

# Sustainability and Future Challenges Chair's Address and Overview

Naoto Yamauchi  
Osaka University  
[yamauchi@osipp.osaka-u.ac.jp](mailto:yamauchi@osipp.osaka-u.ac.jp)

# Topics

1. Overview of the session

2. Japan's Tentative Well-Being Indicators

1) Introduction

2) The Basic Ideas Behind the  
Tentative Well-being Indicators

3) Tentative Well-being Indicators

4) Tentative Well-being Indicators

# 1. Overview of the session

# Topic to be covered

- \* In this session, organizers request us to cover very wide topic. This means we have fairly large freedom of speech.
- \* Parallel workshops under this theme are;
  - \* Governance and Participation
  - \* Age and Gender Perspectives
  - \* Vulnerability to natural/man-made disasters and environmental risks.

# We will start from the plenary

- \* The structure is the same as the theme session 1.
- \* We will start from the plenary 15:00-30
- \* Transfer to the parallel workshops 15:30-40
  - \* Governance and Participation: room A
  - \* Age and Gender Perspectives: room B
  - \* Vulnerability to natural/man-made disasters and environmental risks.: Sokairo-Hall=here.

# Parallel workshop

- \* The chair give 4 minutes remark.
- \* Each panelists has 12 minutes for his/her presentation.
- \* General discussion will last 30minutes.
- \* Please finish the workshop in time, until 16:50
- \* Please be reminded that the chairs have to present what have been discussed in the workshop.
- \* Please take time for refreshments and move to the plenary, which will start in this room again.

# Plenary again

- \* From 17:10 we will convene the plenary once again.
- \* Each chair of the parallel workshop should give summary of discussions in 10 minutes.
- \* Then, we have 15 minutes for general discussions.
- \* I will try to give a summary of discussions in 5 minutes.

## 2. Japan's Tentative Well-Being Indicators

The Commission  
on Measuring Well-Being

# Tentative Well-Being Indicators

- \* I am the chair of the Commission on Measuring Well-Being.
- \* Today, the report of the Commission was released.
- \* As this report contains a lot of aspects of topics in this session, I would like to share it's essence with you.

# 1) Introduction



# What are well-being indicators?

- \* Well-being indicators are measures that depict the overall well-being of a group of people. They make comparisons of well-being among individuals across regions and time, and thus serve as evaluation tools for policy-making.



