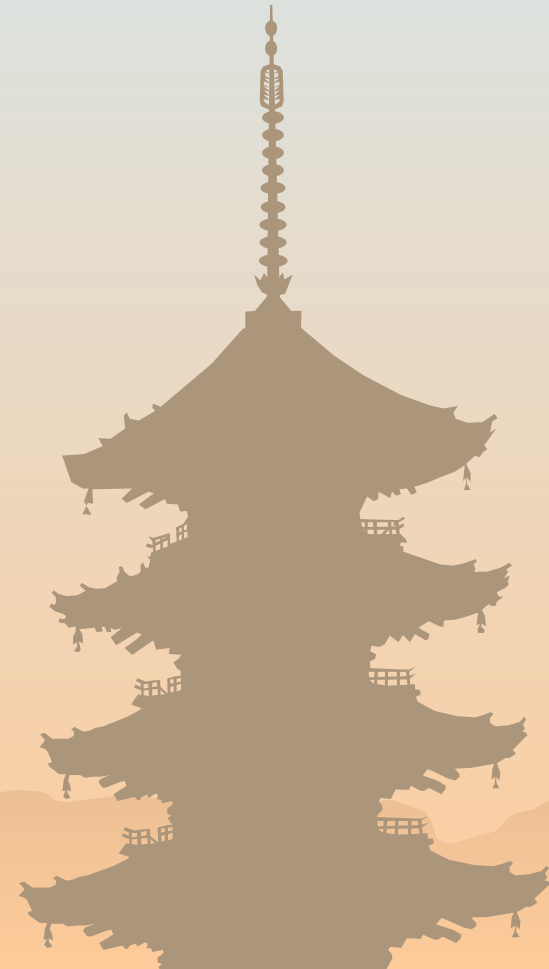


# Democracy & Gender in Asia

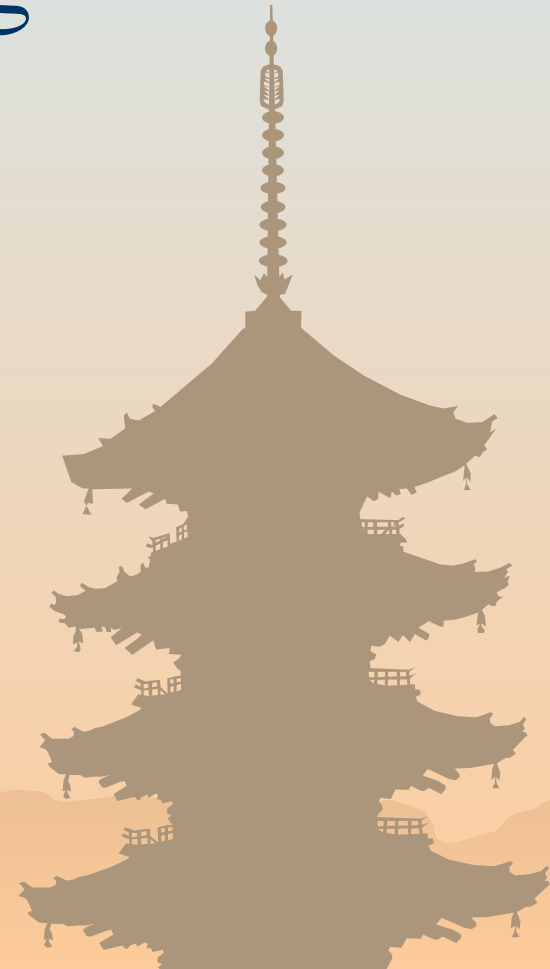
Kuniko INOBUCHI, Ph.D.  
Minister of State for Gender  
Equality and Social Affairs,  
Japan



1. The East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting
2. Gender Equality in Japan
3. Japan's New Family Policy
4. Democracy and Gender



# 1. The East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting



# The East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting (1)

- (1) The East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting was held on June 30 and July 1, 2006 in Tokyo, Japan.
- (2) The Meeting was Chaired by Dr. Kuniko Inoguchi, Minister of State for Gender Equality and Social Affairs of Japan.
- (3) This was the **first** East Asia ministerial-level meeting aimed to discuss the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women in this region.
- (4) The Meeting was attended by 16 countries of East Asia and 2 international organizations.  
Participating countries/organizations are: Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, UNDP, UNESCAP.
- (5) The Meeting unanimously adopted the **Tokyo Joint Ministerial Communiqué** which, among others, decided to continue the Ministerial Meeting process on **an annual basis.**
- (6) The meeting agreed that the next meeting will be held in **India in 2007 and in Republic of Korea in 2008.**

# The East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting (2)

- Chaired by :  
Dr. Kuniko INOBUCHI,  
Minister of State for  
Gender Equality and  
Social Affairs, Japan

2005-            Member, House of Representatives  
2002-2004    Ambassador Extraordinary and  
                  Plenipotentiary to the Conference  
                  on Disarmament  
1990- 2006    Professor, Faculty of Law,  
                  Sophia University  
1982            Ph. D. in Political Science, Yale  
                  University



# The East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting (3)



HOD of 16 countries and 2 international organizations  
(Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea,  
Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore,  
Thailand, Viet Nam, UNDP, UNESCAP)

# The East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting (4)

- (1) Despite differences in economic development levels and cultural/religious and political contexts, an amazing level of consensus was achievable on points including the need to invigorate **national machineries and local focal points** for overcoming **feminization of poverty** and stereo-typical gender roles and socialization patterns, to build capacities for **gender statistics** and sex-disaggregated data, to promote **gender sensitive budgeting** to allow the consideration of gender perspectives into macro-economic and micro-economic frameworks.
- (2) The Meeting reaffirmed with pride that **“progress for women is progress for all”**.
- (3) The Meeting noted that **exclusion, overwork and the burden of care** often limit women’s access to capacity and capability development as well as their participation in social and political spheres, putting them in even more vulnerable positions.
- (4) The Meeting agreed to **share best practices** for making progress towards women’s empowerment and bringing about social transformation.
- (5) The Meeting noted that gender equality and women’s empowerment involve **changing power relations** at all levels- individual, collective and institutional- and requires public awareness.
- (6) The Meeting agreed that recognition of women’s human rights, the promotion of their participation and **leadership in decision-making at all levels** and equal partnership between women and men are prerequisite to achieve gender equality and the advancement of women. The Meeting noted the necessity of concerted efforts, not only to benefit women but also to build a society that is equitable and sustainable.

