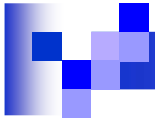


# **Japanese Local Government**

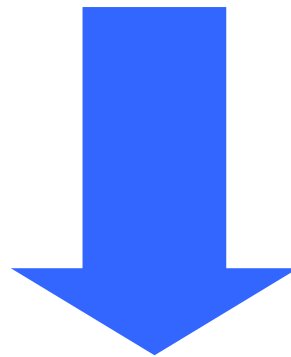
## **— Regional Cooperation —**

**Yasuhiko Tanabe**

**Director, CLAIR SYDNEY**

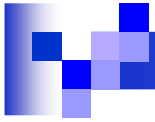


Japan Local Government Centre  
(CLAIR Sydney)



Council of Local Authorities for  
International Relations





# Tiers of Government

(JAPAN)

**Central  
Government**

**Local Government**

**Prefectural  
Government**

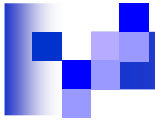
**Municipal  
Government**  
(City, Town & Village)

(AU)

**Commonwealth**

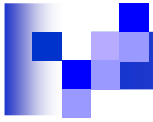
**State  
Government**

**Local  
Government**  
(Council, Shire..)



# Japanese Local Government is based on

- Constitution of Japan adopted in 1946, *Chapter 8 local autonomy*
- Local autonomy law



## **Prefectures (47)**

- **Populations range from 590,000 to 13 million**
- **Incorporate wide areas covering between 15 to 179 municipalities**

## **Municipalities (1,742)**

- **Cities (787), Tokyo's special wards (23), Towns (748) & Villages (184)**
- **Populations range from 170 to 3.7 million**





# Amalgamation of Municipalities

## Changes in numbers of municipalities

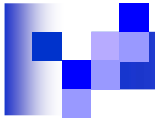
Year	No. of Municipalities
<b>1953</b>	<b>9,868</b>
<b>1956</b>	<b>3,975</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>3,232</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>1,788</b> (as of 1 April)

Great amalgamation of  
Showa Era

Great amalgamation of  
Heisei Era

(excluding Tokyo's 23 special wards)





# Municipalities (1,742)

- **Cities (787)**
  - population above 30,000
  - \*Designated Cities – population above 700,000
  - \*Core Cities – population above 300,000
  - \*Special Cities – population above 200,000
- **Towns (748)**
- **Villages (184)**



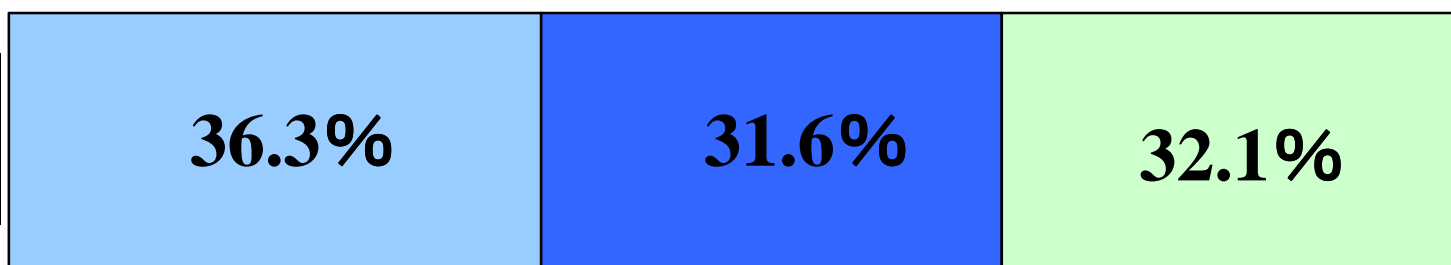
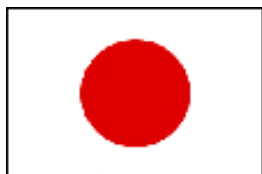


