

Outline of the **TOKYO**

METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY



Introduction

As decentralization progresses, it becomes increasingly critical for a local government to implement autonomous administrative management tailored to local circumstances on its own judgment and responsibility.

As of 2021, COVID-19 pandemic is seriously shaking the world, and has an impact on all aspects of social and economic activities as well as healthcare. By overcoming various social challenges highlighted by COVID-19 and realizing a sustainable society as well as overcoming the fight against COVID-19, we must open the way to a bright future for Tokyo. In addition, by preparing for torrential rains and a large-scale earthquake and responding to decrease in population and further declining birthrate / aging population, it is essential to create Tokyo where citizens can live safely and peacefully.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly is a legislative organ of the dualistic representative system in Tokyo, and we, the Assembly Members, are elected by the citizens of Tokyo. Aiming to solve a wide range of issues Tokyo is facing, on behalf of our citizens, we want to sincerely discuss with the executive organ including the Governor on an equal footing, while having a tense relationship with each other. And we endeavor to grasp diverse community needs, provide the future direction of Tokyo from a different point of view from the executive organ and further advance the metropolitan government.



Assembly Hall

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I. Japanese Local Autonomy System and Metropolitan Assembly

1. Japanese Local Autonomy System and Metropolitan Assembly

About 75 years have passed since Japan established the local autonomy system based on the principles of democracy. During those years, the country has carried out countless number of reforms to grant residents sovereign power of the local community.

The Constitution of Japan stipulates the local autonomy as the most fundamental principle of democracy. It devotes a whole chapter (Chapter VIII: Local Self-Government) to guarantee democratic system of local governments.

The local autonomy in Japan is two-tiered: one is “prefectures” in charge of broader regional matters, and the other is “municipalities” (cities, towns and villages) in charge of issues closely related to residents. Therefore, every local public entity in Japan belongs to a city/town/village as well as a prefecture.

Tokyo is a local public entity just like other prefectures but it has some unique aspects. One such aspect is 23 local public entities called “Special Wards” (Note 1). Tokyo has the functions of a prefecture and a city; it governs cities/towns/villages and functions as a city where the 23 Special Wards exist to ensure comprehensive and efficient operations of a megacity. In addition, it has the special role as the capital of Japan.

Local public entity is composed of a legislative organ (municipal assembly) which makes decisions of an entity and an executive organ (top administrative official) which implements policies in accordance with the decisions made by the assembly. In case of Tokyo, the Metropolitan Assembly and the Governor correspond to those two.

2. Metropolitan Assembly and Governor

In Tokyo, the Metropolitan Assembly is a legislative organ and the Governor is a head of an executive organ. Both the Metropolitan Assembly Members and the Governor are elected by a vote of the citizens.

The authorities and roles of the Metropolitan Assembly and the Governor are clearly separated. The two may be likened to “the two wheels of a cart”. They stand on an equal footing, independent of each other to ensure fair administration through mutual supervision and coordination. This is called the dualistic representative system.

3. Rights and Duties of Citizens

To maintain a democratic local autonomy, every citizen must be aware of his/her role and joins proactively in the public administration. To achieve that goal, the Local Autonomy Act specifies basic rights and duties of the citizens.

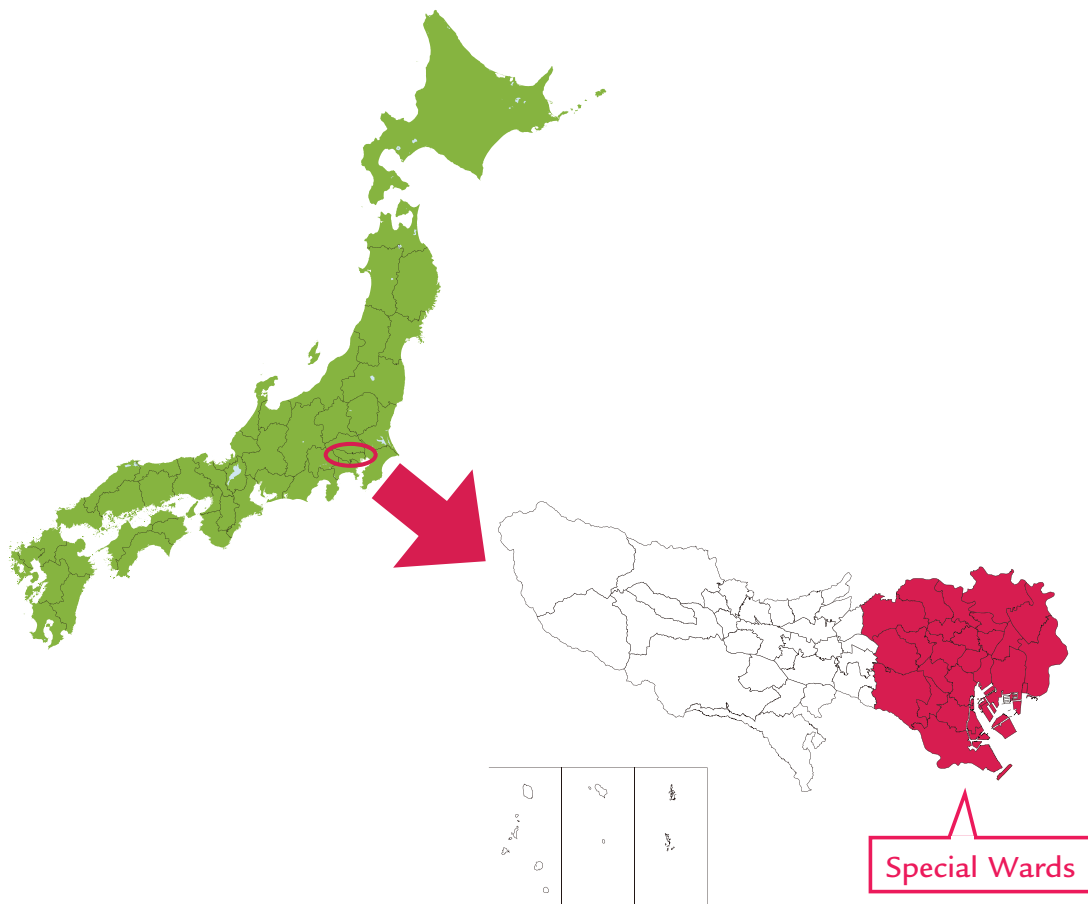
The citizens of Tokyo have the rights to equally receive all public services offered by the municipality. At the same time, they have public duties such as payment of inhabitant tax and contributions according to their benefits and capabilities to cover the city’s administrative cost. Moreover, they have the authority to participate in the administration of the municipality (voting

rights).

