

Abstracts

Kobe Disaster Art, after five years

Masaaki NODA

Five years has passed since we had the big Hanshin Earthquake. In the meantime, what have we experienced, how could we have endured, how have we sorrowed, and now where are we?.

Some time after the Earthquake, we could hear people said to lose interest for luxurious furniture and delicate dishware, and to feel vanity for their property such as land, and that they should take importance on relaxed life and kindness. Someone had even expected for the drastic change of the society. Was it true? What had changed, and what has been retained?

Cultural movement and historical consciousness in Post War Japan: in relation to the movement of writing the history of the workplace and of the individual

Tamio TAKEMURA

We live in a time when everyone can write history, as can be seen in the boom of autobiographical books. By writing their own stories, anonymous people not only come to grasp the principles governing their everyday lives, but they also become conscious of History. The main purpose of this paper is to point out what was achieved through the movement of writing the history of workers, which developed after the Second World War, and came as a precursor to the autobiography movement.

This paper will thus provide observations about the movement of writing the history of workers, that is, the history of the workplace and of the individual, and analyze it in relation to the total image of the Post-War cultural movement, especially the "circle activity."

Analysis of Pattern of Fertility Behavior in Sri Lanka

Noriko NISHIMURA

Total fertility rate (TFR) in Sri Lanka was 2.3 in 1993. The higher mother's education level was, the lower mean Children ever born (CEB) were. This paper considers differences of births between 4 educational levels by conducting two analyses: birth probability by mother's age (PB_a) and period of marriage (PB_m).

PB_a curves draw inverse-U-shaped and shift rightward according as educational level goes up. PB_m curves draw downward sloping from 1 year and drop rapidly according as educational level goes up. The result of comparisons between educational levels is that education contributes to delay age of marriage, shorten reproductive period and lower birth probability. Younger cohort who is 30's years' females shows these trends clearly. In Sri Lanka, lower births can be explained by change in both reproductive period and its behavior.

Patenting Genes and Contemporary Society:
Problems and Prospects of the Proprietary Information

Mika YAMANA

Due to the rapid development of genetic engineering and molecular biology in late 20th century, patenting subjects have been expanded to human-made microbes, plants, and genetically transformed mammals. In 1980, the US Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) granted a patent on the first mammal, a genetically engineered mouse containing human genes that predispose it to developing cancer. Moreover, in 1998, a part of gene sequences known as Expressed Sequence Tags (ESTs), in which functions and utility had not been demonstrated, was also patented in the US.

We are entering a new century, where the genetic information has proprietary values and gives people the power to predict and plan their lives in ways never before possible. However, meritocracy could give way to genetocracy, giving rise to a new and virulent form of discrimination and privacy invasion based on one's genetic profile.

Considering the background of patenting genes, this paper attempts to open the doors up wide to a thoughtful dialogue of the new problems and prospects in our society.

A Study on a Framework of Environmental Indicator System
and Public Involvement at Assessment on Environmental Basic Plan

Hisako MAKIMURA

The Toyonaka-City Basic Environmental Plan and the Toyonaka Agenda 21 have both same environmental aim. We studied about public commitment to assessment and some type of environmental indicators and framework for achievement. Local Government collects public commitments and have a forum with citizen, environmental management committee and mayor. Framework of environmental indicators represents the achievement condition by combination of some indicators chosen out of 100 indicators. It must be chosen indicators of the condition, load, action. The Action indicator have to chose citizen, business and local government.

On Contemporary Education (2)

Naoki KAMO

In the foregoing essay, I tried to survey roughly the educational conditions of contemporary Japan. In this essay, I will focus on the questions how 'class breakdown' in primary schools happens and what change is found in the process of bringing up infants in families and the community.

The theme of Ch. VI is the analysis of class breakdown in primary school by Naoki Ogi. According to his argument, the recent transformation of families and the community has produced much effect on class breakdown in primary schools. So, in Ch. VII, I show briefly Ogi's account of what transformation modern Japanese families and community have experienced. In Ch. VIII, I explain Keiko Hunahashi's view on the family life transformation in the latter half of the 20th century. Ch. IX's theme is the relationship among bringing-up children, family, and communication. In Ch. X, I try to give a provisional summary of this essay.

Industries and Business Climates of Hamamatsu Area (Part 1)

Shoken ITO

From the interviews with Hamamatsu business leaders, we can summarize the industrial changes and the business climates, which have made this area one of the world famous industrial centers, as follows.

- a. Casting technology, accumulated in textile machine and piano industries, and steel cutting technology, acquired in military age, were the bases of motorcycle and car manufacturing.
- b. Electronic industries started with electronic music instruments by Yamaha Corp.
- c. Intense competition among neighboring companies, respect for the men of production sites, and open mind to newcomers, are the characteristics of this area, which have promoted the growth of world enterprises such as Yamaha Corp., Suzuki Motor Corp., Hamamatsu Photonics K. K..
- d. They say, assemble industries are obliged to retreat and next industrial development will be led by middle class businesses, which target niche markets but have the same spirits as big businesses.
- e. Young companies target more niche markets and emphasize co-operations with neighboring companies. Various informal supports have helped their start-ups.