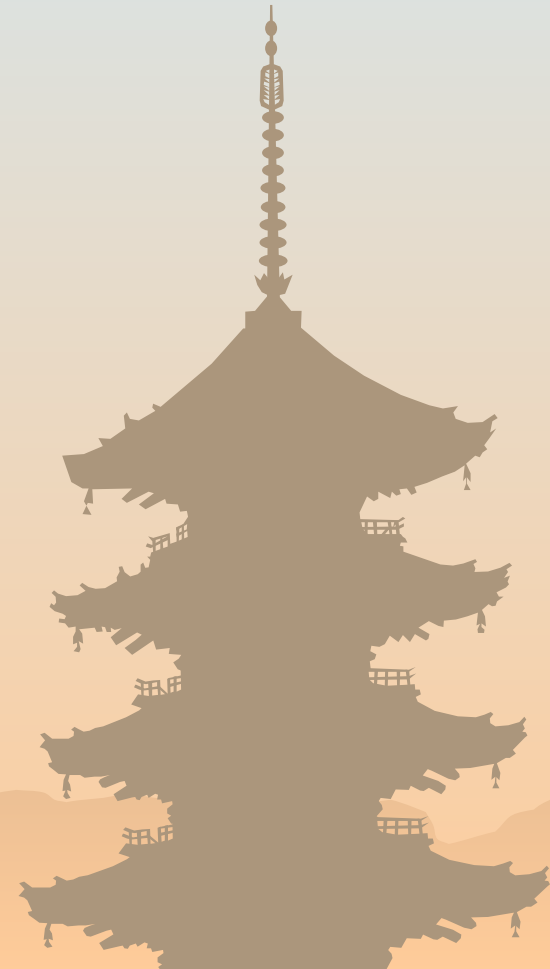


# The East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting (5)

- (7) The Meeting recognized the **emerging issues** in the region - such as trafficking in women and children, violence against women, HIV/AIDS, natural disasters and human and animal diseases, which have negatively impacted on people's lives, especially those of women and children, and agreed that emerging issues require **regional cooperation** and bilateral agreements.
- (8) The Meeting noted that gender inequality and pervasive gender discrimination cannot be reversed by a handful of promising practices and successes. National women and gender machineries are the vehicle for **gender mainstreaming** at the national level.
- (9) The Meeting agreed that greater access by women and girls to education, knowledge, and opportunities is a prerequisite. Introduction of **numerical targets, positive action**, and specific indicators, both quantitative and qualitative, for monitoring progress are necessary to accelerate efforts for narrowing gender gaps in political, economic, and social spheres.
- (10) The Meeting noted that collaboration and dialogue between government and **civil society organizations (CSOs)**, including the private sector, help to identify the needs and priorities of women and men at the grass-root level, which is critical in translating global commitments into national actions.
- (11) The Meeting agreed that **strong and continuous political leadership** is essential in bringing about social transformation in East Asia.
- (12) As national champions for gender equality and the empowerment of women, the meeting continued to take leadership and called for political will and leadership across the board.
- (13) Encouraged by the success of the East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Government of Japan, the Meeting resolved to **continue the Ministerial Meeting process on an annual basis.**

