

Edogawa City in 2100

Vision for a City
to Live Together



Between now and the year 2100, Edogawa City's population, funds, and number of city employees are projected to decline to around two-thirds their current level.

If no action is taken, in the year 2100 the City's parks will not be maintained, meaning people will be unable to play safely. Garbage collection may no longer run smoothly, and fireworks displays and festivals may not be held as they are now.

However, even if the City's population shrinks and its funds decline, if each and every one of us living here in Edogawa takes action, our collective efforts can create a powerful force with the potential to transform the future.

This is the story of two babies born in different worlds: "Edogawa City Approaching 2100 Without Cooperation" and "Edogawa City Working Together Toward 2100."



Chapter 1 Starting from Now, Starting with Us ~ Edogawa City in 2100 Page 3

In the year 202X, two babies are born in Edogawa City. What kind of lives will these babies lead? Follow each of their stories in parallel on the left and right hand side pages of this booklet.

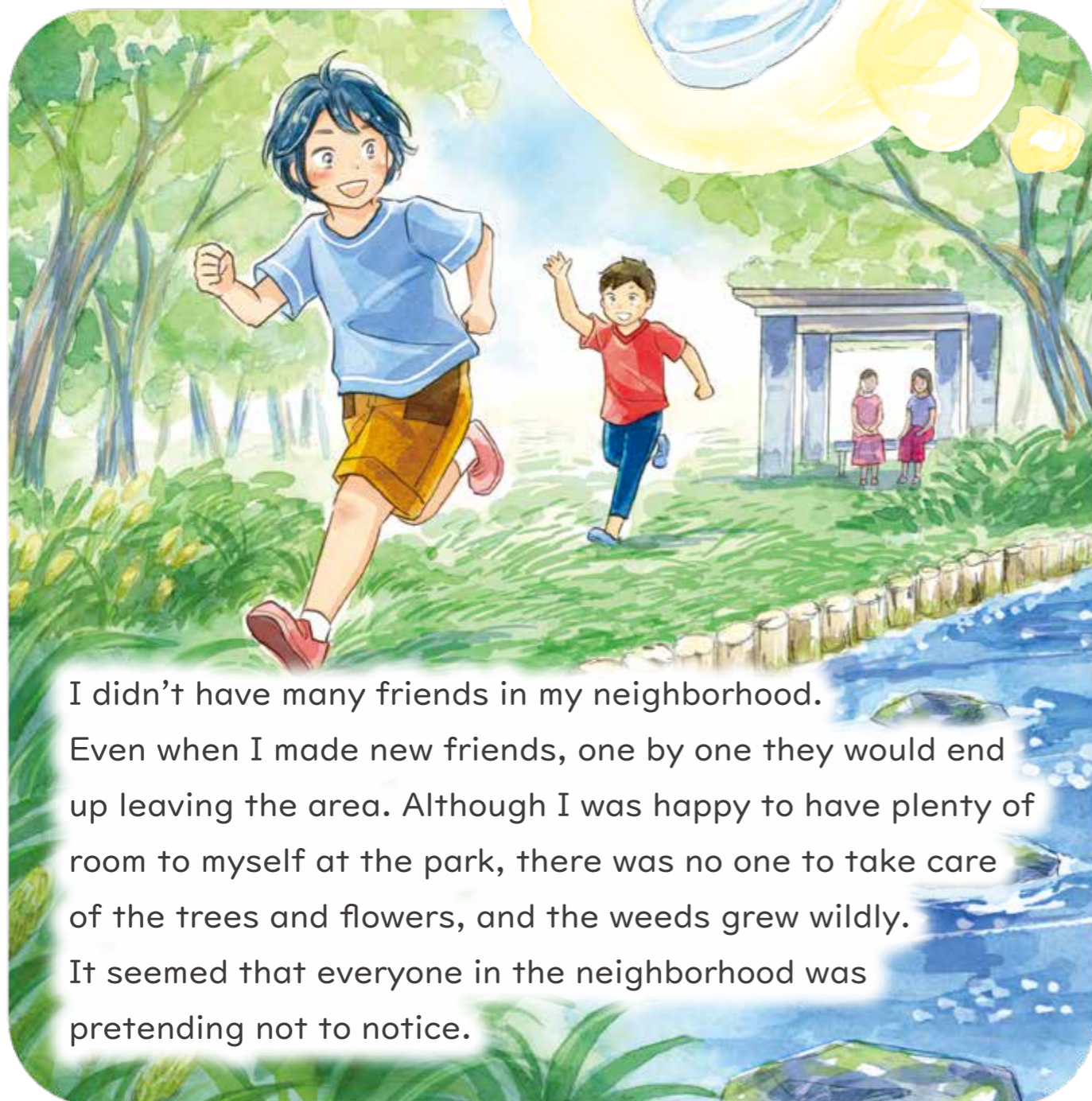
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Edogawa City Approaching 2100 Without Cooperation

