Introduction to Part 1

Lowest-Low Fertility and the Changes in Society and Family
– Experiences of Europe and Policy Challenges of Japan –

The Part 1 of this issue features two keynote speeches delivered at the 12th IPSS Annual Seminar held at the United Nations University on December 12, 2007. The title of the Seminar was "Lowest-Low Fertility and the Changes in Society and Family : Experiences of Europe and Policy Challenges of Japan." The purpose of the Seminar was to understand the mechanisms of low fertility and to obtain some policy implications from experiences of other countries. The first speech given by Professor Billari (Bocconi University) discussed about European experiences and pointed out that the determinants of low fertility are rooted in the family pattern and social structure. The second speech given by Professor McDonald (The Australian National University) discussed about the symptoms and causes of low fertility and importance of policy that focuses on achieving the balance between work and family responsibilities.

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 Ryuzaburo Sato (Director, NIPSSR)
10:30 AM	Keynote Speech 1 "Lowest-Low Fertility in Europe: Causes and Implications" Francesco C. Billari (Professor, Bocconi University)
11:20 AM	Keynote Speech 2 "Fertility Policy in Democratic Societies" Peter F. McDonald (Professor, The Australian National University)
12:10 PM	Speech "Three Kinds of Low Fertility" Joshua R. Goldstein (Director, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research)
12:30 PM	Lunch Break
1:30 PM	Panel Discussion Part 1 Chair: Shigesato Takahashi (Deputy Director-General, NIPSSR) Panelists: Michiko Miyamoto (Professor, University of the Air) Machiko Osawa (Professor, Japan Women's University) Yoichi Obata (Social Security News Editor, The Yomiuri Shimbun)
2:30 PM	Break
2:45 PM	Panel Discussion Part 2
4:20 PM	Closing Address Shigesato Takahashi (Deputy Director-General, NIPSSR)