

Civil Society and Voluntary Actions in Japan
Okada

Instructor: Aya

Mondays 1:10pm to 2:40pm and 2:55pm to 4:25pm

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✦ Course Overview

The significance of civil society and voluntary sector in Japan has never been greater than today. The longtime tradition of self-help groups and neighborhood associations has grown into more structured, institutionalized organizations in the recent decades. The number of citizens interested in taking voluntary actions – making financial donations, volunteering, and raising their voice through advocacy efforts – has also increased steadily.

Several events that took place in the recent years have particularly accelerated this trend. For example, the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (or Kobe earthquake) of 1995 highlighted contributions that non-public, non-private organizations as well as individual volunteers make in responding to unexpected disasters. More recently, the triple disasters of earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear accident in Northeastern Japan in 2011 became a momentum for the volunteer spirit of Japanese people to rise. Multiple surveys and reports find that more people in Japan today are interested in and are taking some sort of actions to help others. What Salamon¹ called the “Global Associational Revolution” has indeed taken place in Japan over the past three decades.

Civil society organizations are also now considered key actors in solving urgent social issues such as the rising need for elderly care, increasing demand to prepare for natural disasters that strike Japan frequently, and efforts to revitalize rural communities. In 2010, the Japanese government has announced an initiative called “New Public Commons (or *Atarashi Kokyo*)” to further facilitate the commitment of civil society organizations in dealing with these social problems.

This course provides students an opportunity to understand the Japanese society from the perspective of civil society and voluntary actions. In case a student is involved in voluntary or nonprofit efforts in Community Involvement Project (CIP), this course may complement the analyses and

¹Salamon, L.M. (1994). The Rise of the Nonprofit Sector. *Foreign Affairs*, Vol.73(4), pp.109-122.

understanding of their experience. The course does not require prior knowledge on the topic or related issues.

✦ Course Objectives

- 1) Students will be able to understand contributions and challenges that civil society organizations face as they emerge as one of the key actors in solving social issues in Japan today.
- 2) Students will be able to contrast Japanese civil society with that of their home country, and discuss what they see as the unique characteristics of civil society and voluntary actions in Japan.

✦ Assignments and Evaluation

- 1) Attendance and Class Participation (30%)
- 2) Mid-term project (30%)

Pick a Japanese civil society organization that you find interesting and analyze its characteristics. The target organization can be anything that falls under the definition of civil society organizations studied in sessions 3 and 4. Students will make an oral presentation of their paper during class on sessions 11 and 12.

- 3) Final paper and presentation (40%)

Students will analyze what they see as the unique characteristics of civil society and voluntary actions in Japan.

* Attendance policy: Missing two lectures without an appropriate reason will automatically drop your attendance grade by one full letter grade; egregious tardiness (three or more) will yield the same penalty. Four unexcused absences from lectures or recitations over the semester will result in the class participation grade turning to zero. I reserve the right to give pop quizzes or assign additional work if people are coming to class unprepared.

✦ Textbook: Copies of all readings, including book chapters, journal articles, reports, and newspaper articles, will be distributed in PDF format to the students.

✦ Schedule (subject to change depending on class size and guest lecture schedules)

Session 1 (January 18 – Part I)

Introduction: Civil Society and Voluntary Actions

The session will provide an overview of the course, and highlight the significance of understanding Japanese society from the perspective of civil society and voluntary actions. The class will also review social issues that Japan face today, and discuss how civil society organizations contribute to solving the problems.

Required Readings:

Salamon, L.M. (1994). The Rise of the Nonprofit Sector. *Foreign Affairs*, Vol.73(4), pp.109-122.

Matsutani, M. (2012). Disasters Kick-Started Dormant Volunteer Spirit. *The Japan Times*. January 5.

Tabuchi, H. (2012). Tokyo Rally is Biggest Yet to Oppose Nuclear Plan. *New York Times*, July 16.

Recommended Reading:

Eberly, D. (2008). *The Rise of Global Civil Society: Building Communities and Nations from the Bottom Up*. New York: Encounter Books.

Session 2 (January 18 – Part II)

“Big Picture” of Japanese Civil Society

The class will draw a “big picture” of Japanese civil society with a comparative perspective. We will also explore different types of civil society organizations that are active in Japan.

Required Readings:

Pekkanen, R. (2006). Japan’s Civil Society in Comparative Perspective (Chapter 2) in Pekkanen, R. (2006). *Japan’s Dual Civil Society: Members without Advocates*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Yamauchi, N., Shimizu, H., Sokolowski, S.W. and Salamon, L.M. (1999). Japan. In Salamon, L.M. and Anheier, H.K. (Eds). *Global Civil Society: Dimension of the Nonprofit Sector*. Washington DC: The Johns Hopkins Center of Civil Society Studies.

