japan, has expressed serious concerns about the EIA.

IAIA is the world's leading academic society in the field of EIA, consisting of experts from over 120 nations and regions, which is designated as the representative organization in the field of EIA from the United Nations.

[IAIA The leading global network on impact assessment](#)

Its Japan Branch has serious concerns about the EIA of the Jingu Gaien Redevelopment Plan promoted by the Mitai Fudosan and other three companies, and makes recommendations to take appropriate measures to secure sustainability, which is the primary objective of EIA.

Concerns on the EIA

- **Flaws in the EIA Framework:** Jingu Gaien is a rare urban park in the world, established in 1926 by the public donating money, trees, and voluntary labor. Ever since, this public space has served as a valuable oasis in central Tokyo, serving not only the citizens of Tokyo but also visitors from both Japan and abroad. The EIA of this redevelopment plan, however, has not assessed the true value of Jingu Gaien. Deliberations at the Chosa Keikakusyo (survey planning) stage of the EIA, equivalent to scoping stage, were inadequate. Important items such as its historical value, which is said to be of UNESCO World Heritage level, the value of the urban green space to be

preserved, biological diversity, etc., were not appropriately assessed. The framework makes it all but impossible to assess the negative impact to sustainability.

・ **Lack of Scientific Analysis:** In the deliberation of the Draft EIA Report stage, flaws in the data were pointed out repeatedly with regard to the ecosystems and the avenue of ginkgo trees in the area, but the EIA Report was approved in January 2023 without the developers providing adequate information. Just before that, however, ICOMOS Japan (the Japan committee of ICOMOS, the advisory body of UNESCO), based on detailed on-site investigation, pointed out that the EIA Report contains many false data. Ken-ichiro Yanagi, Chairperson of the Deliberation Council, saying the Council could not give the go-ahead as is, asked the developers to produce counterevidence. The counterevidence by the developers was produced at the general meeting of the Deliberation Council held in April and May, but, without the presence of the ICOMOS Japan experts who pointed out the flaw, the meeting ended up being just a one-sided explanation by the developers, with only perfunctory scientific discussion.

・ **EIA Process Management Issues:** ICOMOS Japan, based on the decision of the board of its directors, has provided concrete data for 58 items (according to the answers from the developer) to point out that the EIA Report contains many false data and the developers have the responsibility to produce concrete data as counterevidence. For this to happen, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government office should have withheld the approval of the EIA Report and invite both the ICOMOS Japan experts along with the developers to hold public discussions, but this has not taken place yet.

It is for these reasons that the IALA Japan Branch has made the Emergency Recommendations above.

IALA Japan Branch

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Harashina, Sachihiko, Ph.D.

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Past President of IALA

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Professor, Tokyo City University

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Professor, Tokyo Institute of Technology



Appendix 4

Letter from Musician Ryuichi Sakamoto to the Governor of Tokyo Metropolitan Government (Translated from Japanese)



Musician, Ryuichi Sakamoto 2013
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Feb.24, 2023

Dear Ms Yoriko Koike,
Governor of Tokyo Metropolitan Government,

Please excuse my abrupt letter.

I am Ryuichi Sakamoto, a musician.
I would like to tell you my thoughts on the redevelopment of Jingu Gaien.
Please read on.

Frankly speaking, we should not sacrifice the precious Jingu trees that our predecessors have spent a century protecting and nurturing for immediate economic gain.
These trees can benefit everybody, but from the development, only a handful of wealthy people will benefit.
These trees are nature itself, and once lost, they can never be regained.

In New York City, where I live, in 2007, the Mayor at that time, Bloomberg launched a project to plant one million trees in the city. This was based on environmental and mental health considerations, social justice, and above all, goals for the future. It is a profound thought for the next generation.
Following the lead of NY City, afforestation campaigns are underway in Boston, LA, and other cities in the USA.

Now, people all around the world are working toward the realization of the SDGs. However, the development of Jingu Gaien is far from sustainability.

If you are going to achieve sustainability, you should suspend the Jingu Gaien redevelopment project that is currently underway, and review the plan totally so that we can hand these trees to our future children.

You should clearly identify that Tokyo is a "sanctuary of the city and nature" and take the political initiative to achieve this goal. I believe that you will win the admiration from the world.

For protecting Jingu Gaien forever, I respectfully request that you will take this opportunity to designate Jingu Gaien as a Place of Scenic Beauty.

I am looking forward to your leadership.

Ryuichi Sakamoto
<https://www.tokyo-np.co.jp/article/243643>