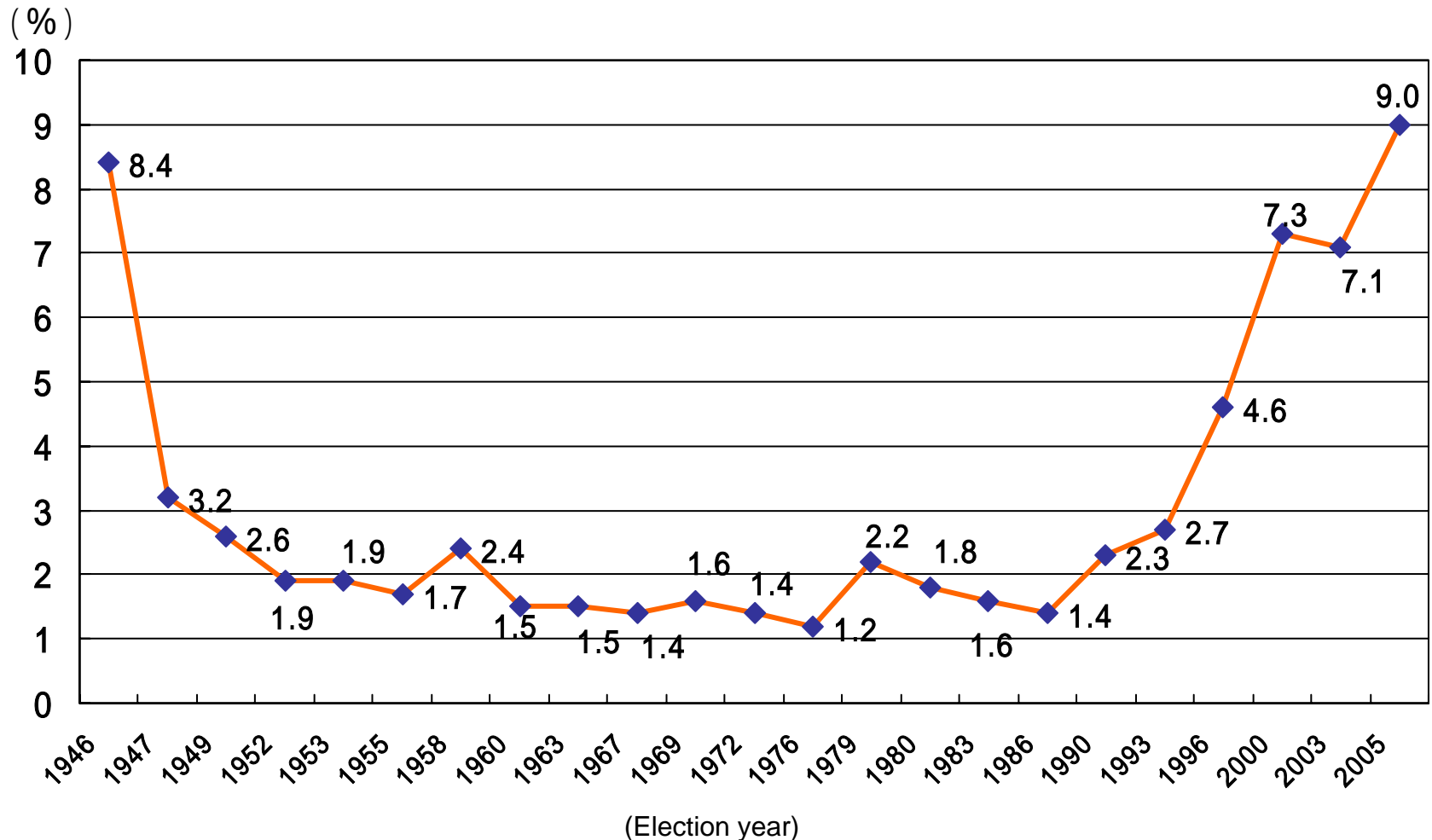


## 2. Gender Equality in Japan



# Percentages of female election winners of House of Representatives of Japan

In the 2005 general election, all the female candidates from the LDP, the ruling party, were successful in being elected as the result of Prime Minister Koizumi's strong commitment to support female candidates. There are now an unprecedented number of female members of the House of Representatives.



# International Comparison: Women in National Parliaments (Situation as of 31 May 2006)

The number of Japanese female parliamentarians is still low.

Rank	Country	Seats	Women	%
1	Rwanda	80	39	48.8
2	Sweden	349	158	45.3
3	Costa Rica	57	22	38.6
4	Norway	169	64	37.9
5	Finland	200	75	37.5
17	Germany	614	195	31.8
30	Mexico	500	129	25.8
35	Australia	150	37	24.7
50	Canada	308	64	20.8
57	United Kingdom	646	127	19.7
69	Italy	630	109	17.3
<b>83</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>15.2</b>
93	Republic of Korea	299	40	13.4
<b>128</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>9.4</b>

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Note: Lower or single House

# Framework for Gender Equality in Japan

## **1946 The Constitution of Japan**

Article 14: All of the people are equal under the law and there shall be no discrimination in political, economic or social relations because of race, creed, sex, …

**1999 Basic Law for a Gender-Equal Society** enacted with unanimous approval of Diet.

## **2000 Basic Plan for Gender Equality**

First comprehensive and cross-cutting policy planning to enhance gender equality.

## **December 2005 Second Basic Plan for Gender Equality**

➡ Promotion of comprehensive and systematic measures.

/Expand women's participation in policy decision-making process.

(For women, fill 30% of the leadership positions in all spheres of society by the year 2020.)

/Secure equal work opportunities and treatment for men and women.

· Revision of the Equal Employment Opportunity Law.

/Eliminate all forms of violence against women.

## **June 2006 Revision of the Equal Employment Opportunity Law**

/Introduction of the concept of and measures to eliminate indirect discrimination.

# Basic Data on Gender Equality in Japan

## Women's Participation in the House of Representatives

	[Japan]	[USA]
	1952.10 1.9%	2006.5 15.2%
	2003.11 7.1%	
	2005.9 9.0%	
(Women Total / Total	34/480	66/435
(LDP Female Representatives / Women Total	9/ 34	
(DP Female Representatives / Women Total	15/34	

## Women's Participation in the House of Councilors

	[Japan]	[USA]
	1953.4 7.8%	2004. 11 14.0%
	2004.7 12.4%	
(Women Total / Total	34/242	14/100
(LDP Female Councilors / Women Total	12/34	
(DP Female Councilors / Women Total	11/34	

## Women's Participation in National Advisory Councils and Committees

[Japan] 1975 2.6% 2005 30.9%

## Women's Participation in Local Assemblies

	[Japan]	[USA]
	1975 1.2%	2006 22.8%
	2004 8.1%	

## Women's Participation in the Judiciary

	[Japan]	[USA]
(Judges)	1977 2.1%	2005 24.6%
	2005 13.7%	
(Public Prosecutors)	1977 3.3%	2005 12.5%
	2005 12.5%	
(Lawyers)	1977 1.0%	2005 29.4%
	2005 9.5%	

