

# CLAIR

## Fact Sheet

### ***Local autonomy in Japan: Examples of advanced policies***

1. [Administrative and financial reform]  
Promotion of transfer of authority to municipal governments (Gunma Prefecture)
2. [Administrative and financial reform]  
Promotion of transfer of authority to municipal governments (Hiroshima Prefecture)
3. [Health and welfare/Declining birthrate and population aging]  
Promotion of home medical care programs (Oita Prefecture)
4. [Environment]  
Widespread introduction of solar power generation systems at reasonable cost (Kanagawa Prefecture)
5. [Environment]  
Toward a metropolis where people can feel a gentle breeze rustling the leaves of the trees (Osaka Prefecture)
6. [Environment]  
Promotion of rare metals recycling (Fukuoka Prefecture)
7. [Environment]  
Effective use of biomass (Kumamoto Prefecture)
8. [Disaster preparedness and crisis management]  
River levels information delivery system by use of mobile messaging services (Aomori Prefecture)
9. [Disaster preparedness and crisis management]  
Protection of people and regions from flood (Shiga Prefecture)

Area	Administrative and financial reform	Prefecture	Gunma Prefecture
Title	Promotion of transfer of authority to municipal governments		
Measure/ Project name	Gunma New Plan for Transfer of Authority		
Details	<p>[Prefecture's basic policy on transfer of authority]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal governments, administrative bodies most closely related to local residents, need to take the initiative in providing administrative services to deliver close-knit services, and create local communities with great individuality that reflect the intent of residents. To promote local administration in such a manner, Gunma Prefecture transfers as much authority as possible to municipalities, serves as their supporter in principle, and enhances partnership with them under the concept of "dialogue and cooperation" toward improvement of services for local residents.</li> </ul> <p>[Outline of "Gunma New Plan for Transfer of Authority"]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised the "Gunma New Plan for Transfer of Authority" in May 2011 (to a three-year plan from 2011 to 2013).</li> <li>• The Plan was designed to actively promote transfer of authority with the aim of achieving local administration led by municipalities, enhancing cooperation between the Prefecture and municipalities and delivering higher-quality administration services in the age of decentralization. Based on this perspective, the Plan defines basic concepts and procedures for transfer of authority.</li> </ul> <p>&lt;Three goals to be achieved through promoting transfer of authority and methods of achievement&gt;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Resident-oriented administrative services [high-priority areas for transfer] 10 administrative works Placed higher priority for transferring authority on administrative works that contributed to improving resident convenience.</li> <li>(2) Further promotion of decentralization reform [comprehensive transfer] (4 lists) Transferred authority depending on the size of municipalities in a comprehensive manner in line with the efforts for decentralization reform.</li> </ol>		

	<p>(3) Support of self-motivated activities by municipalities to boost the regions [custom-made transfer] (211 administrative works stipulated by 127 laws and regulations)</p> <p>Promoted transfer based on voluntary and proactive choices by municipalities.</p>
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Area	Administrative and financial reform	Prefecture	Hiroshima Prefecture
Title	Promotion of transfer of authority to municipal governments		
Measure/ Project name	Establishment of a framework for ensuring self-decision by municipalities		
Details	<p>1. Current situation and issues</p> <p>According to the “Decentralization Reform Promotion Plan” (2005-2009) developed in 2004, Hiroshima Prefecture had worked to establish underlying administrative bodies that are engaged in regional development in a comprehensive manner. With this concept, the Prefecture had transferred authority to municipalities regardless of their size, and successfully handed over 1,829 administrative works out of 2,446 to be transferred (74.8%) as of April 2011.</p> <p>After completion of the plan period, the Prefecture evaluated the result, and found some issues including insufficient mastery of the works of municipalities and the need for transfer depending on the circumstances of municipalities, while citizens appreciated the improved convenience.</p> <p>To address these issues, the Prefecture has provided municipalities with support for the administrative works transferred, and promoted further transfer of authority based on voluntary choices by municipalities (1,856 works transferred as of April 2013).</p> <p>2. The ideal state it is desired to achieve</p> <p>By promoting transfer of authority from the Prefecture to municipalities, municipalities and administrative bodies closely related to citizens create a unique local community with a sense of autonomy at their own discretion and under their own responsibility so that citizens can realize the effects of transfer of authority.</p> <p>3. Course of action</p> <p>(1) Provides municipalities with support for the administrative works transferred to improve their mastery of the works, and enhance the effects of transfer.</p> <p>(2) Transfers authority based on voluntary choices by municipalities to address the needs of citizens and regional issues which vary depending on the characteristics of regions.</p>		

