

(Article)

## Issues of Devolution and Local Government System

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**Keywords :** Local Government, Devolution, Local Tax Structure

### Abstract

This research investigate the contemporary Japanese local government system which is confronted the changes, such as the decentralization reform, the Sanmi Ittai Kaikaku, and financial difficulties.

In the first, using the survey research about mayor's evaluations, opinions, and requests for the reforms conducted by the Japanese government, we discuss some issues of mayors of local authorities. The survey showed that these reforms did not bring the mayors the political autonomy and rather reduced financial resources of local authorities. So, mayors' requested the transition of power to them and restructuring of financial schemes of a local government. They also answered that local authorities should be a main provider of administrative services and the role of prefectural governments was only to support local authorities

In the second, we discuss the roles of prefectural governments. To reform local governance system, introduction of regional system was prevailing opinion but it might be impracticable because there were a lot of political conflicts to introduce it. Rather we should reassess the system which allocates authorities and financial resources among public entities, such as the central government, local authorities, and prefectural governments. Furthermore, private sector should take more important role to provide services which are now provided by the public entities.

Finally, as a conclusion, we proposed three points, 'allocation of authority', 'fiscal resources', and 'personnel', should be mentioned to introduce more efficient and practical local government system in Japan.

### Citation:

Junya Takamatsu and Kentaro Eki (2010), "Issues of Devolution and Local Government System," *Annals of Hyogo Earthquake Memorial 21<sup>st</sup> Century Research Institute*, vol.14/15, pp.34-59.