

# Workshop on a Vision for a New Era

Subject &  
Overview

The Workshop on a Vision for a New Era started in April 2018 as a joint project between the Kajima Institute of International Peace and the PHP Institute. The workshop invited leading experts and researchers in various fields to contribute to its meetings and published the results in *Voice*, the journal of opinion (17 times in total). In October 2020, the workshop published a book *Nihon no shin-jidai bijon: Semegiai no jidai o ikinuku daen-gata shakai e* (Japan’s vision for a new era: Surviving a time of struggle and moving toward an elliptical society), which brought together the results of each workshop meeting and the discussions held. Subsequently, the project worked to highlight case studies of the elliptical society by young executives in the regions, publishing a series of feature articles on “Creating qualitative value, Japan’s vision for a new era” in *Voice* (a total of eight issues) with the cooperation of the Junior Chamber International Japan. Although the movement to rediscover, refine, and nurture the values of regions was steadily spreading across the country, and although support for the initiative was growing among members of the younger generation who shared an awareness of the issues, the workshop had to suspend its activities from April 2021, partly because of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In terms of policy developments, meanwhile, the so-called “Masuda Report” was published in 2014. Having created the trend for regional revitalization initiatives in the years that followed, Mr. Masuda and his supporters launched the Population Strategy Council in early 2024, and continue

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| Subject & Overview | <p>to warn of the risks posed by a society with a declining population. Of course, population decline is a serious issue for Japan, but the current policy response, driven by the Masuda Report into chasing numbers, has merely led to an increase in temporary expedients such as marriage activities (<i>konkatsu</i>) and matchmaking apps initiated by local governments. We are moving further away from the kind of elliptical society envisioned by this workshop—which begins from the rediscovery of value in the region—and the creation of true value that can contribute to making Japan more competitive.</p> <p>Based on the results of the workshop to date, as outlined above, and a shared awareness of the issues, we have decided to relaunch the New Era Vision Workshop. Specifically, with the cooperation of reporters from local newspapers who conduct on-site interviews all over the country, we will accumulate research on concrete examples of "elliptical society." Furthermore, the results of the research will not only be presented at workshop, but will also be published in Voice magazine. This will be a valuable opportunity for local writers to write about the strengths and challenges of local areas in a journal that attracts attention from political, government, business, and academic circles, and will also be significant in correcting the over-reliance on central media, which can be said to be a problem for Japan.</p> |
| Period             | October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025.  |

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### Meetings in fiscal 2024

The workshop consists of a select number of experts. A core workshop is responsible for overall coordination and sharing awareness of the issues, as well as guiding the direction of the project, which centers on workshop meetings with experts invited to speak as guest lecturers (Guest workshop meetings).

- First case study report by regional newspaper journalists and discussion  
Date and time: Tuesday, November 26, 2024; 2 to 4 p.m.  
Topics discussed: "Dialogue as the foundation for town development - Tachiarai Town, Fukuoka Prefecture"  
Guest Speakers: Takao Maeda (Editorialist, the Nishi-nippon Shimbun)
- Second case study report by regional newspaper journalists and discussion  
Date and time: Thursday, January 30, 2025; 3 to 5 p.m.  
Topics discussed: Recommendation of "Machinaka Local Studies (Jimoto-gaku)" - Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture  
Guest Speakers: Kazunori Kadota (Journalist, the Kahoku Shimpo)

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Members

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