



## Wakayama Prefecture, Japan

**NODA, Hiroyoshi**

Director General, Planning  
Department



## Nara Prefecture, Japan

**OBA, Takayuki**

Director General, Infrastructure  
Management Department



## Nara City, Japan

**NAKAGAWA, Gen**

Mayor



## Ikaruga Town, Japan

**IKEDA, Yoshinori**

Deputy Mayor



## Koryo Town, Japan

**YAMAMURA, Yoshiyuki**

Mayor



## Nara Prefectural Assembly

**WADA, Keiji**

Vice Chairperson, Committee on  
Economy and Labor

# Summary



## MOTANI, Kosuke

Chief Researcher, Research Department,  
The Japan Research Institute, Limited

Issues of an aging population lie behind employment issues. In Japan, there was a baby boom after World War II, and after that the number of children declined and the country turned into a one of very long healthy lives. Korea is now entering the stage that Japan experienced over the last 30 years. In the Philippines, the working-age generation continues to increase, but it will probably go through the same process in the future. Thirty years from now, people age 85 or older will be the largest population segment in Japan, and the working-age generation will decline even further. Tasks will be having energetic elderly people and women work, and creating employment with high wages for each person.

From now on, Nara Prefecture's population aging rate will be at one of the highest levels in Japan. This is an extremely severe situation, but on the other hand it is also a chance, because

Nara Prefecture is one of the top 3 areas that elderly people, who are rapidly increasing, want to visit for tourism. However, until now tourism in Nara Prefecture was considered for school trips only, and it was not directed at the increasing number of elderly people.

Japan has the fastest aging population in the world. The question from now on is how to stop the declining birth rate. In Korea, the working-age population will begin to decrease in the near future, and the number of elderly people will triple. Learning from Japan's successes and mistakes will be a good method for overcoming these things. The Philippines has the highest birth rate in East Asia, and it will be necessary to deal with the issue of securing employment for the continually increasing young generation and the issue of the elderly people who will increase tremendously in the future. I hope that the Philippines will learn from how Korea overcomes these issues. If we learn from regions that have already aged, we will be able to prevent problems. I am certain that if from now on local and regional governments continue to exchange information and do not repeat previous mistakes, we will all be able to mature wisely.



## Commemorative lecture



### NIKAI, Toshihiro

Member of the House of Representatives

There are remarkable things about the development of tourism in ASEAN countries. Last year Japan achieved 10 million inbound visitors for the year, but that still is not enough compared to the results of other countries in the world. We must aim even higher and continue to work hard. I have been serving as the chairperson of All Nippon Travel Agents Association for 20 years, and I often say that it is not enough to simply have people come from other countries, and we must also go visit other countries. If we only think about development of our own countries, tourism will not be able to play a large role. Tourism that begins with cooperation so that the influences on local economies will be extremely large and there will be mutual development is a peace industry. I would like to proceed with pride.

For that reason as well, we definitely must reconsider today's relationships between China and Japan and between Korea and Japan. Whenever

anything happens, historical issues are raised and a composition for antagonism is created, but nothing will be created from that. Although there are people who like arguments in any country, there are also many methods for mutual compromise and being friendly. We should look for a path for East Asia to be united through the economy and to develop by cooperating and developing technologies. In that sense, it is extremely meaningful that influential people from the local and regional governments of each country are gathering here to talk with each other, and there are significant expectations for this congress. I would like to humbly accept ideas based on all of your opinions and experiences, and then work to respond to them.

Japan learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake that it is necessary to cultivate a strong spirit of standing up against disasters, conduct training on a regular basis, and make preparations, and therefore the recent Diet session established 3 laws related to strengthening national land and reflected them in the budget for fiscal 2014. At the same time, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) considered disaster measures for the future, and allocated JPY 200 million for a budget required for the countries to utilize their experiences and knowledge and help each other. I would like to make efforts so that the people of countries with which we have deep interactions will not suffer misery due to disasters and will not lose their precious lives. If we are able to receive ideas from the people of each country and each region concerning this, I would like to promptly incorporate them.

In politics, regions are more important than anything else. Good politics will not be achieved by national government initiative. The results of this congress, which began with the idea of Governor Arai and brings together the wisdom of local and regional governments, will now start to bloom. I hope I can be of even the smallest help in building new relationships in East Asia. I hope for the success of all of you who have gathered here today.





## Chairperson's report

**ARAI, Shogo** Governor of Nara Prefecture

【 Topic 】

- Project report
  - Reporting the East Asia Summer School
- Other
  - About holding the Fifth East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress in Nara Prefecture



# Representatives' press conference



## Chairperson

**ARAI, Shogo** Governor of Nara Prefecture

The Fourth East Asia Local and Regional Government Congress is actually being held for the fifth time this time, after being held as a preparation congress in 2009 and then being held for the first time in 2010. There are currently members from 64 local and regional governments in 7 countries, and 39 local and regional governments from 5 countries participated this fiscal year. Surin Pitsuwan gave a keynote speech on the subject "Future of Asia," and group discussions were conducted on the two themes "Social Security in terms of Aging Population and Decreasing Birth Rate" and "Regional Economic Development and Employment," which are common tasks for each local and regional government. Discussions were held by high working-level participants on the first day and by heads of local and regional governments on the second day. Kosuke Motani, Tokio Kusumi, Taro Miyamoto, and Sang Hoon Ahn led the meetings in an organized manner. We also received support from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and

Toshihiro Nikai, chairman of the budget committee of the House of Representatives, gave a lecture. I am grateful to all of these people. We received many opinions that will serve as references for the work of local and regional governments, and truly meaningful exchanges of opinions were made. We also received approval for holding the next congress in Nara Prefecture, and we would like to make further improvements so that it will be a congress that can contribute to the people of East Asia.