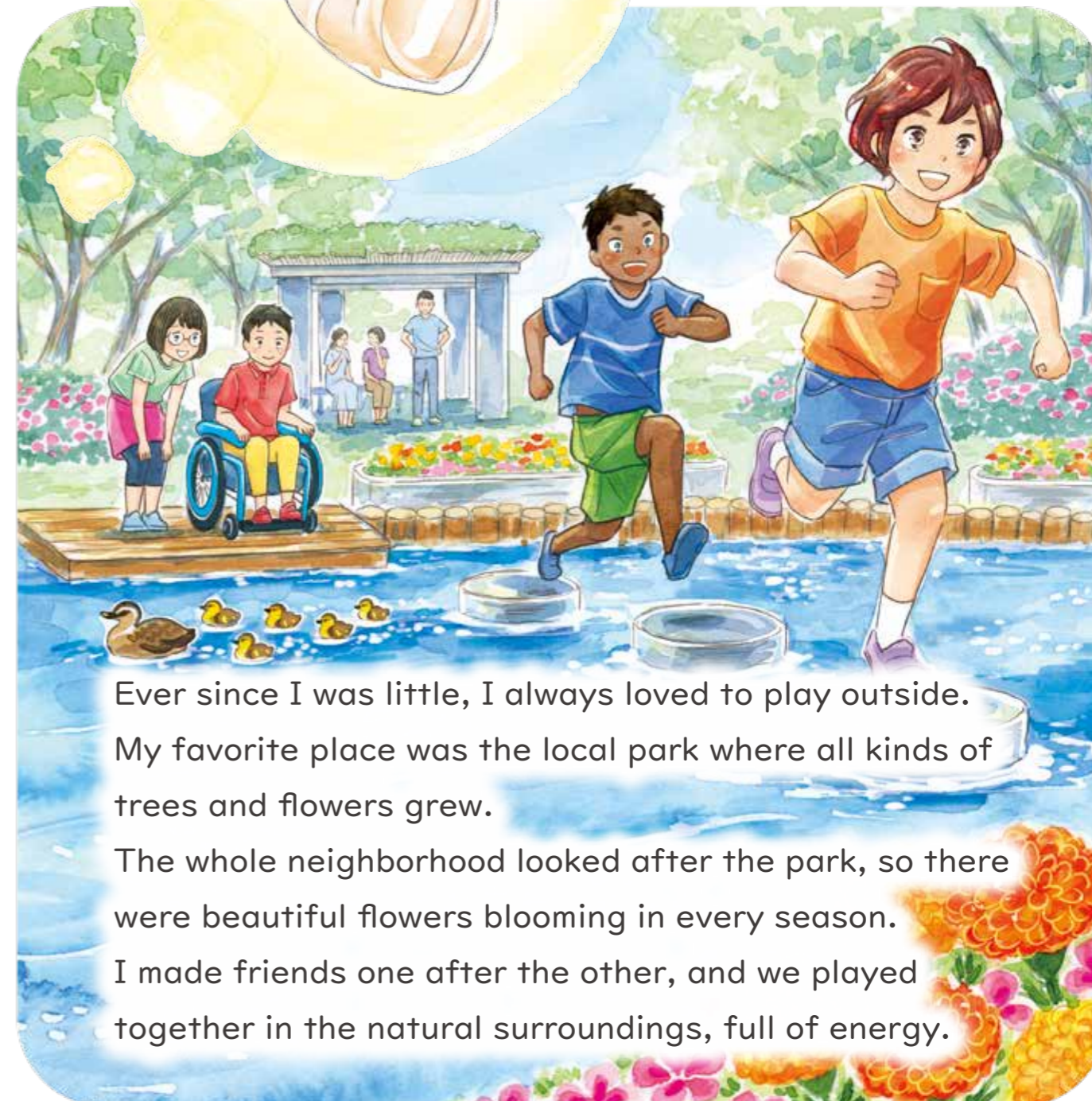
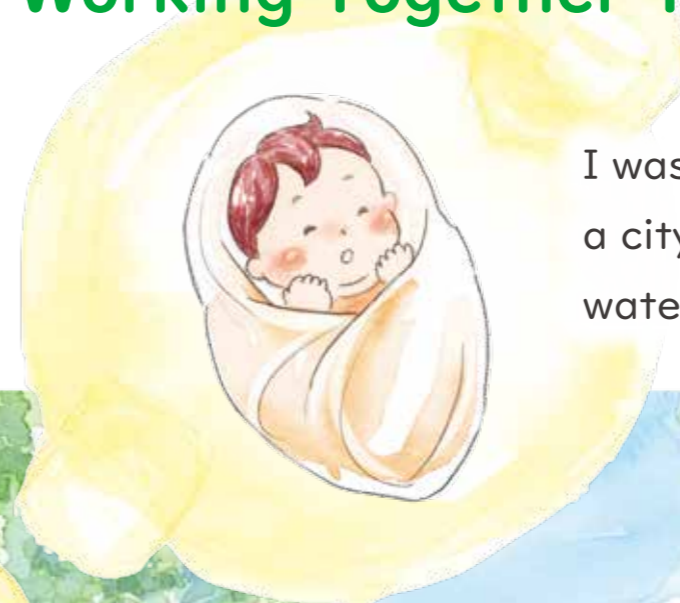
I was born in Edogawa,
a city with abundant
water and greenery.



I didn't have many friends in my neighborhood.
Even when I made new friends, one by one they would end
up leaving the area. Although I was happy to have plenty of
room to myself at the park, there was no one to take care
of the trees and flowers, and the weeds grew wildly.
It seemed that everyone in the neighborhood was
pretending not to notice.

