

## CHARACTERISTICS OF POPULATION IN GIFU-KEN (PREFECTURE), JAPAN

Koji Kobayashi

---

*Faculty of Education, Gifu-University, Gifu-Shi, Japan*

**Abstract:** In this paper I report the characteristics of population in Gifu-Ken (Prefecture), Japan, and the demographic and regional characteristics in Ono-Cho (Town), which is a typical municipality with growing population, located in the southern part of Gifu-Ken.

**Key words:** Gifu-Ken, Ono-Cho, characteristics of population, regional characteristics, land use, behaviour and opinion of inhabitants

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of the quite low economic growth in 1990's, we have been observing new regional phenomena such as decrease in migration from<sup>1</sup> rural to urban areas and various types of return migration like J, I, U, W turn. Birth rate decline and ageing has been proceeding drastically. International migrants' numbers have been increased. I would like to deal with present aspects of population structure and its relation to the regional characteristics in Gifu-Ken.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Kobayashi, K. Takimura, K. (2002): Characteristics of in-and out-migration in Kawai-Mura, Gifu-Prefecture. Koji Kobayashi ed. *Demographic process and structure in Japan. Intermediate research results of JSPS's Co-operative research project with Slovakia*. Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications (2001): *Statistical handbook of Japan 2001*. Shimizu, M. (2002): Increase of foreign people by internationalization and changes in urban region. Kobayashi, K. ed. *Regional problems in the 21st Century. Ninomiya-Shoten*. 61-90. [in Japanese]

<sup>2</sup> Some of the contemporary themes in population geography are (1) a qualitative researches, which employ interviews and questionnaires, (2) a study which relates structural change in population to a regional change. Nakagawa, S. (2000): Review of human geographical studies, population geography. *The Human Geography*, Vol. 52, 258-259. [in Japanese] Inoue, T. (2001): Review of human geographical studies, population geography. *The Human Geography*, Vol. 53, 267-268. [in Japanese]

Gifu-Ken (Prefecture) is located between southern lowland under 10 m above sea level and northern mountainous regions over 2,000 m above sea level. The southern part of Gifu-Ken – „Mino region“, it belongs to Nagoya metropolitan region. It has been continuously urbanised. On the other hand, northern part of Gifu-Ken, „Hida region“ is a typical rural and mountainous region. It has been an under-populated area.

In this paper, I will deal with the characteristics of population of Gifu-Ken, and then I will examine the demographic and regional characteristics in Ono-Cho, which is a typical municipality with increasing population located in the southern part of Gifu-Ken.

## 2. CHARACTERISTICS OF POPULATION IN GIFU-PREFECTURE

According to Fig. 1, population density is high in the southern plain, where Gifu-Shi (City) and Ogaki-Shi are located, and low in the northern mountainous region. Along national roads 19, 41, 156, a region with high population density has been developing. The population density in Gifu-Ken is 199.3 person/km<sup>2</sup> in 2001.<sup>3</sup>

In Gifu-Ken, ageing has been drastically proceeding. The proportion of aged population (aged 65 years and over) is 18.7 % in 2001.<sup>4</sup>

Fig. 2 shows the proportion of aged population in Gifu-Ken. Regions with relatively high proportion of aged population are distributed in rural and mountainous regions with a low population density.

Fig. 3 presents the birth- and death rate in Gifu-Ken. Since 1991, birth rate has been higher than death rate. However, the difference between them has been narrowing.

Fig. 4 shows the natural increase rate by municipality in Gifu-Ken since 1991.

There is a big difference in the natural increase rate among municipalities and there is also big annual change.

Fig. 5 shows in-migration rate by municipality and Fig. 6 out-migration rate by municipality. There are also prominent annual changes in the rate. The rate of in- and out-migration concentrates on 2 – 5 %. Fig. 7 shows the population increase in Gifu-Ken from 1989 to 2001. Regions with growing population are distributed in the southern part of Gifu-Ken, which includes large cities, Takayama-Shi and its neighbours and tourist region like Shirakawa-Mura. In Fujihashi-Mura located in the western end of Gifu-Ken, the population is drastically increasing. The reason is the increase in in-migrants whose are engaged in dam construction. The population is decreasing in almost all-rural and mountainous areas, except the above mentioned areas. The former corresponds to a region with a relatively high population density, a lower percentage of aged population and a higher percentage of working-age population. Ono-Cho belongs to this group. The total population of Gifu-Ken is 2.1 million in 2001.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Gifu-Ken (2002): *Data eye, Statistics understanding Gifu-Ken*. [in Japanese]

<sup>4</sup> mentioned above 3)

<sup>5</sup> mentioned above 3)

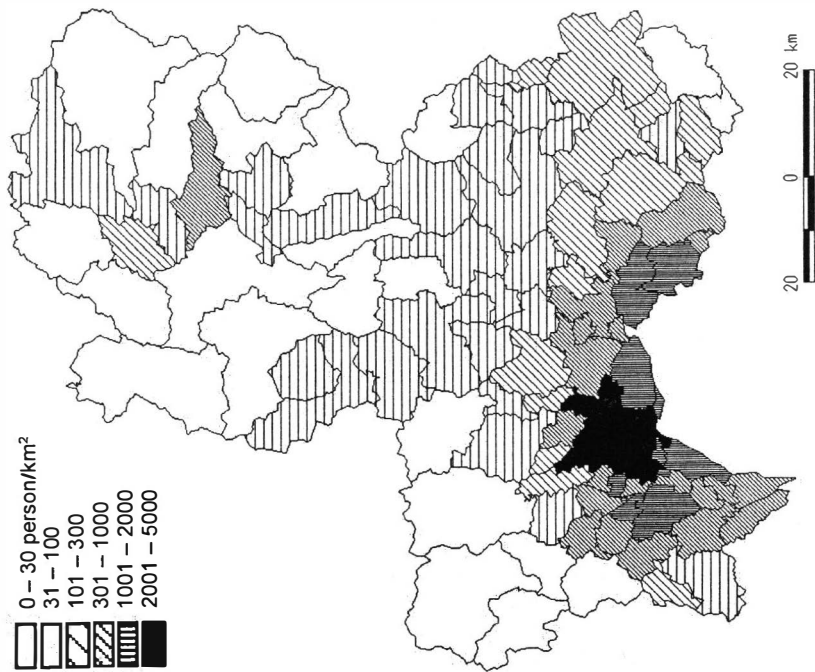


Figure 1 Population density in Gifu-Prefecture (2001)

