

— Governance and Political Participation —

**A Happy Society Includes Caring About Future
Generations:
That is Sustainable Governance**

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Key Contents of the Presentation:

- ① Government, both central and local, has responsibility for the happiness of the people.
 —→ Jeremy Bentham (1748–1832)
- ② The happiness of future generations is of the same importance as the happiness of the present generation. That is sustainability or sustainable development.
- ③ Democracy is the indicator of sustainability:
 — Comparison of Japanese and Swedish democracy.
- ④ Many Sustainable Happiness Indicators are now in progress:
 OECD well-being indicators, ESRI well-being indicators, GNH (Bhutan), ISEW/GPI, HSM (Human Satisfaction Measure), etc.
- ⑤ The indicator of happiness should include the sustainability of future generations.

[1] Government, both central and local, has responsibility for the happiness of the people.

i) Jeremy Bentham (1748–1832) who suggested “The greatest happiness of the greatest number” wrote that government should owe responsibility for people’s happiness and parliamentary democracy can achieve it. (1822)

ii) Many organizations try to develop Happiness Indicator and conduct research:

OECD (2011): OECD Well-Being Indicator

ESRI (2011): Well-Being Indicator

Deutsche Post (2011): The German Happiness Atlas

GNH (Gross National Happiness):

Bhutan attempted the 3rd GNH feasibility research in 2010

GAH (Gross Arakawa Happiness):

Arakawa Ward, Tokyo is trying to develop GAH

Nikkei developed the 3rd sustainable city research in 2011

[2] The happiness of future generations is of the same importance as the happiness of the present generation. That is sustainability or sustainable development.

i) Sustainable development is the key for governance:

— The definition of sustainable development —

“There are hundreds of definitions about sustainable development.”
(UNESCO)

The most recent definition of sustainable development:

Sustainability is not exclusively an environmental issue. It is fundamentally about how we choose to live our lives, with an awareness that everything we do has consequences for the 7 billion of us here today, as well as for the billions more who will follow, for centuries to come.

Helen Clark, Administrator, UNDP (2011)
(HDR 2011, Sustainability and Equity)

ii) Sustainability should be measured using backcasting:

