

Introduction to Part 3

Longevity Revolution Unprecedented Increase in Life Expectancy and Challenges for Japan

The Part 3 of this issue features the overview of the issue and two keynote speeches delivered at the 14th IPSS Annual Seminar held at the United Nations University on December 22, 2009. The title of the Seminar was “Longevity Revolution.” The purpose of the Seminar was to reexamine the longevity revolution of Japan from an international perspective in order to analyze the mechanism of longevity improvement and to clarify the tasks for Japanese society. The first speech given by Dr. Wilmoth (University of California, Berkeley) discussed about the driving forces behind the increase of human longevity that underlie the momentous shift in population distribution from younger to older ages. The second speech given by Dr. Horiuchi (City University of New York) discussed about peculiar factors to Japan that contributed to the rapid increase in life expectancy.

The program of the Seminar was as follows:

- 10:00 AM Opening Remarks
 Takanobu Kyogoku (Director-General, NIPSSR)
- 10:10 AM An Overview of the Issue
 Ryuichi Kaneko (Director, NIPSSR)
- 10:30 AM Keynote Speech 1
 “Increase of Human Longevity: Past, Present and Future”
 John R. Wilmoth (Associate Professor, University of California, Berkeley)
- 11:20 AM Keynote Speech 2
 “Lifespan Extension in Postwar Japan: Causes, Trends, and Prospects”
 Shiro Horiuchi (Professor, City University of New York)
- 12:30 PM Lunch Break
- 1:30 PM Discussion 1
 Chair: Shigesato Takahashi (Deputy Director-General, NIPSSR)
 Panelists:
 Yasuhiko Saito (Professor, Nihon University)
 Takao Suzuki (Director-General, National Institute for Longevity Sciences)
 Masago Minami (Member of Editorial Board, The Yomiuri Shimbun)
- 2:30 PM Break
- 2:50 PM Discussion 2
 Panelists and Keynote Speakers
- 4:25 PM Closing Address
 Shigesato Takahashi (Deputy Director-General, NIPSSR)