



Polling Kanagawa Citizens on Doshusei

Governor Exchanges Opinions about the Introduction of “New Methodology”

Professor James S. Fishkin of Stanford University, inventor of “Deliberative Polling”, visited the prefectural office and met with Governor Shigefumi Matsuzawa on the 8th October. Kanagawa Prefecture will introduce Deliberative Polling - which combines questionnaires plus deliberation - for the first time in Japan with the hope of accurately gauging Kanagawa citizens’ opinions.

Unlike conventional polling, in a Deliberative Poll respondents not only answer a questionnaire but then discuss the issue with each other, learn information which they didn’t know when they first answered the questionnaire, and then complete the questionnaire again. It is said that respondents become informed and more accurate public opinion can be obtained this way. More than twenty countries including those in Europe and America have used Deliberative Polling. Kanagawa Prefecture has been jointly studying the methodology with Tokyo Institute of Technology and others. The first questionnaire survey on the topic of Doshusei was sent to 3,000 randomly-selected people in September in Japan’s first attempt at Deliberative Polling.

Governor Matsuzawa says, “I’m a strong supporter of Doshusei. I hope many more citizens will learn about Doshusei through this opinion poll and offer a lot of opinions based on the deliberation”. (Takehiro Okamura)

Caption:

Governor Matsuzawa (right) and Professor Fishkin exchanging opinions at the prefectural office.