× Forecasting

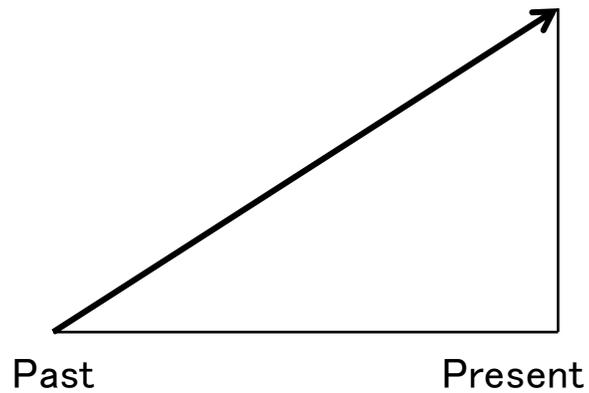


Fig. 1: Usual thinking

× Compared to the past, we think we are happier now than in the past

○ Backcasting Future generation

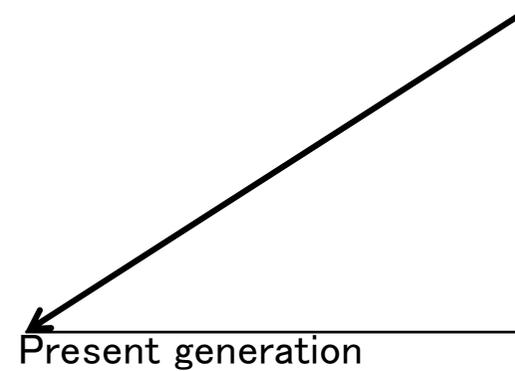


Fig. 2: Sustainable thinking

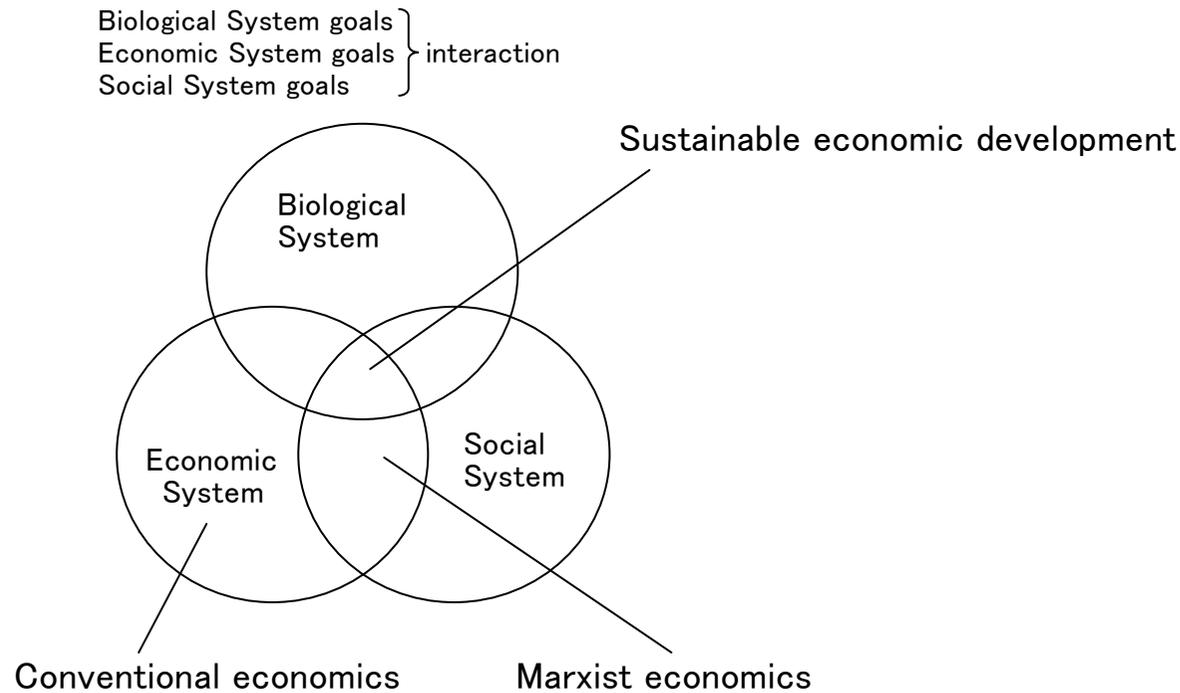
○ For the future generation, what shall we do now?

iii) Different definitions: How are future generation's environmental rights guaranteed and assured in some countries?

- ① Germany: The state is responsible for the environmental rights of future generations.
(Chapter 20a of the constitution, 1994)
- ② Sweden: i) Public institutions shall promote sustainable development leading to a good environment for present and future generations.
(The Instrument of Government Ch. 1)
ii) Present and future generations are ensured to live a healthy life in a comfortable environment.
(The Swedish Environmental Code Ch. 1, 1999)
- ③ Bhutan: Every Bhutanese is a trustee of the Kingdom's natural resources and environment for the benefit of the present and future generations.
(The Constitution of The Kingdom of Bhutan. Article 5, 1, 2005 version)
- ④ Japan: Present and future generations must be able to enjoy the benefits from a healthy and rich environment.
(Fundamental Law of Environment Ch. 3, 1993)

iv) Other important definitions of Sustainable Development:
The Triple Bottom Line (Society, Environment and Economy) should be audited.

① E. B. Barbier (1987)

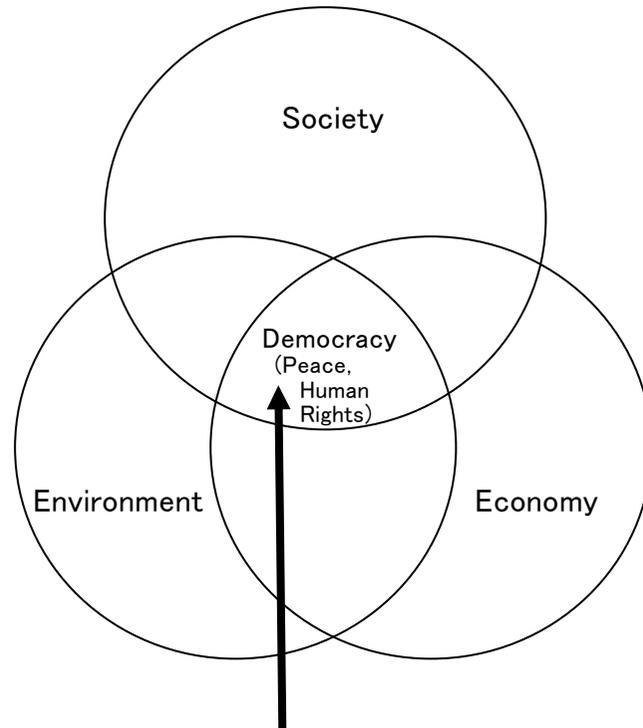


② J. Elkington (1997)

Business should audit the Triple Bottom Line (Society, Environment, and Economy)

[2] Democracy is the indicator of sustainability

i) “Democracy” is an important indicator for sustainability.