Edogawa City Working Together Toward 2100

I was born in Edogawa,
a city with abundant
water and greenery.



Ever since I was little, I always loved to play outside.
My favorite place was the local park where all kinds of
trees and flowers grew.
The whole neighborhood looked after the park, so there
were beautiful flowers blooming in every season.
I made friends one after the other, and we played
together in the natural surroundings, full of energy.



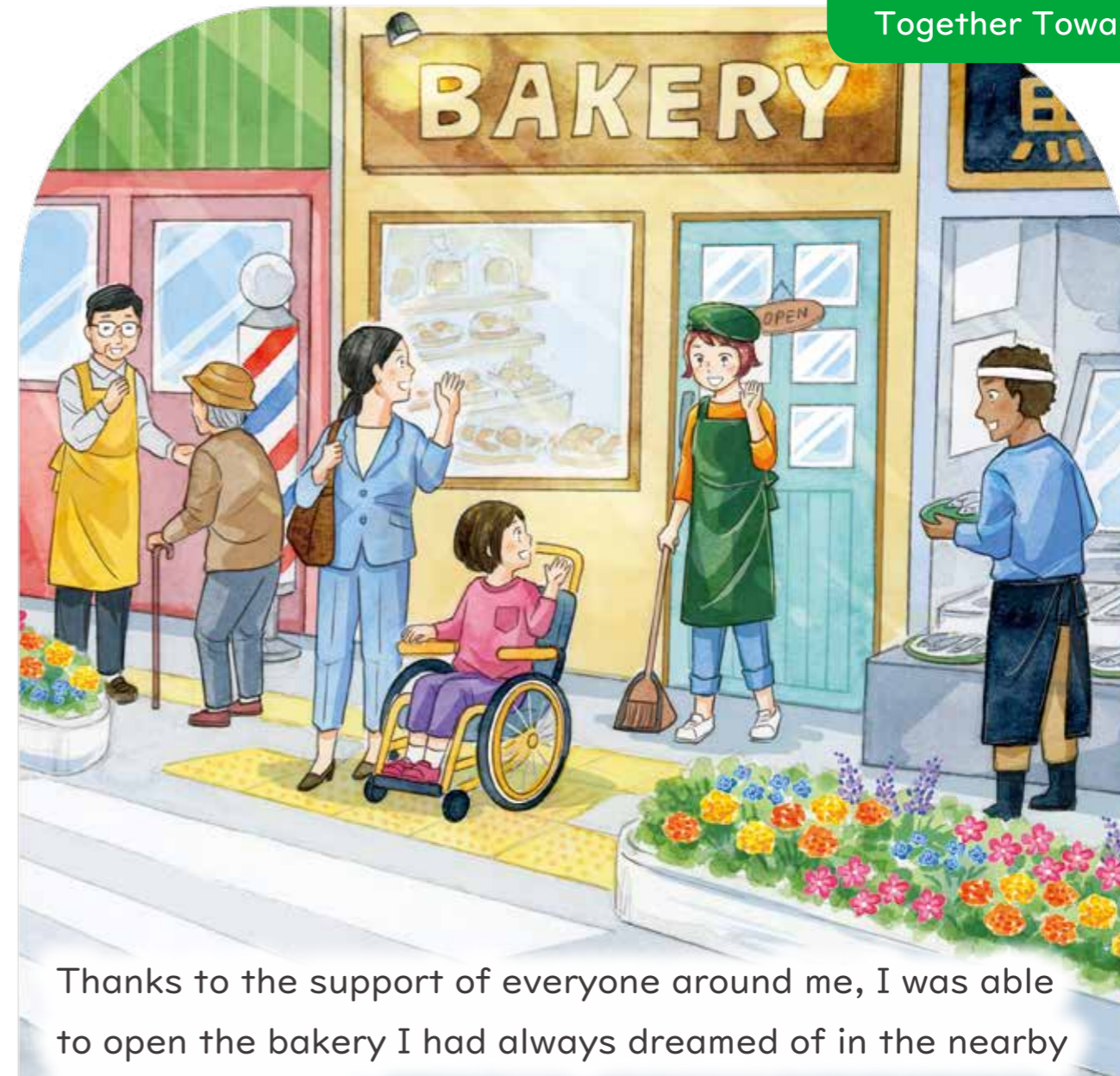
It was the same at elementary school—my classmates grew fewer and fewer. While it was nice to be able to move around freely in the gymnasium and schoolyard, some classrooms were no longer used, and parts of the school building were growing old. The adults said, “It can’t be helped—our population and funds are decreasing.” In truth, we students wanted to do something about it, but in the end, none of us spoke up. Our teachers encouraged us to “be hopeful and create a brighter future,” but we had no idea where or how to start.



It was the same at elementary school—I made friends with many different children. We valued each other’s individuality and helped each other whenever we faced difficulties. We also discussed our ideas on how to use the blackboards and desks with care so that they would last for a long time. “It has to start now, starting with us,” became our motto.



As I became an adult, people gradually spoke to each other less and less. Some people might prefer it that way, but I felt a bit lonely. The local festivals that I used to love had fewer and fewer participants, and were eventually canceled. More and more stores in the shopping arcade closed their shutters for good. When I spotted an old poster that read “Edogawa: Our Pride and Joy,” I couldn’t help but sigh, thinking back to the vibrant city of the past.



