

“Future of Fujisawa: One Day Deliberation” The Briefing Material

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What are the problems in Fujisawa?

What are the advantages of Fujisawa?

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[Argument 1]

(a) Is it important to maintain the level of public services for current generations?

(b) Is it important to maintain a sound fiscal condition for the future generation?

[Argument 2]

Which is better? (c) *“The City of Fujisawa should take responsibility and make a decision about its services,”* or (d) *“Public services should be decided by each local management body by taking into consideration the characteristics and situations of the community.”*

[Argument 3]

Which is better? (e) *“Local government should provide many services for the residents even if the tax rate will increase,”* or (f) *“The tax rate should be*

decreased and the residents should take responsibility for their quality of life.”

[Argument 4]

Which is better? (g) *“The City of Fujisawa should invest in infrastructure such as public facilities and roads,”* or (h) *“The City of Fujisawa should invest in education and social welfare.”*

Attachment File: Statistical Data of Fujisawa

1. Preface

(1) The purpose of “Future of Fujisawa: One Day Deliberation”

“Future of Fujisawa: One Day Deliberation” (Fujisawa DP) is an event that surveys public opinion among the residents of Fujisawa and it is conducted by the City of Fujisawa and DP research group of Keio University. Currently, the City of Fujisawa is making a new Comprehensive City plan and we are using many methods for understanding public opinion among the residents, and this event, Deliberative Polling,[®] is one of those methods. Deliberative Polling[®] is a new type of public opinion survey that was innovated by James S. Fishkin of Stanford University and it has been conducted in line with the criteria made by the Center for Deliberative Democracy. Deliberative Polling[®] has already been conducted in over 35 countries and the first Deliberative Polling[®] was held in Kanagawa Prefecture on December 5th 2009. On the city level, this Kanagawa DP is the first case in Japan.

(2) Why is This Deliberative Forum Important?

The City of Fujisawa accepts comments and proposals from our residents via the Internet. We also conduct the “Public Comments” and receive opinions from our residents whenever we make new plans. However, it is difficult to reflect the opinions of many ordinal residents to actual politics and public administration. It is also true that many people are too busy to participate in some events. In that sense, it is important that our residents read documents about the issue and exchange their opinion with other people when we ask for their opinions in order to make a new Comprehensive City Plan. Because we chose the participants randomly, the opinions in this event is representative of ordinal residents in Fujisawa.

(3) Discussion about Our Future

The themes of this event are “current situation of Fujisawa” and “Future of Fujisawa.” That is, you will have discussions about the big picture of our city and will not discuss things such as what the City of Fujisawa should do directly. Rather, we want to know what you think about current situation of Fujisawa and which direction we should move. “Future of Fujisawa” is also a difficult theme but the choices we prepared here are for deciding on a direction of our future. This “direction” will be used when we make a new Comprehensive City Plan.

(5) Time Schedule

You will discuss all day long. Thank you very much for your contribution for this event.

9:00	Registration
9:20	Welcome Reception and pre-deliberation survey
10:00 – 11:30	Small group discussion: “Current situation of Fujisawa”
11:40 – 12:50	Plenary Session
	Lunch
13:45 – 15:15	Small group discussion: “Future of Fujisawa”
15:25 – 16:55	Plenary Session
16:55 – 17:25	Greetings, post-deliberation survey

2. “Future of Fujisawa: One Day Deliberation” Important Points for the Event

(1) What should we discuss?

When we make policies for our future, we have to understand current situations very well. However, even if we receive similar information, interpretations are different among different people. For instance, according to the research by Nikkei-Glocal, Fujisawa is ranked No 6 in terms of the degree of sustainability.

サステナブル度(総合評価)ベスト10

総合順位	自治体名(都道府県)	総合スコア		環境保全度スコア		社会安定度スコア		経済豊かさ度スコア	
		前回	今回	前回	今回	前回	今回	前回	今回
1	2 武蔵野市(東京)	62.1	60.9	64.8	58.7	54.1	52.1	64.8	74.1
2	1 三鷹市(東京)	61.4	61.2	68.8	67.1	51.2	48.1	56.8	62.3
3	5 豊田市(愛知)	61.2	58.7	60.3	57.4	49.2	50.5	75.1	69.6
4	47 鎌倉市(神奈川)	59.7	54.1	64.8	52.1	51.3	50.3	57.9	61.8
5	7 日野市(東京)	59.6	57.1	64.8	57.5	50.2	47.8	58.5	65.4
6	- 藤沢市(神奈川)	59.1	-	63.9	-	50.6	-	58.1	-
7	65 名古屋市(愛知)	58.7	53.6	62.7	59.8	49.8	48.0	59.7	46.8
8	8 田原市(愛知)	58.6	57.0	53.5	56.2	53.2	54.0	74.2	61.4
9	- 府中市(東京)	58.4	-	61.5	-	53.1	-	57.6	-
10	39 吹田市(大阪)	58.3	54.5	61.5	53.0	50.5	50.0	59.5	62.0

(注) -は前回調査で回答しなかった自治体。

Source: Nikkei-Glocal (139) Januray 4th 2010, page 8.