In addition, they have the various rights to make direct requests (e.g., request the formulation, revision and abolishment of ordinances, request dissolution of the Assembly, request dismissal of the Assembly Members and the Governor, and request audit of the administrative activities conducted by the municipality) and the right to submit petitions and appeals to reflect their requests in public administration.

Under such system, the Metropolitan Assembly functions as a decision-making body of the local government, Tokyo. The basic mission of the Metropolitan Assembly is to pick up requests and opinions of the citizens carefully on behalf of 14 million citizens and to reflect them in the Tokyo's administrative affairs.

(Note 1) Special Wards are local public entities only in Tokyo, with similar characteristics and functions as cities.



★Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Column 1. “Symbol of the Dualistic Representative System”

The round window above the President’s seat in the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Hall and the round window in the Governor’s office in the Tokyo Metropolitan Main Building No.1 are the same size and located at the same height.

This signifies that the Metropolitan Assembly and the Metropolitan Government are independent and equal. In other words, it symbolizes the dual representative system (see P3).



Metropolitan Assembly



&

Metropolitan Government

**Independent
& Equal !**



The Metropolitan Assembly’s round window is made of a precious type of marble known as onyx marble!
It’s 3 meters in diameter!



II. Functions of Metropolitan Assembly

1. History

The Metropolitan Assembly was founded in 1943, when Tokyo-fu (prefecture) merged with Tokyo-shi (city) and became the Tokyo Metropolis. In May 1947, when the Local Autonomy Act was enacted based on the existing Constitution of Japan, it was recognized as the Tokyo's legislative organ which was functioning the same way as the current Assembly.

Upon recognition, the Assembly established various necessary systems to promote democratic local autonomy (such as Standing Committees, Special Committees, right to submit legislative bills and right to inspect administrative affairs of the Metropolitan Government). Since then, the systems have been continuously improved through several revisions of the Local Autonomy Act.

2. Organization of Assembly

(1) Assembly Members

The Metropolitan Assembly consists of the Assembly Members elected by the citizens of Tokyo.



1) Election of Assembly Members

Tokyo has 42 voting districts and number of Members' seats from 1 to 8 are allocated to each district in proportion to its population.

Candidates need to satisfy the following requirements:

- ① He/she must have Japanese citizenship.
- ② He/she must be at least 25 years old.
- ③ He/she must have resided in Tokyo for at least three months.

If the person is sentenced to imprisonment or more severe punishment, his/her eligibility shall be suspended until he/she finishes the sentence (or he/she is no longer able to serve the sentence). In a similar manner, eligibility is restricted for certain period of time when the person violates the Public Offices Election Act or the Political Funds Control Act.

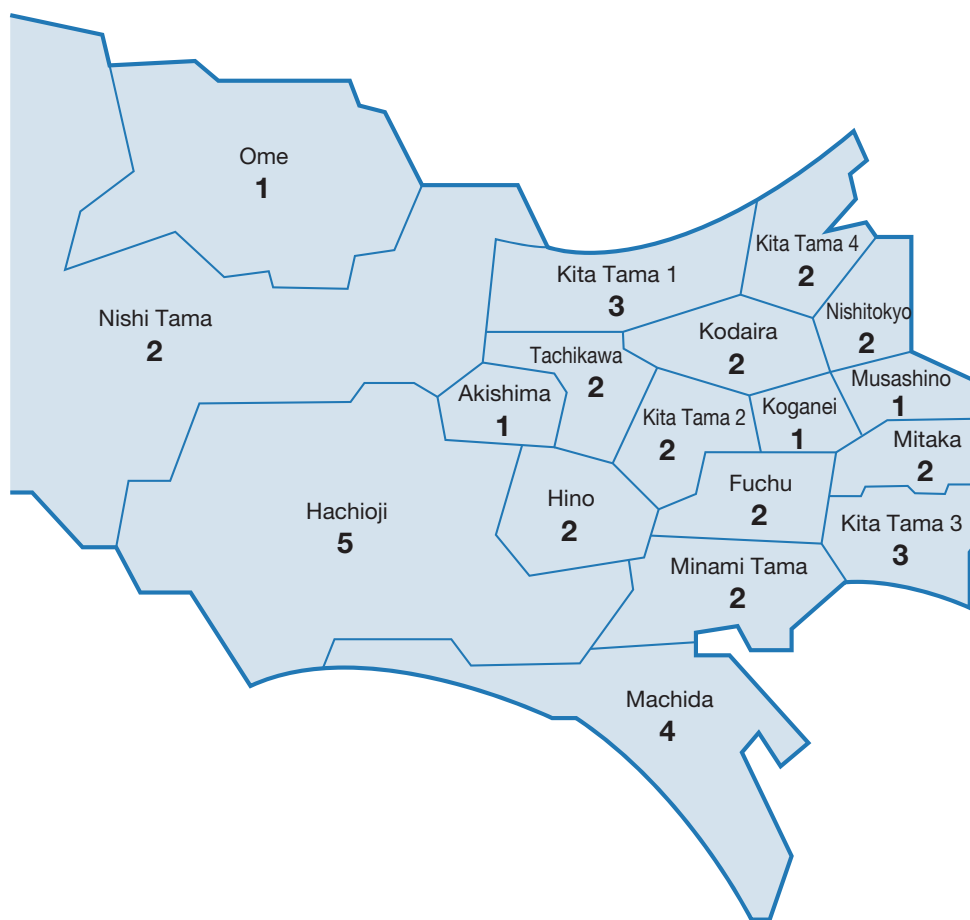
2) Quota and Tenure of Assembly Members

Quota of the Members is 127 and their tenure is 4 years. These are specified in the ordinances of Tokyo.