# Local Public Finance – Expenditure

2008/09



446.1 billion  
Dollars



150 trillion 306.2  
billion Yen

- Commonwealth/Central Govt
- State Govt/Prefectures
- Local Govt/Municipalities

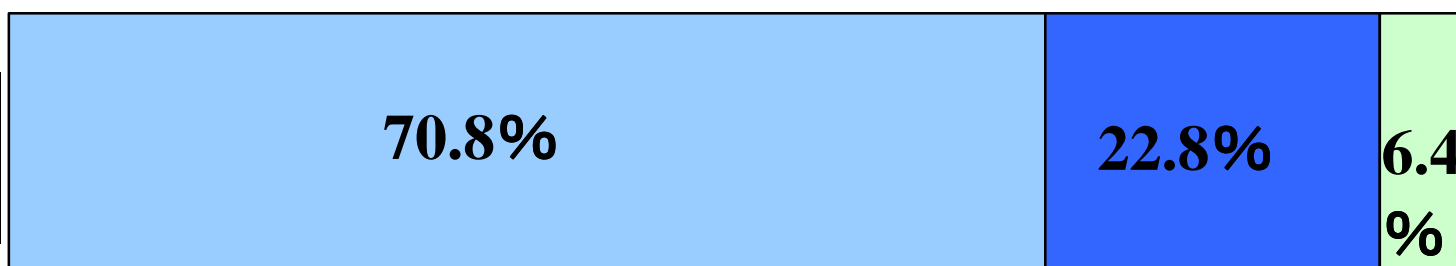




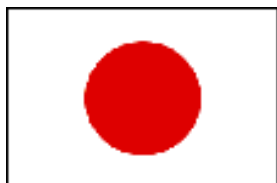