Thanks to the support of everyone around me, I was able to open the bakery I had always dreamed of in the nearby shopping arcade.

The arcade was always abuzz with activity. Even when a store became vacant, a new one would open right away in its place, and my little store had many customers.

I also began participating in the festivals that I loved so much, as a volunteer. The longer I live here the more I love it—everyone here is connected by gratitude and smiles. I am so happy I feel like shouting “Edogawa is my pride and joy!”

I no longer see people gathering at the city's facilities.
Although there are people living here, they seem
uninterested in each other.
I realized that I was no different, which made me sigh again.



It's not that my current life is all bad, and the days pass by
without much event, but it feels like something is missing.
I wish I had more chances to talk with somebody, to do
something together.
I wonder if anyone else feels the same way.

Once a month, the people who live or work in the city gather
at a public facility to discuss a range of opinions and
requests together with city employees.

“To make this proposal a reality, why don't we try *this*?”
“Our company can help out. Leave it up to us!”
“We can help you with this part.”

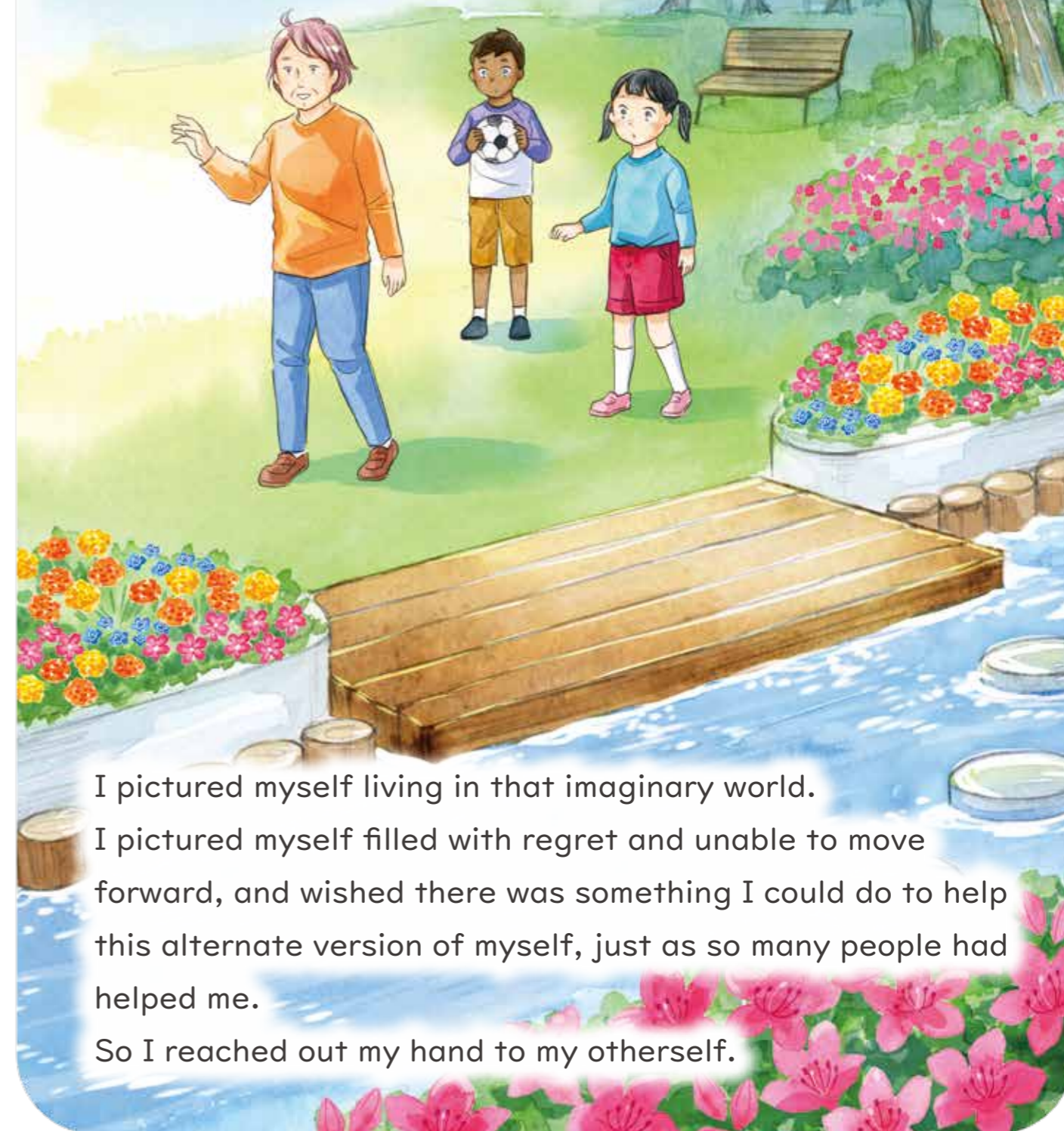


In this city, everyone plays a leading role, both children and
adults, small companies and large.
Having a lively discussion about the future of the city makes
me feel that I am not alone, and I discover more and more
things I want to try.

As I grew older, my regret grew stronger.
I regretted that I had not voiced my opinion,
that I hadn't taken the initiative to change things.
I had gone through life believing that what was happening
was inevitable.
If I could turn back time...
But even if I regret it now, it's too late...