## Woman Researchers

	[Japan]	[USA]
	1992 7.9%	2003 34.3%
	2005 11.9%	

## Women Who Pass the National Examination for Medical Practitioners

[Japan] 1992 7.9% 2005 11.9%

## Women Who Quit Jobs When They Have Their First Baby

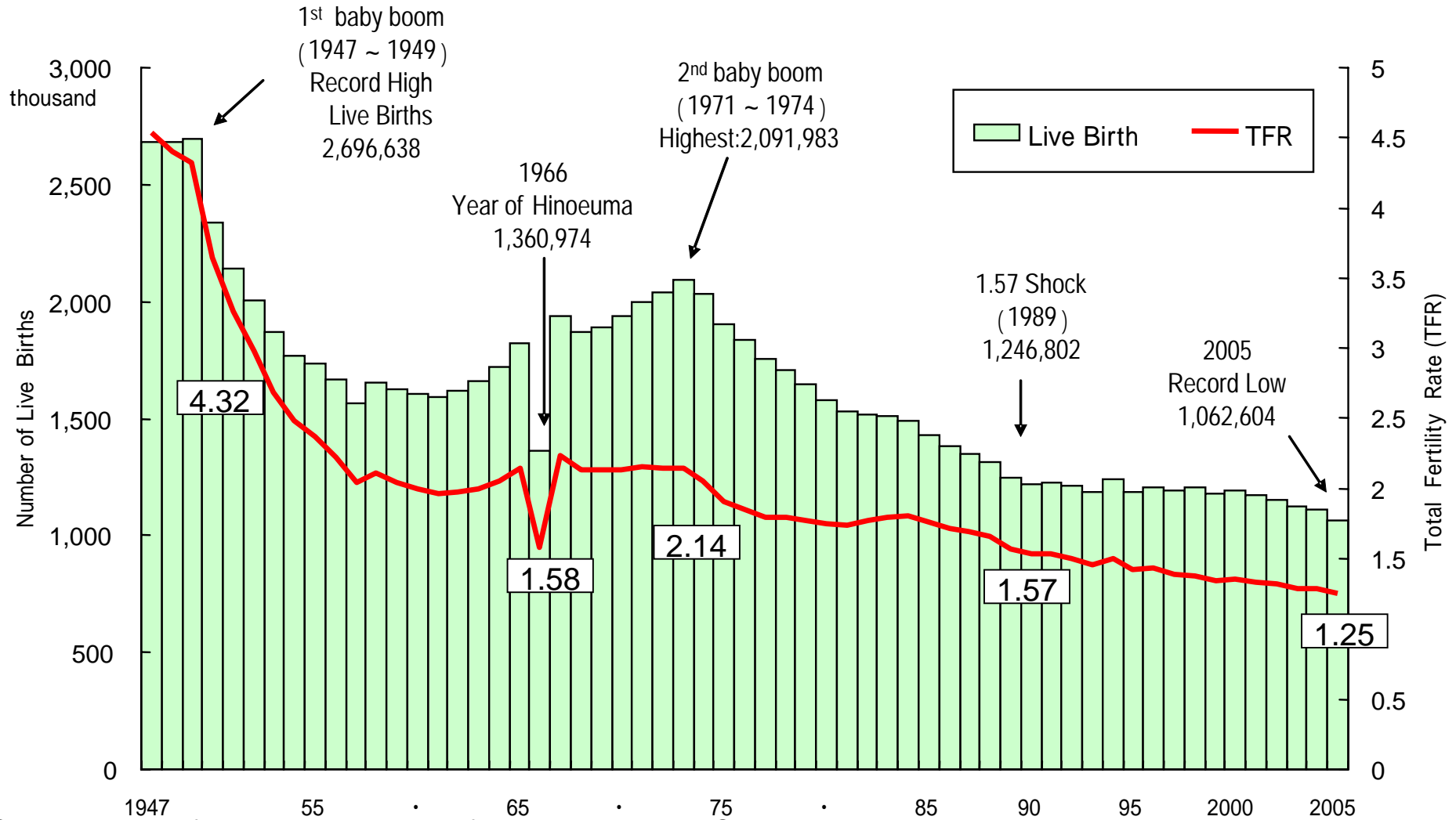
[Japan] 2001 67.4%

# 3. Japan's New Family Policy



# Total Fertility Rate of Japan: 1947-2005

The birthrate has been declining precipitously in Japan. In the 30 years following the second baby boom, the total fertility rate and number of births has been on a downward trend. Last year, the total fertility rate was recorded as 1.25 and the number of births stood at 1.06 million, both of these figures marking historic lows.



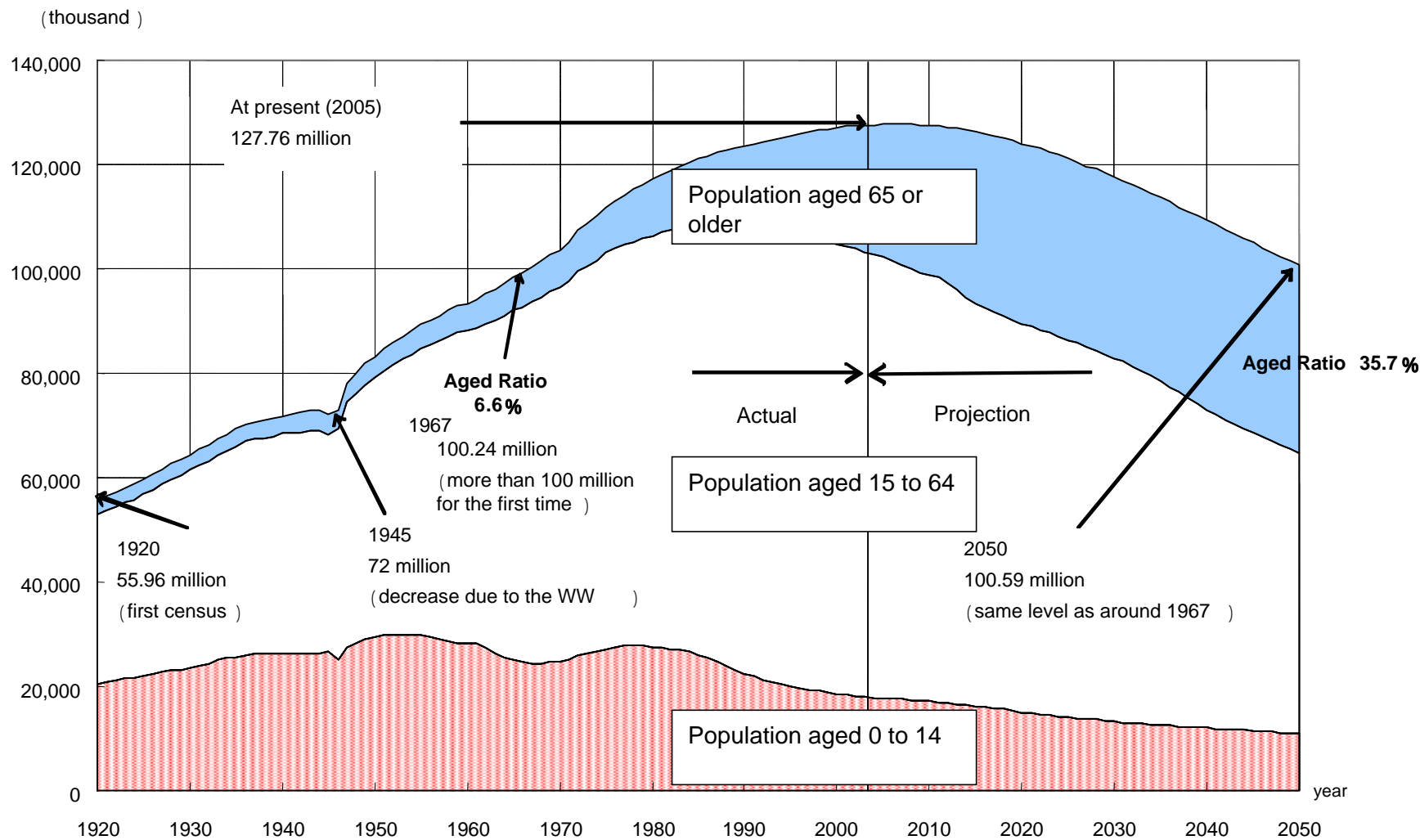
Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, "Population Vital Statistics"