When some people see the table above, they think “it is fine to keep this level” but others might think “we have to take advantage of our good aspects in our city actively.” Moreover, there are many opinions about what the good aspects are.

The purpose of Fujisawa DP is not for gathering many kinds of opinions. Rather, it is important that each citizen receive information from the documents and other sources and summarize his or her own idea and express it.

On the other hand, some people are worrying about the current situation of our city. Although Fujisawa seems better compared to many other cities in Japan, it is also true that some people are thinking such things as “Your recognitions of the current situation is too optimistic” or “the crisis is just around the corner.”

There are many opinions toward the issues and problems of Fujisawa among the participants of this event. Some participants may see the low birthrate as a serious problem. Other participants might be thinking that the decline of commercialism in Fujisawa is very serious.

When discussing some issues, we need some materials. Although we have prepared the document, "Database of Fujisawa," it does not cover all issues or data.

This event is not only for expressing your own opinion, but also for listening to other participant's ideas as well as asking the specialists your own questions.

(2) To consider the current situation of Fujisawa and discuss the solutions (Morning Theme)

What are the problems in Fujisawa?

There are many problems that we have to solve. These include those that we can deal with now and those that will need to be solved in the future. But the opinions on which problems are priorities vary greatly. For instance, some people think traffic problems should be solved first. Others point out issues such as the large number of children who are waiting for permission to enter preschool, the aging society, being a society with few children as the biggest problems.

We can only hope to find solutions to the problems once we understand the current situation. Let's first decide what the problems in Fujisawa are before we try to solve any of them.

Although there are many problems in Fujisawa, we will discuss about 5 major issues in the section below. Let's consider and discuss the other problems in Fujisawa through these 5 major issues.

Issue 1: [Falling Population, Aging Society with few Children]

- The population in Fujisawa will increase until it peaks at 417,000 in the year 2020. It will then begin to decrease.
- The population of elderly people in Fujisawa was about 16.5 % in 2005. It will increase until it becomes about 32.4% in 2035.
- The population of children 0 to 14 years old was about 14.1 % in 2005. It will decrease until it becomes about 9.6 % in 2035.

→[Please see p 1 – 3 in the booklet]

Issue 2: [Drastic Change of the structure of economy and industries]

- The number of manufacturing businesses and the amount of the products they produce has been decreasing for a long time. The population of agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries has decreased since the 1970s and the population of manufactures and construction industries has decreased since the 1990s. This trend will continue in the future.
- The population of retailing and service industries has increased. However, it will decrease gradually due to the decline

of the whole population and it will decrease significantly after 2025.

→[Please see p4-5 in the booklet]

Issue 3: [Serious situation of our budget in the future]

- Because of the recession that started in late 2008, business conditions in Fujisawa have become serious and the amount of corporate taxes dropped drastically.
- The current recession will continue in the future, hence city budget will also decrease.
- Not only the recession but also an increase in the aged population and decrease in employees will cause a decrease in the amount of city taxes.

→[Please see p 6-8 in the booklet]

Issue 4: [Aging public facilities]

- About 57 % of public facilities in Fujisawa were built under old quake-residence standards and 43% were built under new quake-residence standards.
- About 52.3 % of public facilities are over 30 years old.

→[Please see p 9 -10 in the booklet]

Issue 5: [Other general issues]

- [Environment → p 11-13 in the booklet]
- [Public Safety → p 14-16 in the booklet]

What are the positive aspects of Fujisawa?

It is not only important to recognize the problems in Fujisawa but also to understand its advantages. It is a good idea to consider them when making public policies.

What are the favorable aspects of Fujisawa? Please consider about them with data that includes the comparison with other cities and some ideas about the advantages of Fujisawa. In your opinion, which positive aspects should we make use of?

• Ideas about advantages of Fujisawa

There are 10 ideas of things that might be considered positive aspects of Fujisawa according to some meetings. These are just examples but will help you to think about it.