One day I had a sudden thought.
What if we hadn't taken action and helped each
other back then.
We would probably just be drifting through life,
in a city with no vitality.



I pictured myself living in that imaginary world.
I pictured myself filled with regret and unable to move
forward, and wished there was something I could do to help
this alternate version of myself, just as so many people had
helped me.
So I reached out my hand to my otherself.

I told myself:

“It has to start now, starting with us.”

But that doesn't mean that we are powerless.
Everything we do now connects to our future.
We need to look for what we *can* do,
and start taking action.



There are always challenges in every era, and there are many problems that have no “right” answer.

You are not alone.
There will always be someone living alongside you.
What do *you* want to do?
What kind of future do you envision?
Let me hear your thoughts and aspirations!

And so, we began to think together,
believing there was something that we could do.
Now it's your turn.
What do *you* want to do?
What kind of future do *you* envision?



In the year 2100, a baby born today will be around 80 years old.

When you think about it this way, you can see that our actions today will directly impact the future.

What kind of lifestyle do we want to choose, and how can we live each day to build a brighter future?

Surely, the answer to this question lies in the concept of “Living Together,” where each person supports the others around them.

By taking action today, we can change the future.

So let's start by talking and thinking about our future—
together.

Thoughts on the future of Edogawa City, by the people living here today



Your Thoughts on the Future of Edogawa City

In this chapter we introduce some of the opinions we have received from the public via the City's newsletter, website, workshops, online meetings, and other channels.

A city that is inclusive, comfortable, and delivers peace of mind to everyone.

If we remember to always preserve the trust and bonds built thus far through our neighborhood associations, we can be assured that our grassroots activities will continue 80 years from now.

A regenerative city that does not burden the earth's environment!

We should aim to create **the city with the most active community participation in Japan**, a place where everyone from babies to the elderly can build close friendships!

This is no time to be fantasizing about sweet-sounding phrases like a "bright future." Instead, we should immediately start doing everything we can to make the people living in the year 2100 think **"our ancestors did their best."**

As technology advances and the population declines, the role of roads may change. Roads no longer used by cars should be utilized as pedestrian-friendly greenways and parks.

In times of disaster, everyone is impacted.

We tend to rely on government officials, but what can we do by ourselves? We should all think about what we can do and take action accordingly. I wish everyone could share this mindset.

Edogawa's rich, green environment will be a status symbol!

Expansion and renovation of sports facilities from the perspective of persons with disabilities.

A city where robots and people work together.

With no tall buildings, Edogawa City has wide open skies! If we utilize this feature, we can prepare for disasters and develop new means of transportation. The dream of **"Edogawa, City in the Sky"** may even be possible?!

A future that gives our young people the chance to dream!

I am sure there will be a transport and walking environment that is both user-friendly for all residents, and has low environmental impact.

Greenery, greenery, and more greenery! A city where people and **all living creatures coexist in harmony**. I want to make Edogawa famous as a community where people can live with compassion and joy!

Despite the risk of flooding, Edogawa's status as a waterfront city is a big part of its charm.

We need to further utilize these features, creating places to play in the water and "glamping" facilities to expand its appeal as a leisure destination.

Promote intergenerational exchange to achieve sustainable community development.

Aim for local production and consumption, and encourage community development that brings out the character of Edogawa City!

I want an environment that upholds all 17 SDGs goals, and that people enjoy living in!

A clean, green Edogawa City!

The times don't change—we change the times, together!

Preserving traditional culture such as wind chimes, and historic sites... I want to live in a city that has **the best of both worlds—tradition and cutting-edge technology**.

\\ Our Future Vision //

A City to Live Together

We have received a range of ideas from Edogawa residents who were thinking earnestly about the future of our city.

In each of these ideas, you can sense a “It has to start now, starting with us” spirit.

We are aiming to create “a city where residents can live with peace of mind and be themselves”—a city where individuality is valued and where people want to remain living throughout their lives.

Unless we begin making efforts now to achieve this goal, the Edogawa of the future may become a difficult city to live in.

Of course, there may be some inconveniences that we have to tolerate.

There may be some things that we need to let go of.

We will need to review the services the City Office provides to residents and how these services are delivered, as well as the number and size of our many City facilities.



However, if citizens, communities, and governments and governmental agencies strengthen their mutual bonds, we will surely be able to achieve our goal of a “City to Live Together.”

Let’s work together to build a “City to Live Together” that will make future residents remark “I can see the effort our ancestors put into building Edogawa!”

1. Others

How will we live with others in 2100?

Words used to categorize people, such as disabled or LGBTQ, will likely have vanished.

This is because children and adults, no matter their gender, country of birth, or the color of their skin, are all human beings.

Because 2100 will be an age in which everyone accepts and supports each other, and people are free to be themselves.

When we feel like laughing, we will be able to do so from the bottom of our hearts.

When we feel like crying, and when we feel anger, we can be honest about these feelings, and when we are struggling, we can admit that we are struggling.



We face many choices over the course of our lives. For example, where to live? What kind of work to do? To get married, or not? To have children, or not?

Although all kinds of events occur, every person is equal and free to make decisions according to their own will.