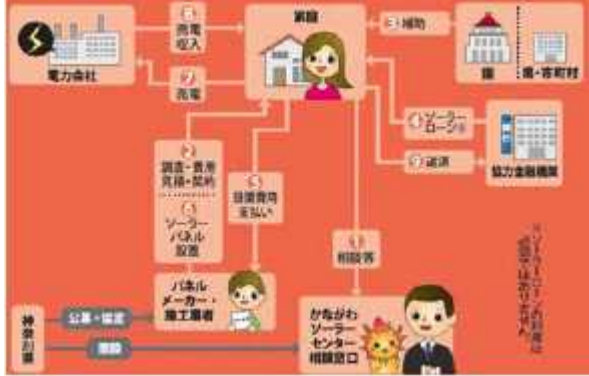
	<p>4. Progress of project</p> <p>(1) Progress of transfer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Administrative works to be transferred: 2,446 works (2005-2011) -&gt; 2,393 works* (2012)</li> <li>* Reduced through review such as elimination of works.</li> <li>○ Total number of administrative works transferred: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80 works (2005) ⇔ 402 works (2006) ⇔ 1,075 works (2007)</li> <li>⇔ 1,621 works (2008) ⇔ 1,766 works (2009) ⇔ 1,808 works (2010)</li> <li>⇔ 1,829 works (2011) ⇔ 1,854 works (2012) ⇔ 1,856 works (2013)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>(2) Typical examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Establishment of welfare offices by towns: Eight towns out of nine in the prefecture established welfare offices in April 2009.</li> <li>○ Issue of physical disabilities certificates: 19 municipalities out of 21 (except an ordinance-designated city and major cities) since April 2010</li> <li>○ Acceptance of installation notices for septic tanks: All municipalities since April 2010</li> <li>○ Permission to divert farmland: All municipalities since April 2010</li> <li>○ Authority over road management: Transferred to Miyoshi City in October 2007 under the Road Act</li> <li>○ Authority over management of harbors and fishery ports: Transferred the authority over Akitsu Port to Higashi Hiroshima City in April 2009 (the first case in Japan). Transferred the authority over a harbor and four fishery ports to Etajima City in April 2011.</li> <li>○ Acceptance of application for and issue of passport: All municipalities since June 2007.</li> </ul>
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Area	Health and welfare/Declining birthrate and population aging	Prefecture	Oita Prefecture
Title	Promotion of home medical care programs		
Measure/ Project name	Project for securing and retaining nursing staff who support home medical care		
Details	<p>To support recuperating persons who want to receive medical care in their own town, this project aims to secure home medical care staff such as nurses, and enhance their abilities through training and developing a support scheme.</p> <p>1. Project cost 15,369,000 yen (the initial budget for FY2013)</p> <p>2. Implementing bodies Oita Prefecture, Oita University of Nursing and Health Sciences</p> <p>3. Scope of project</p> <p>(1) Program for training home-visit nurses (commissioned by the Prefecture to Oita Nursing Association) Trains home-visit nurses with high level of practical abilities by use of e-learning courses.</p> <p>a) Subsidizing fees for e-learning courses b) Holding training workshops for home-visit nurses</p> <p>(2) Program for improving retention of nursing staff such as at home-visit nursing stations (implemented by the Prefecture) Dispatching advisors such as certified home-visit nurses, and establishing a support scheme for home-visit nursing stations to improve staff retention.</p> <p>a) Establishing a program promotion review panel b) Implementing a model program for dispatch of advisers c) Holding a report meeting</p> <p>(3) Program for enhancing abilities of home medical care staff (implemented by Oita University of Nursing and Health Sciences) Subsidizes programs designed to enhance the abilities of home medical care staff such as certified home-visit nurses, and nurses working at medical facilities in the region.</p>		