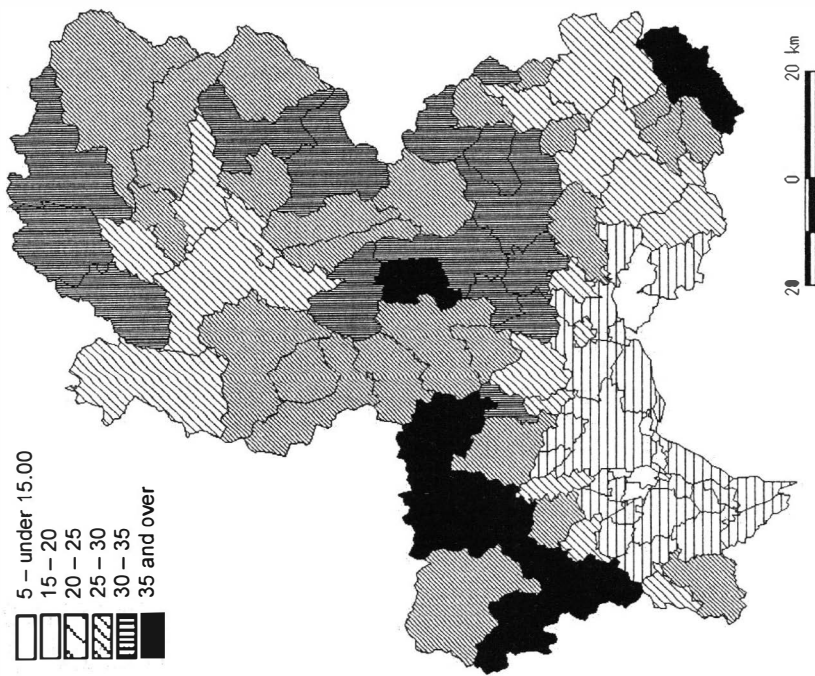


Figure 2 Rate of aged population (aged 65 and over) in Gifu-Prefecture (2001)

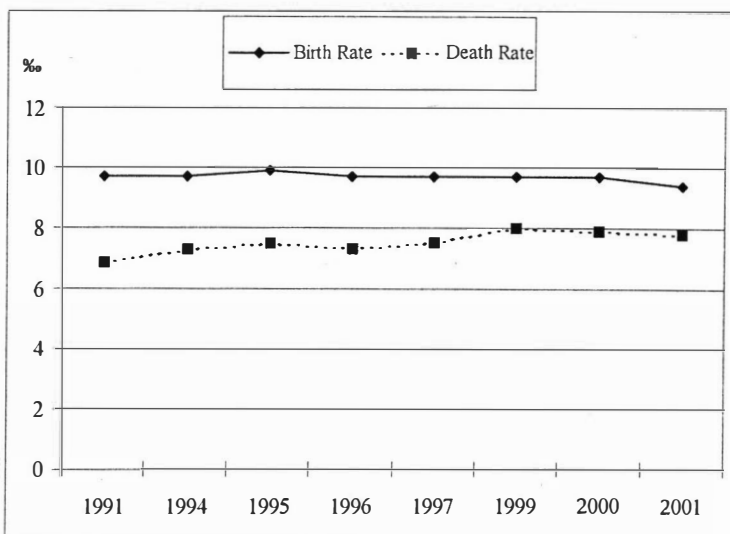


Figure 3 Birth-and death rate in Gifu-Prefecture

### 3. CHARACTERISTICS OF POPULATION AND REGION IN ONO-CHO

Ono-Cho is located in the north-western end of Nobi-Plain. It is 40 km far from Nagoya-Shi, 15 km from Gifu-Shi and 10 km from Ogaki-Shi.

#### 3.1 Changes in the population

Fig. 8 presents the change in the population in Ono-Cho. It has been increasing since 1989. It is 21.6 thousand in 1989 and 23.1 thousand in 2001. The population of Ono-Cho has increased by 1,900 in these 12 years.<sup>6</sup> Fig. 9 shows the number of the natural- and social increase in Ono-Cho. In all years, the number of births is larger than that of death and the number of in-migrants is also larger than that of out-migrants. The population increase in Ono-Cho is the result of both natural- and social increase.

#### 3.2 Reasons of in- and out migration and the places of in- and out migration

Tab. 1 shows the reasons of in- and out migration from October 2000 to September 2001 (written below as the last one year). The most important reason of in-migration is

<sup>6</sup> When we look at the ration of males to females, females is more than males in the selected years. The Ratio between males and females in 2001 is 48.7 % : 51.3 %.