# Trends of Population by Age Structure In Japan

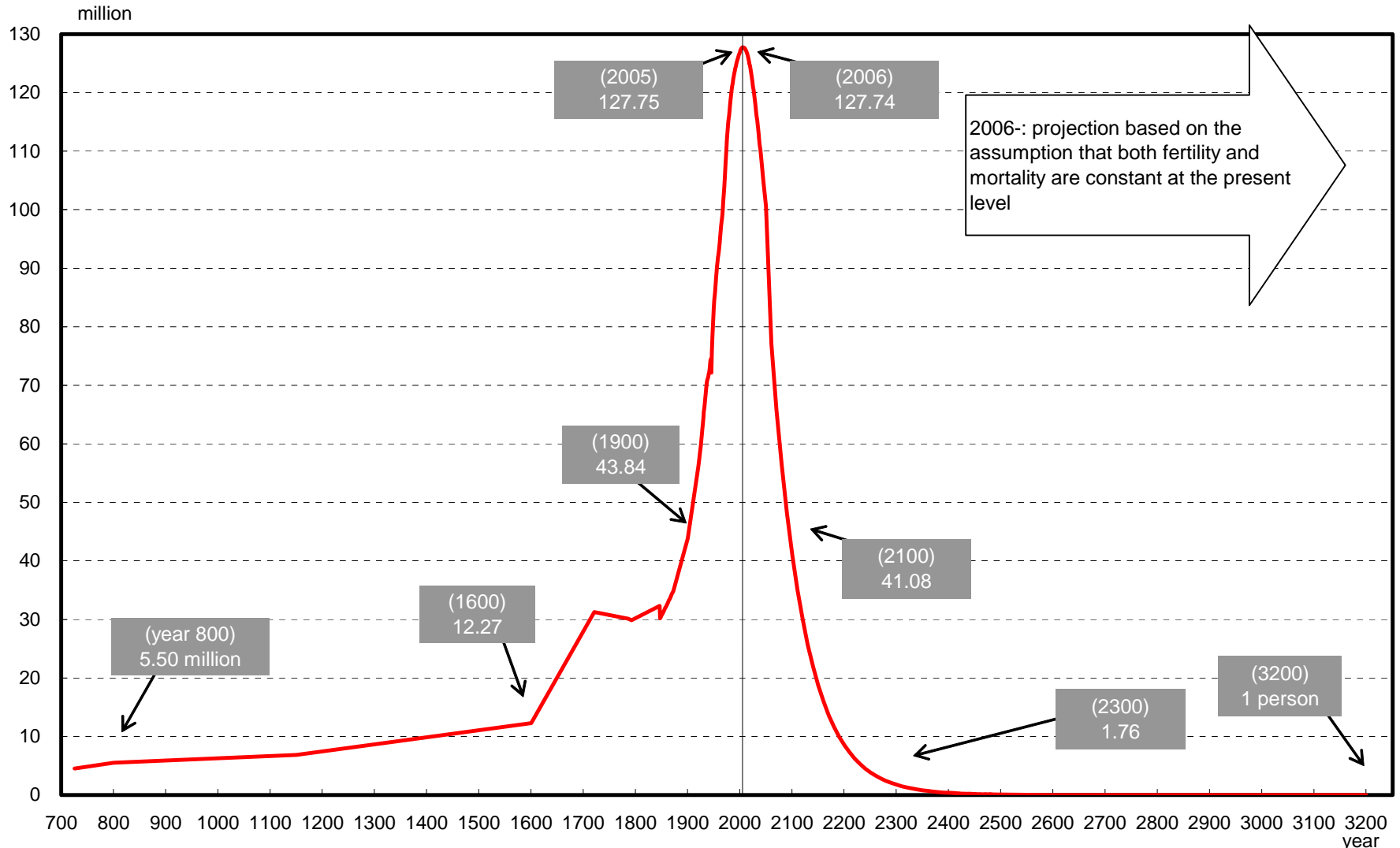
If this declining birthrate trend continues, it is projected that by 2050 total population could fall below 100 million.

Moreover, it is projected that the aged ratio could rise 35.7%, which would be a “super aging society”.



