Enhance the Roles and Possibilities of Co-operatives
Launch and Challenges of JCA

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Tehran, Iran
Taking the Initiative to Address Social Issues

Co-operatives in Japan

The "Idea and practice of co-operatives" is registered on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

Over 65 Mil. People

Over 145 Bil. USD (Year)

Over 35,600 Locations

Co-operatives are a part of YOUR LIFE

37% of all households use the products and services of consumer co-operatives

1/4 of the total population has insurance provided by co-operatives

1/4 of the total deposits are held in co-operative banks

Half of the total output from farming, forestry and fisheries is sold through co-operatives

Protecting life and health in local communities
Hospitals, Clinics, Medical care in remote rural areas

Supporting community development that includes the elderly
Visiting care, Care centers, Food delivery services, Welfare equipment, Tourism sales

Supporting children to shape the future
Nursery schools, After-school care, Children's centers, Children's facilities

Promoting the social integration of people with difficulties
Supporting independence and employment for youth, the poor and the disabled

Developing a sustainable society through clean energy
Solar, Hydroelectric, Biomass power, Biofuels

Improving life in local communities
Environmental preservation, Disaster Prevention, Traffic Safety, Nutrition, education

Co-operatives in the World

About 1 Billion Members

Over 2.5 Tril. USD (Year)

Co-operatives Japan
Japan Joint Committee of Co-operatives (JJC)

http://www.jyc2012japan.coop
Discussion Process at JJC

Oct. 2016 (JJC Exec. Board Meeting)
Started discussion on a new apex organization

Sep. 2016
Studied Italian co-operative organizations

Feb. 2017 (JJC Exec. Board Meeting)
- Confirmed a report on solidarity
- Set up Preparatory Committee

Sep. 2017
Studied organizations in the UK and Sweden

Oct. 2017 (JJC Exec. Board Meeting)
Confirmed the final report by Preparatory Committee
- From a conference body to an incorporated organization
- Establishing it by reorganizing Japan-Cooperative General Research Institute

27 February 2018
(JJC Committee & Exec. Board Joint Meeting)
Approved and announced reorganization from JJC to JCA

1 April 2018
Launched JCA

Empower the co-operative sector to take the initiative to expand the roles and functions of co-operatives in communities
Establishment of JCA: Background 1

Situations surrounding co-operatives

- Widening disparities in wealth and opportunities in the midst of globalization
- Social problems deriving from decreasing and aging population as well as declining birth rates
- Loss of vigor in regional areas due to weakening of local industries and population exodus
- Challenging environment imposed on the younger generation, such as scarce employment opportunities in regional areas
- Weakening power of society to support communities and livelihood

An increasing number of challenges that are becoming more complex in both quality and quantity.
Examine Globalization 1

- Capital
- Labor
- Free Movement
- Creation of Wealth

Improving Standards of Living

Loss should be compensated
Examining Globalization 2

Balance levels
- wage
- trade
- regulatory

Commercial benefits

Benefits for our living
- Environmental protection
- Healthy life

High → Low
War as an expression
Competition toward the bottom
Stagnant Income & Widening Disparities

Mean & median income: 1995-2016

Source: MHLW. Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions.
Increase in Relative Poverty

Poverty rates: 1985-2015

Source: MHLW. *Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions.*
The poverty line is defined as 50% of the median equivalent disposable income.
Stagnation of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (AFF) in the National Economy

GDP: 1985-2016 (1990=100)

Declining Population Due to Declining Birth Rates and Population Aging

Natural population change: 1985-2016

Natural change = Number of births - number of deaths

Source: MHLW. Vital Statistics.
Increasing National Medical Care Expenditure and Its Pressure on Economy

National medical care expenditure and its % of national income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>National Medical Care Expenditure (Trillion yen)</th>
<th>% of National Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>16.01</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>26.95</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>33.12</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00</td>
<td>34.13</td>
<td>11.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>36.00</td>
<td>11.2</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>10.7</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Large Proportion of People Feeling Their “Living Conditions Are Difficult”**

Percentage distribution of households by self-assessed living conditions: 2000-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Very difficult</th>
<th>Somewhat difficult</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Somewhat comfortable</th>
<th>Very comfortable</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>0.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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<td>28.6</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>32.9</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MHLW. *Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions.*
# The Year 2040: Projections by the Japanese Government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2040</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total population</td>
<td>126.71 M</td>
<td>110.92 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly population</td>
<td>35.14 M</td>
<td>39.21 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population aged over 75</td>
<td>17.47 M</td>
<td>22.39 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working-age population</td>
<td>75.96 M</td>
<td>59.78 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population aged 5-14</td>
<td>10.68 M</td>
<td>8.14 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people certified as needing care</td>
<td>4.63 M</td>
<td>7.49 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people w/ dementia</td>
<td>Approx. 5.2 M</td>
<td>8.02-9.53 M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Establishment of JCA: Background 2

Recognition of and expectations for co-operatives

1966: ILO’s recommendation on promotion of co-operatives (developing countries)
2002: ILO’s recommendation expanded to developed countries
2009: The UN resolution to declare 2012 the International Year of Co-operatives
2012: International Year of Co-operatives (IYC)
2015: The role of co-operatives was recognized in achieving the SDGs
2016: UNESCO added co-operatives to the list of intangible cultural assets

The idea and practice of organizing shared interests
Definition of a Co-operative

A co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.
Co-operative Principles 6 and 7