This includes sports, cultural activities, and any other endeavor—everyone has the opportunity to meet any challenge they desire.



This is Edogawa City in 2100, *Living with Others*.

Living with...

2. Society

Everyone has their own strengths and weaknesses, their own personality and ways of thinking.

However, the city is a vibrant, peaceful, and resilient place because people with such a variety of characteristics live together and support each other—a true “blend”.

We cannot make our clothes, prepare our food, or build our homes on our own.

The energy that drives the city is people’s support for one another.



Even though we do not have famous tourist attractions or amusement parks, Edogawa City has the power of its people’s support for one another.

In the year 2100, this tradition is held dear, and residents are still shaping the city in which they live through their own efforts.

Rather than trying to manage on their own or pushing the responsibility onto others, everyone connected to Edogawa takes ownership and works together to build the city, thus pulls together even in difficult times.



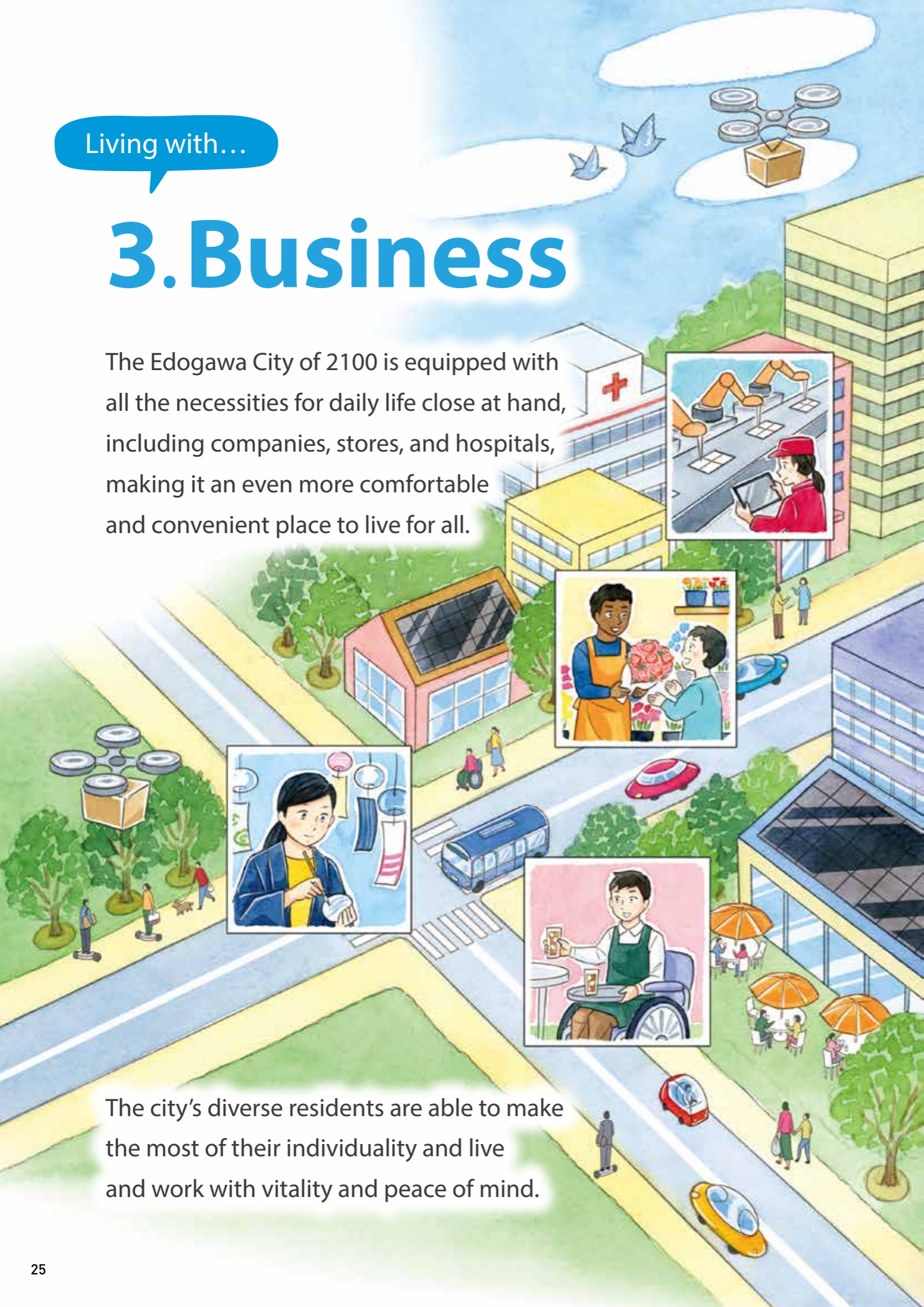
For example, during a disaster such as an earthquake or typhoon. Because everyone has worked together to prepare and cooperates during daily life, no one is left behind. This is Edogawa City in 2100, *Living with Society*.

Living with...

3. Business

The Edogawa City of 2100 is equipped with all the necessities for daily life close at hand, including companies, stores, and hospitals, making it an even more comfortable and convenient place to live for all.

The city's diverse residents are able to make the most of their individuality and live and work with vitality and peace of mind.



Companies and individual workers are also important residents who support the city.

Their activities are the source of the city's vitality.

