

# Community-building Using a Support System

## Chiba City



### Background

Wakaba Ward in the city of Chiba has created a basic policy for expediting "community-building involving all ward residents." Based on the policy, the ward is working to increase residents' morale by promoting community-building. They aim to help residents share basic information on social and economic conditions, including the falling number of children, the very rapid aging of population, and the city's severe fiscal conditions, and by creating an environment that makes it easier for residents to actively take part in public-interest activities.

### Purpose of Project

To move forward with "community-building involving all ward residents." in line with the basic policy, the ward is aiming to encourage residents to engage in community-building by using the community-building support system. The system predicts future conditions including population of each district of the ward.

### Outline of Project

Among the six wards in Chiba, the pace of population aging is the fastest in Wakaba Ward. The ward and the Tokyo University of Information Sciences jointly created the community-building support system, which predicts how the demographic structure, the population aging rate and the number of people in need of nursing care in each district of the ward will change as time progresses. The predictions were made to make it easier for residents to share information, under-

stand how their own communities will develop in 10-20 years' time and help them consider what should be done to resolve local problems stemming from a drop in the population.

These data are available on a local portal website operated by a company called Future Link Network so that everyone can easily obtain and use the information. Maps and charts are used to make it easier to understand the data.

In addition, workshops using the system are being held for *jichikai* (self-governing bodies for residents) organisations introducing the activities of more advanced *jichikai* organisations for the benefit of their peers to learn what kinds of mutual support activities will be necessary.

### Features and Advanced Aspects

The ward is using the community-building support system, established in collaboration with the Tokyo University of Information Sciences (located in Wakaba Ward) to increase all residents' interest in community-building.

The community-building support system offers projections on the population, the population aging rate, the number of people in need of nursing care, and other matters for each district in the ward, using easy-to-understand maps and charts.

Video clips showing specific activities conducted in some districts are available as a reference for residents' participation in such activities.

### Effects of Project

The number of mutual support associations is steadily increasing as the ward is explaining their

need through the use of the community-building support system. There were 21 mutual-support community associations in 2011, 34 in 2013, and 38 in 2014.

As elderly households are on the rise in the district Chishirodai-higashi-machi district, a *jichikai* organisation there has launched a "*mimamori* (keep an eye on) card" system to help aged residents who are faced with emergencies. In the system, elderly residents record personal information including their name, date of birth, blood type, personal doctor's name, any conditions under treatment, and the details of an emergency contact(s) on a small card. The cards are kept in their refrigerators, an item found probably at any home. The system has been well received with one elderly user of the card saying: "If a fire breaks out and I need to be rescued, I would feel secure because rescuers would find the *mimamori* card in the fridge, even if I couldn't speak." The *jichikai* organisation is working to promote the use of the card.

Other activities in place include shopping support for elderly people living alone, the establishment of groups assisting child-rearing families, and voluntary cleaning of parks and other places.

## Problems and Responses

*Jichikai* organisations which had already been active have willingly launched mutual-support activities, so a challenge from now is encouraging relatively dormant organisations to take on such activities.

Amid a lack of personnel assuming leadership roles at *jichikai* organisations, it would likely become necessary to seek participation in mutual support activities from young people and local disaster management/volunteer groups.

## Outlook

Wakaba Ward will continue offering seminars utilising the community-building support system to help residents understand the importance of taking part in mutual support and other activities.

The ward will also make efforts to increase the number of volunteer groups.

## Reference URL

<http://wakaba-chiba.mypl.net/wakabaku/#01>

\*Japanese

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# Community-building support system

A chart showing community-building supporters (graphic chart)

## グラフで見るまちづくりの担い手 (ピクチャーグラフ)

Area

町丁等

千城台東1丁目

年代

平成37年

2025

Chishirodai-hi  
gashi  
1-chome

表示

Year

Display

Support for the  
elderly from all of  
society

### 社会全体で高齢者を支える

生産活動の中心となる15歳以上65歳未満の  
人口(分母)と65歳以上の高齢者(分子)  
との比率を表しています。

高齢者人口(65歳以上)

生産年齢人口(15~64歳)

Elderly population  
(65 years old or older)

Productive age population  
(15-64 years old)

This chart shows the proportion between the population of people aged 15-64, who play central roles in production activities (denominator), and the population of elderly people aged 65 or over (numerator).

479人

479 people

717人

717 people

100人

100 people each

**Video to introduce community-building programmes**

*Mimamori* (keep an eye on) card (*Jichikai* organisation in Chishirodai-higashi-machi)

**見守りカード（千城台東町自治会）**