# Local Public Finance – Revenue

2008/09



421.1 billion  
Dollars



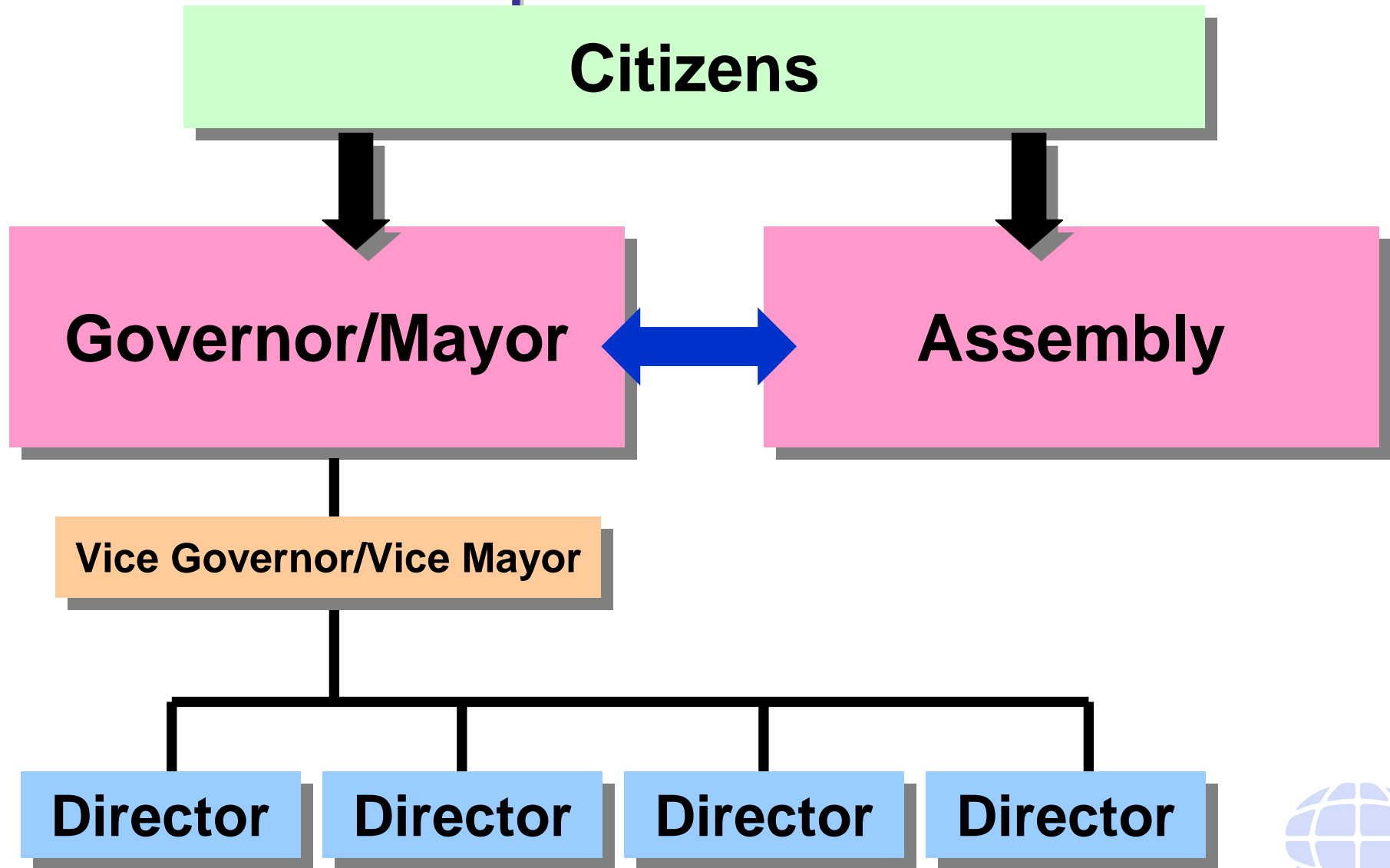
157 trillion 364.4  
billion Yen

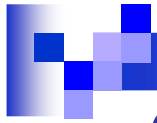
- Commonwealth/Central Govt
- State Govt/Prefectures
- Local Govt/Municipalities