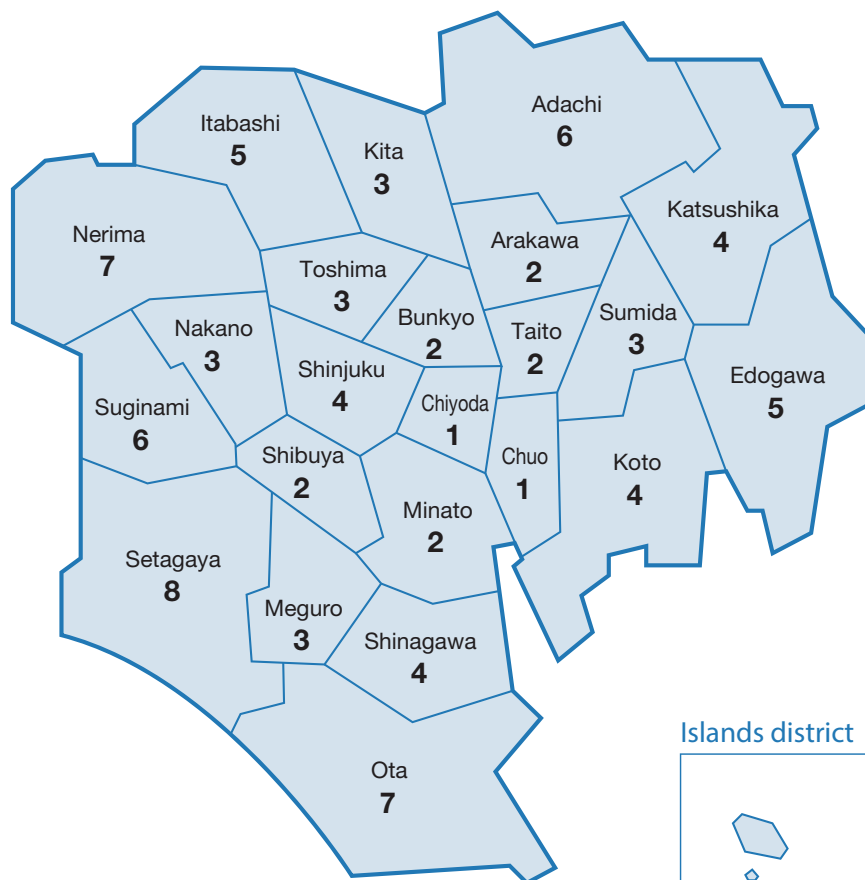
Quota of Metropolitan Assembly, Voting Districts and Number of Members' Seats of Each Voting District (Revised in July 2020)

Tama District

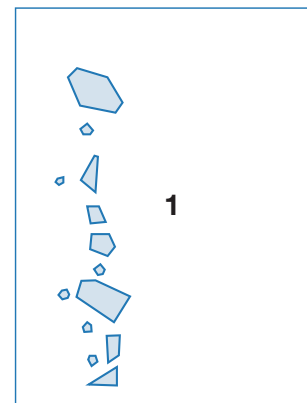


	Number of District	Number of Seats
23 Special Wards	23	87
Tama District	18	39
Islands District	1	1
Total	42	127

23 Special Wards



Islands district



(2) President and Vice-President

The Assembly elects one President and one Vice-President among its Members.

The President publicly represents the Assembly and presides over Plenary Sessions. He/she ensures smooth proceedings and maintains order of the Assembly. The President also takes control of and supervises administrative affairs of the Secretariat of the Assembly. The Vice-President takes the President's responsibilities in his/her absence or in the event that the President is involved in an accident.

Tenure of the President and the Vice-President shall be "the same as that of the Assembly Membership," but they may resign with the approval of the Assembly.

(3) Factions (Political Parties)

"Faction" is a group of the Assembly Members who share the same political principles and policies and collectively take part in political activities. To officially form a faction, it should submit a notice to the Assembly. Just like the National Diet, political activities at the Metropolitan Assembly are being done by factions. Every Assembly Member normally belongs to a faction and each faction makes decisions on the bills submitted according to their principles and policies.



Plenary Session

3. Rights of Assembly

The Metropolitan Assembly is the legislative organ of the local public entity, Tokyo. It has the rights to decide major issues of such local public entity. Principal rights granted to the Assembly are as follows:

(1) Right to Vote

Right to vote is a fundamental right of the Assembly and the way to make decisions of the local public entity. The Governor is not able to execute any major projects without resolutions of the Assembly in the form of a vote. Matters requiring a vote of the Assembly are specified in the Local Autonomy Act.

Typical matters requiring a vote are as follows:

1) Formulation, Revision and Abolishment of Ordinances

“Ordinances” are the “Laws (within the jurisdiction) of Tokyo.” Some provisions stipulated in the ordinances restrict the rights of the citizens or impose certain duties on them. Fares of the metropolitan subways and buses as well as various loan programs are also specified in the ordinances.

2) Approval of Municipal Budget

“Budget” is the estimate of annual revenue and expenditures. Projects and programs designed by the Metropolitan Government will not be initiated until the Governor proposes the budget and the Assembly gives an official approval to it.

3) Conclusion of Important Agreements Stipulated in the Ordinances

(Example) When the Metropolitan Government is to conclude a construction or manufacturing service contract at more than 900 million yen, it needs to gain an official approval from the Assembly.

(2) Right to Elect (the President, the Vice President and the Members of the Election Administration Commission) and Right to Consent

The Metropolitan Assembly elects the President, the Vice-President and the Members of the Election Administration Commission. When the Governor appoints important positions (such as the Vice-Governor, the Members of the Tokyo Metropolitan Public Safety Commission and the Members of the Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Education), he/she needs to gain an official approval from the Assembly.

(3) Right to Request Inspection and Audit

The Metropolitan Assembly has the right to inspect and audit administrative

affairs of the Metropolitan Government, by taking the measures as follows:

- 1) Inspect the documents and financial statements regarding the administration of the Metropolitan Government and request a report to the Governor and relevant executive organs.
- 2) Request audit (to the Audit Commissioners).

(4) Right to Investigate

To investigate the administration of the Metropolitan Government, the Metropolitan Assembly has the right to demand the presence and testimony of electors and other related parties, and the production of records. These rights are referred to as “Article 100 Investigatory Rights,” since they are stipulated in Article 100 of the Local Autonomy Act. The investigation is legally binding and there is a penalty provision to ensure its effectiveness.

For example, if the related parties are asked by the Assembly to present themselves and testify for the investigation, they must not refuse such request without justifiable grounds. If they refuse it, they are denounced by the Assembly and imposed fines or imprisonment.