Recommended Website to Explore:

“Nonprofit Homepage” of Cabinet Office of Japan (Japanese only)

<https://www.npo-homepage.go.jp/>

Sessions 3 and 4 (January 25 – Part I and II)

Building a Common Understanding: Definition of Civil Society and Voluntary Actions

The class will build a common understanding of key concepts in this course: “civil society” and “voluntary actions.”

Required Readings:

Edwards, M. (2014). Introduction – What’s the Big Idea? (Chapter 1). In *Civil Society Third Edition*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.

Salamon, L.M., Sokolowski, S.W., and List, R. (2004). Global Civil Society: An Overview. In Salamon, L.M. and Sokolowski, S.W. and Associates. (Eds.). *Global Civil Society: Dimensions of the Nonprofit Sector Volume Two*. Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press.

Recommended Reading:

Schwartz, F. (2003). What is Civil Society? In Schwartz, F.J., Pharr, S.J. (Eds.). *The State of Civil Society in Japan*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Recommended Website to Explore:

Johns Hopkins University Center for Civil Society Studies <http://ccss.jhu.edu/>

Session 5 (February 1 – Part I)

Historical Understanding of Civil Society and Voluntary Actions in Japan

Japanese civil society is heavily influenced by history. The class will take a historical perspective in this session and read how the sector developed from Meiji, Taisho, Showa, to Heisei.

Required Reading:

Garon, S. (2003). From Meiji to Heisei: The State and Civil Society in Japan. In Schwartz, F.J., Pharr, S.J. (Eds.). *The State of Civil Society in Japan*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Recommended Reading:

Kage, R. (2010). *Civic Engagement in Postwar Japan: The Revival of a Defeated Society*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Session 6 (February 1 – Part II)

Class does not meet (Aya at Doshisha’s Entrance Exam Duty)

Spend the time preparing for the mid-term project

Sessions 7 and 8 (February 8 – Part I and II)

“Hot Topics” of Japanese Civil Society: Recent Changes and Rising Issues

Japanese civil society has undergone a tremendous change during the last two decades which centers on its relationship with the government and public sector organizations. In addition to the required reading, Aya will fill in with the most up-to-date information on relevant legal frameworks and government initiatives/policies.

Required Readings:

Young, D.R.. (2000). Alternative Models of Government-Nonprofit Sector Relations: Theoretical and International Perspectives. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, Vol.29(1), pp.149-172.

Pekkanen, R. (2003). The Politics of Regulating the Non-Profit Sector. In Osborne, S.P. (Ed.). *The Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector in Japan*. New York: Routledge.

Recommended Reading:

Pekkanen, R. (2004). After the Developmental State: Civil Society in Japan. *Journal of East Asian Studies*, Vol.4, pp.363-388.

Session 9 (February 15 – Part I)

The 2011 Japan Disasters and Civil Society

The number of organizations working on the four phases of disaster management – mitigation, prevention, response, and reconstruction – have rapidly increased after the 2011 disasters in Northeastern Japan. We will examine how civil society organizations contribute to dealing with disasters in Japan.

Required Reading:

Ito, A. (2007). Earthquake Reconstruction Machizukuri and Citizen Participation. In Sorensen, A. and Funck, C. (Eds.). *Living Cities in Japan: Citizens' Movements, Machizukuri and Local Environments*. New York: Routledge.

Recommended Readings:

Aldrich, D. P. (2011). The Power of People: Social Capital's role in Recovery from the 1995 Kobe Earthquake. *Natural Hazards*, Vol.56(3), pp.595-611.

Shaw, R. and Goda, K. (2004). From Disaster to Sustainable Civil Society: The Kobe Experience. *Disasters*, Vol.28(1), pp.16-40.

Session 10 (February 15 – Part II)

Guest Speaker: Ms. Chika Sonehara (Program Coordinator of Benesse Corporation and founding member of a nonprofit MORIUMIUS in Ogatsu, Miyagi Prefecture)

Sessions 11 and 12 (Thursday, February 11 or February 20)

Field Trip

Plan A: Wednesday, February 11 “Welfare Festival in Kyoto”

Plan B: Saturday, February 20 “Visit Kobe Earthquake Memorial Museum (人と防災未来センター)”

Sessions 13 and 14 (February 22 – Part I and II)

Student Presentations

Each student will make a 15 minute presentation on their findings from the mid-term project, where students analyze the characteristics of a Japanese civil society organizations of their choice.

MID-TERM PAPER DUE

Session 15 and 16 (March 7 – Part I and II)

On-Campus Fieldtrip

Visiting a nonprofit “Share Your Value Project” by Professor Yoko Uryuhara’s Seminar (Faculty of Commerce, Doshisha University)

Session 17 (March 14 – Part I)

Field-Focused Approach: Neighborhood Associations and Community Development

The class will review how neighborhood associations - civil society organizations that are perhaps the most closest to people’s everyday lives - have developed and spread across Japan. We will also look at involvement of civil society organizations in community development or *machi-zukuri*.