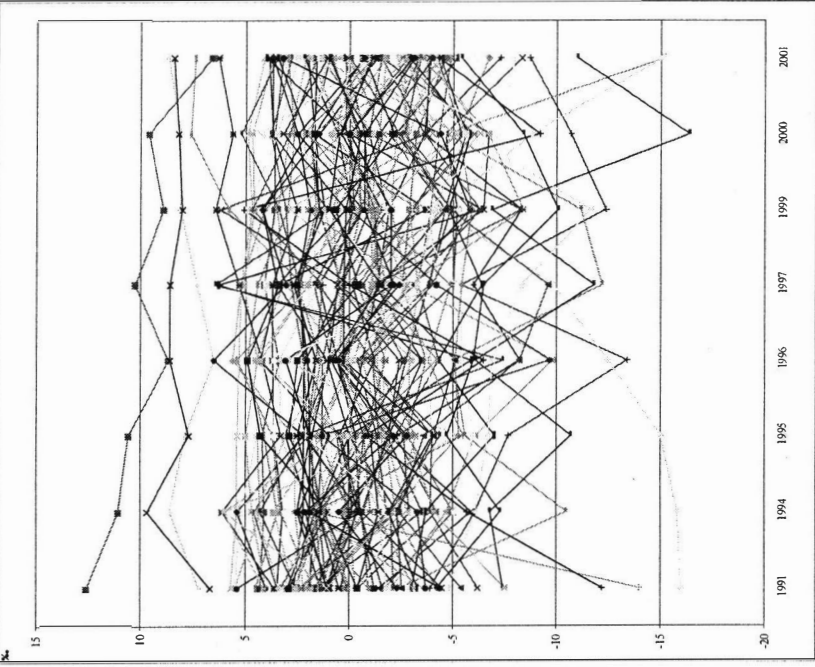


Figure 4 Natural increase rate by municipality in Gifu-Prefecture

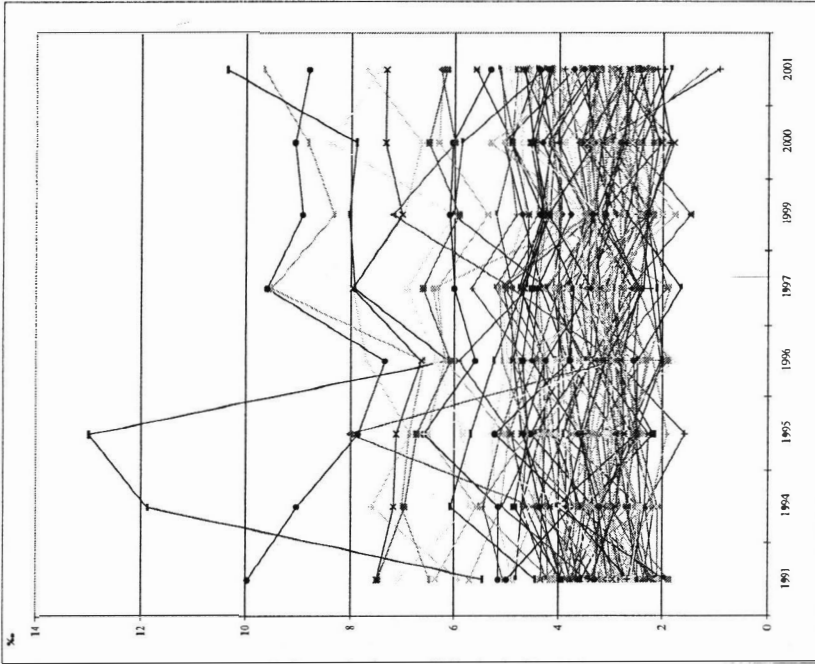


Figure 5 In-migration rate by municipality in Gifu-Prefecture

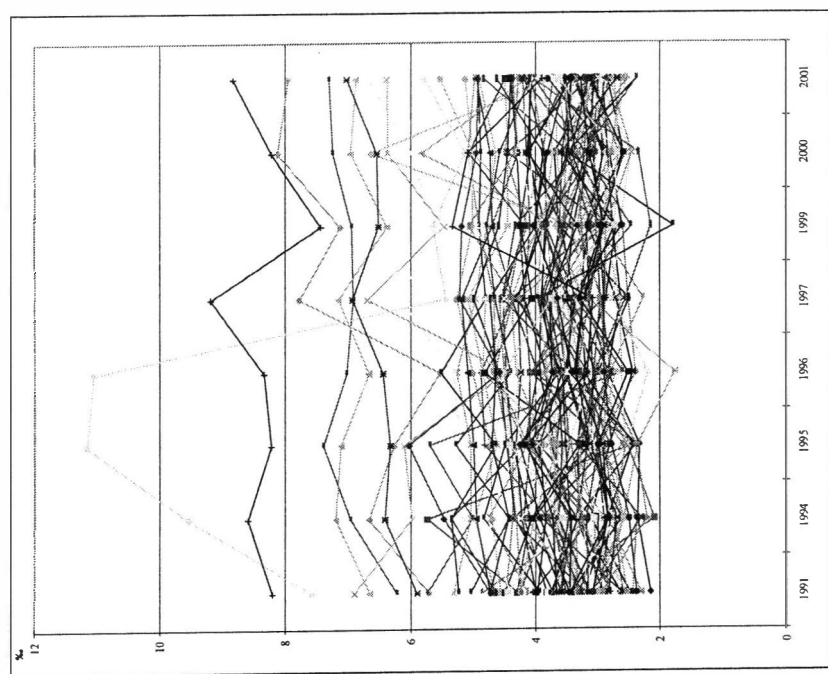


Figure 6 Out-migration rate by municipality in Gifu-Prefecture

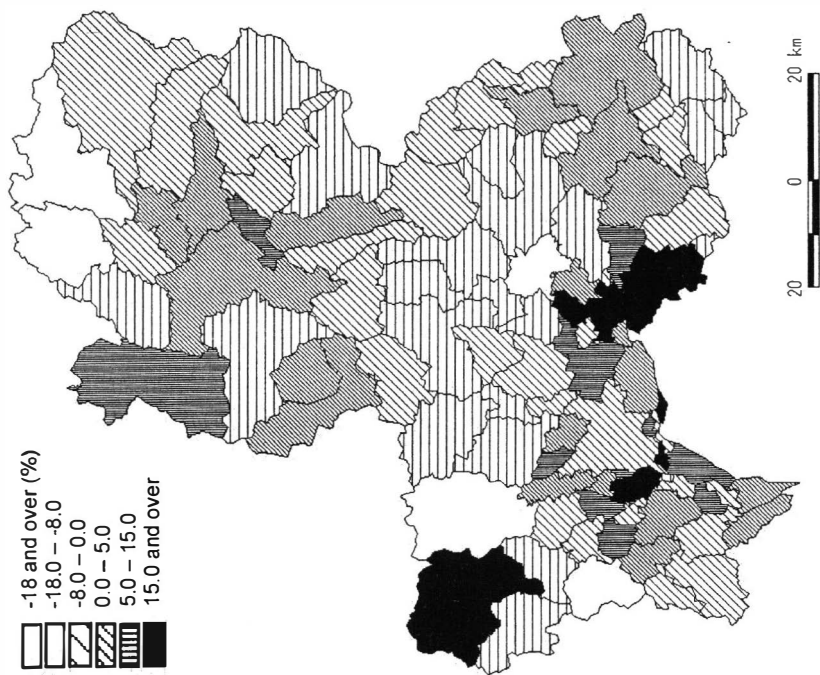
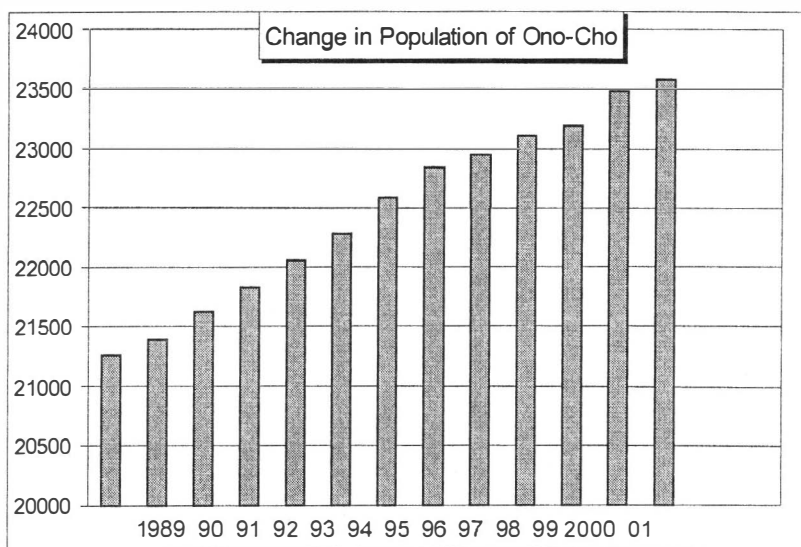
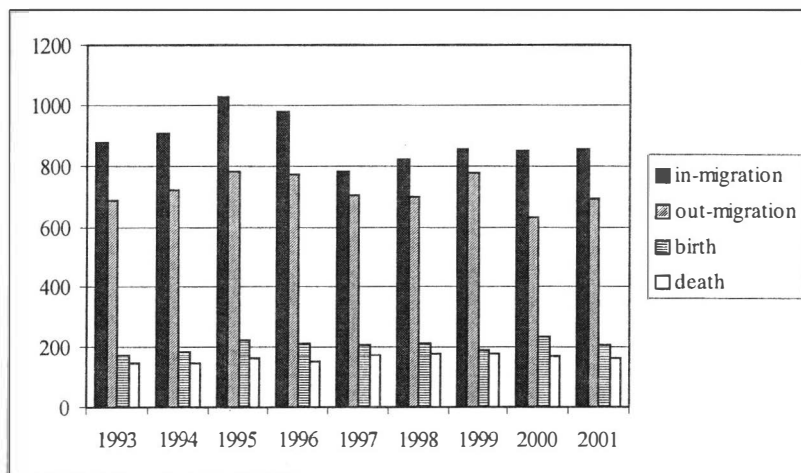