# Background

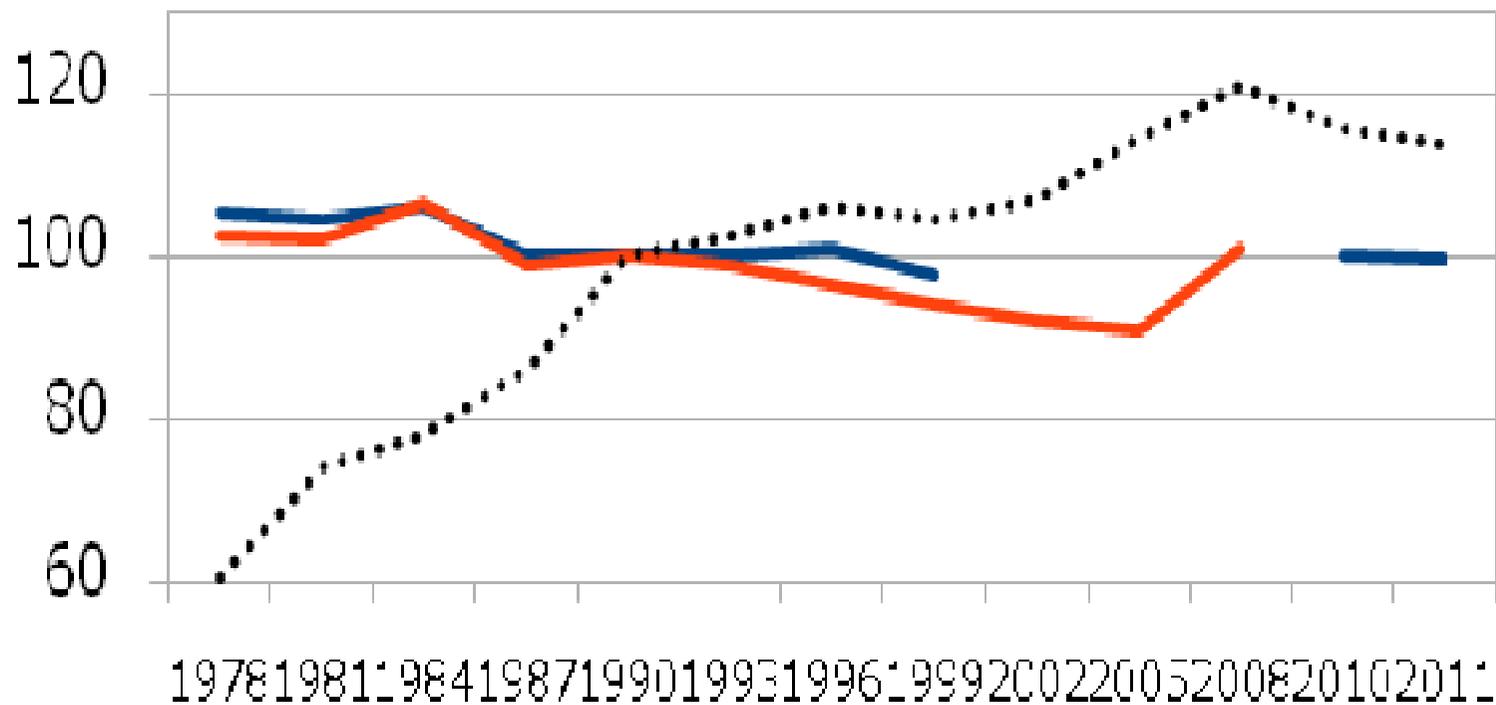


- \* Many countries in Europe, North America, Oceania, and Asia are now working to produce well-being indicators beyond GDP.
- \* Japan's subjective well-being remains low, even though income has increased.