(5) Right to Submit Opinion Briefs

The Metropolitan Assembly has the right to submit opinion briefs regarding the issues which have great influence on the citizens’ life to the National Diet or relevant ministries and agencies.

(6) No-confidence Motion against Governor

The Governor and the Assembly run the Metropolitan Government respecting each other’s positions and functions. However, if they sharply disagree on certain issues and fail to maintain a balance between them, the Assembly may submit a no-confidence motion against the Governor as a last resort. To pass a no-confidence motion, at least two-thirds of the incumbent Members at the point of voting should attend the Assembly, and at least three-quarters of them should vote yes. If the Assembly passes a no-confidence motion, the Governor may counteract by dissolving the Assembly within 10 days after receipt of such notice. If the Governor does not dissolve within the designated period, the Governor will automatically lose his/her position.



4. Operation of Assembly

(1) Regular Sessions and Extraordinary Sessions

The Metropolitan Assembly holds a “Regular Session” on a quarterly basis (February, June, September and December). The term of a Regular Session is approximately 30 days (about 60 days for deliberating municipal budget). It also holds an “Extraordinary Session” where necessary.

The Governor has the right to convene the Assembly. However, if the Governor receives a request from at least one fourth of the Assembly Members or the President of the Assembly, he/she must convene an Extraordinary Session within 20 days of such request.

(2) Plenary Session

Plenary Session is a session held with the attendance of entire Assembly Members. The Members finally decide whether the legislative bills submitted to the Assembly or the opinions delivered should be approved as the Assembly’s official statements at the Plenary Session.

The Plenary Session opens on the day it is called, with a declaration of the President (at least half of the Members should attend in principle). After the declaration, the President proceeds the session according to the order of the day.

(3) Committees

The Assembly needs to deliberate a wide range and a large number of bills, appeals and petitions within the limited amount of time. Therefore, to enable specialized and thorough examination of the issues before the resolution at the Plenary Session, it adopts the Committee system.

A) Standing Committees

Standing Committees are permanently established committees where the Members discuss various kinds of issues. Currently, there are 9 Standing Committees at the Metropolitan Assembly. They are established in accordance with the Ordinance and each Member should belong to one of the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1) Committee on General Affairs | 6) Committee on Economic Affairs, Port and Harbor |
| 2) Committee on Finance | 7) Committee on Environment and Construction |
| 3) Committee on Education | 8) Committee on Public Enterprises |
| 4) Committee on Urban Development | 9) Committee on Police and Fire Fighting |
| 5) Committee on Welfare | |



Standing Committees

B) Special Committees

When necessary, an ad hoc Special Committee is established to examine specific issues in accordance with the resolutions of the Plenary Session.

Every year, the Assembly establishes the Special Committee on the Budget to examine the budget, the Special Committee on the Settlement of Respective Account and the Special Committee on the Settlement of Public Enterprises Account to examine financial results.



Room for Special Committee on Budget

C) Committee on Assembly Operation

Committee on Assembly Operation is the committee where the representatives from each faction discuss the operation, etc. of the Metropolitan Assembly.



Committee on Assembly Operation Chamber

(4) Process of Passing Legislative Bills

In general, legislative bills submitted to the Metropolitan Assembly are sent to the Committees for examination. Based on the examination by the Committees, the bills are resolved at the Plenary Session. Process of passing legislative bills is as follows:

1) Submission of Legislative Bills to Plenary Session

The Governor, the Assembly Members and the Committees have the right to submit legislative bills to the Plenary Session. The Assembly Member(s) must gain approval of at least one-twelfth of the quorum for submission. The Member(s) who submit the bills must explain the contents and the reasons for submission at the Plenary Session.

2) Examination at Committees

In principle, submitted bills are sent to the Standing Committees for examination.

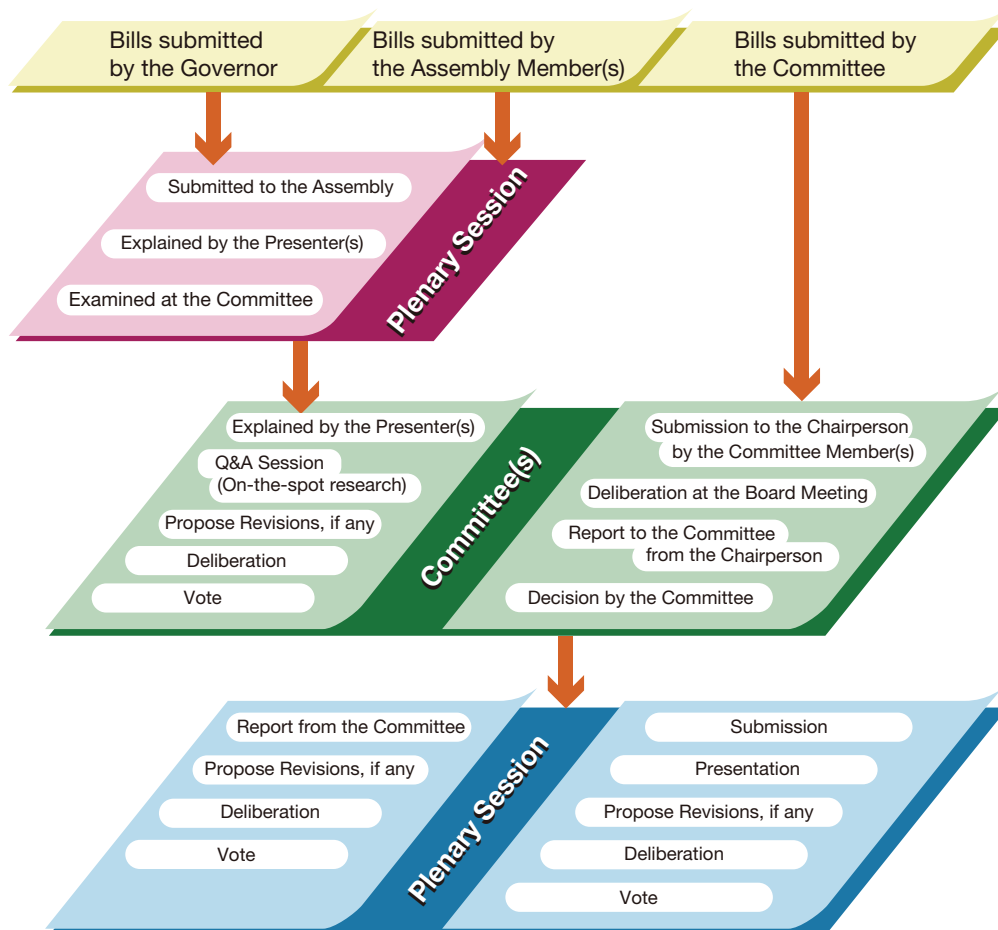
For extremely urgent matters, in some cases, the Members resolve at the Plenary Session without examination by the Standing Committees.