Figure 7 Population increase rate in Gifu-Prefecture (1989 - 2001)



**Figure 8** Population in Ono-Cho  
 Source: Ono-Cho (2002) Statistics on Ono-Cho



**Figure 9** Natural- and social population in Ono-Cho  
 Source: Statistics of Gifu Prefecture

residential condition, those who in-migrated by residential condition reach 393 (36.5 %), next by marriage, divorce and adoption 157 (14.6 %), then by living condition 149 (13.9 %) and by occupational 142 (13.3 %). There are a lot of people who came to live in Ono-Cho for a good residential and living condition. On the other hand, the largest reason of out-migration in the last one year is marriage, divorce and adoption. Those who

out-migrated by marriage, divorce and adoption reach 216 (25.7 %), next by occupational 214(25.5 %), then by residential condition 89 (10.6 %) and by living condition 81 (9.7 %). Those who out-migrated by residential and living condition altogether amount to 20.3 %. It means Ono-Cho has some problems of residential and living condition. For example, as we see later, people live too close to factories.

**Table 1** Reasons of In-and out-migration in Ono-Cho

| Reason                     | In-migration        |                      | Out-migration       |                      |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
|                            | Number of household | Number of person (%) | Number of household | Number of person (%) |
| Occupational               | 99                  | 142 (13.2)           | 172                 | 214 (25.5)           |
| Educational                | 31                  | 36 (3.4)             | 35                  | 36 (4.3)             |
| Marrage, divorce, adoption | 125                 | 157 (14.6)           | 188                 | 216 (25.7)           |
| Living condition           | 89                  | 149 (13.9)           | 45                  | 81 (9.7)             |
| Natural condition          | 2                   | 3 (0.3)              | 3                   | 4 (0.5)              |
| Traffic condition          | 1                   | 3 (0.3)              | 5                   | 6 (0.7)              |
| Residential condition      | 154                 | 393 (36.5)           | 47                  | 89 (10.6)            |
| Others                     | 23                  | 41 (3.8)             | 59                  | 92 (11.0)            |
| N.a.                       | 140                 | 150 (14.0)           | 99                  | 101 (12.0)           |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>664</b>          | <b>1074 (100.0)</b>  | <b>653</b>          | <b>839 (100.0)</b>   |

Source: Gifu-Pref. (2002): Statistics on the migration in Gifu-Prefecture

Tab. 2 and Tab. 3 show the places concerning in- and out migration. First of all, when we look at the place of last previous residence of in- migrants by inside or outside Gifu-Ken, the number of in-migrants from inside Gifu-Ken is 754 (70.3 %) and those from outside Gifu-Ken 319 (29.7 %). Gifu-Shi and Ogaki-Shi occupy almost 40 % of all places of last previous residence of in-migrants from inside Gifu-Ken. Places of last previous residence concentrate in its neighbouring municipalities. When we examine places of last previous residence outside Gifu-Ken, they are as follows: foreign countries 120 (30.6 %), Aichi-Ken 67(21.0 %), Osaka-Fu (Fu corresponds to Ken) 12(3.8 %), Tokyo-To (To corresponds to Ken) 11(3.5 %), Mie-Ken 10 (3.1%). Nationalities of foreign in-migrants are mainly Chinese, Brazilian, Vietnamese and Korean. Chinese occupy 62 % of all foreign in-migrants.<sup>7</sup> Most of them are working in small sewing factories.

Concerning to the places of destination of out-migrants in the last one year, out-migrants to municipalities within Gifu-Ken are 515 (61.4 %), outside Gifu-Ken 324(38.6 %). As for the places of destination of out-migrants inside Gifu-Ken, Gifu-Shi 121 (23.5 %), Motosu-Cho 52(10.1 %), Ibigawa-Cho 44 (8.8 %) and so on. It also means a lot of out-migrants moved into neighbouring municipalities (Tab. 3). The places of destination of the out-migrants outside Gifu-Ken are Aichi-Ken 93 (28.7 %), foreign countries 81 (26.3 %), Tokyo-To 25 (7.7 %) and so on. There are 81 foreign out-migrants. They are temporal workers in Ono-Cho. According to the authorities of Ono-Cho, they return to their own countries after 2-3 years stay in Ono-Cho.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> A number of foreign residents in Ono-Cho are 369 in October 2002, in which Chinese occupies 228 (61.8 %).

<sup>8</sup> It is based on interview at the village office in Ono-Cho.



