ITU-D SG2
A holistic approach to creating Smart Societies

Sustainable urban development in Japan

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Japan faces a variety of issues ahead of the world.

- Aging
  - Japan's percentage of aged population (the percentage of senior citizens aged 65 and older within general population) is 27.3%, a number expected to increase to 33.3% in 2036. (ref. the 2017 Annual Report on the Aging Society)
  - The speed at which China, Brazil and other nations are aging is forecasted to exceed even that of Japan. (ref. United States Census Bureau, An Aging World:2015)
- Population decline
  - Japan's population declined for the eighth consecutive year, calling to 125.58 million people. (ref. a population census in 2017)
  - The flow of population from local areas to urban zones creates the possibility that half of Japan's local governments will disappear by 2040. (ref. The Japan Policy Council, a private research organization)
- Many other (aging infrastructure, climate change, abnormal weather and natural disasters etc.)

Sustainable urban development is urgent to resolve these issues in rural area.

Japan enters new era of maturity

Society's shift from growth to maturity

- As Japan enters an era of declining population and the breakdown of its past economic cycle models, the country is now in need of transformation in its social platform that has continued since the era of high growth.

- In a mature society with a declining population, low birth rate and aging, for achieving a safe, secure, comfortable, and sustainable society, while also overcoming the issue of insufficient resources for social security, it is not require to have a traditional hardware-dependent social platform built of concrete and steel.

- Instead, "Flexible social platform" based on data usage that can adapt to changes in the environment is now urgently needed.

- The aim of the "Flexible social platform" is not the piecemeal optimization of disaster readiness, welfare, and so on, but the overall optimization of government services through the use of data across organization.

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Flexible social platform

- Data utilization software FIWARE plays important roll in data centric platform to link data divided across different domains.
- The burden of shouldering social services will not fall upon local governments and large corporations alone.
- New eco system in which companies and universities with rich knowledge of the region will participate.
- It can be said that Flexible social platform needs to be supported by holistic approach..

The "Flexible social platform" concept