After the Standing Committees complete the examination, the Committee Chairpersons report the result to the President of the Assembly.

3) Voting at Plenary Session

Upon receipt of the result from the Committee Chairpersons, the President of the Assembly inaugurates the Plenary Session. Considering the result of the examination, the Members resolve legislative bills. When the bills are passed, they are automatically enacted.

Process of Passing Legislative Bills (Diagram)



(5) Basic Rules for Operating Sessions

There are various rules in the Assembly to operate sessions effectively and in a democratic manner.

1) Quorum

Quorum is the number of the Assembly Members required to inaugurate sessions and adopt resolutions. In general, more than half of the Members is required to be present. Apart from exceptional cases, resolutions without sufficient quorum are considered invalid.

2) Majority Rule

In principle, the Assembly adopts resolutions by a majority vote of the Members who attend the session. Though the President is not allowed to vote, he/she will cast the deciding vote in the case of a tie.

3) Sessions Open to the Public

Sessions are open to the public in general. “Open” means that observation of sessions, release of records of sessions and press freedom are recognized. However, in an exceptional case, sessions will be held with closed doors, with an approval of more than two-thirds of the attended Members. In principle, Plenary Sessions and Committees are open to the public at the Metropolitan Assembly.

4) Non-continuance of Sessions

The Assembly operates independently by each term. If it fails to resolve certain matter during the term, the matter should be removed (abolished) from the agenda at the end of the term. In an exceptional case, with a majority vote, it may be deliberated continuously after the end of the term.

5) Restriction Against Re-opening of Debate

A matter deliberated in the session should not be re-deliberated during the same session.

★Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Column 2. “Rugby World Cup 2019™ Japan”

The ninth Rugby World Cup was held in Japan from September 20 to November 2, 2019. In Tokyo, there were eight matches played at the Tokyo Stadium in Chofu City.

The Special Committee on Promoting Measures for Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Rugby World Cup 2019 was established also in the Metropolitan Assembly, and various discussions were held to lead the games to success.

Also, commemorative items of Rugby World Cup 2019 are displayed at the Assembly Center Hall on the second floor of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Building. The letter of gratitude from the Rugby World Cup 2019 Organizing Committee, a uniform of the Japanese national team, a lapel pin case, a rugby ball signed by the national team players and a poster of the games are displayed in the exhibition case.



Rugby ball signed by
Kotaro Matsushima and
Yutaka Nagare who are
the members of Japanese
National Team

III. Assembly and Executive Organ

There are two types of relations between legislative and executive organs; one is a Parliamentary Cabinet System (Note 1) and the other is a Headman System (Presidential System) (Note 2). While the Japanese government adopts a Parliamentary Cabinet System, all regional governments in Japan including Tokyo adopt a Headman System.

Authorities and roles of the Assembly and the Executive Organ are clearly separated, and to secure fair administration, and mutually monitor and maintain a balance between them, the following measures are granted to the both organs.



Executive Organ (Tokyo Metropolitan Government Office)

1. The Assembly may revise the bills submitted by the Governor.
2. If the Governor disagrees with the resolution of the Assembly, he/she may request a re-deliberation by providing appropriate reasons.
3. If the resolution or the election of the Assembly is deemed to exceed its authority or violate laws and regulations, the Governor must provide appropriate reasons and request a re-deliberation or re-election.
4. If the Assembly passes a resolution to eliminate or reduce mandatory expenditures and does not change the resolution after re-deliberation requested by the Governor, the Governor may implement the budget as originally proposed.

5. If the Assembly passes a resolution to eliminate or reduce expenditure for disaster recovery or for prevention of infectious diseases and does not change the resolution after re-deliberation requested by the Governor, the Governor may consider such decision as a no-confidence resolution against him/her.
6. As stated in Section II-3-(6), the Assembly has the right to hold a vote to a no-confidence motion against the Governor.
7. If the Assembly is not able to convene or inaugurate sessions, clearly has no time to convene sessions due to a matter of utmost urgency, or does not resolve the matter which should be resolved at the Assembly, on behalf of the Assembly, the Governor may deal with the matter which should be resolved at the Assembly (Disposition at its Own Discretion).

In such case, the Governor must report his/her decision to the Assembly in the following session to gain its official approval.

(Note 1) Parliamentary Cabinet System: Executive organ is appointed by an assembly representing the citizens, with the confidence of the assembly as the requisite of its appointment and incumbency. Under such system, the executive organ is responsible to the assembly (legislative organ).

(Note 2) Headman System (Presidential System): Both the legislative and executive organs are directly appointed by the citizens in an election. Under such system, both organs are responsible directly to the citizens for their authorities.

★Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Column 3.

“Relationship Between Metropolitan Assembly and a Water Purification Plant”

In the Nishi-Shinjuku area where the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Building and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Office are now located, there used to be a water purification plant for Tokyo, known as the “Yodobashi Water Purification Plant.”

After the Yodobashi Water Purification Plant was shut down in 1965, construction of skyscrapers began from the 1970s.

Subsequently, in 1991 the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Building were relocated to their current positions.



(1960s)

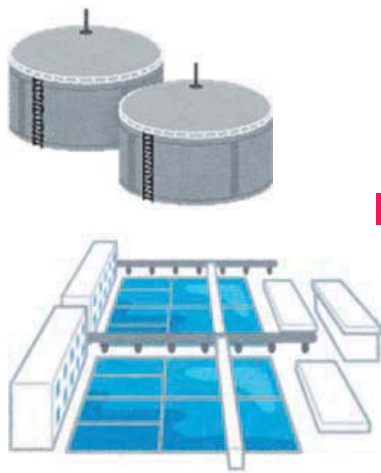


(1970s)



(1990s)

Today, the Tomin Hiroba (Citizens' Plaza) that connects the Metropolitan Assembly and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government is a relaxing space for citizens, with various events also held here. The Tomin Hiroba has implemented environmentally friendly measures, with rainwater gathered and reused as reclaimed water for toilet flushing and watering plants in the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building. You might even be able to say this as a trace that this used to be a water purification plant.