**Table 2** Place of last previous residence of in-migrants in Ono-Cho

| Inside Gifu-Prefecture                          |                    | Outside Gifu-Prefecture                         |                    |
|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| Place of last previous residence of in-migrants | Number (%)         | Place of last previous residence of in-migrants | Number (%)         |
| Gifu-Shi  | 160 (21.2)         | Foreign countries                               | 120 (36.6)         |
| Ogaki-Shi                                       | 133 (17.7)         | Aichi-Ken                                       | 67 (21.0)          |
| Hozumi-Cho                                      | 55 (7.3)           | Osaka-Fu  | 12 (3.8)           |
| Kitagata-Cho                                    | 50 (6.6)           | Tokyo-To  | 11 (3.5)           |
| Ikeda-Cho                                       | 39 (5.2)           | Mie-Ken   | 10 (3.1)           |
| Ibigawa-Cho                                     | 34 (4.5)           | others  | 98 (30.7)          |
| Godo-Cho  | 33 (4.4)           | non reported                                    | 1 (0.3)            |
| Itonuki-Cho                                     | 32 (4.2)           |   |                    |
| Sunami-Cho                                      | 26 (3.4)           |   |                    |
| Shinsei-Cho                                     | 21 (2.8)           |   |                    |
| Ginan-Cho                                       | 16 (2.1)           |   |                    |
| Hashima-Shi                                     | 14 (1.9)           |   |                    |
| Kagamihara-Shi                                  | 10 (1.3)           |   |                    |
| others  | 131 (17.4)         |   |                    |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>754 (100.0)</b> | <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>319 (100.0)</b> |

Source: Gifu-Pref. (2002): Statistics on the migration in Gifu-Prefecture

**Table 3** Place of destination of out-migrants in Ono-Cho

| Inside Gifu-Prefecture               |                    | Outside Gifu-Prefecture              |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Place of destination of out-migrants | Number (%)         | Place of destination of out-migrants | Number (%)         |
| Gifu-Shi                             | 121 (23.5)         | Aichi-Ken                            | 93 (28.7)          |
| Motosu-Cho                           | 52 (10.1)          | Foreign countries                    | 85 (26.3)          |
| Ibigawa-Cho                          | 44 (8.6)           | Tokyo-To                             | 25 (7.7)           |
| Ogaki-Shi                            | 39 (7.6)           | Chiba-Ken                            | 15 (4.6)           |
| Godo-Cho                             | 28 (5.4)           | Mie-Ken                              | 14 (4.3)           |
| Sunami-Cho                           | 26 (5.0)           | Shizuoka-Ken                         | 14 (4.3)           |
| Kitagata-Cho                         | 23 (4.5)           | others                               | 68 (21.0)          |
| Itonuki-Cho                          | 22 (4.3)           | non reported                         | 10 (3.1)           |
| Hashima-Shi                          | 16 (3.1)           |                                      |                    |
| Kagamihara-Shi                       | 16 (3.1)           |                                      |                    |
| Shinsei-Cho                          | 12 (2.3)           |                                      |                    |
| Tanigumi-Mura                        | 10 (1.9)           |                                      |                    |
| Ikeda-Cho                            | 10 (1.9)           |                                      |                    |
| others                               | 96 (18.7)          |                                      |                    |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>515 (100.0)</b> | <b>Total</b>                         | <b>324 (100.0)</b> |

Source: Gifu-Pref. (2002): Statistics on the migration in Gifu-Prefecture

### 3.3 Changes in Land Use

As is shown in the increase of the population, one of the most prominent regional characteristics in Ono-Cho is that urbanisation has been proceeding very rapidly. Fig. 10 is a topographical map (1:50,000) of Ono-Cho and its surrounding area at the end of 1950's. Settlements were located on the foot of mountains, hilly land which follows it, an alluvial fan and natural banks of Ibi- and Neo River in order to avoid flood. The paddy field spread widely.

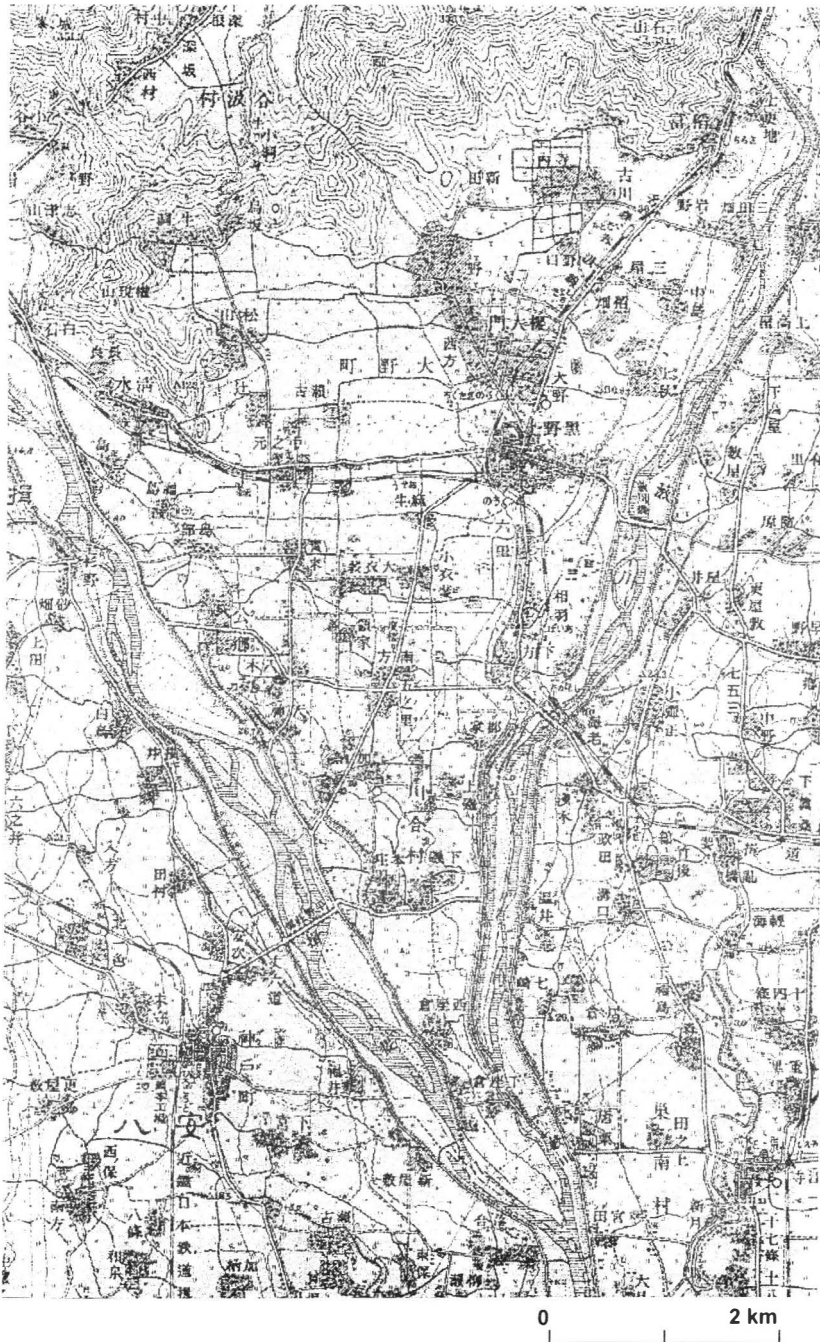
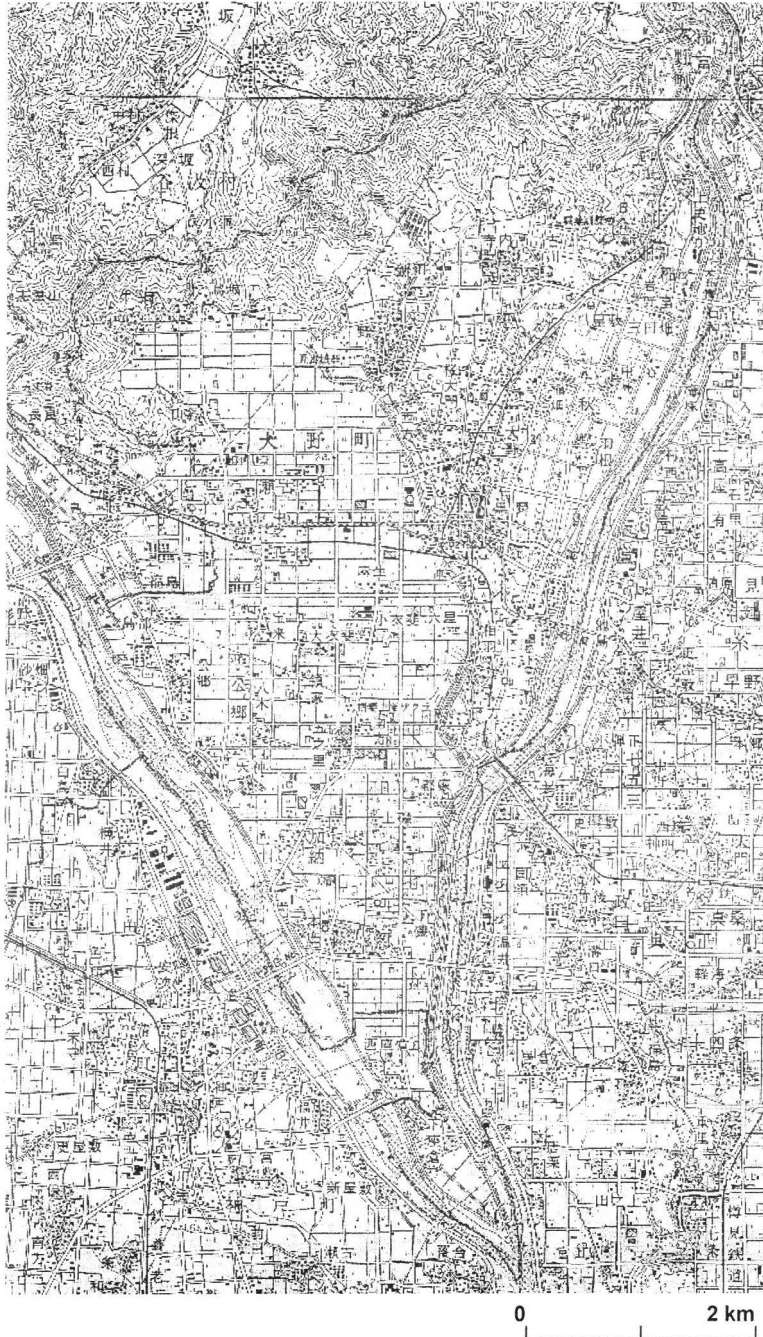


