

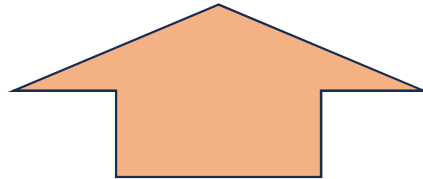
**THE INVALUABLE EFFORTS OF  
VOLUNTEERS IN SUPPORTING OFFENDER  
REINTEGRATION  
and  
THE HOGOSHI SYSTEM IN JAPAN**

Discussion at The Second World Congress for Community Volunteers  
Supporting Offender Reintegration  
APRIL 17<sup>th</sup> 2024 THE NETHERLANDS

**IMAFUKU Shoji, Japan Hogoshi Federation, Japan**

# Goals of Criminal Justice Policy (Community Corrections)

1. Offender Rehabilitation / Reintegration without Reoffending
2. Building a Safe and Secure Society



**Public/Voluntary Sector  
Partnerships**

# Public/Voluntary Sector Partnerships



**Women's  
Association for  
Rehabilitation Aid  
(WARA)**

133,395 (2022)

**Big Brothers and  
Sisters  
Association (BBS)**

4,400 (2022)



**Cooperating  
Employers**

25,202 (2022)

**Safe and Secure  
Society / Community**

**Halfway Houses**

102 (2024)



**Probation Office**

50 Offices

896 probation officers  
(2022)

**Hogoshi**

46,584 (2024)

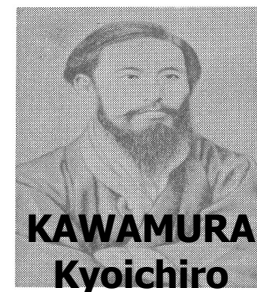
Exclusive society,  
loneliness, social  
isolation, excessive  
self-responsibility

Inclusive society, resilient against crime, people can relate to and care each other  
It cannot be realized without serious commitment of local members.



# Hogoshi System in Japan

- Community Volunteers for Offender Rehabilitation / Reintegration
- Commissioned by the Minister of Justice (The Volunteer Probation Officers Act)
- Main duties : ① Supervise / assist probationers / parolees, ② Coordinate the re-entry, ③ Promote crime prevention activities
- No salary provided, but may receive all or part of the expense needed for performing their duties (ex. travel expenditures)
- Term of Office : 2 years (Re-appointment is possible)
- Rooted in Japan for more than 130 years since 1888
- 46,584 persons nationwide, average age: 65.6 (as of Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2024)



**KAWAMURA**  
Kyoichiro



**KIMPARA**  
Meizen

# Working together for Offender Reintegration

## Probation Officer (PO)



Intervention by expert knowledge to reduce the risk of reoffending

Making treatment plans  
Interviewing  
Specialized programmes  
Case/Risk management  
Breach actions  
Liaising with relevant agencies

## Hogoshi



Staying close to offenders with wisdom of the ways of the world

Coordinate the re-entry  
Interviews on a regular basis  
Working with their families  
Helping them find jobs  
Liaising with local social resources

Guidance

Monthly report

Consultation



# Advantages of the Hogoshi System

## Local Character

- Accessibility
- “Neighbors” rather than “representatives of government”
- Social resources

## Personal interaction with offenders

- Genuine and warm concern
- Pro-social modelling
- Focus on offenders’ strengths
- Encourage offenders’ rehabilitation with patience and trust

## Continuous support

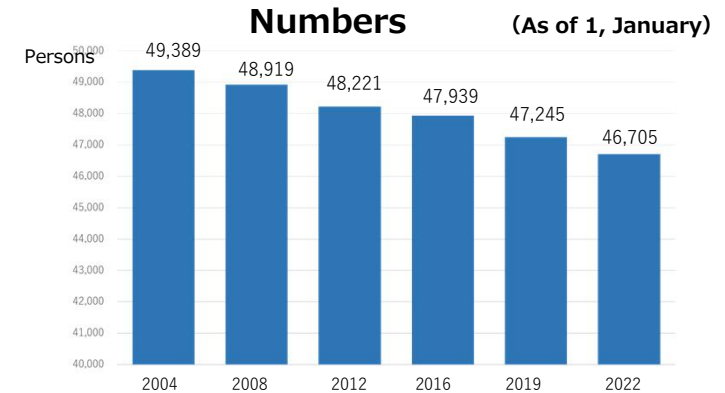
- Continuous contact with offenders and
- their family members during the prison term
  - Relationship continues as members of
- the same community



Promotion of Desistance and Reintegration

# Measures to Support Hogoshi

The Government has established several measures to reduce the burdens placed on *hogoshi* and enhance including Younger Generations



**Trend: Declining since 2004**

1. *Hogoshi* internships
2. Offender Rehabilitation Support Centers
3. Multiple Responsibility System
4. Introducing Digital Platform



5. Raising public awareness (increase social recognition of hogoshi)
6. Investigative Commission for Enhancing the Sustainability of Volunteer Work

## Conclusions

- The services for offender rehabilitation and reintegration in Japan is effectively implemented based on Public/Volunteer Sectors Partnership.
- Hogoshi as community volunteers play a vital role to build a safe and secure society.
- Hogoshi assist desistance of offenders on the basis of their advantages of local character, personal interaction with offenders and continuous support.
- To reduce the burden of Hogoshi, several measures are necessary including raising social awareness such as the Declaration on the International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration.



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Thank you very much  
for your attention

