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## Research on the Countermeasure of Housing for the Elderly in the Aging Background of Japan — A Case study on typical Welfare Facilities of Kitakyushu City in Japan

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### Abstract

After the war, with the economy recovered, the changing of population structure in Japan is immense. Because of the low birth rate and the average age of old people continually augment, Japan soon had entered into the aging society period. Aging speed is faster than most of the European countries. And Japanese society had influenced by the arises problems, especially the housing problem. The functional performance of building needs to consider more about old peoples' safety, comfort and convenience. And also should consider about their psychological problem. In this paper, first I'm going to present an overview of the Japanese people's living problems under the aging society. And then I will describe some case studies of housing for elderly now in Kitakyushu City of Japan, including the countermeasure about planning details, caring system and the relevant policies.

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### 1. Background

Since 2005, Japan has become the world's oldest rate of the country. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Statistics Japan, until September 2015 Japan's aging population will expected to reach 31.86 million people, accounting for 25.0% of the proportion of the total population(JMIAC, 2010). The number and proportion of the

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aged population will become the highest value in the past. This means that one of the 4 people in Japan is over 65 years old. Fig.1 shows the aging population changing from the year 1950 to 2015, and the forecast to the year 2035. The dotted line is the aging proportion of the total population. The aging increment speed is evident.

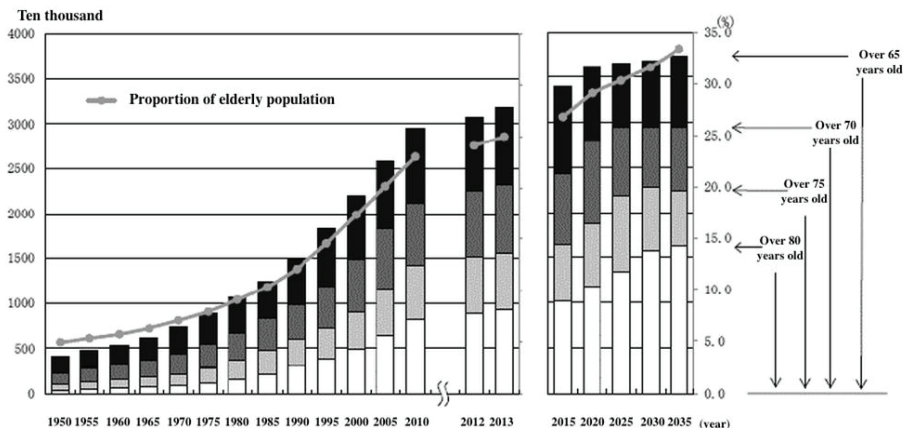


Fig. 1. The development of the number of elderly people and the proportion.

Over 65 years old elders could be divided to the Early Stage (65~74 years old) and the Later Stage (over 75 years old). The most elder who at the Early Stage are relatively healthy, and just retired from working life, and having relaxing and comfortable life with the pension(Meno Fumitake, J., 2012). But with the aging and being senile, the possibility of having health problem will get higher and higher, which is Later Stage's problematic. Fig.2. Shows the evolve of Early Stage and Later Stage. For now the number of Early Stage is still lesser than Later Stage, but obviously, soon the situation is going to be reversed.

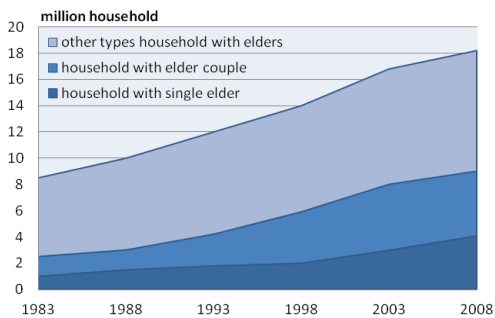


Fig. 2. Evolve of different types of household.

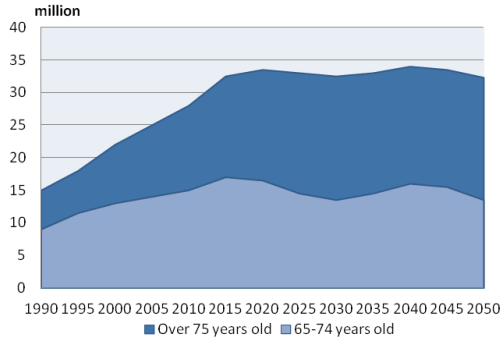


Fig.3. Evolve of Early Stage and Later Stage.

According to the statistical result of 2008 "Housing and Estate", which is a census about Japanese housing and living conditions by Statistics Japan, shows that the number of normal household with over 65 years old elders is 36.6% of the total. Which means every 2.7 households have one household with elders. The households with single elder are 41.39 million, and there are 51.41 million households with the elder couple (both are elder or each one), other types household with elders are 89.62 million. Most of the elders are living with their families, but recent years the household of elder couple and single elder are increasing. Fig.3. Shows the changing in 25 years. Compared to the total number of the household with elder increased 2.1 times from the year 1983, the household of single elder increased 4.2 times(Kawamura, J. 2014).

The aging problem is becoming very serious in Japan. The aging speed of Japan also faster than any other developed country right now. With the Later Stage's number exceed the Early Stage, the productive aging population is getting reduced, the whole society structure of Japan will be a huge change. And with the mode of Japanese family

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