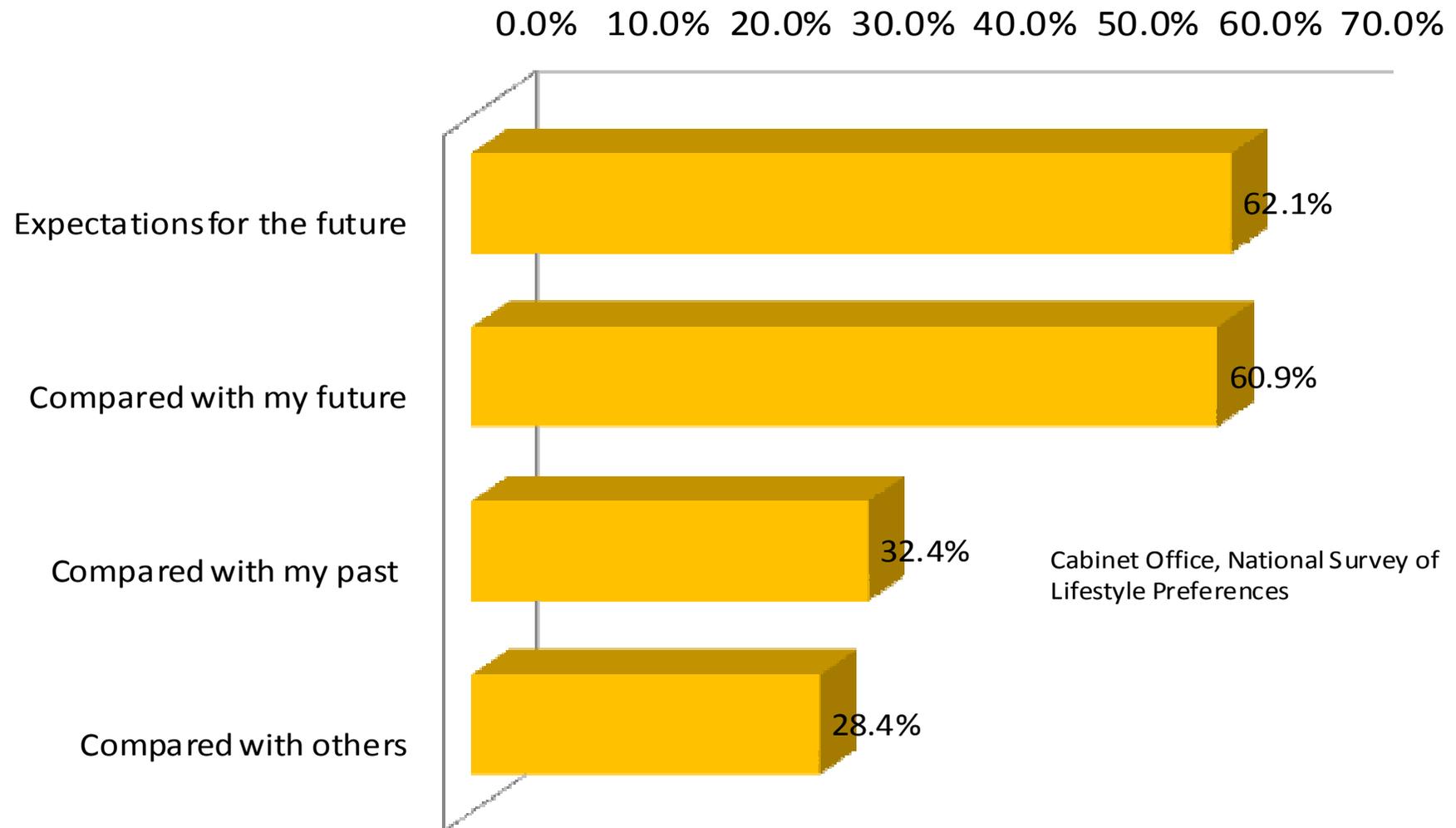
# Easterlin Paradox in Japan

— 幸福度 — 生活満足度 ..... 一人当たりGDP(実質)