Required Readings:

Pekkanen, R. (2006). Neighborhood Associations and Local Civil Society (Chapter 4) in Pekkanen, R. (2006). *Japan’s Dual Civil Society: Members without Advocates*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Funck, C. (2007). *Marhizukuri, Civil Society, and the Transformation of Japanese City Planning: Cases from Kobe*. In Sorensen, A. and Funck, C. (Eds.). *Living Cities in Japan: Citizens’ Movements, Machizukuri and Local Environments*. New York: Routledge.

Recommended Readings:

Evans, N. (2010). Machi-zukuri as a New Paradigm in Japanese Urban Planning: Reality or Myth? *Japan Form*, Vol.14(3), pp.443-464.

Laratta, R. (n.d.). *From 'chonaikai' to 'hojin': The Historical Background of the Welfare System in Japan*. Available at <http://www.kisc.meiji.ac.jp/~follow/topics/AP/RosarioLaratta.pdf>

Session 18 (March 14 – Part II)

Field-Focused Approach: Environmental Conservation

The challenge of tackling environment destruction and pollution has been one key area in which we observe citizens' active participations. We will review some of the recent movements as well as major advocacy campaigns.

Required Reading:

Asano, T. (2007). Citizens' Movements to Protect the Water Environment: Changes and Problems. In Sorensen, A. and Funck, C. (Eds.). *Living Cities in Japan: Citizens' Movements, Machizukuri and Local Environments*. New York: Routledge.

Recommended Reading:

Hasegawa, K. (2004). *Constructing Civil Society in Japan: Voices of Environmental Movements*. Melbourne, Vic.: Trans Pacific.

Sessions 19 and 20 (March 28 – Part I and II)

Giving and Volunteering in Japan - Guest Lecturer Shusaku Sasaki (Osaka University)

Some people argue that Japan lacks a culture of giving. Is that true? How often do Japanese people make donations, and why? The class will explore these questions and discuss whether the students identify any characteristics unique to Japan.

Required Readings:

Chapter 2 "Individual Giving" in Japan Fundraising Association. (2013). *Giving Japan 2012: The Annual Report on Giving and Volunteering for the Year 2011*.

Chapter 3 "Volunteering" in Japan Fundraising Association. (2013). *Giving Japan 2012: The Annual Report on Giving and Volunteering for the Year 2011*.

Recommended Readings:

Ouchi, M. (2004). Charitable Giving in Japan: A Comparative Study of Japan and the United States. *The Nonprofit Review Vol.4, No.1*, pp.39-52.

Avenell, S. (2010). Facilitating Spontaneity: The State and Independent Volunteering in Contemporary Japan. *Social Science Japan Journal*, Vol.13(1), pp.69-93.

Sessions 21 and 22 (April 4 – Part I and II)

Unique Characteristics of Japanese Civil Society?

Scholars have argued that civil society in Japan is unique in comparison to other societies. We will take a look at differences argued about the role civil society organizations play in Japan as well as how the voluntary sector developed in Japan.

Required Readings:

Chapter 1 “Introduction” and Chapter 6 “Conclusion” in Pekkanen, R. (2006). *Japan’s Dual Civil Society: Members without Advocates*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Chapter 1 “Introduction: Activism from Above” in Reimann, K. (2010). *The Rise of Japanese NGOs: Activism from Above*. New York: Routledge.

Recommended Reading:

Remaining chapters of Pekkanen, R. (2006). *Japan’s Dual Civil Society: Members without Advocates*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Schwartz, F. (2002). Civil Society in Japan Reconsidered. *Japanese Journal of Political Science*, Vol.3(2), pp.195-215.

Reimann, K. (2003). Building Global Civil Society from the Outside In? Japanese International Development NGOs, the State, and International Norms." In Schwartz, F.J., Pharr, S.J. (Eds.). *The State of Civil Society in Japan*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Sessions 23 and 24 (April 11 – Part I and II)

Student Presentations

Each student will make a 15-20 minute presentation on their analysis of unique characteristics of civil society and voluntary actions in Japan.

Monday, April 18: FINAL PAPER DUE

Suggested Websites to Find Information about Civil Society Organizations in Kansai Region

*Aya will inform the class about specific events once they are announced in these sources. Most of them are only available in Japanese. Aya will provide language assistance if needed.

✦ 京都市福祉ボランティアセンター <http://v.hitomachi-kyoto.jp/>

✦ 京都 NPO センター <http://npo-net.or.jp/center/>

✦ 京都ボランティア協会 <http://www.kyoto-v.info/>

✦ 京都府国際センター <http://www.kpic.or.jp/>

✦ 京都府社会福祉協議会 <http://www.kyoshakyo.or.jp/>

✦ 大阪 NPO センター <http://www.osakanpo-center.com/>

✦ 大阪国際交流センター <http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/>

✦ 大阪ボランティア協会 <http://www.osakavol.org/>

✦ KVnet <http://www.kvnet.jp/>

✦ 滋賀 NPO センター <http://shiga-npo.la.coocan.jp/>

✦ 滋賀ボランティアネット <http://www.shiga-volunteer.net/>