



# ***Future Mayor Workshop***

## ***Background***

Japan's population was estimated to peak in 2008 and then begin to decline, losing an average of more than 800,000 people annually by 2060. Simultaneously, the population is aging, and the aging rate is expected to reach 37.7% of the total population by 2050. While the working-age population is declining, the region faces many challenges, such as an increasing need for nursing and medical care, aging infrastructure such as roads and public facilities, deterioration of farmland and planted forests due to the decline of agriculture and forestry, and the weakening of human ties. In this context, the question is how to ensure the future sustainability of the region. One of the most important aspects of regional sustainability is the development of the human resources that will lead the region in the future.

## ***Contents and Aims***

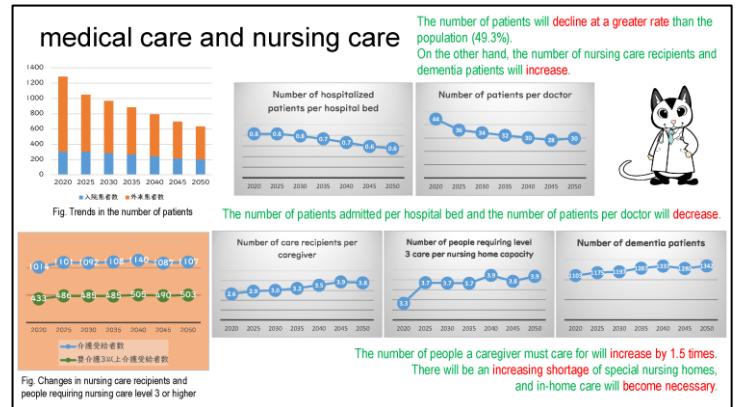
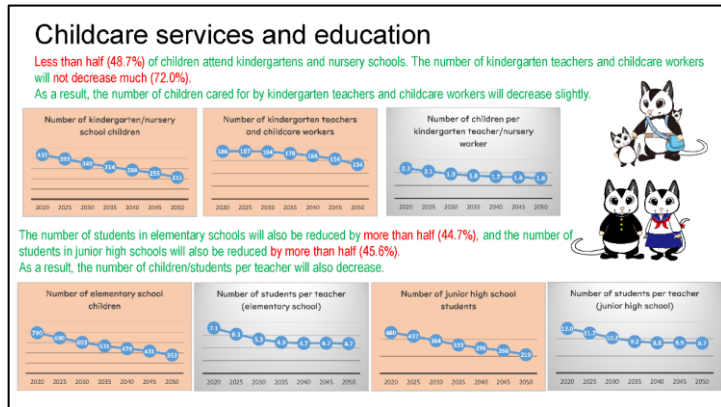
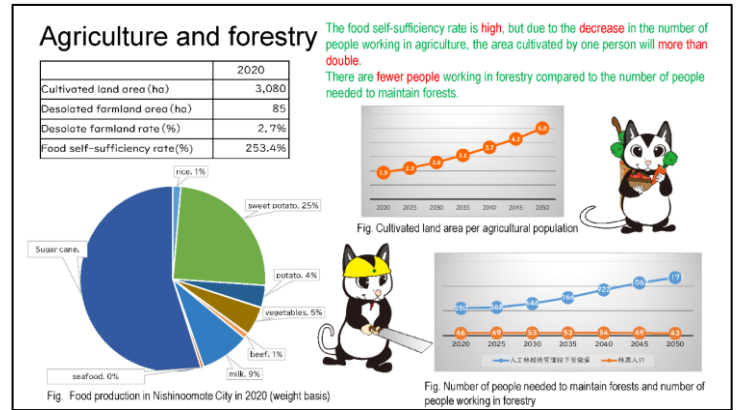
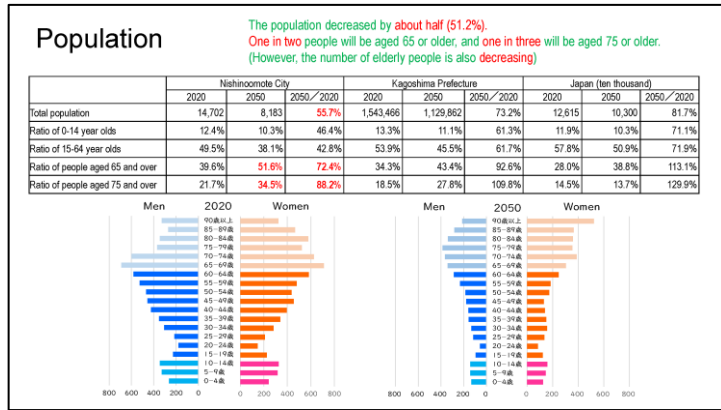
In this workshop, using the "Future Chart 2050," a projection of what the region will look like in 2050 if trends continue as they are, students, as a future mayor, will use backcasting to understand the unappeared issues in the region and explore what must be done now to close the gap between the ideal future region and what it will look like in the future. In addition, students will also learn the importance of dialogue, deliberation, and collaboration through group work to identify issues and examine solutions. Finally, students will make recommendations to the current mayor about what the region should do now to fill those gaps.