Acting as an axle, democracy is at the core of a happy and sustainable society.

Consequently, I suggest democracy as another indicator for people’s happiness, and sustainability.

i) Jeremy Bentham (1748–1832), who suggested “The greatest happiness of the greatest number” said that parliamentary democracy can achieve it. (1822)

ii) Amartya Sen

In a democratic country, big hunger will never occur. (1999)

iii) Frey & Stutzer

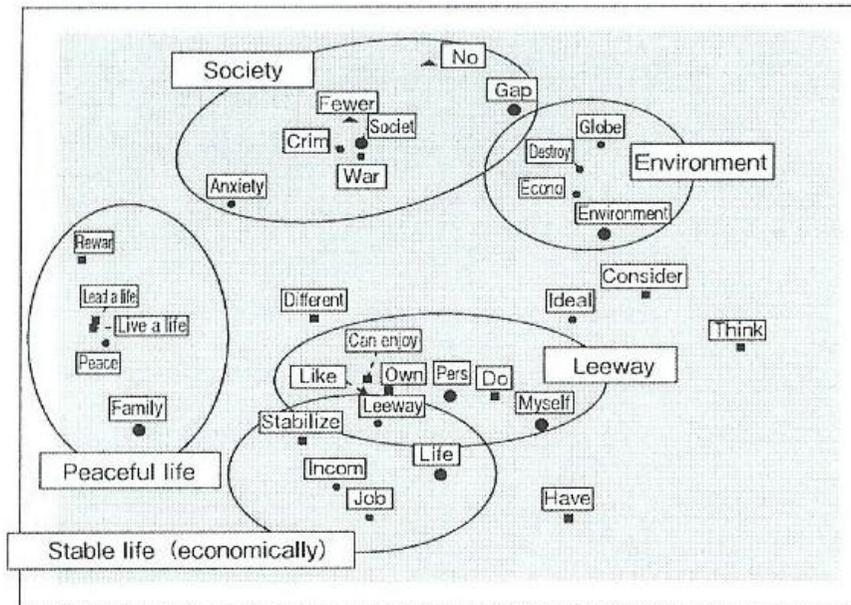
A democratic government can make people happier. (2002)

ii) Comparison of democracy between Japan and Sweden

- ① Differences between Japan and Sweden in the response to the open-ended question in the “Ideal Society Part I ” study. (Japan 2007, Sweden 2008)

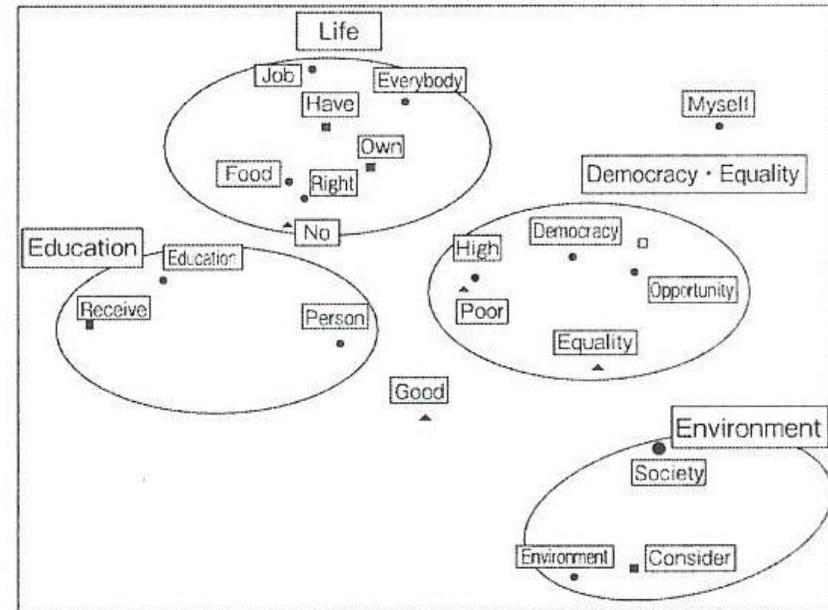
Q: What type of society do you consider to be an ideal society with a high level of happiness and satisfaction?