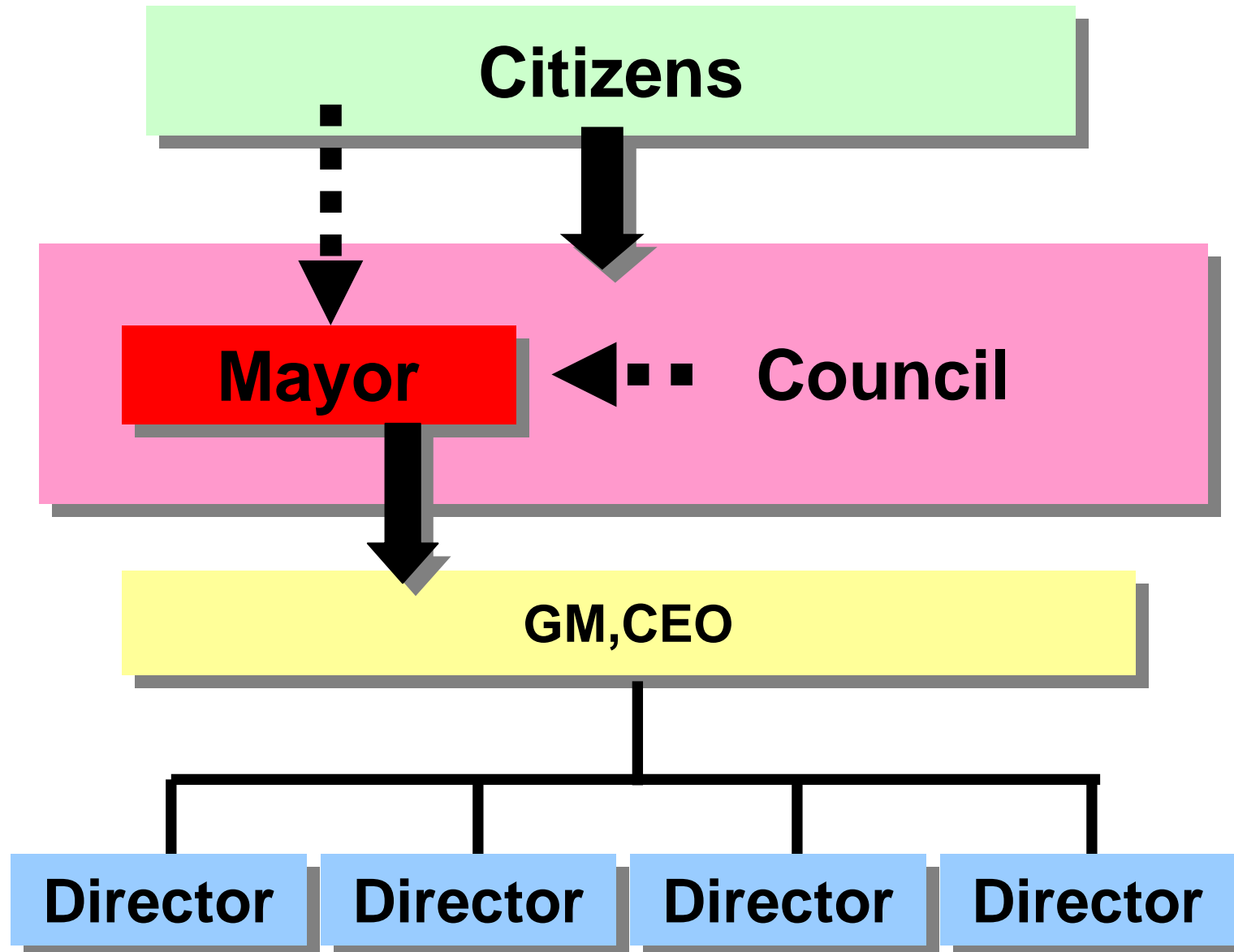


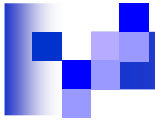
# Structure - Japan





# Structure - Australia

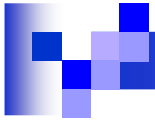




# Assembly → Legislative Power

- **Directly elected by the citizens (4-year term)**
- **Number of members**
  - Prefectures 35 to 127
  - Municipalities 6 to 86
- **Roles:**
  - Enactment of by-laws (local acts)
  - Approval of annual budget
  - Give assent to annual financial report
  - Give consent to top management appointments



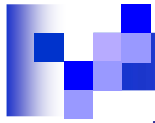


## Governor/Mayor → Executive Power

- **Directly elected by the citizens (4-year term)**
- **Roles:**
  - Represent the prefecture/municipality
  - Chief executive of the local government
  - Impose taxes and charges
  - Permit expenditures
  - Appoint personnel
  - Make contracts/agreements
  - Strategize long-term plans

*Governor: Chief executive of prefecture*  
*Mayor: Chief executive of municipality*





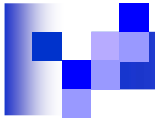
# Regional Cooperation in Japan

**There are 8 kinds of regional administration system based on Local Autonomy Law**

**Most common are two main types of local public cooperatives**

- 1 Partial Cooperative; organization established by two or more local governments to deal with issues more efficiently and effectively
- 2 Wide Area Cooperative; organization established to develop plans for affairs covering a wide area and to handle these affairs comprehensively





# How to establish Regional Cooperatives

## **Step 1**

Agreement made between participating municipalities

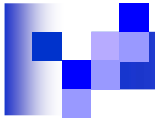
## **Step 2**

Approval by the assemblies of participating municipalities

## **Step 3**

Approval by the Governor





# The organisation of Regional Cooperatives

- Regional cooperatives are considered as special local governments
- Each regional cooperative has an administer and an assembly.

