

LEGITIMACY BY TRADITION

JAPANESE MODEL OF DELIBERATION

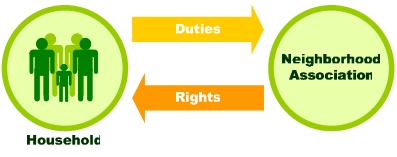
SHIZUKA HASHIMOTO
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

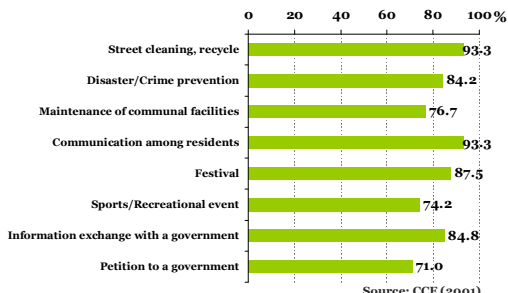
- **Neighborhood Association**
 - *jichikai, chonaikai, ku, burakukai, etc...*
- **Exists across the country**
 - In 1980
 - 274,733 organizations
 - The number of municipalities where NAs were organized in more than 90% of neighborhoods was 3,164 (97% of the total)
 - In 1992
 - 298,488 organizations

MEMBERSHIP

- **Participation unit**
 - Household basis (not individual basis)
- **Duties**
 - Payment of membership fee
 - Provide labor to promote various activities
- **Rights**
 - Participation in decision making
 - Benefit from various services



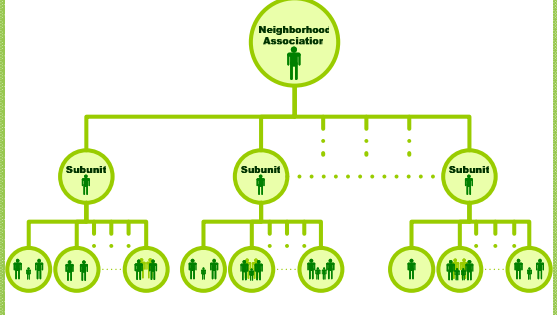
MAJOR ACTIVITIES



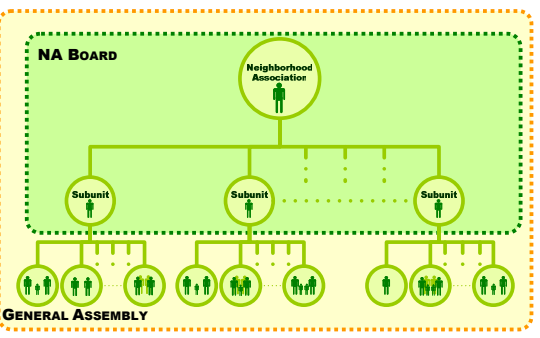
Activity	Percentage
Street cleaning, recycle	93.3
Disaster/Crime prevention	84.2
Maintenance of communal facilities	76.7
Communication among residents	93.3
Festival	87.5
Sports/Recreational event	74.2
Information exchange with a government	84.8
Petition to a government	71.0

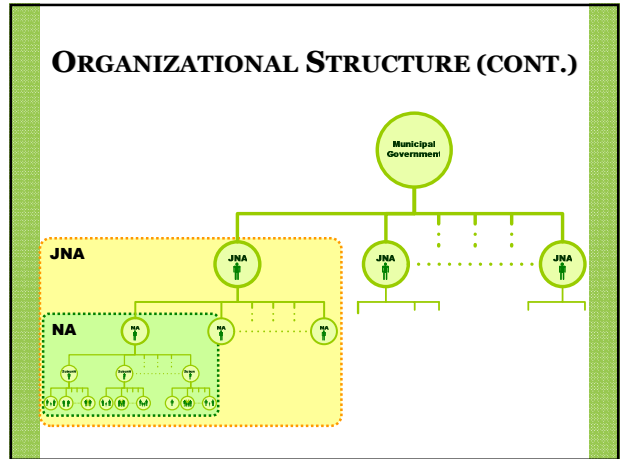
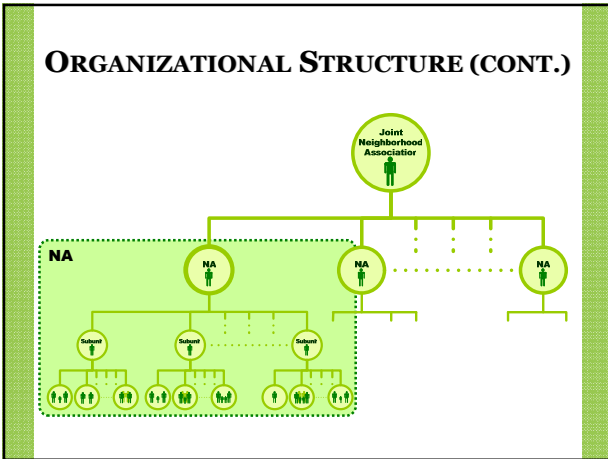
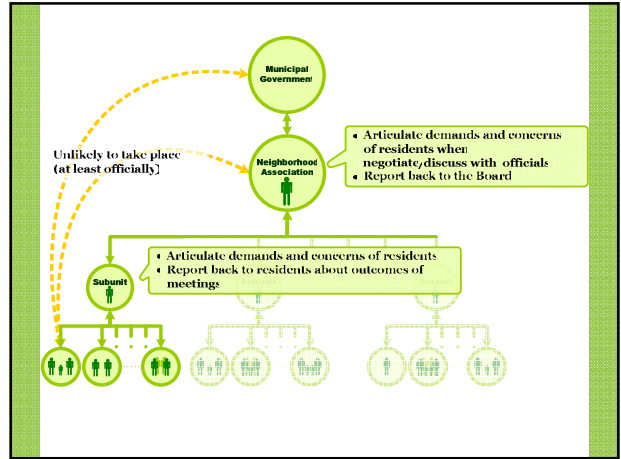
Source: CCF (2001)