Figure 10 Land use in Ono-Cho (end of 1950's)

Source: Topographical map (1:50 000), Ogaki



**Figure 11** Land use in Ono-Cho (1995)  
 Source: Topographical map (1:50 000), Ogaki, Tanigumi

Topographical map of Ono-Cho in 1995 shows the wide spread of urban functions since the end of 1950's (Fig. 11). We find a lot of houses and factories. There are many small housing complexes. There are also various factories such as food processing, sewing, wood processing, electro-and machine parcel production and construction. These factories are distributed mainly on the northern foot of mountains and in the southern lowland.

From a regional point of view, the process of urbanisation has not developed uniformly. We can understand the situation from Fig. 12, which shows the change in the population by settlement. While the population has grown in settlements like Kurono, Ono, Horai, Sadamatsu, Honjo-Nish, it has decreased in settlements such as Inatomi, Furukawa, Jinai, Ushibora and so on. We can observe the prominent urbanisation around Kurono, which is located in the centre of Ono-Cho and in the southern part of Ono-Cho. As we have already seen, there are many foreign workers who are engaged in sewing factories. Most of them live together in not so well equipped houses run by these factories.

In Ono-Cho, land improvement was carried out from 1959 to 1983 in order to improve agricultural productivity, which has resulted in the acceleration of urbanisation. Agriculture area in Ono-Cho decreased from 1,546 ha in 1983 to 1,286 ha in 2000.<sup>9</sup> In Ono-Cho, new settlements have been formed alongside traditional settlements. We can observe a typical urban sprawl there.<sup>10</sup>

In agricultural land use, the area of Kaki field has increased from the beginning of 1970's. Paddy field has been converted into Kaki field.

### 3.4 Behaviour and opinion of residents

In Ono-Cho, new and old inhabitants came to live in the same settlements or region. They greatly differ not only in the length of living period but also in the behaviour and opinion.

I would like to compare the behaviour and opinion of the inhabitants in two contrasted settlements. They are Inabata and Honjo-Nishi. The former is a traditional settlement, while the latter includes a newly formed settlement. Inabata is located in the mid east and Honjo-Nishi in the southern edge of Ono-Cho.<sup>11</sup>

First of all, concerning the birthplace (Tab. 4), 5.2 % of inhabitants in Inabata were born in Inabata and 11.3 % in Ono-Cho except Inabata and 61.9 % outside Ono-Cho and in Honjo-Nishi, 0.0 %, 5.7 % and 89.7 % respectively. In both settlements, many inhabitants were born outside Ono-Cho, but the ratio is quite different. In Inabata, the percentage of inhabitants who were born in Ono-Cho reaches 16.5.

<sup>9</sup> It is based on materials at the village office in Ono-Cho.

<sup>10</sup> Population by industry in Ono-Cho has been changed. Those who were engaged in the primary industry have been decreasing. On the other hand, those working in the secondary and tertiary industries have been increasing (especially secondary industry). Population in labour force in 2000 is 11,772 and 1,128 (9.6 %) are engaged in the primary industry, 4,932 in secondary and 5,702 (48.5 %) in the tertiary. Ono-Cho (2002): Statistics in Ono-Cho.