Tomin Hiroba (Citizens's Plaza)

IV. Citizens and Metropolitan Assembly

The Metropolitan Assembly makes decisions of Tokyo as a municipal entity and the Governor implements various policies according to such decisions.

Tokyo is theoretically administered by the citizens, but in practice, it is run by the Governor and the Assembly Members who are elected and entrusted by the citizens.

Relation between the citizens and the Metropolitan Assembly is summarized into the following rights granted to the citizens under the current system.



1. Right to Elect Assembly Members

The right to elect the Assembly Members is granted to citizens aged 18 years or higher.

2. Right of Direct Request

In principle, Tokyo adopts an indirect democracy to run the city by the Metropolitan Assembly and the Governor. However, in some cases, it adopts a direct democracy to complement the indirect democratic system and enhance the citizens' autonomy.

(See List of Rights of Direct Request Granted to Citizens of Tokyo)

Rights of direct request relating to the Assembly are: (1) Formulation, revision and abolishment of ordinances, (2) Dissolution of the Assembly, and (3) Dismissal of the Assembly Members. They are granted to the citizens who have the right to vote. Each right is described as follows:

(1) Right to Request Formulation, Revision and Abolishment of Ordinances

The citizens of Tokyo may request the Assembly to formulate, revise or abolish ordinances. If the request is recognized as valid, the Assembly shall resolve such proposed ordinance.

(2) Right to Request Dissolution of Metropolitan Assembly

This right is granted to the citizens to monitor and maintain fairness of the Assembly, rather than actually seek its dissolution. Therefore, the citizens must fulfil strict conditions to exercise it.

For example, the period for receiving a request is limited (it is not allowed to make a request for 1 year from the election day of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly), and the number of voters' signatures is specified in detail. If the request meets all requirements, dissolution is subject to a vote by all voters in Tokyo. Apart from this, the Governor has the right to dissolve the Assembly as a countermeasure to a no-confidence resolution against him/her by the Assembly.

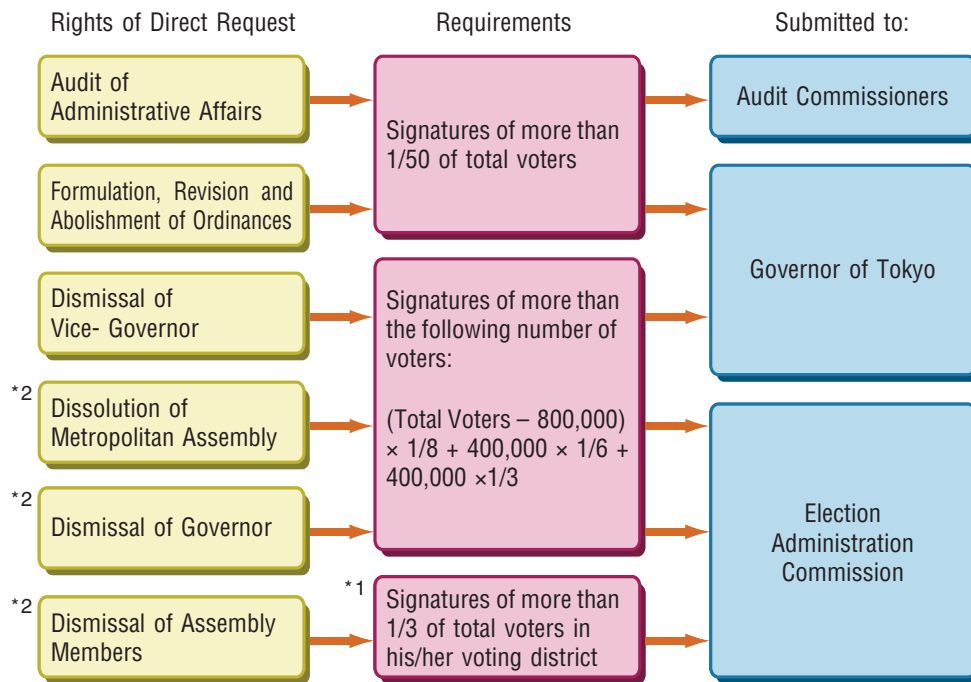
(3) Right to Request Dismissal of the Metropolitan Assembly Members

The citizens of Tokyo have the right to request dismissal of the Assembly Members of the voting district where they reside. It is subject to a vote by the voters of such Members' voting district.

3. Public Hearings

To ensure fair discussion of the budget, other important issues, appeals and petitions, the Assembly holds public hearings to seek the opinions of interested parties and academic experts.

List of Rights of Direct Request Granted to Citizens of Tokyo



*1: In case of voting district with over 800,000 voters
 Signatures of more than the following number of voters:

$$(\text{Total Voters} - 800,000) \times 1/8 + 400,000 \times 1/6 + 400,000 \times 1/3$$

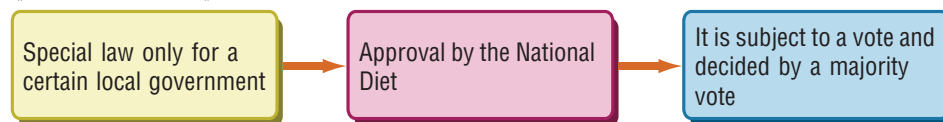
 In case of voting district with over 400,000 and 800,000 or less voters
 Signatures of more than the following number of voters:

$$(\text{Total Voters} - 400,000) \times 1/6 + 400,000 \times 1/3$$

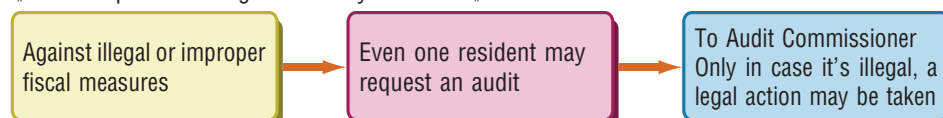
*2: It is subject to a vote and decided by a majority vote.