- (1) Great natural vironment such as Sagami Bay, hill, green zone in the north, and the Pacific
- (2) Public transportation
 - Development of public transportation systems such as Sagami Road and the extension of Sagami Railroad will upgrade the urban infrastructure.
 - [Please see p17 in the booklet]
- (3) “Shonan-Enoshima”: Brand and Affinity
 - Enoshima is one of the landmarks of Fujisawa which is very valuable for tourism. Enoshima is very popular place nationally. That is, there is a potential to develop its value more. Media introduces Enoshima quite often, increasing Fujisawa's value.
 - [Please see p18 in the booklet]
- (4) The balance of industries – attracting companies and changing industrial structure
- (5) Hilightly educated citizens and high levels of public participation
- (6) Sound fiscal condition
- (7) Culture and history
- (8) Highly educational environment, academic city
- (9) High quality parental care and medical systems

(10) Collaboration with other cities around Fujisawa

❖ Comparison of Fujisawa with other cities

Let's think about the advantages of Fujisawa over other cities (of similar population size)

The ranks of amenity in 2009

	Total	security	convenience	comfort	affluence	housing
Fujisawa	359	727	472	87	29	703
Yokosuka	512	636	614	224	185	544
Machida	225	758	106	71	39	715

According to this rank, Fujisawa is in 369th place out of 806 cities in Japan. This means it is 9th out of the 19 cities in Kanagawa Prefecture. That is, Fujisawa is average amongst other cities in Japan.

The advantage of Fujisawa in terms of the rank of amenity

So, what is the advantage of Fujisawa from this rank? “Comfort” and “affluence” were highly ranked. What does this mean?

“Comfort” refers to how comfortably the residents of the area live. Being so highly ranked in this category means that there is a comfortable residential environment in Fujisawa. Next, the “affluence” refers to the size of the city budget. This ranking tells us that there is enough money in the city.

(3) Consideration and Discussion about the future of Fujisawa (Afternoon theme)

How should we make plans for the future of Fujisawa?

When we think about the future of Fujisawa, it is not only important to organize the ideas about some practical policy problems and their solutions, but also to consider the direction of basic policies. Here, we will show some different ideas about the future of our city.

Argument 1:

(a) It is important to keep current levels of public services for the sake of current generations

(b) It is important to keep current healthy fiscal conditions for the sake of future generations

Argument 2:

(c) The City of Fujisawa should take responsibility and make a decision about the services

(d) Public services should be decided by each local management body by taking into consideration the characteristics and situations of the community

Argument 3:

(e) Local government should provide many services for the residents even if the tax rate will increase

(f) It is better to cut tax rather than to gain and receive better public services

Argument 4:

(g) In the future, we have to use the budget for “soft” infrastructures such as Social Security and education system, rather than “hard” infrastructures.

(h) In the future, we have use the budget for “soft” infrastructures such as Social Security and education system, rather than “hard” infrastructures.

We will see the direction of Fujisawa after 10 to 20 years from now through these four arguments. We prepared these arguments with the assumption “if you HAVE TO CHOOSE one from two.” Needless to say, if we had enough budgets, we could choose both. However, our fiscal condition in the future

will be serious and we have to make a choice, even though it is difficult. Therefore, you will discuss these issues under the assumption “if you have to make a decision.”

Argument 1

(a) It is important to keep an enough level of public services for the sake of current generations

(b) It is important to keep the healthy fiscal condition for the sake of future generations

◆ Meaning of the Argument 1

- Roughly speaking, there are two stand points: (1) there is no problem that we will think about expected problems not right now but when it become problems, and (2) we have to start thinking about issues of the future
- Although equality is guaranteed under the democratic system, those over 20 years old are able to vote in election. In other words, people in current generations are only able to decide “problems in the future” for the sake of children and the future generations.
- Generally speaking, there is a tendency for constituencies to make a vote decision by taking current problems into considerations. Therefore, people avoid tax hike and complicated problems such as environmental problem even if they know the government has a fiscal problem

→See the booklet p6-8 & 25.

◆ Those who consider the current generations (opinion (a))

WHY?

- They think that we have to solve current problems at first because we do not know about 30 or 50 years from now. It is fine that the future generations will solve their problems at the time.
- Current politics are only able to proceed the choices supported by a majority of the current constituencies. Therefore, it is important for the government to conduct the highly prioritized policies.
- Because the aging society is coming soon, many problems will happen soon. Therefore, we have to solve these problems at first.