6. CO-OPERATION AMONG CO-OPERATIVES

Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Overview</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Establishment of the Co-operative Alliance of Japan</td>
<td>Promoted the movement to directly link production and consumption in the midst of food shortages (by Toyohiko Kagawa + agricultural association + fishery association)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>ICA principles</td>
<td>Principle 6: Cooperation among co-operatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>ZEN-NOH + JCCU</td>
<td>Concluded an MoU on enhanced collaboration among co-operatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>JA ZENCHU + JCCU</td>
<td>Conducted a joint national case study, and set up a secretariat group to promote collaboration among co-operatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Launch of <em>Sancho</em>ku</td>
<td>Consumer groups and consumer co-ops launched <em>Sancho</em>ku.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Expansion of producer-consumer partnership</td>
<td><em>Sancho</em>ku, producer-consumer partnership and prefectural collaboration in various communities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Co-operatives 1

- Economic growth
- Social inclusion
- Environmental protection

Sustainable society

No one’s left behind = Consistent with co-operatives

- People: End poverty and hunger in all forms and ensure dignity and equality
- Prosperity: Ensure prosperous and fulfilling lives in harmony with nature
- Planet: Protect our planet’s natural resources and climate for future generations
- Partnership: Implement the agenda through a solid global partnership
- Peace: Foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies

Japan Co-operative Alliance
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Co-operatives 2

Philosophy and initiatives of co-operatives overlap substantially w/ SDGs.

The co-operative sector is positioned as an actor that is expected to play a significant role in achieving the SDGs.
Embodying Interaction & Cooperation in Communities 1

JA Aichi-Higashi Co-op Aichi

1970: Producer-consumer partnership
1999: Co-op festival
   Signed a comprehensive partnership agreement

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1999: Co-op festival
   Signed a comprehensive partnership agreement

Consolidation Succession

Source: Presentation material at the 2017 Japanese Society for Co-operative Studies Spring Conference. JA: Agricultural Co-operative
Embodying Interaction & Cooperation in Communities 2

Shimane Pref. : 2011- Forum for Promotion of Community Care Collaboration

From interaction & training to cooperative activities & collaboration

Developed into “Community Connection Center”

Source: Presentation material at the 2017 Japanese Society for Co-operative Studies Spring Conference. JA: Agricultural Co-operative
Embodying Interaction & Cooperation in Communities 3

Source: Co-op Net Ibaraki.
Embodying Interaction & Cooperation in Communities 4

Job creation for elderly people & community development

Workers’ Co-op + JA + consumer co-op + labour banks...

“Associated Work Platform” Project (started in 2014)

Hiroshima City Commission Workers’ co-op Support Businesses by elderly people

JA Pref. Central Union, labour banks, consumer co-ops, RENGO (Trade Union Confederation), Council of Workers’ Welfare, etc.

Function as a liaison organization. Exchange opinions and discuss operational support twice a year.
Embodying Interaction & Cooperation in Communities 5

JA Higashikawa + Co-op Sapporo (Hokkaido)

Agreement on keep watching of elderly people in the community

Higashikawa Town → JA Higashikawa → Co-op Sapporo

Consultation on assistance in shopping
Request for operation of a mobile shop

“New Higashikawa Town Plan for Promotion of Local Agriculture” (April 2010)
→ Including “Activities to assist elderly people in shopping”

JA staff rode with consumer co-op staff to introduce JA members to them.

Experienced in Sanchoku business
Know-how of mobile shops

Co-op Sapporo
Embodying Interaction & Cooperation in Communities 6

The initiative by NPO Food Bank Saitama Pref.

[Collect]
Broken package, misprint, close to the expiration date
Food would otherwise be discarded while it has no quality problem.

[Deliver]
Welfare facilities, people in need
Provide it for free

Creating places to work
- Jobs for people with difficulty finding work
- Reducing food loss
  = Supporting people in need
Embodying Interaction & Cooperation in Communities 7

Planting trees for more fishes

- Connection among forest, river & ocean
- Continued for 30+ years
- Also used for HR Development

<Achievements>
- A total of **1.14M** trees have been planted (2017)
- Consumer co-ops and forest owners’ co-ops also support seedling → broadening the **circle of cooperation**
Typology of Partnership, Collaboration and Solidarity among Co-operatives

- Cooperation w/in the field
- Cooperation w/ different fields
- Liaison councils at the prefectural level
- Solidarity among co-ops, councils of workers’ welfare, social welfare councils, municipalities, etc.

JA, JF & consumer co-ops

Consumer co-ops & workers’ co-ops

JA, JF, forest owners’ co-ops & consumer co-ops & workers’ co-ops & local organizations
Establishment of JCA: Background 3

Strengthen collaboration

Discussion at JJC

Expand the potential

Engage in "creation of better life and work in sustainable local communities"
There Are 41 Coordinating Bodies at the Prefectural Level

467 organizations belong to coordinating bodies across the country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Foundation</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970s</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980s</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990s</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>2000</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: JCA. Survey on the Current State of Prefectural Bodies.
Goal, Functions and Activities of JCA

Goal
To contribute to creation of better life and work in sustainable local communities

Functions
Promote inter-co-operative collaborations (promotion and support)
Make policy proposals and engage in public relations activities (dissemination of messages)
Provide education and conduct research (analysis, sharing and proliferation)

Activities
Promote, support, and disseminate inter-co-operative collaborations
Conduct education, studies and research on life and work in local communities
For Further Collaboration

- Start w/ what we have in common
- Discover something new through interaction
- Share practical roles

Gathering → Workshop → Visit facility → Identify issues

Various levels:
- What we want to do
- What we can do
Thank you for your attention.