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1994-now Chairperson, The Promotion Council for Health and Social Services for Older Persons in Yamaguchi Prefecture.

2006-8 First President, Active Aging Consortium in Asia Pacific

2006-now Trustee, Asian Aging Business Center

Books (Japanese):

1982 “Rural Community Activities by the Elderly.” Japanese Agriculture, No.142, The Agriculture Policy Research Committee.

1985 “The Reciprocal Exchange between Rural and Urban Communities.” Gyosei. (Edited with T. Koyama, et als.)

1990 “The Exchange Programs between Urban and Rural Community: Their Implication and Development for the Rural Revitalization.” Japanese Agriculture, No.177, The Agriculture Policy Research Committee.

1996 “Regional Ageing and Welfare: Communities for Older Adults.” Koseisha-Koseikaku.

2000 “Local Policies on Aged Society: Proposition from Yamaguchi Prefecture.” Minerva-Shobo. (Edited with Takaharu Horiuchi)

2001 “New Aging: Challenge and Agenda for Japan and U.S.A.” Kyushu University Press.

(Edited with Kiyoshi Adachi).

2001 “Status Quo of Family Studies and Sociology of Welfare.” Minerva-Shobo. (Edited with Kenji Kinoshita).

2007 “Researches on Measures of Social Services for the Regional Elderly,” Fukuoka Asian Urban Research Center.

Recent Papers (English Version):

2003 “Effects of an Educational Program on public Attitudes Toward Mental Illness.” Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences, Vol.57, No.6, 595-602. (With Tanaka Goro, Hiroyuki Inadoem, Yasuki Kikuchi, and Yasuyuki Ohta).

2005 “Program Development in Active Aging Society: Contrasting and Cooperating Cases in the US, East Asia and Japan.” Kyushu University East Asia Centre on Ageing.

2007 “With Love and Reliance for All Generations: Activation of Social Capital for Aging and Pacific.” Kyushu University East Asia Centre on Ageing.

2008 “Changing Social Concepts of Age: Towards the Active Senior Citizen.” Florian Coulmas, Harald Conrad, Annette Schad-Seifert, and Gabriel Vogt (eds.), Brill: Leiden, pp145-161

2009 “New Centenarian Studies: Towards Active Ageing.” Yamaguchi Prefectural University.

The Locus and Challenge in Japanese Aging Policy

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Japanese society has achieved an economic reconstruction rapidly after World War II, and high economic growth, with using “the population bonus.” And, in order to establish the universal principle of social security system, Japanese policy makers have made efforts to redistribute of public finance positively. It can be said that the established social security system was favorable for older persons, by means of the universal pension, universal health care and the universal long-term care insurance. As people have been aware of the population aging in Japan, it was a fair wind for policy makers to establish such universal social security system. So, it was the Japanese way of policy making to let everyone receive pension, health care and long-term care rather than to restrict receiving person to get services. On the other side, the mutual help system in the family was maintaining for social support, especially based on the parent-child relationship and the husband-wife relationship. The well-being of older persons is supported complementary both by the universalism of social security and by the familism.

However, Japan has exhausted the population bonus for economic growth already, and now it is facing with the severe phase of the reform of the social security system. Being entered the stage of the decreasing population, Japanese society is shifting its concern of political issue from the aging to the low fertility. It is because the young population, which will be supporters for older persons in near future, will decrease in Japan for a while older persons will increase continuously. And then senior citizens cannot be dependent on the young population in their latter life. The more older persons who have not the generation of children and grandchildren, the lesser they can depend on family mutual aid between parent and child relationship. Also, the balance of payment and supply will collapse the social security system. Therefore, Japanese policy for aging is confronting with the conversion of the conception of social strategies, and the review of public policies will be started.

The political framework of active aging is translated to the Japanese version as the social program of the lifelong service in active (Shogai-Gen'eki Shakai-dukuri). The idea is being treated in the Fundamental Law for the Age Society, which is covering 5 domains: Work and Income, Health and Welfare, Learning and Participation, Living Environment, and Researches. Also, local government and municipalities are trying same as such policies. However, it is not yet the grand design of Japan in “the second population transition.” Hereafter, Japan will have to challenge in this direction.