◆ Those who consider the future generations (opinion (b))

WHY?

- There are some current policy issues that are related to the future such as Social Security and the aging society. We have to solve these problems now, otherwise the future generations will have significantly more serious situations.
- The current generations are spending money over the debt, therefore the future generations will have to pay off in the future and the fiscal burden will increase.
- It is difficult to recover the environment once it is damaged. Therefore, if the current generations do not care about environmental issues now, the future generations have to face serious problems.

Argument 2:

(c) The City of Fujisawa should take responsibility and make a decision about the services (provide the same services to the entire city)

(d) Public services should be decided by each local management body by taking into consideration the characteristics and situations of the community

◆ Meaning of the Argument 2

- The City of Fujisawa considers a whole city as a one unit
- However, the size of city is large and there are varieties of characteristics in each area.
- Some people argue that the City of Fujisawa should take care of issues requiring equality in the city, and each region need to apply policies depending on their characteristics.

→ see p 26 in the booklet

◆ The City of Fujisawa has to consider entire city and make policies for all of it (opinion (c))

WHY?

- Because the City of Fujisawa and City Council are able to collect information from all areas in the city and proceed well-balanced policies, the residents are able to receive the same services wherever they live in Fujisawa
- Because the City of Fujisawa and City Council are able to take responsibility for all policies, the residents do not need worry about them
- If we decentralize the policy process, some residents might complain about some policies in their area because they are not able to receive the same services that other residents might receive in their area.

◆ Public polices should be provided from a small unit that is closer to their residential area (opinion (d))

WHY?

- If we decentralize the administrative process, the residents are able to participate in the process easily and more spontaneously.
- If the administrative process is decentralized, the residents will have a sense of responsibility for their own area and they will become more serious about their own community
- The residents are able to receive and use a lot of resources and information

- The variety of characteristics will develop more

Argument 3:

(e) There is no problem with increasing taxes in the future if the City of Fujisawa will provide the residents good public services

(f) It is better to do a tax cut, rather than to do a tax hike and receive better public services

◆ Meaning of the Argument 3

- The city budget will decrease in the future
- If the residents want to receive the same or better public services in the future, tax hike is unavoidable
- On the other hand, if we decide not to increase taxes, it is unavoidable that the levels of public services will decline

→ see p27-32 in the booklet

◆ **There is no problem with increasing taxes in the future if the City of Fujisawa will provide the residents good public services (opinion (e))**

WHY?

- If we take survey of ideals among Japanese people into consideration, the services that the national and local governments should provide will more and more. For instance, the budget for Social Security in the national and local governments will increase. In addition, many Japanese people think that government should provide additional services such as better education and environmental policies.
- In order to provide additional public services, it is possible to do a tax hike in the future.
- In order to reduce the burden among the future generations, we need to raise taxes and reduce the debt.

◆ **It is better to do a tax cut, rather than to do a tax hike and receive better public services (opinion (f))**

WHY?

- Current government is providing more public services than what we need and there are many services that we do not need. Therefore, there is no problem with reducing some public services

- If volunteers and non-profit organizations will provide some services that the government provides currently, we can keep the levels of public services and reduce the amount of services from the government simultaneously.
- If the City of Fujisawa reduce taxes, some people and corporations will move into the city.

Argument 4:

(g) We need more “hard” infrastructures such as roads and public facilities.

(h) In the future, we have to use the budget for “soft” infrastructures such as Social Security and education system, rather than “hard” infrastructures.

◆ Meanings of Argument 4

- Roughly speaking, there are two kinds of investments by the government. First, the government invests in public facilities and roads. Second, the government invests in systems and human resources such as Social Security and educational system.
- Both investments are important for the residents. However, we have to choose investments in the future because the budget will be limited.
- See p 6-8 and 33-37 in the booklet

◆ Investment for physical facilities (opinion (g))

WHY?

- We do not have enough roads and public facilities, therefore the government should provide them.
- Benefit from Roads and public facilities are not only for the current generations but also the future generations. That is, they will become the assets for the future.
- Many residents use the public facilities in Fujisawa now. That is, the government should provide more of those facilities.
- See p10 in the booklet.

◆ Investment for “soft” infrastructures (opinion (h))

WHY?

- In terms of investments for the future, investments in Social Security and educational system will provide us larger benefits than one in “hard” infrastructures in the long run.
- If the government invests in physical infrastructures, we also need a budget for maintaining these facilities. If there is not enough ideas and budget for human resources and systems for using those facilities, many facilities do not bring us benefits.