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## **System of Trust as a Basis for a Safe and Secure Society\***

By KIYOSHI ABE, YU ISHIDA, TAKAYOSHI KUSAGO, KENJI KOSAKA,  
KAZUHISA SHIBUYA, TOSHIHIKO HAYASHI, MAMPEI HAYASHI,  
and ARINORI YOSANO†

**Keywords :** safe and secure society, trust, happiness, region, Hyogo, natural disaster

### **Abstract**

Quest for safety and security is increasing in our society. However, will the safer and more secure society be attainable if only we succeed in solving problems directly? Does not the true crisis lie elsewhere? Are we still be able to believe in the solvability of the problem? If not, what sort of social system lies behind this insecurity. Isn't it trust that is missing in relation to security and safety? Without trust safety may not bring about security.

Thus the purpose of this study is to locate the importance of social trust in the quest for safety and security. Moreover, if the quest for safety and security led to a stagnant society, or if it did not enhance people's happiness, it would be meaningless. Safety and security, though it may merit as an independent value concept, need to be balanced against justice, fairness and equity consideration. For example, policies to enhance safety and security are often predisposed to "surveillance society" and lead to fear, doubt and exclusion of others. Publishing a local map for crime prevention may provoke people's anxiety in return.

The study made use of an internet questionnaire survey and obtained 1000 samples focusing on people's subjective evaluation as well as objective characteristics of the panel. Panel's residential information was collected on the basis of postal code since it was expected that environmental and cultural regionality might define resident's anxiety, concern and trust.

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\* This is an abridged and slightly modified version of the report, "System of Trust as a Basis for the Safer and More Secure Society," HEM21, March 2007. For full version of the report, go to <http://www.hemri21.jp/kenkyusyo/seika/detail.asp?id=5006>.

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Main findings from the survey were as follows. 1) People who evaluate their locality as safer and more secure than other localities tend to show a higher degree of satisfaction and happiness, and are prone to believe that people are good at heart and trustworthy, and their neighborhood is less exposed to environmental degradation, juvenile delinquencies and crimes. 2) Though it cannot be said that the people living in the area of higher safety and security tend to trust the local government in normal times, but they tend to believe that their local administration will be dependable in times of disasters. 3) People living in the area that was heavily affected by the 1995 earthquake tend to show a higher degree of trust to their local government.

By means of the analysis of covariance structures, the study could also verify that the subjective degree of people's livelihood satisfaction is correlated with such elements as general trust, neighborhood trust, and the subjective belief on neighborhood safety and security. Also it was found that the starting point of people's general trust was the subjective belief that the local administration would come to rescue for sure in times of emergencies such as natural disasters.

Another interesting finding was that many people who find their neighborhood community relatively safe and secure tend to believe that the country as a whole was similarly disposed. However, there are some who believe that their localities are safe and secure but the whole country is not. Taking this possible contradiction between the subjective belief and the objective conditions into consideration, the study gives policy recommendations on six fronts.

**Citation:**

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(Article)

## **On the Utilization of the Senior Citizen's Ability in the Community**

By ZHANG FAN

**Key words:** baby boomer, middle-aged, social participation

### **Abstract**

In 2007, the baby-boom generation had begun to reach the age limit. This phenomenon is called “year-2007 problem” and will have a great influence the Japanese society. In order to revitalize the regional community and whole society, the senior citizens including the baby-boom generation are expected to have useful life there with active participation in the social activity. In this paper, we investigate the measures to utilize the senior citizens' ability for the regional community. We perform the analysis based on two kinds of questionnaire surveys. One survey for the middle-aged generation, and the other is for the active aged people who are engaged in the regional activity. The results of these researches show that lots of the middle-aged people wish to have jobs after their age limit, and they have a little interest in the social activity. And it is also shown that the active aged people are the community-minded people and that they are satisfied with the social activity. In addition, the results indicate that the active aged people who participate in the group activities and classes of lifelong study tend to take active parts in the social activity.

### **Citation:**

Zhang Fan (2010),” On the Utilization of the Senior Citizen's Ability in the Community,” *Annals of Hyogo Earthquake Memorial 21st Century Research Institute*, vol. 14/15, pp.20-33.

(Article)

## **Issues of Devolution and Local Government System**

By JUNYA TAKAMATSU and KENTARO EKI

**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.

(Research Report)

## **A Study on Safe and Secure Dwellings: Challenges and Prospects for Collective Housing**

By TATSUYA KISHIMOTO

**Keywords:** collective housing, community relations program, common space

The first “Public Collective Housing” (government-managed) in Japan was brought in Hyogo Prefecture, disaster area of Hanshin Great Earthquake. The housing which provides shared space such as dining hall, come to public attention as an advanced model of ideal “occupants’ mutually-supportive life”.

In Hyogo, 10 building (341 houses) had been built so far, and in 2008, we have conducted occupant questionnaire. As a result, 70 percent of occupants are satisfied with their present life. Meanwhile, over 30 percent are concerned about aging of occupants. Some of them are appealing; “Everyone got older.” “This situation burdens active occupants who help the elderly.”

The result also showed that the average age of all occupants is mid-70’s, and which causes community relations programs and interaction of occupants less and less, thus people expect the young to move in. However, there are some houses where occupants enjoy interactions and activities by the consecutive support of volunteers and themselves.

Housings, building in other prefectures such as Nagasaki and Osaka, are facing same kinds of problem. Also, not public but private-managed ones have different kinds of problem.

On the basis of these results, I made 4 recommendations: (1) inquest of method to adjust the balance of ages (2) aggressive support from outside by utilizing shared space as bases of NPO, for instance (3) more support and involvement by prefecture (local government) (4) make shared space and bring in the idea of “Collective Housing” in other complex housings.

**Citation:**

Tatsuya Kishimoto (2010), “A Study on Safe and Secure Dwellings: Challenges and Prospects for Collective Housing,” *Annals of Hyogo Earthquake Memorial 21<sup>st</sup> Century Research Institute*, vol. 14/15, pp.60-79.