Other Rights

《Local Referendum》



《Audit Request and Legal Action by Residents》



4. Petitions and Appeals

Article 16 of the Constitution of Japan states that: “Every person shall have the right of peaceful petition for the redress of damage, for the removal of public officials, for the enactment, repeal or revision of laws, ordinances or regulations and for other matters; nor shall any person be in any way discriminated against for sponsoring such a petition.” It clearly defines and guarantees the right of petition as a fundamental human right.

The Metropolitan Assembly receives numerous appeals and petitions from the citizens on a daily basis. These appeals and petitions are first examined by the Standing Committees based on the Local Autonomy Act and the Assembly Rules, and if the Assembly decides that they should be responded by the Executive Organ, they are submitted to the Governor. The Executive Organ, though not legally bound by the Assembly decisions, reports on progress of the submitted issues to the Assembly and is expected to execute the Assembly’s decisions in good faith.

5. Visit to Assembly in Sessions

To ensure fair and thorough discussions by the Assembly, and to disclose remarks by Assembly Members, Plenary Sessions and Committees (both regular and extraordinary) are open to the public.

In Japan, Plenary Sessions at local assemblies are open to the public in principle. Though the Committee meetings are not required to hold in public, the Metropolitan Assembly makes both Plenary Sessions and Committees open to the public to enable careful discussions under the surveillance of citizens. Also, the minutes of sessions/meetings are accessible on the Metropolitan Assembly website and available at the Assembly Library.



Assembly Library



6. Public Relations

The Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly conducts public relations to widely inform the citizens of its system and activities. As well as providing information relating to the activities of the Metropolitan Assembly with the mass media such as newspapers and TV broadcasting, the Metropolitan Assembly itself publishes printed materials and disseminates information through TV programs and internet.

Further, there is a Public Relations Corner in the Metropolitan Assembly Building, where the activities of the Metropolitan Assembly are introduced to people visiting the Metropolitan Assembly.



Public Relations Corner

7. Information Disclosure

To ensure an “Open Assembly” in the age of decentralization, the Metropolitan Assembly promotes comprehensive information disclosure, focusing on (1) disclosure of Regular and Extraordinary Sessions, (2) proactive disclosure/provision of information, and (3) disclosure of official documents; in accordance with the “Ordinance for Information Disclosure in the Metropolitan Assembly of Tokyo.”

V. Metropolitan Assembly and International Exchange

As the Assembly of a global city representing Asia, Tokyo, the Metropolitan Assembly actively promotes international exchange with overseas countries to enhance assembly activities responding to the globalization.

Specifically, the Members mutually visit the assemblies of sister and friendship cities and sent research delegations overseas to reflect innovative projects/policies of other countries in their activities.

1. Exchange with Municipal Assemblies of Friendship Cities

At present, Tokyo has 12 sister and friendship cities (states/prefectures) in the world. To exchange information on municipal policies and deepen mutual understanding and cooperation, the Metropolitan Assembly engages in a mutual exchange with the Standing Committee of Beijing Municipal People's Congress and the Seoul Metropolitan Council.



Sister and Friendship Cities (States/Prefectures) of Tokyo

City (Country)	Date of Signing Agreement
1 New York (United States of America)	Feb.29, 1960
2 Beijing (People's Republic of China)	Mar.14, 1979
3 Paris (French Republic)	Jul. 14, 1982
4 State of New South Wales (Australia)	May. 9, 1984
5 Seoul Special Metropolitan City (Republic of Korea)	Sep. 3, 1988
6 Special Capital Region of Jakarta (Republic of Indonesia)	Oct. 23, 1989
7 State of Sao Paulo (Federative Republic of Brazil)	Jun. 13, 1990
8 Cairo (Arab Republic of Egypt)	Oct. 23, 1990
9 Moscow (Russian Federation)	Jul. 16, 1991
10 Berlin (Federal Republic of Germany)	May. 14, 1994
11 Rome (Republic of Italy)	Jul. 5, 1996
12 London (The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	Oct. 14, 2015

2. Sending Overseas Research Delegations

The purposes of overseas research delegations are to visit to the cities where the measures that can serve as a useful reference for the Metropolitan Assembly to consider major issues and priority measures of the Metropolitan Government, or unique approaches are implemented, and to reflect their results in the assembly activities. They started these activities in FY1967.

3. Visits of Foreign Officials to Metropolitan Assembly

The Metropolitan Assembly has received important figures from all corners of the world, including the mayors and assembly presidents of sister or friendship cities. They are greeted by both the President and the Assembly Members. Also, a briefing on the Metropolitan Assembly and a guided tour of the Metropolitan Assembly Hall are organized.

★Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Column 4. “Metropolitan Assembly Art”

So that visitors can gain a sense of familiarity with the Tokyo Government Buildings which symbolize autonomy and culture, various pieces of art are displayed within the premises of the Metropolitan Assembly Building and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Buildings, including sculptures and reliefs created by leading Japanese contemporary artists, leading foreign artists, residents in Tokyo, and young artists.



【Art displayed in the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Building (example)】

Title	Headstream	WAVING FIGURE
Artist	Minami Tada	Kakuzo Tatehata
Materials	Mirror-coated glass	Stainless steel
Display Location	Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Building , Floor 1 Entrance Hall, center	Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Building, Floor 2 Central Assembly Hall, center
Photo		

Also, in the Tomin Hiroba (Citizens' Plaza) that lies between the Metropolitan Assembly and the Metropolitan Government Buildings, a number of works of art are on display, including bronze statues.

Visitors are welcome to appreciate various works of art in the Tokyo Government Buildings and feel their aura.