Mapping of words in Japan,
all respondents (n=1756)



Japan: Society has no gap

Mapping of words in Sweden,
all respondent (n=227)



Sweden: Democracy, equality and education

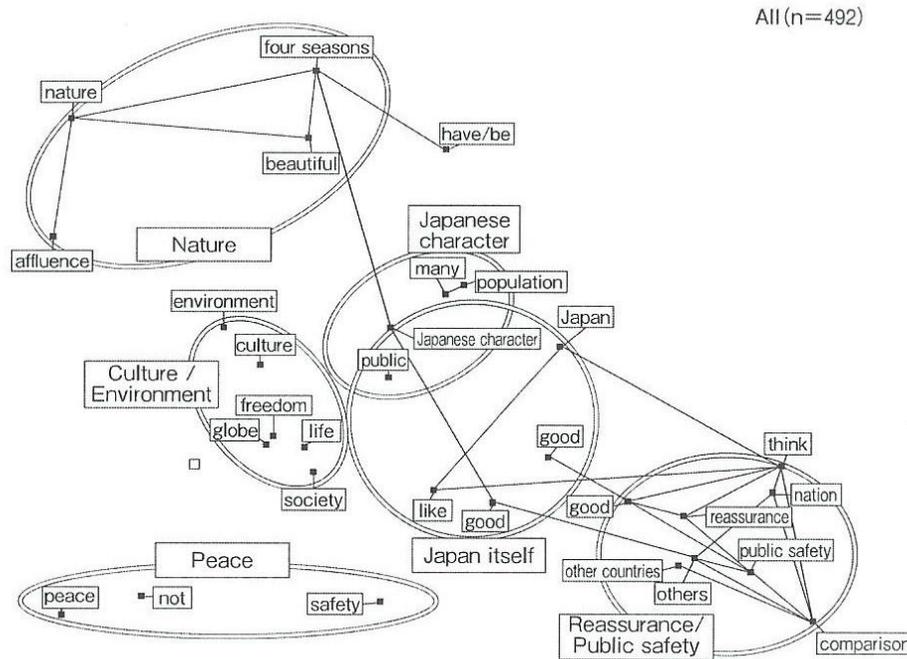
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② For Swedish respondents, Democracy is the requirement of an ideal society and at the same time the point they like most about Sweden.

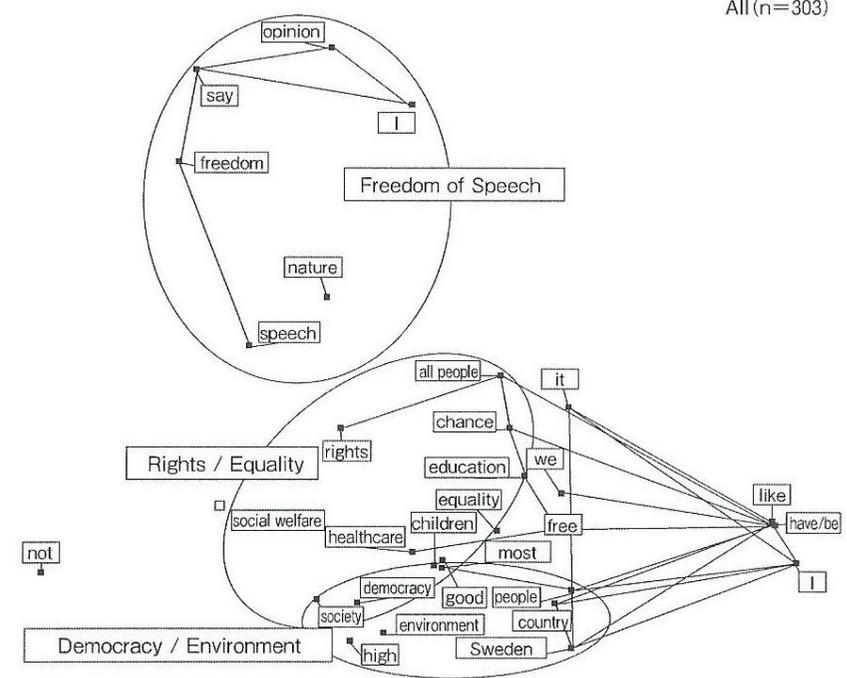
(The open ended question in the Ideal Society Part II study in Japan and Sweden 2009)

What kinds of aspects of Japan do you like most?

What kinds of aspects of Sweden do you like most?



Japan: Nature, culture, peace, public safety



Sweden: Democracy, freedom of speech, equality