# Trends of Total Population In Japan

On the assumption that the present birthrate and mortality rate are constant, it is projected that by 2100 the population could fall to a level of one-third the present population and by the year 3200 there would be eventually only one person.



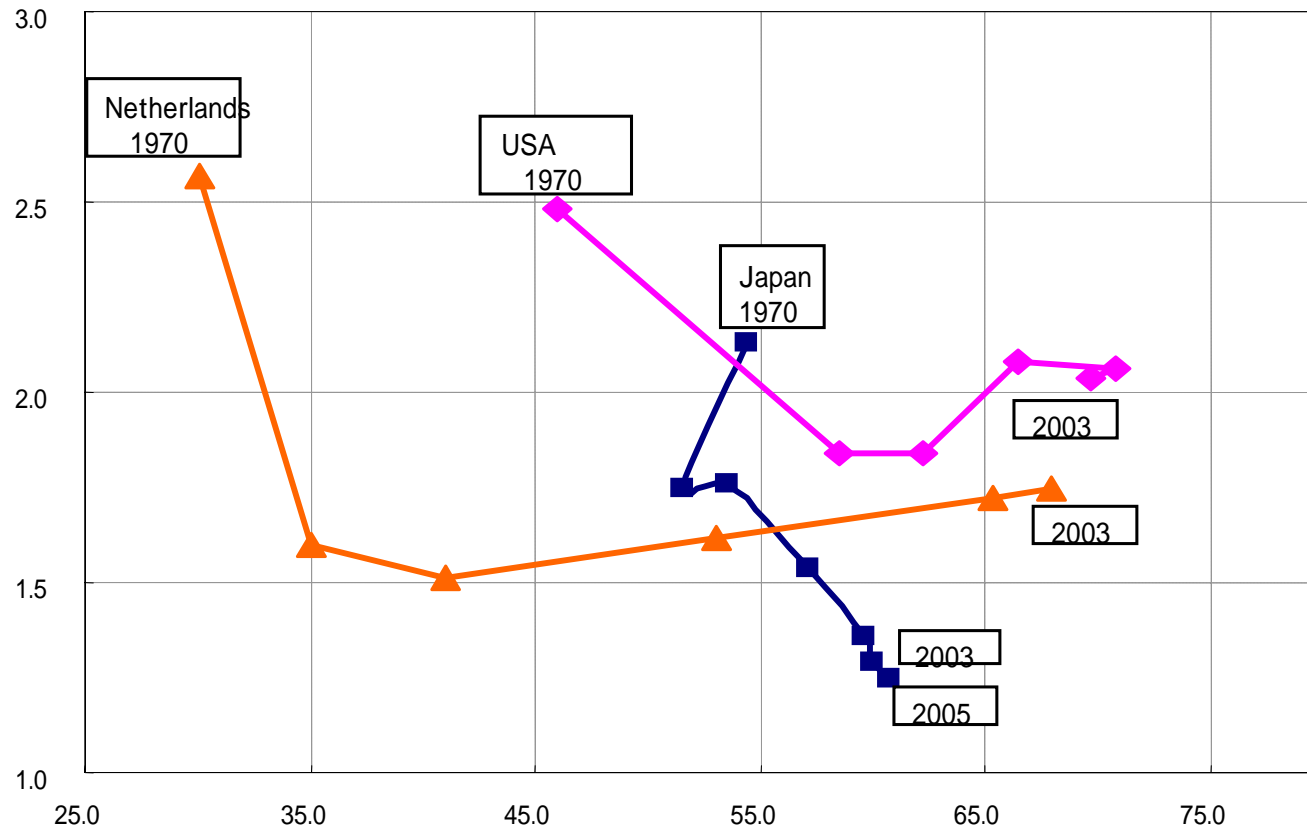
# Declining Birthrate and Gender Equality

The increase in Japan's rate of female labour force participation from 1970 to 2000 is the smallest of the 24 countries\*. (Japan increased its rate by 5.2 percentage points, while the average increase was 23.3 points for 24 countries.)

On the other hand, the decline in Japan's birthrate was about average rather than small. (Japan declined by 0.8 points, while the average decline was 0.9 points for the 24 countries.)

(\*high-income member countries of OECD that have per capita GDP greater than US \$10,000.)

Total fertility rate



Female labor force participation rate (15-64 years of age) (%)

Note: Six time points: 1970, 1980, 1985, 1990, 2000, 2003. (Seven time points for Japan, including up to 2005).

# New Policies to Cope with the Declining Birthrate

Agreed by the government-party-council on the Declining Birthrate on June 20<sup>th</sup> 2006

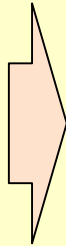
Decided by the Declining Fertility Society Policy Council (Prime minister + all cabinet ministers) on the same day

Incorporate New Policies into "Basic Policies for Economic and Fiscal Management and Structural Reform 2006", and promote intensely

## Rapidly Declining Birthrate and Depopulation

Total Fertility Rate 1.25  
The number of Births  
1.06 million

The First Depopulation  
20 thousand



Not only economic, industrial, and social issues  
But also the issue intertwined with the very existence and viability of Japan

**Reverse the downward trend in the birthrate**

To respond in a comprehensive way to the declining birthrate, including refining societal awareness, reawakening the importance of the family and the factors causing concern among young generation

**Enhance and strengthen measures to respond to the declining birthrate**

## (1) Reforming awareness in society as a whole

- The fundamental responsibilities of society to celebrate the birth of a child, to care for and watch over all children
- National and local governments, companies and local communities cooperate together in efforts to reform awareness in society as a whole

## (2) Enhancing child- and family-centric measures

While child-raising is primarily the responsibilities of the family, those families should have the support of whole as a society

To enhance the community support in order to support all families, especially assistance in home and after school

The promotion of measures to help to balance work and child-raising, and the revision of working practices to ensure parents can spend sufficient time with their children, including those for men

The initiation of comprehensive measures including to reduce economic burden, for families into which children are about to be born, or those engaged in nursing infants