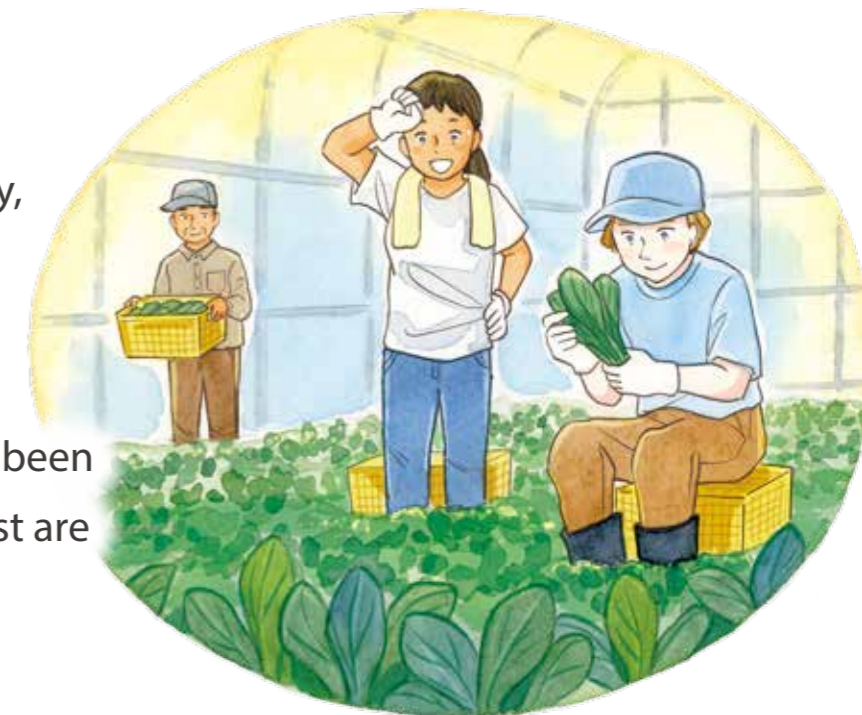


Due to its proximity to the center of Tokyo, abundant nature, and close personal bonds, Edogawa City is full of new business opportunities.

People keen to take on new challenges gather in the city, further adding to its energy.

Meanwhile, industries that have been rooted in the city since times past are generating new value.

For example, agriculture not only produces food and helps prevent global warming, but also plays an important role in bringing people together. This is Edogawa City in 2100, *Living with Business*.



Living with...

4.the Environment

Surrounded by rivers and the sea, Edogawa City, with its rich environment, is known and loved as a waterfront city.

The abundant green trees and vividly colored flowers and grasses, and the land that nurtures them are carefully protected.

The city has many places where people can come into contact with plants and soil, including parks, schools, riverbanks, and fields.

Many living creatures such as insects, birds, and fish can be found in the natural environment, living alongside the city's people.

With so many wide open spaces, the sky stretches as far as the eye can see.

Thanks to the abundant greenery, the air is clean, refreshing, and a source of pride.



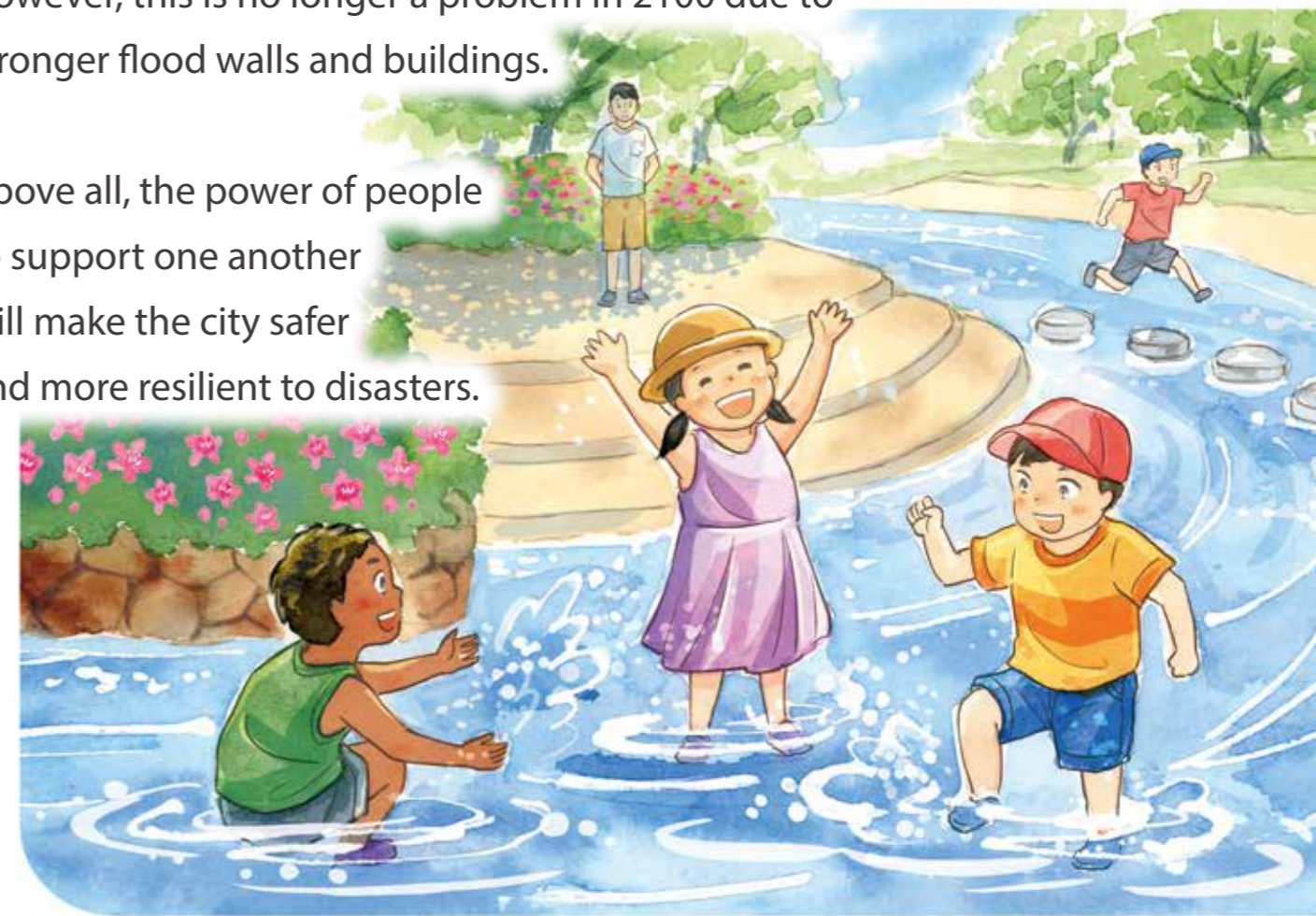
To ensure this beautiful natural environment is not destroyed, in 2100, the city is able to produce its own environmentally friendly energy.