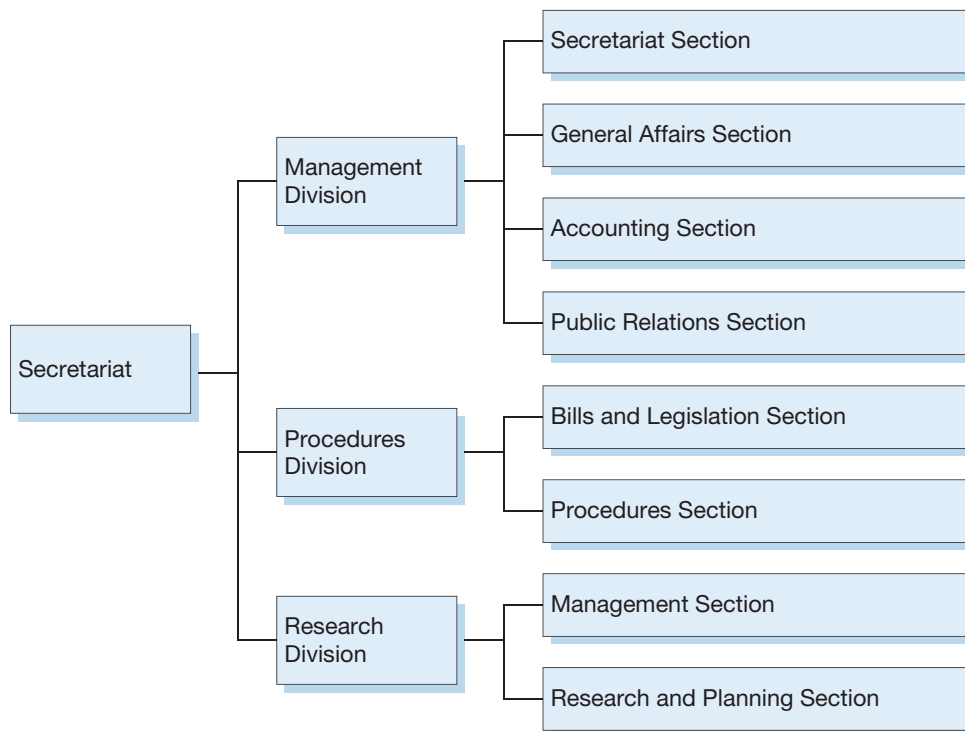
VI. Secretariat

The Assembly has a secretariat to support its activities.

The Secretariat has three divisions and works under the Director General who regularly reports their performance to the Assembly President. The Secretariat ensures smooth proceedings of the Plenary Sessions and Committees, produces reference materials for activities of the Assembly, and conducts research on the administrative matters of the Metropolitan Government. All staff members are appointed by the Assembly President.

The organization of the Secretariat is as follows.

Organization Chart (reorganized in April 2020):



Reference

Provisions concerning a local public entity in the Constitution of Japan

Article 92:

Regulations concerning organization and operations of local public entities shall be fixed by law in accordance with the principle of local autonomy.

Article 93:

The local public entities shall establish assemblies as their deliberative organs, in accordance with law.

The chief executive officers of all local public entities, the members of their assemblies, and such other local officials as may be determined by law shall be elected by direct popular vote within their several communities.

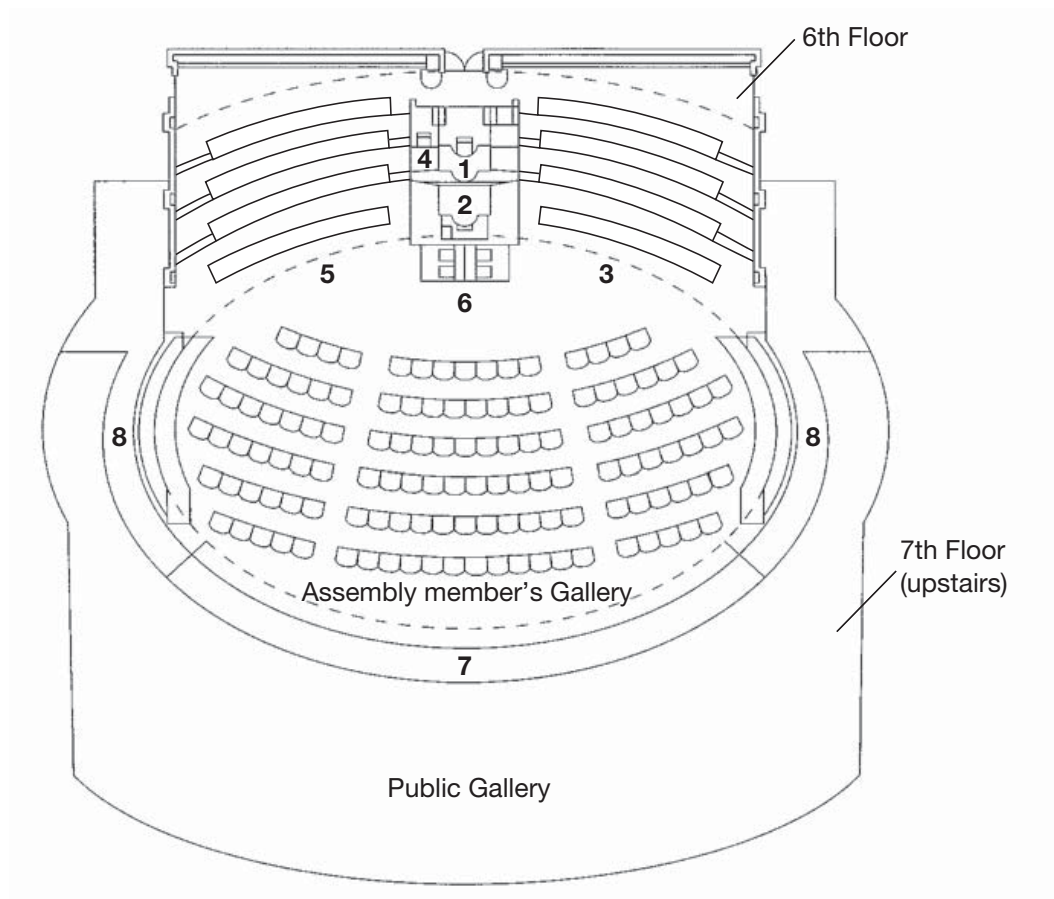
Article 94:

Local public entities shall have the right to manage their property, affairs and administration, and to enact their own regulations within law.

Article 95:

A special law, applicable only to one local public entity, cannot be enacted by the National Diet without the consent of the majority of the voters of the local public entity concerned, obtained in accordance with law.

Assembly Hall Floor Plan



1. President of the Assembly
2. Rostrum
3. Governor, Vice-Governors and Chief Officers of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government
4. Director General of the Secretariat to the Assembly
5. Secretariat Staff
6. Stenographers
7. TV Cameras
8. Press Gallery



Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Building Main Entrance



Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Building



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