To ensure safety for school-age children, to enhance a structure that can respond to pre-natal, post-natal and child-raising medical needs, and to enhance support for families and children who are in need of special support

# Promoting new policies to cope with the declining birthrate

## ( 1 ) Child-raising support measures

### Newborn and infant stage (from pregnancy and birth through to the nursing of infants)

Improvement of procedures for the lump-sum allowance for childbirth and nursing  
Reduction of the cost burden for medical expenses during pregnancy  
Expansion of public financial support for fertility treatment  
Ensuring thorough usage of and improvement in conditions for paid leave during initial stages of pregnancy  
Enhancement of obstetric medical services through the employment of more obstetricians, etc.  
Establishment of an extra allowance for infants within the child-support allowance system  
Creation of childcare support network, including home visits to families engaged in the early stages of raising a family

### Stage up to school entry

Enhancement of centers for child-raising support in the community, targeting all families  
Further promotion of Zero Waiting List Campaign  
Enhancement of childcare for sick and recuperating children, and children with disabilities, etc.  
Enhancement of the pediatric healthcare system  
Look into revising the Law for Promotion of Measures to Support the Development of the Next Generation, including the announcement of an Action Plan  
Enhancement and Dissemination of system of child-care leave and reduced working hours  
Promotion of childcare service provision to employees, including childcare facilities established within offices  
Promotion of measures to prevent child accidents  
Enhancement of efforts to reduce the burden on parents or guardians for pre-school education

### Primary school stage

Promotion of the After School Children's Plan in elementary schools nationwide  
Implementation of further safety measures for children while at school or on their commute to or from school, including the introduction of school buses

### Junior high, high school, and university stage

improvement of scholarships, etc.  
Recommendation of student babysitters, etc.

## ( 2 ) Reform of working practices

Employment assistance measures for young people  
Promotion of equal treatment for part-time workers  
Assistance measures for continuing employment or reemployment for women  
Promotion of cooperate efforts for child-raising support  
Review of working practices, including revision of long working hours  
Promotion of a joint public-private movement to jointly promote child-raising assistance, including reviews of working practices

## ( 3 ) Other important areas

Consideration of a taxation system designed to assist those engaged in child-raising, etc.  
Promotion of foster parent and adoption system, including publicity activities to raise awareness  
Promotion of inter-generational exchange by utilizing retirees and elderly persons in the community as human resources  
Strengthening of measures to prevent child abuse and measures to support children in care  
Promotion of measures to encourage comprehensive self-help efforts in single-parent families, etc.  
Promotion of food education  
Assistance for family homes, and for situations in which three generations of one family live together or in close proximity  
Establishment of a certification system for marriage counseling services, etc.

# Promoting a nation-wide movement

## ( 1 ) nation-wide movement to revive family and community bonds

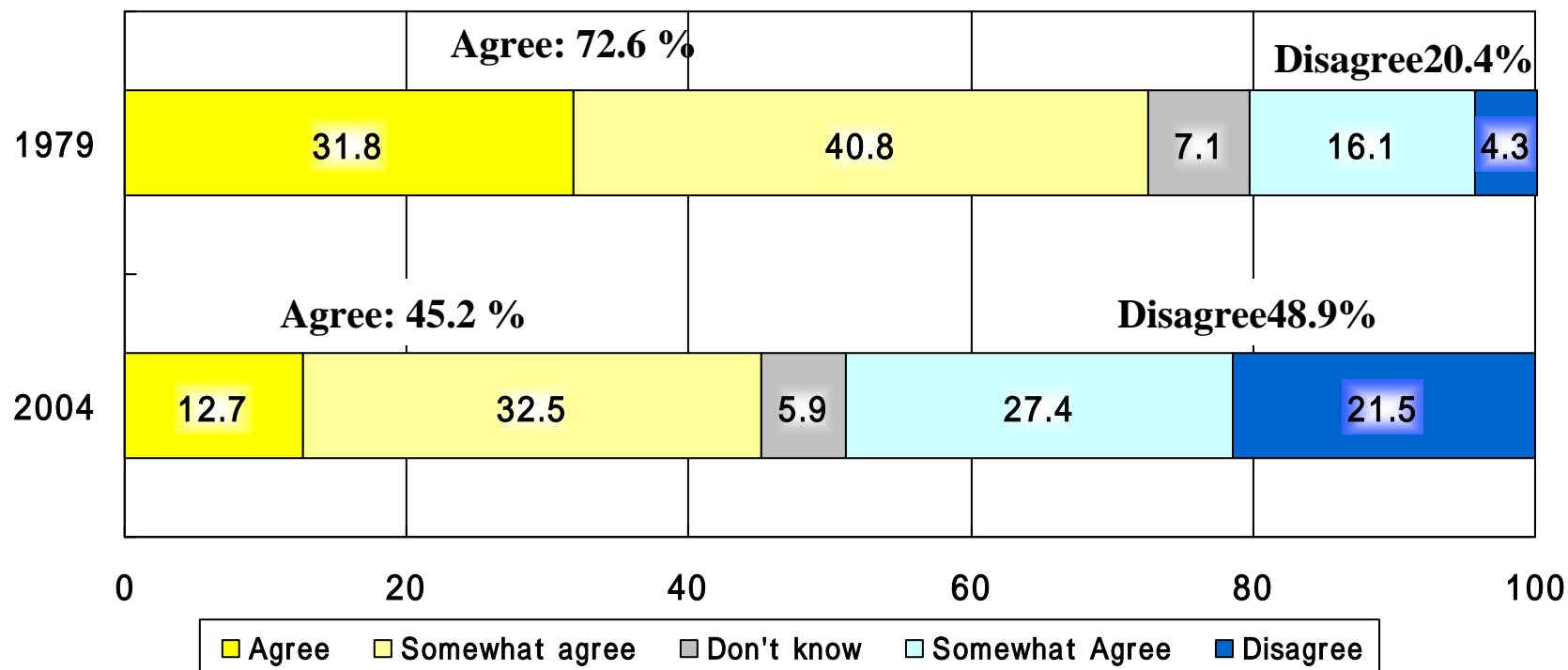
Establishment of a "Family Day" and a "Family Week"  
National and local governments will hold events to promote family and community bonds  
A nation-wide movement will promote reform of labor-management thinking concerning review of working practices