When using this energy, we naturally think about future generations and are careful not to waste it or to burden the earth.

Although Edogawa City is blessed with abundant water, it is currently vulnerable to damage from floods. However, this is no longer a problem in 2100 due to stronger flood walls and buildings.

Above all, the power of people to support one another will make the city safer and more resilient to disasters.



This is Edogawa City in 2100, *Living with the Environment*.

5.the Future

Everyone associated with Edogawa City is thinking—not only of today and of themselves, but also of future generations—and taking action.

This is why we continue to use our energy and funds with care and creativity so that we do not exhaust the resources we have.

Everyone is leveraging new technologies that we can't even imagine at present, while being mindful of the importance of supporting one another.

There is a strong sense of mutual trust, and people are able to speak honestly to each other about their opinions and what they can or cannot do well.

In addition, through cooperation among families, the community, and schools, the city is committed to nurturing the children who will be the future of our society.



This is the Edogawa City that we, the citizens of today, have discussed, thought about, and envisioned as a “City to Live Together.”

But if we can continue sharing and discussing our thoughts, together we can aim for an even more exciting future. Therefore, we would like to continue thinking and working together with you on our vision of the future Edogawa.

Together, let's step forward toward our ideal future city!

Edogawa Future Conference

Starting in 2020, Edogawa City held the Edogawa Future Conference (EdoCon) with the aim of bringing people active in a range of diverse fields together to discuss the realization of a City to Live Together. The conferences were held eight times in total over a two-year period, with participants discussing Edogawa City's vision for the future and the efforts required to achieve it together with 18 committee members.



Code for a City to Live Together

Living together: Edogawa City aims to be a place where we respect one another, and everyone can live with peace of mind.

● Living with others

People living in this city range in age from 0 to over 100. They include those with disabilities and foreign nationals. We believe that respect for individual differences is a source of impetus for community development.

● Living with society

Individuals with different roles and circumstances gather in Edogawa City to study, work, play, and be active. We believe that it is important for us to pool our strengths.

● Living with business

Business operators active in Edogawa City are among the key citizens of our city. We believe that they are a driving force in the community.

● Living with the environment

Accepting disaster risks caused by being situated at sea level, we believe that it is crucial to leave no one behind in the event of emergencies such as widespread floods and massive earthquakes.

● Living with the future

People around the world are starting to build a better future. We want to learn from their efforts and take a lead in carrying this momentum forward.

Children born today will be living in Edogawa City in 2100, and we want to make this city a place brimming with hopes and dreams. We have established this code in 2021 as our pledge to do all we can to realize this vision.

Afterword: Finding Your Own Way of “Living Together”

Our future vision for Edogawa City is “A City to Live Together.”

As part of this vision, we have depicted “A City to Live Together” from five perspectives. However, I believe that these five perspectives do not necessarily represent the entire picture. I believe that each and every one of us has our own, individual way of “Living Together.”

To me, the sixth perspective is “Living Together with Yourself.” As humans, there are times when we are full of energy, and times when we fall ill or are injured.

There are times when we are happy, and times when we feel down. However, don't you agree that a city where people can accept themselves for who they are and live their lives in their own way, in all situations, would surely be a wonderful and comfortable community in which to live?

What do you think? Let's keep working together to create an Edogawa City where you—and everyone else— can have the peace of mind to be yourself.



Takeshi Saito
Mayor, Edogawa City

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1-4-1 Chuo, Edogawa-ku, Tokyo 132-8501

+81-3-3652-1151 (Main phone)

<https://www.city.edogawa.tokyo.jp/>

Vision for a City to Live Together