Students are expected to acquire the ability to identify their own issues among the current problems faced by local communities and think about how to solve them in a multifaceted and comprehensive manner, as well as the ability to think and make appropriate judgments based on data and recommendations, along with the accurate knowledge and skills needed to solve problems. In addition, students are expected to improve their communication and consensus-building skills in group work and their presentation skills.

# About "Future Chart 2050"

The Future Chart 2050 is a prediction (projection) of what the region will look like in 2050 if the current trends continue based on population projections by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research and trends in various statistical data from 2000 to 2020. For each municipality, the results of future projections for population, population structure, industrial structure, childcare/education, medical care/nursing care, and so on are shown. The Future Chart is not a projection for the purpose of guessing but to realize the necessity of policies for the future. In this workshop, this is used as a basic resource for students to think about and discuss future issues and solutions with regard to the region in which they live or where their school is located.

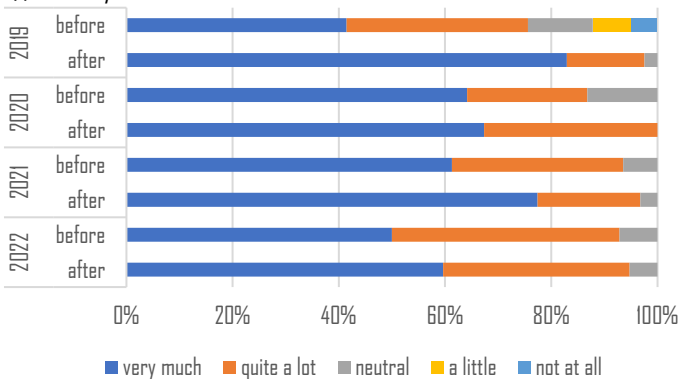
The Future Chart is chart is published as an MS Excel file and web content, and anyone can use the chart for all municipalities for free.



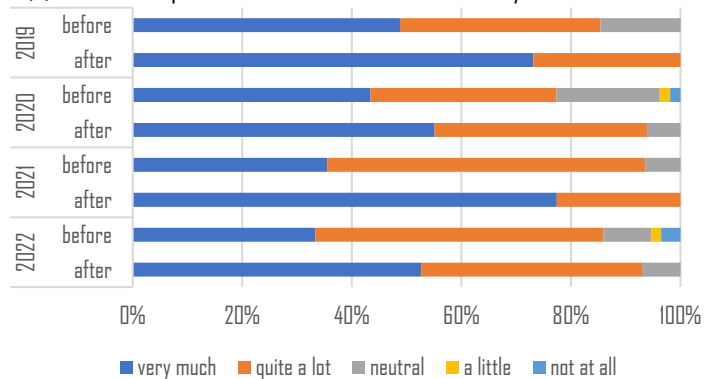
## Educational Effect

The Future Mayors Workshop has been held in various locations in Japan since 2014. In particular, this workshop has been held every year since 2018 on the remote Japanese island of Tanegashima. Some of the results of verifying the educational effects on Tanegashima are presented below. This workshop was confirmed to have the effect of increasing students' attachment to and interest in the region, and fostering their desire to contribute to the region as members of the community.

(1) I like my home town.



(2) I want to improve the future of hometown with my own hands.



## Contact

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ReCoBa



Future Chart