

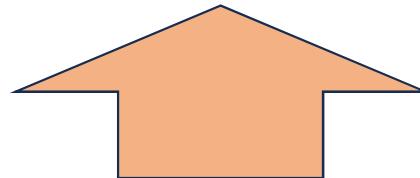
**THE INVALUABLE EFFORTS OF
VOLUNTEERS IN SUPPORTING OFFENDER
REINTEGRATION
and
THE HOGOSHI SYSTEM IN JAPAN**

Discussion at The Second World Congress for Community Volunteers
Supporting Offender Reintegration
APRIL 17th 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)

Halfway Houses

102 (2024)



Safe and Secure Society / Community

Big Brothers and Sisters Association (BBS)
4,400 (2022)



Cooperating Employers

25,202 (2022)

Probation Office
50 Offices
896 probation officers (2022)

Hogoshi

46,584 (2024)

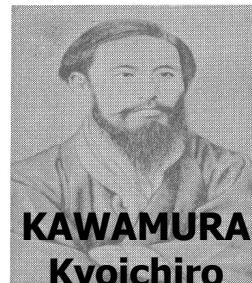
Exclusive society,
loneliness, social
isolation, excessive
self-responsibility

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

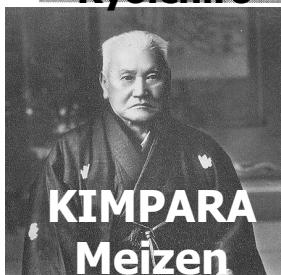


Hogoshi System in Japan

- 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 1st 2024)



KAWAMURA
Kyoichiro



KIMPURA
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

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

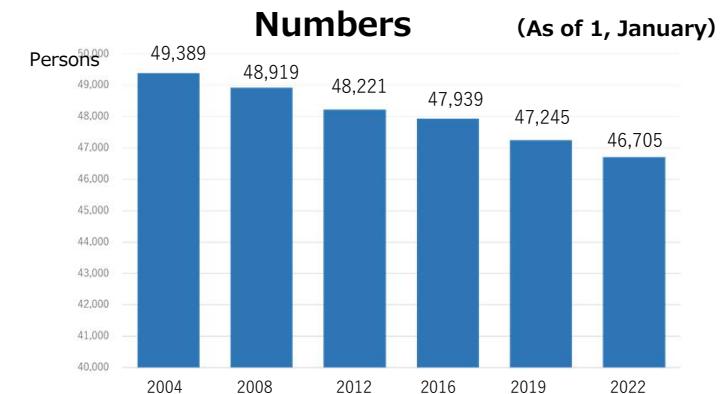
- Continuous contact with offenders and their family members during the prison term
 - Relationship continues as members of
- the same community



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