<sup>11</sup> The research was carried out by Ito land improvement office in November 2000. The office wanted to know what kind of opinions the non-farming population had about farming and farmers. Interviewees were housewives, who lived in Inabata and Honjo-Nish. They were 97 in Inabata and 88 in Honjo-Nishi. Ito land improvement office (2001): *Plan for the improvement and development of agriculture in Ono-Cho*. [in Japanese]

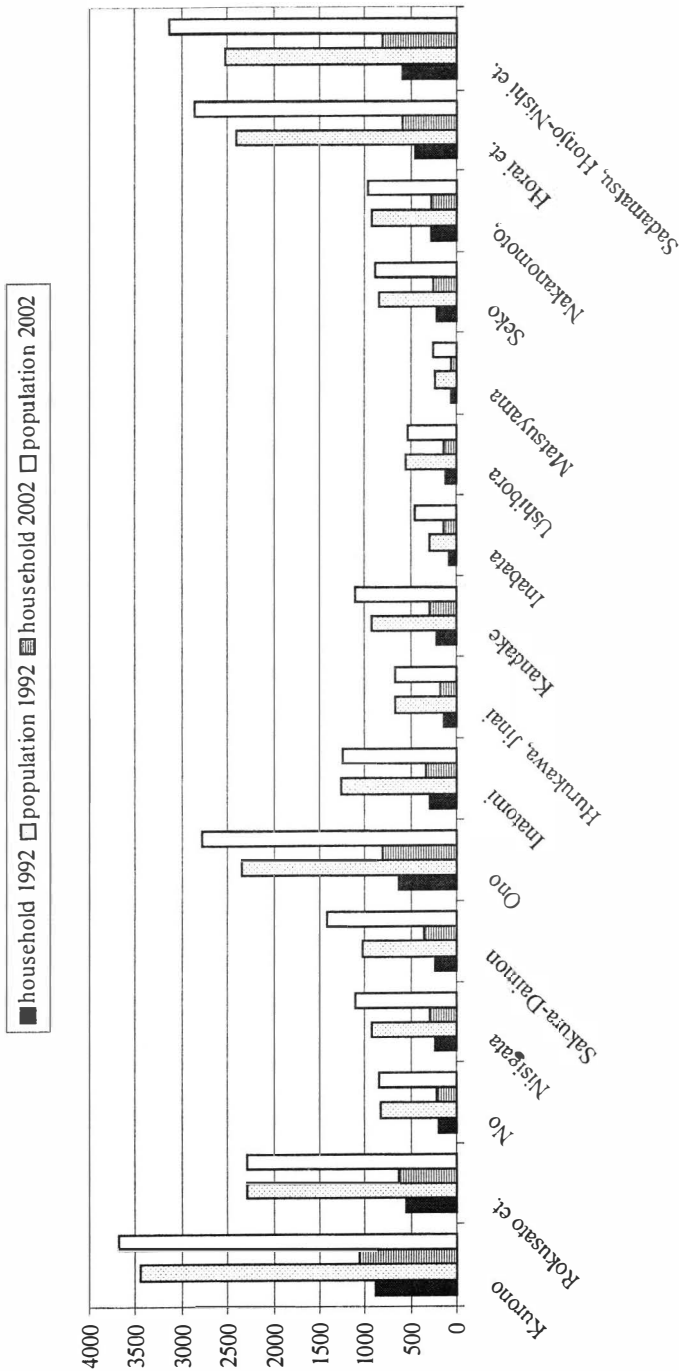


Figure 12 Household and population by settlement in Ono-Cho

Next, when we look at the working situation (Tab. 5), the proportion of the working population is about 65 % and more than 50 % are occupied with part-time workers in both settlements. However, when we look at the workplace, there is a great difference: in Inabata, the majority works in Ono-Cho and in Honjo-Nishi 70.4 % works outside Ono-Cho.

**Table 4** What is your birthplace? (in %)

| Birthplace<br>Settlement | Ono-Cho                       |           | Outside<br>Ono-Cho | Invalid   |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
|                          | Place of current<br>residence | Others    |                    |           |
| Inabata                  | 5 (5.2)                       | 11 (11.3) | 67 (69.1)          | 14 (14.4) |
| Honjo-Nishi              | 0 (0.0)                       | 5 (5.7)   | 78 (89.7)          | 4 (4.6)   |

Source: Ono-Cho (2001): Agricultural improvement and development project in Ono-Cho

**Table 5** What is your occupation? (in %)

| Occupation<br>Settlement | Self<br>employed | Company<br>employee | Public<br>official | Part time<br>worker | Others |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Inabata                  | 28.1             | 9.4                 | 9.4                | 51.6                | 1.6    |
| Honjo-Nishi              | 10.7             | 14.3                | 0.0                | 60.7                | 14.3   |

Source: Ono-Cho (2001): Agricultural improvement and development project in Ono-Cho

Further, where do they usually buy commodities? In Inabata, 88.5 % of inhabitants buy in Ono-Cho, on the contrary, in Honjo-Nishi, those who buy them in Ono-Cho are only 32.2 %, and 67.8 % of inhabitants buy them outside Ono-Cho (Tab. 6).

Tab. 7 shows the opinion of inhabitants about the change of Ono-Cho from agricultural town to industrial town. In Inabata, less than half (43.3 %) and in Honjo-Nishi more than half (55.4 %) is for that change. We can also find the similar opinion about the change of Ono-Cho from agricultural town to residential town (Tab. 8).

**Table 6** Where do you usually buy commodities?

| Place<br>Settlement | In<br>Ono-Cho | Outside Ono-Cho |          |          |           |        |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|----------|-----------|--------|
|                     |               | Shinsei-Cho     | Gifu-Shi | Godō-Cho | Ogaki-Shi | Others |
| Inabata             | 88.5          | 7.3             | 3.1      | 0.0      | 0.0       | 1.0    |
| Honjo-Nishi         | 32.2          | 50.6            | 5.7      | 5.7      | 1.1       | 6.9    |

Source: Ono-Cho (2001): Agricultural improvement and development project in Ono-Cho

**Table 7** What do you think of the change in Ono-Cho from agricultural town to industrial town?

| Opinion<br>Settlement | I am<br>strongly for | I am<br>vor | I am rather<br>against | I am<br>against | I don't<br>know | Others | N.a. |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|------|
| Inabata               | 24.7                 | 18.6        | 7.2                    | 7.2             | 32.0            | 1.0    | 9.3  |
| Honjo-Nishi           | 20.6                 | 19.6        | 6.2                    | 12.4            | 32.0            | 0.0    | 9.3  |

Source: Ono-Cho (2001): Agricultural improvement and development project in Ono-Cho

Table 8 What do you think of the change in Ono-Cho from agricultural town to residential town?