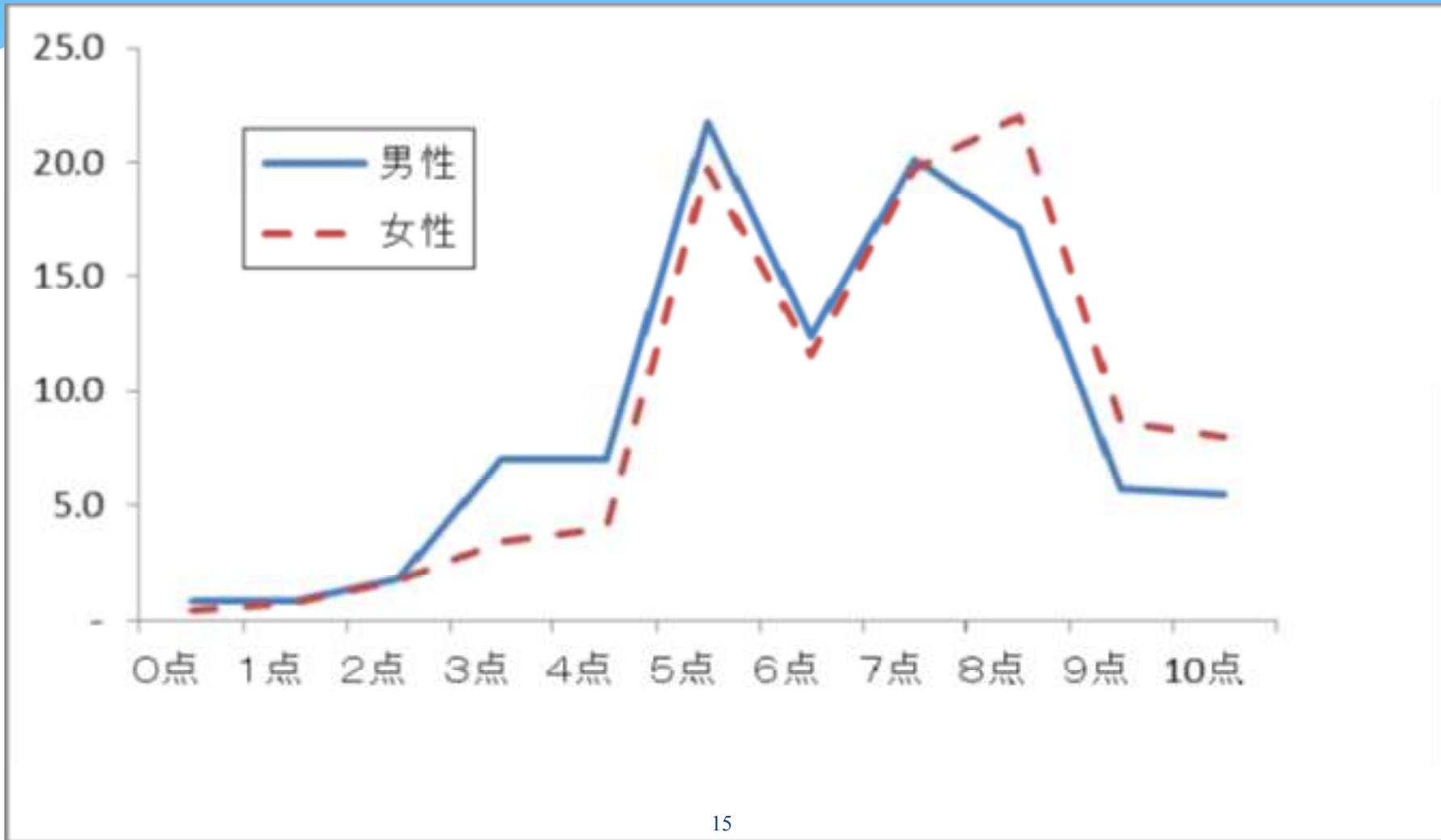
(1990=100)



