

April 6, 2023

Mr. Ueda Takashi
President and CEO of Mitsui Fudosan Co.
Mr. Kujo Michinari
Chief Priest of Meiji Jingu
Mr. Ishii Takuzo
Executive in charge of Meiji Jingu Revenue Division
Head of Meiji Jingu Gaien
Mr. Ashidate Satoshi
President of the Japan Sports Council
Mr. Ishii Keita
President and COO of Itochu Corp.

Resubmission of request regarding the project for the redevelopment of the Jingu Gaien District

Jingu Gaien, an outer garden of Meiji Shrine, was built by the efforts of Shibusawa Eiichi, a leading industrialist, and others, with donations of money and trees from the public.

In the urban redevelopment of the future, too, it is important for us to not only carry over the history of Jingu Gaien, but also to develop it as a new culture by providing many people with opportunities to come in touch with its greenery and sports, and to pass it on to future generations as a park open to the public.

For these reasons, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government requested, in a document dated May 26, 2022, when pushing forward the urban redevelopment of the Jingu Gaien District, all the organizations involved in the project pay consideration to the following: In light of the history of the outer park, parties would work together to lead to the participation in the plan by a broad range of citizens of Tokyo, toward the preservation of existing trees and the dissemination of easy-to-understand information. In doing so, we have requested that you would make an effort to promote urban redevelopment while winning the empathy and participation of many citizens of Tokyo.

In response to this request, we received reports from your organizations, in August 2022 and in February 2023, concerning the status of the efforts being made by you; these stated that you plan to organize a tree-planting event Tokyo citizens would participate in and also to plant trees that would be donated by people. However, we have yet to be provided with details of the specific efforts you would make to this end and when. As such, our request is yet to be fulfilled.

With regards to the dissemination of relevant information, it has not gone any further than transmission via the project-related websites, thus falling short of gaining the understanding and empathy of Tokyo citizens in the project; this is evidenced in the failure to sufficiently convey the efforts to preserve the rows of ginkgo trees and increasing the greenery there. Likewise, some international media have even formed a misunderstanding that the rows of ginkgo trees would be cut down.

We recognize that the biggest problem of all is that the significance and philosophy of pushing forward with the urban redevelopment of the Jingu Gaien District have not won the understanding and empathy of many citizens of Tokyo.

The organizations involved in the project have won our official approval for implementing the Type 1 Urban Redevelopment Project on February 17, 2023, and have already begun working to clear the area around the Jingu Secondary Stadium, etc. Meanwhile, the approval procedure for the plan to convert the relevant rights is also imminent.

In order to proceed with the project in the days ahead, it is extremely important to gain the understanding and empathy of the citizens of Tokyo.

I would like to once again request that, as the organizations involved in the project, in response to our request, you will set forth concrete and effective measures promptly and implement them proactively.

Tanizaki Keiichi
Director General
Bureau of Urban Development
The Tokyo Metropolitan Government