| Opinion Settlement | I am strongly for | I am vor | I am rather against | I am against | I don't know | Others | N.a. |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------|------|
| Inabata            | 36.1              | 24.7     | 4.1                 | 7.2          | 21.6         | 0.0    | 6.2  |
| Honjo-Nishi        | 14.9              | 40.2     | 5.7                 | 4.6          | 27.6         | 1.1    | 5.7  |

Source: Ono-Cho (2001): Agricultural improvement and development project in Ono-Cho

We have to take into consideration that there are 20-30 % who answered „I do not know for the question of Tab. 7 and 8“. The local government has not declared the policy for the regional development. This would be one of the most important reasons why the inhabitants do not express their own opinion about the direction of regional development.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Gifu-Ken includes variety of regions from high population growth to high population decrease. Ono-Cho is located in a southern part of Gifu-Ken. It is a typical municipality, with a high population increase rate. New housing complexes have been constructed next to old settlements. As a result, new inhabitants came to live in traditional settlements. Further, relatively large numbers of foreign workers have come to work. It has caused a lot of problems, within which housing, education, environment and re-organisation of the community, they belong to the most serious.

The local government is responsible for making and carrying out a definite regional development plan, which can meet various interests of all inhabitants with different backgrounds. It is especially important to provide new employment and to preserve natural environment.

A demographic research in Šamorín and Malacky 2002 tells us some opinions about the regional problems and development of the interviewees<sup>12</sup> from those 201 (32.0 %) think that unemployment is the most serious problem, 150 (23.8 %) health care and 115 (18.3 %) life quality. The research also shows that as new labour opportunity, they choose agriculture 118 (18.8 %), light industry 114 (18.1 %), building (construction-related job) 106 (16.9 %). They hope to make industries and working opportunities, which are compatible with their living condition and natural environment. We can say, that Šamorín, Malacky and Ono-Cho have similar problems to solve.

Kawai-Mura (Village) is a contrast to Ono-Cho, which is located in the northern edge of Gifu-Ken. It is a typical village confronting serious problems of depopulation. In Kawai-Mura, ageing and decrease in population are rapidly proceeding. The percentage of the aged population in Kawai-Mura reaches 29.7 in 2001 (Ono-Cho is 16.1). Number of elderly singles has been increasing, and deserted houses have been remarkable. The area of fallow land has increased too.<sup>13</sup> Making a lot of working opportunities is the most important

<sup>12</sup> A demographic research about Šamorín and Malacky was carried out by Institute of Human Geography and Demogeography of Comenius University in 2002. Prof. Dr. J. Mládek was responsible for it. 629 samples were available in 2 regions, Šamorín and Malacky.

<sup>13</sup> mentioned above 1) Kobayashi, K and Takimura, K. (2002).

problem in Kawai-Mura. It is especially necessary to improve the traffic conditions, namely accessibility to Takayama-Shi is quite important for inhabitants in Kawai-Mura.

## References

- INOUE, T. (2001): Review of human geographical studies, population geography. *The Human Geography*, Vol. 53, 267-268. [in Japanese]
- KOBAYASHI, K. TAKIMURA, K. (2002): Characteristics of In-and Out-Migration in Kawai-Mura, Gifu-Prefecture. Koji Kobayashi ed. *Demographic process and structure in Japan.– Intermediate research results of JSPS's Cooperative research project with Slovakia*. [in Japanese].
- Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications(2001: *Statistical Handbook of Japan 2001*.
- NAKAGAWA, S. (2000): Review of human geographical studies, population geography. *The Human Geography*, Vol. 52, 258-259. [in Japanese]
- SHIMIZU, M. (2002): Increase of foreign people by internationalization and changes in urban Region. Kobayashi, K. ed. *Regional problems in the 21st Century. Ninomiya-Shoten*. 61-90. [in Japanese]

## Resume

### Charakteristika populácie v prefektúre Gifu, Japonsko

V prefektúre Gifu môžeme identifikovať regióny s vysokým rastom populácie na druhej strane oblasti s výrazným poklesom počtu obyvateľov. Vidiecka obec Ono-Cho je situovaná v južnej časti prefektúry Gifu. Jedná sa o typickú obec s výrazným rastom počtu obyvateľov. V obci boli popri tradičnej výstavbe vybudované nové bytové jednotky, do ktorých sa nasťahovala zahraničná pracovná sila. Táto situácia spôsobila vážne problémy medzi obyvateľmi, v školstve a životnom prostredí.

Miestna samospráva je zodpovedná za tvorbu a realizáciu regionálneho rozvojového plánovania, v ktorom sa musia zohľadniť rôzne záujmy a potreby obyvateľov. Je obzvlášť dôležité zamerať sa na tvorbu pracovných miest a ochranu životného prostredia. Podľa výsledkov demografického výskumu v regióne Šamorína a Malaciek je zrejmé, že sa ich samospráva podobne, ako samospráva v Ono-Cho snažia predovšetkým o zabezpečenie dobrých životných podmienok, tvorbu pracovných miest a ochranu životného prostredia. Môžeme povedať, že problémy v regióne Šamorín a Malacky sú veľmi podobné problémom v Ono-Cho.

---

Prof. Dr. Koji Kobayashi  
Faculty of Education, Gifu-University Yanagido 1-1, Gifu-Shi 501-1193  
e-mail: kojik@cc.gifu-u.ac.jp



## 岐阜県における人口特性

小林 浩二

岐阜県は、人口増加率の高い地域から人口減少率の高い地域を含む、きわめて多様な地域である。大野町は、岐阜県南部に位置しており、人口増加の著しい典型的な行政体である。大野町の過去 10 年余りの人口変化をみると、人口増加は、自然増加と社会増加双方によってもたらされたものである。また、人口の転入理由をみると、住宅事情によるものが、転出理由では、結婚・離婚・縁組みならびに職業上が多くなっている。転入・転出先とも、岐阜市が多くなっている。さらに、外国人の転入、転出も多くなってきた。

大野町では、混住化が顕著になってきた。いわゆる旧住民と新住民とが混在するようになったのである。また、外国人の労働者も居住するようになった。こうした結果、大野町では、住宅、教育、環境、コミュニティーの再編などの問題が深刻になってきた。大野町では、これらの異なった生活行動や意識を有する住民を考慮した地域発展策を推進していくことが要請されている。とりわけ、自然を守りつつ、新たな雇用口を創設することが重要になっているといえよう。スロヴァキアのシャモリンとマラツキーを対象にした調査によれば、シャモリンとマラツキーの居住者は、生活条件や自然環境と矛盾しない産業や雇用機会の創設を望んでいる。大野町は、シャモリン、マラツキーと同じような課題を有しているといえよう。