## ( 2 ) Movement to take care of children and nurture respect for human life in society as a whole

Publicity efforts and dissemination of awareness concerning the maternity mark  
Warnings concerning the distribution of harmful information and provision of useful information to children  
Promoting understanding about the importance of human life and the family unit

# Changing views over time on fixed gender stereotypes in response to the statement: “The husband should be the breadwinner, the wife should stay at home”

In 1979, more than 70 % of respondents supported stereo-typical gender roles. By 2004, the percentage dropped to 45%, but the percentage still remains high.



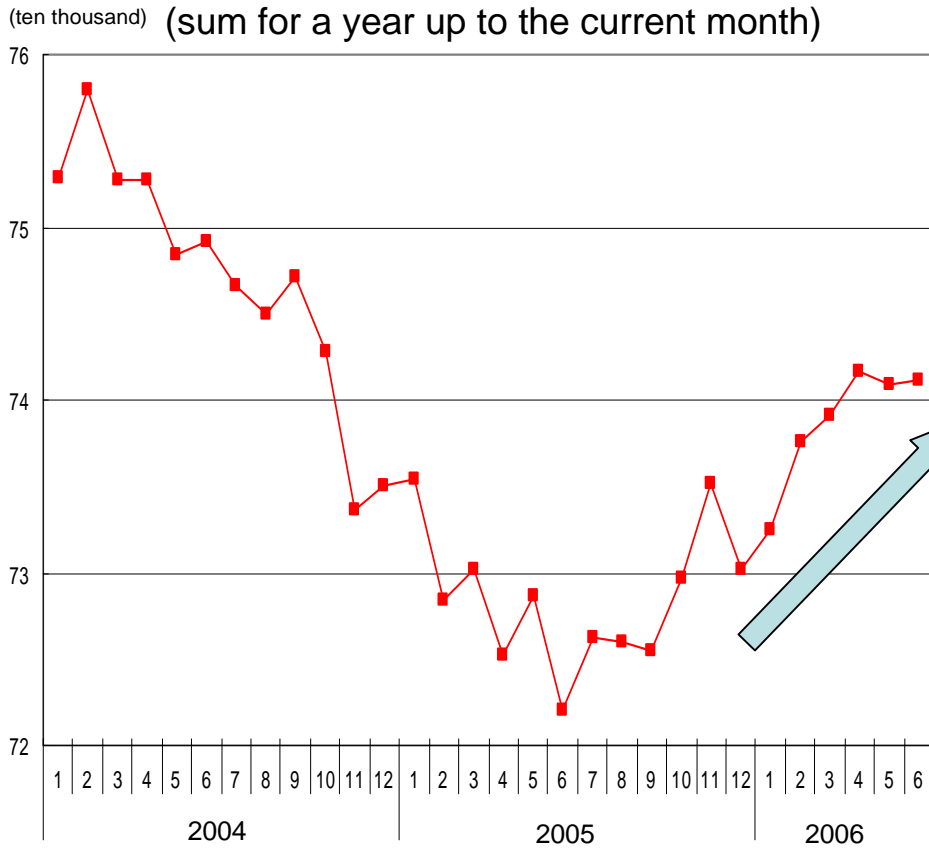
(Source) “Public Opinion Poll on a Gender Equal Society” (November 2004), Cabinet Office.

# The number of marriages and births (preliminary)

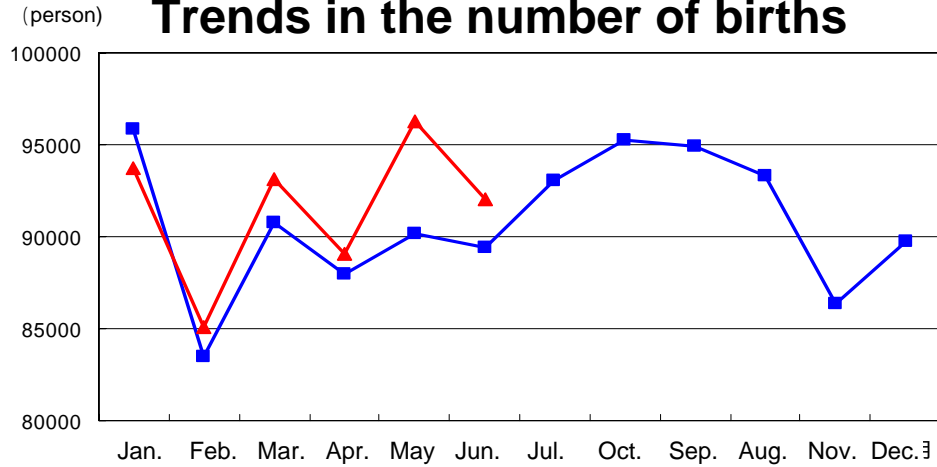
**As for the number of births and marriages of this year, as of June births had increased year-on-year by 11,600, and the number of marriages was up by 11,000.**

(Minister of State for Gender Equality and Social Affairs was appointed in the third Koizumi Cabinet [October 2005-], the first ministerial post to deal exclusively with the population issue)

## Trends in the number of marriages



## Trends in the number of births



## number of births (thousand)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Total
2006	93.7	85.1	93.1	89.0	96.2	92.0	549.3
2005	95.8	83.5	90.7	88.0	90.1	89.4	537.6
Change	2.1	1.6	2.4	1.0	6.1	2.6	<b>11.6</b>



# 4. Democracy and Gender