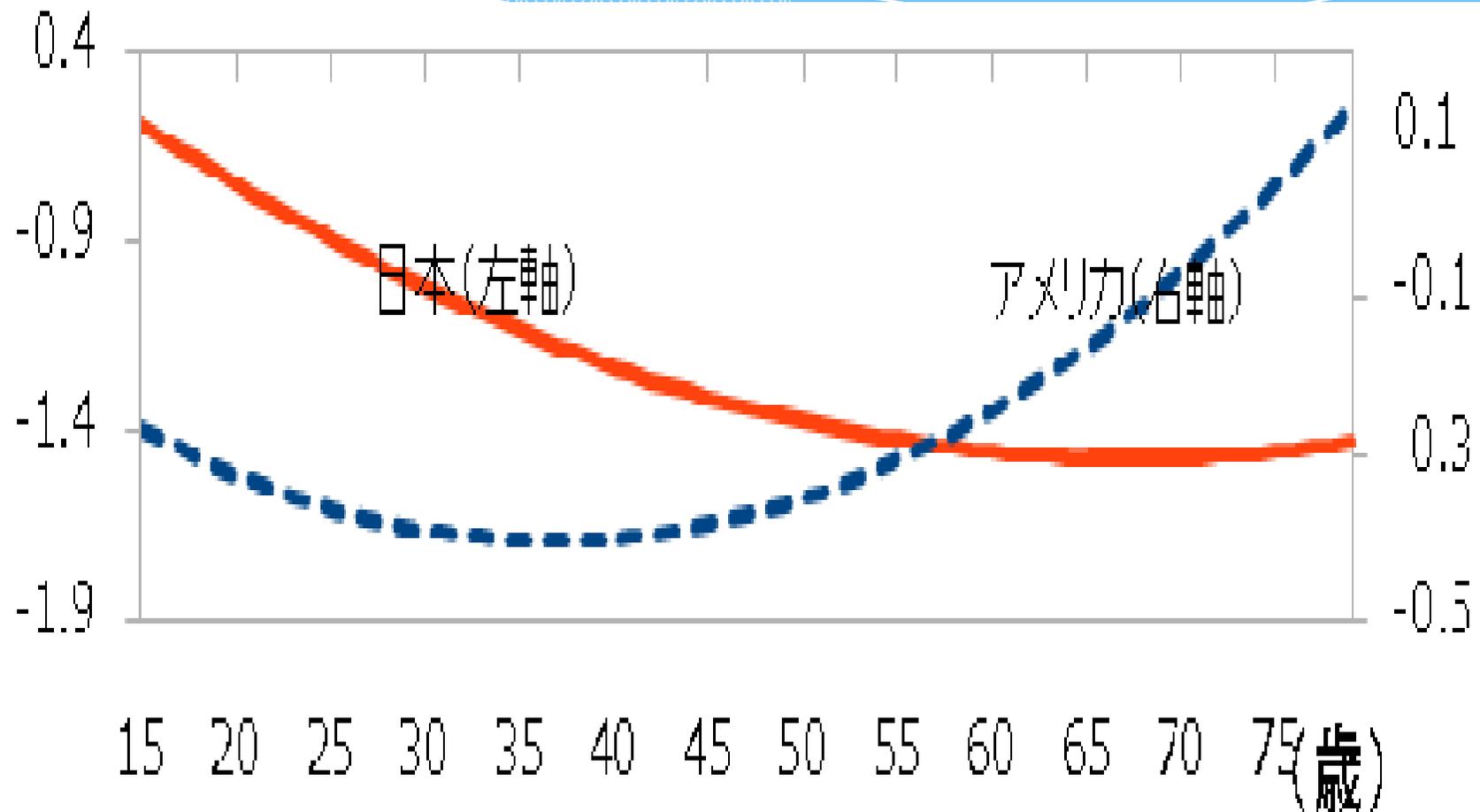
# Reference for evaluating happiness (Japan, 2010)