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



DECISION MAKING





RURAL VILLAGES IN THE FEUDAL PERIOD (-1867)

- Villages in feudal period**
 - Main taxation unit was the village
 - Villagers were responsible collectively pay their taxes
 - Largely self-managed and self-policed
 - As long as they paid taxes
 - Villagers were responsible for
 - Entire infrastructure such as roads, paths, irrigation systems, and maintenance of common forestlands

*For further information, read Sorensen, André (2006). Centralization, Urban Planning Governance, and Citizen Participation in Japan, in Hein, Carola and Philippe Pelletier (Eds.) *Cities, autonomy and decentralization in Japan*. London; New York: Routledge.

URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE FEUDAL PERIOD (-1867)

- Urban neighborhoods**
 - Associational activity developed along similar lines
 - Residents were responsible for
 - Organization
 - Each neighborhood had its chief and was divided into five-family groups
 - Families in a same group shared responsibility for tax collection and misdemeanors

RECENT HISTORY

- **At the end of 19th century**
 - Municipal governments were established
 - To take over tax collection, population register, policing, etc...
 - Neighborhood associations
 - Voluntarily established by local residents in response to a need for local public services
 - The range of responsibilities undertaken by local neighborhoods on a voluntary basis continued to grow

RECENT HISTORY (CONT.)

- **In 1940**
 - The Ministry of Home Affairs gave an order
 - To establish Neighborhood Associations and their subunits which comprised of around 10 families
- **After 1947**
 - The order was abolished in 1947 by the Allied Force
 - The order was considered to be the intrusive and antidemocratic institution controlled by the state
 - However,
 - NAs were gradually reestablished by residents

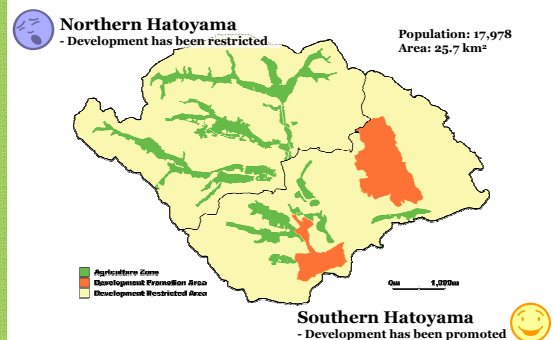
ATTITUDES TOWARD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

- **Local governments**
 - Expect that they benefit from NAs by involving them into administrative processes
 - Some public officials even consider it a legitimate processes for policy making
- **Residents**
 - Many of them do not question the legitimacy of NAs as mechanisms of representation

CASE STUDIES

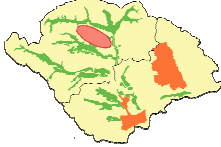
CASE 1 PLANNING IN HATOYAMA, SAITAMA

PLANNING IN HATOYAMA, SAITAMA

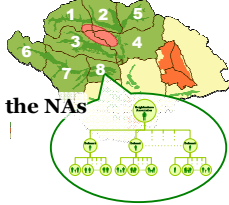


NORTHERN HATOYAMA REVITALIZATION COUNCIL

1. Designate the Revitalization Area



2. Identify relevant NAs

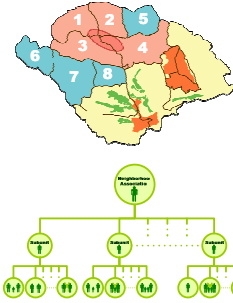


3. Allocate representatives to the NAs

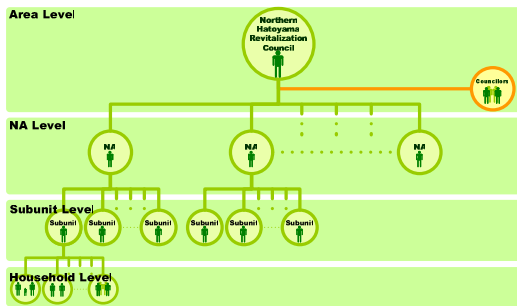


COMPOSITION OF THE NHRC

- **NA1 to NA4**
 - 6 representatives each
 - Incumbent and former heads
- **NA5 to NA8**
 - 1 representative each
 - Incumbent head
- **Other**
 - Town councilors
 - Those who lived in the Northern Hatoyama



