Enhancing our Role as the “Brains of the Legislature”

30th IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section Pre-Conference, Paris

August 14, 2014

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Research and Legislative Reference Bureau

- Legislative support organization for the Diet (Parliament)
- Provides two types of research services for Diet Members and committees of both Houses as well as affiliated political parties
- About 190 staff members and 100 policy analysts
Two Types of Research for the Diet

**Requested Research**
- Total 37,000 (FY2013)
- Lectures and meetings 700
- Research reports 6,600
- Information services 28,700

**Anticipatory Research**
- Ad hoc research on our own initiative in anticipation of major legislative issues and future research requests
- About 350 articles, 4,100 pages (FY2013)
Purposes of Anticipatory Research

- Development of resources for future research
- Improvement of our research capabilities
- Expansion of our research capacity
Objective 1: In Support of the Diet

To enhance reliable research and analysis with advanced expertise in public policy issues.
To emphasize prompt and precise information services in providing the Diet with full assistance.
Strategic Goals

• Enhance external cooperation
To cooperate with research institutions, researchers, and others, both in Japan and abroad, and to utilize their expertise in our research.

To acquire a broad range of materials and information from a variety of sources, and to utilize them in our research for the Diet.
Major Research Projects

• The Research Bureau undertakes on its own initiative a variety of research projects in collaboration with independent scholars and experts.

• These research projects enable us to expand the scope and quality of our research.
• Research Cooperation Projects
• Interdisciplinary Research Projects
• Foreign Constitution Research Projects
• Science and Technology Research Projects
Research Cooperation Projects

• Carried out by researchers from one or more research divisions in the Research Bureau in cooperation with independent scholars.
Interdisciplinary Research Projects

• Conducted on wide-ranging issues in collaboration with guest scholars, who contribute different perspectives and research methods.
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tr>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>Emergency Measures Taken by Local Communities and Residents against Large-Scale Natural Disasters: Focusing on the Disaster Caused by the Oyama Volcano on Miyakejima Island from 2000</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Emergency Management in Major Countries</td>
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<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>U.S. Reform from the 1980s: Implications for Structural Reform in Japan</td>
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<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>Aging Society with Fewer Children</td>
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<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>Regional Revitalization: Creation of Communities with their own Characteristics by Decentralization and Autonomy</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Agenda for Peace-Building Support Activities</td>
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<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>EU Enlargement: Organizations, Policies and Issues</td>
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<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>Problems of Immigration Policy and Foreign Workers Policy in a Depopulating Society</td>
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<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>Attempt at a Solution for Juvenile Problems</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>First Year of the Rudd Government of Australia</td>
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<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>Policy Issues of Japan in International Comparison</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Toward Establishing a Sustainable Society</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>China in Global System</td>
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<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>Regeneration of Japan through Technology and Culture</td>
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<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>Japan-U.S. Relations Reconsidered</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Decentralization in the 21st Century: Implication for the Doshusei Regional System Plan</td>
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Foreign Constitution Research Projects

• Focus on comparative analysis of constitutions from various countries.
• Has published translations of the constitutions of Sweden, Ireland, Austria, Canada, Greece, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Portugal.
Science and Technology Research Projects

• Comprehensive policy study projects performed in collaboration with independent think tanks and experts.
Conclusion

• Diet Members are in need of comprehensive, cross-disciplinary, non-partisan, professional research and analysis on a wide range of policy issues as well as information on various policy options.
• The Research Bureau is responding to these needs by enhancing both our research capabilities and the quality of our research through collaboration with independent experts and scholars.

• The major research projects enable us to collect a wider range of information and to improve our analysis and quality of research.
Thank You