

The Scientific Basis and Methodology of Official Population Projections from International Viewpoints

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This paper aims to compare the methodologies, assumptions, and disseminations of country-based population projections for Japan and other states (and other social, political, or geographic groupings), with a novel viewpoint garnered from the recommendations and good practices presented by the UNECE report. Moreover, we describe the scientific basis and methodology of official population projections through the comparison between official projections and academic ones.

We have observed that many countries have already started to incorporate the recommendations and good practices presented by the UNECE report. We have further noted that large population declines and rapid population aging are projected for both Japan and Korea. Through the comparison between official and academic projections, we have come to understand that official projections should be performed with demographic methods based on the stability of demographic events.

It is necessary to maintain the environment, to perform scientific population projections by producers, users, and researchers to ensure the objectivity and neutrality of the projections. Although Japanese population projections have already fulfilled, or even exceeded, the high level of accountability required in the UNECE report, it would be desirable to continue to perform scientific population projections at everhigher levels. Moreover, it is necessary for the people related to official population projections to understand the concept of scientific projections correctly and to have good communications between them.

keywords: population projection, international comparison, scientific basis