	<p>a) Offering working-level training such as for certified nurses</p> <p>b) Providing simulators</p> <p>c) Preparing and offering DVDs on home medical care</p>
<p>Pictures</p>	<p>在宅医療が進んでいない</p> <p>①訪問看護師等の養成</p> <p>②訪問看護ステーション等看護職員への支援体制の整備</p> <p>③在宅医療従事者の資質向上</p> <p>在宅医療を支える看護職員の確保・定着</p> <p>在宅医療の推進、医療安全の確保</p> <p>病気になっても住み慣れた地域で暮らせる</p> <p><b>《方法》</b>  <b>アドバイザー派遣による研修や相談の体制整備</b>  *アドバイザー:訪問看護認定看護師  全国333名中県内15名  (全国8位・九州1位)</p> <p>不安解消</p> <p>看護職員の定</p>
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Area	Environment	Prefecture	Kanagawa Prefecture
Title	Widespread introduction of solar power generation systems at reasonable cost		
Measure/ Project name	Kanagawa Solar Bank System		
Details	<p>1. Intent and purposes</p> <p>Since 2011, Kanagawa Prefecture has promoted the “Kanagawa Smart Energy Concept” that promotes “energy creation,” “energy-saving” and “energy storage” in a comprehensive manner toward establishing a distributed energy system led by local communities. As part of the efforts for widespread introduction of solar power systems, a key measure for “energy creation,” the Prefecture has been committed to operation of a “Kanagawa Solar Bank System” since December 2011.</p> <p>2. Main features of the system</p> <p>This is the first approach among local governments in Japan that aims to ensure citizens can introduce residential photovoltaic (PV) systems at reasonable cost without any concerns through collaboration between the Prefecture, solar panel manufacturers, distributors and construction contractors.</p> <p>3. Overview of the system</p> <p>(1) Selection of installation plans</p> <p>The Prefecture calls for installation plans for residential PV systems from companies that want to participate in the Kanagawa Solar Bank System. The Prefecture evaluates the plans submitted for sales price, quantity to be offered, service area, sales and construction structure and after-sales support, and selects the plans to be registered in the system.</p> <p>(2) Establishment of “Kanagawa Solar Center”</p> <p>The Prefecture established the “Kanagawa Solar Center,” an organization in charge of replies to general inquiries about solar power systems, handling of inquiries about installation plans selected by the Prefecture, and acceptance of requests for quotes for installation on neutral ground. The Center offers these services under commission from the Prefecture.</p> <p>(3) Process from acceptance of request for quotes to installation of solar PV</p>		



	<p>panels</p> <p>The “Kanagawa Solar Center” accepts requests for quotes for installation, and sends them to registered companies. Companies and citizens who request quotes discuss individually, and conclude an agreement on installation of solar power systems.</p> <p>4. Results</p> <p>The system presents several installation plans that may theoretically recover installation costs in 10 years. It is expected to further contribute to widespread introduction of solar power systems.</p>
<p>Pictures</p>	 <p>An overview of Kanagawa Solar Bank System</p> <p>The diagram illustrates the flow of the Kanagawa Solar Bank System. It starts with '電力会社' (Electricity Company) providing '電気' (Electricity) to '消費者' (Consumer). The consumer's '収入' (Income) is used for '返済' (Repayment) to the '電力会社'. The system also involves '補助' (Subsidy) from the '国・都道府県' (National/Local Government), '銀行' (Bank), and '協賛機関' (Sponsor). The '消費者' can also receive '補助' from the '国・都道府県'. The '消費者' is connected to '太陽光発電' (Solar Power Generation) and '蓄電池' (Battery). The '太陽光発電' is connected to 'パネルメーカー・施工業者' (Panel Manufacturer/Installer) and 'がねがわソーラーセンター相談窓口' (Kanagawa Solar Center Consultation Window). The 'パネルメーカー・施工業者' is connected to 'メーカー・販売' (Manufacturer/Distributor). The 'がねがわソーラーセンター相談窓口' is connected to '相談' (Consultation) and '見積' (Estimate). The '消費者' is also connected to '返済' (Repayment) to the '電力会社'.</p>
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Area	Environment	Prefecture	Osaka Prefecture
Title	Toward a metropolis where people can feel a gentle breeze rustling the leaves of the trees		
Measure/ Project name	Special zones for greenery campaign		
Details	<p>◆ Analysis of issues and goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Osaka needs to create an overwhelmingly attractive urban environment such as lush greenery to attract people, companies and investment, and achieve further growth.</li> <li>○ But, as often said, “Osaka has little greenery”; the greenery coverage in Osaka ranks the worst in ordinance-designated cities. Osaka also ranks at the bottom in the evaluation of urban greenery conducted by the Mori Memorial Foundation. Furthermore, in a questionnaire targeted at citizens in the prefecture, only 1% of them answered “I see lush greenery in the cities”, and citizens feel there is almost no nature left in the cities.</li> <li>○ In terms of environment, urban heat-island effects have worsened in Osaka. For example, the average temperature in August 2010 reached 30.8°C, higher than that in Naha, Okinawa, and Osaka was called “the hottest city in Japan.”</li> <li>○ Osaka is still far from an attractive city in terms of urban dignity and environment.</li> <li>○ Against such a background, the Prefecture developed a clear concept of “developing greenery to bring a cool, gentle breeze to make Osaka a more attractive city”. With this concept, the Prefecture has promoted efforts to create a “green environment that citizens can realize” in cooperation with companies and local communities in a variety of ways, and through deregulation of urban planning in such a way that citizens can feel benefits, not burdens. (The Prefecture developed various measures shifting from conventional, public-led greenery projects based on the viewpoint of suppliers of greenery services, such as regulation and subsidies including greening obligations for buildings and the subsidy system covering the entire Prefecture, to user-oriented projects led by companies and citizens such as deregulation, encouragement of unique services by companies, and community-wide activities).</li> </ul> <p>◆ Details of the project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Governor designated some public spaces including major roads and rivers,</li> </ul>		

