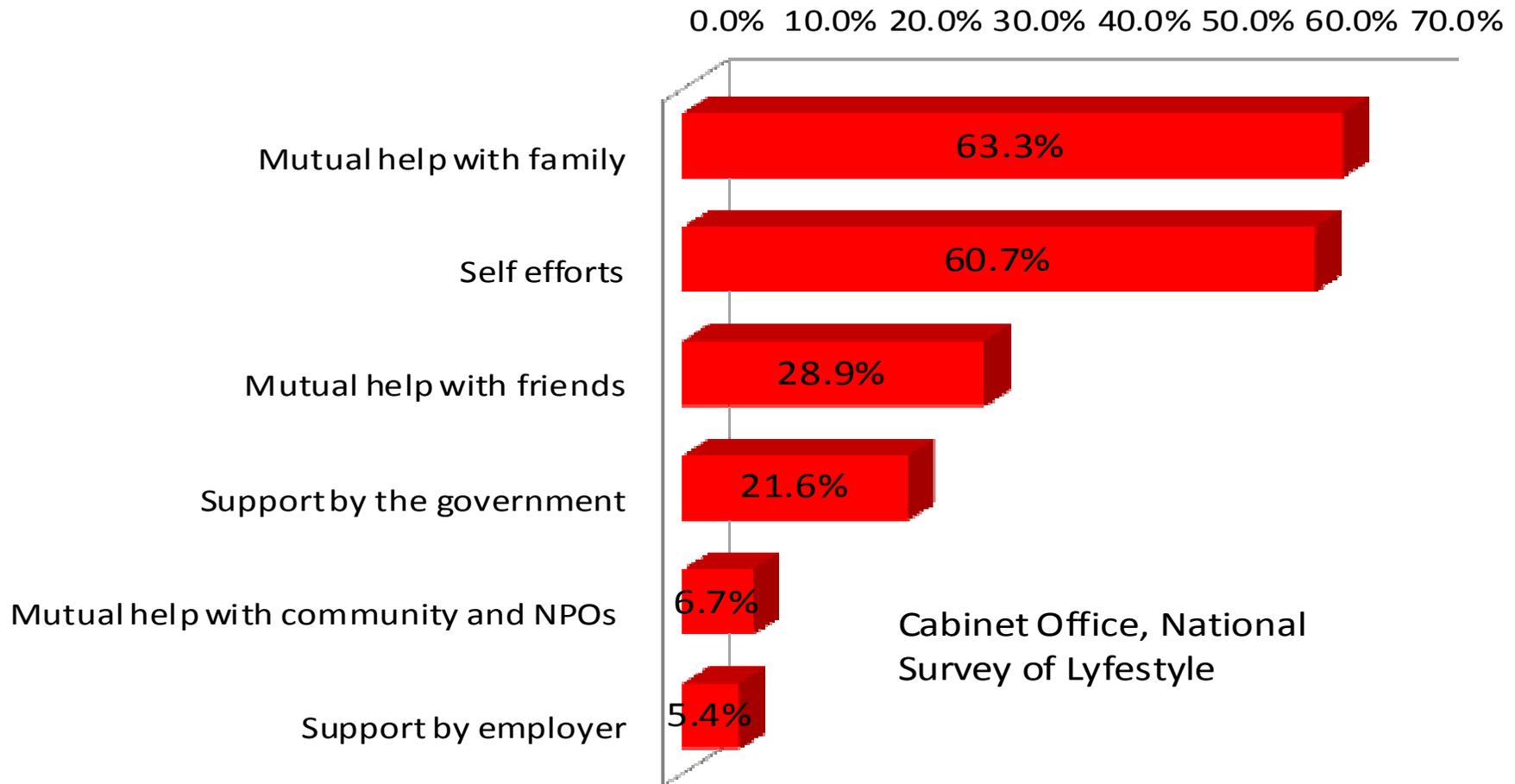
# Differences in happiness by sex (Japan, 2010)



# Differences in happiness by age: Comparing Japan with the US



# How to improve Happiness (Japan, 2010)



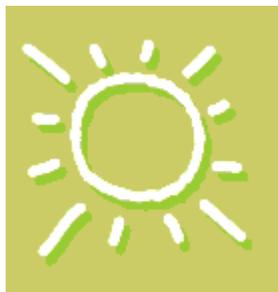
# Why do we create well-being indicators?

- \* Producing well-being indicators means shining light on issues surrounding well-being and paying attention to people's feelings, something that has not received attention in policymaking.
- \* In more concrete terms, there are two reasons.



## In more concrete terms -1

- \* Measuring well-being should involve scrutinizing causes and factors that sustain Japan's well-being and clarify Japan's strong, weak, improved, and deteriorated points.



## In more concrete terms -2

- \* It should also offer clues for discussions on the state of the nation, society, and regions, and should aim to deepen the well-being of society as a whole, as well as the well-being of each individual.



# Policy perspective

- \* From a policy perspective, well-being indicators should contribute to evidence-based policymaking, which require the setting of priorities, various improvements, and new proposals.



# The Great East Japan Earthquake

- \* During the term of the Commission, the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred.
- \* The Commission hopes that considering this disaster in terms of well-being will be helpful in considering priorities of the victims, other socially isolated people, and many other people in Japan, all of whom need to feel both hope for the future and happiness.