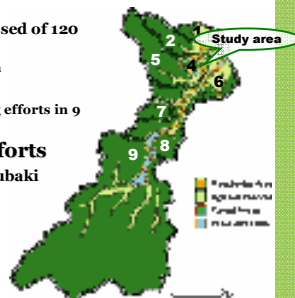
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE NHRC



CASE 2 PLANNING IN HATOYAMA, SAITAMA

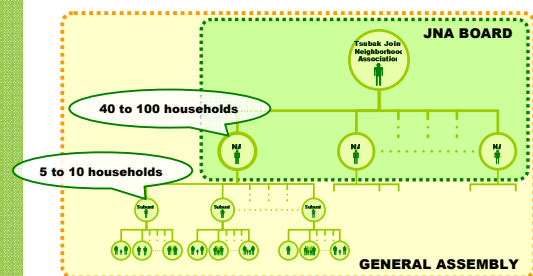
PLANNING IN IIDE, YAMAGATA

- **Inception**
 - Planning Committee composed of 120 residents (1972 to 1975)
 - the 1st Comprehensive Plan
 - Future task
 - lead to community building efforts in 9 administrative districts
- **Community building efforts**
 - Started from 1987 in the Tsubaki district



Population: 9,204
Area: 329 km², 9 administrative districts

STRUCTURE OF TSUBAKI JOINT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



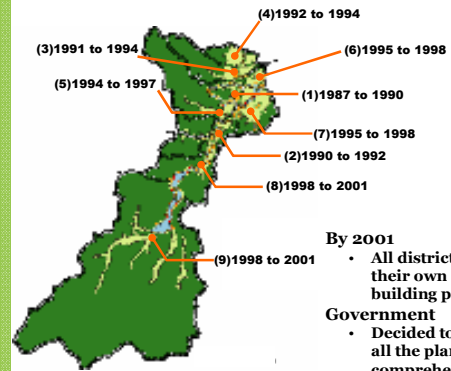
SIMILARITIES IN ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

JNA Board

- **Membership**
 - 16 members
- **Composition**
 - The head
 - Elected by the General Assembly
 - 15 representatives
 - Each NA could send 1 to 2 representatives

Planning Committee

- **Membership**
 - 27 members
- **Composition**
 - The head
 - Same person as that of the JNA Board
 - 15 representatives
 - Same persons as those of the JNA Board
 - The other representatives
 - Elected from each NA

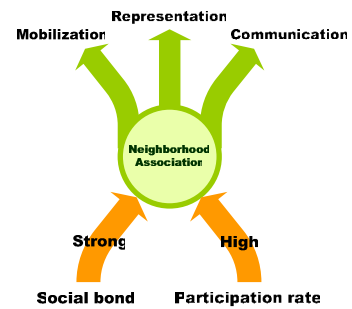


By 2001

- All districts prepared their own community building plan
- Government decided to incorporate all the plans into the 3rd comprehensive plan

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF NA-BASED DECISION-MAKING

STRENGTHS OF NA-BASED DECISION-MAKING



WEAKNESS 1 PARTIAL PARTICIPATION

- **Partial participation**
 - Decision-makers tend to be occupied by elderly men
 - Voices of women and young people are not heard
- **Reason**
 - NAs have household-basis participation system
 - Every household can send only one person to a NA
 - Usually, a household head (too often an elderly man) represents his family





WEAKNESS 2 INSUFFICIENT COMMUNICATION

- **Representatives do not play expected roles**
 - Roles
 - Articulate demands and concerns of residents
 - Report back to residents about decisions
- **Reason**
 - Do not know what roles should play
 - Difficult to understand and explain technical issues discussed in meetings

CHANGES IN SITUATIONS SURROUNDING NAs

- **Weakening social tie**
 - People are getting more indifferent to each other
 - Especially in singly-family housing areas and high-rise building areas
- **Decreasing membership**
 - 36% of NAs located in urban areas experienced decrease in membership in the past decade

CONCLUSIONS

BELIEF

- **NAs are effective**
 - Mobilize member residents
 - Enhance communication among residents
 - Articulate demands and concerns of residents

CONCLUSIONS (CONT.)

REALITY

- **NAs do not always promise the legitimacy of their decisions**
 - Poor communications among residents
 - Partial participation
 - Domination by elderly men
- **We need to pay special attention**
 - In employing NA-Based decision-making