## **In most cases:**

- An administer is elected from among the mayors of participating municipalities
- Assembly members are elected between the assembly members of participating municipalities







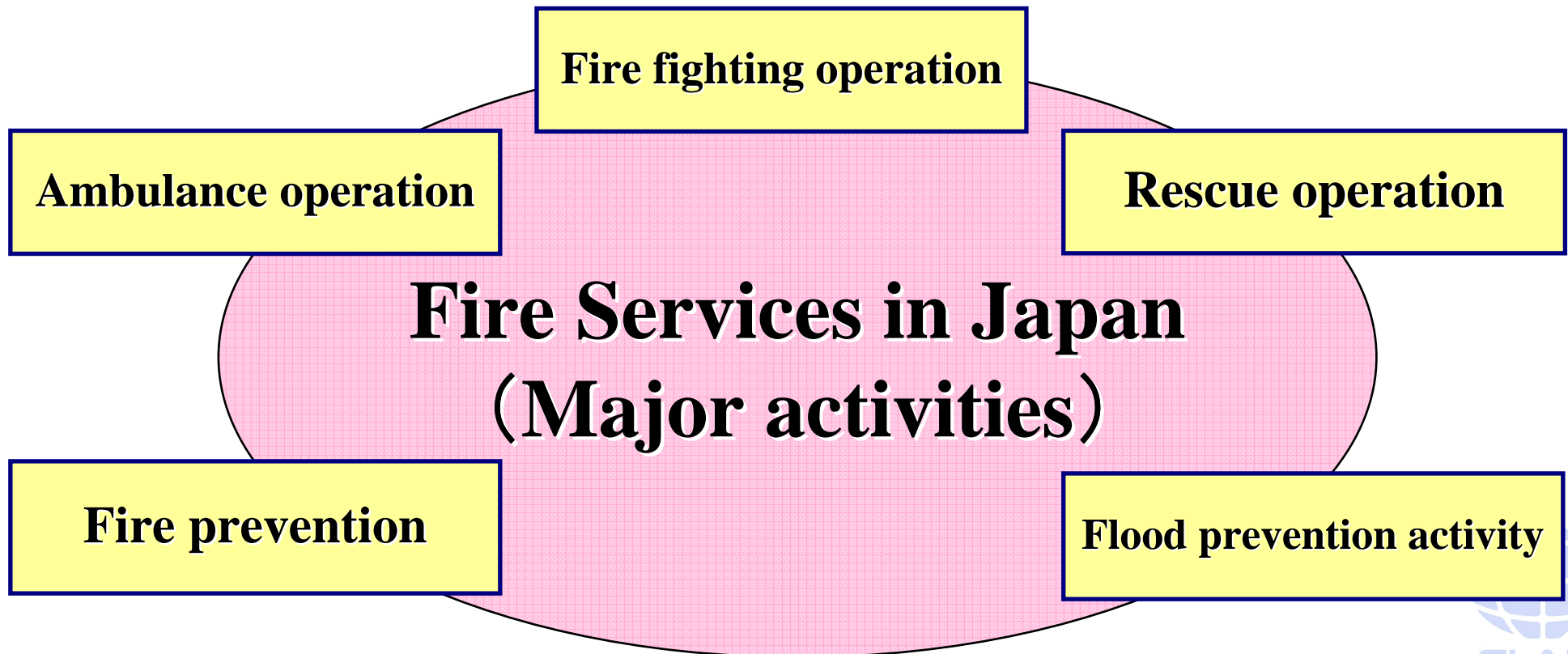
# Regional Cooperatives

	Partial Cooperatives	Wide-Area Cooperatives
	No, of Cooperatives (No, of local Authorities involved)	No, of Cooperatives (No, of local Authorities involved)
Sum Total	1,572 ( - )	115 ( - )
<Analysis>		
Garbage disposal	399 (1,326)	26 (146)
Sewerage	387 (1,282)	16 (67)
Fire Services	284 (982)	20 (102)
Regional Planning	123 (599)	22 (105)
Hospitals	119 (395)	3 (16)
Welfare for the Disabled	107 (483)	52 (324)
Water Supply	102 (432)	1 (4)
Personnel Training	55 (732)	13 (198)



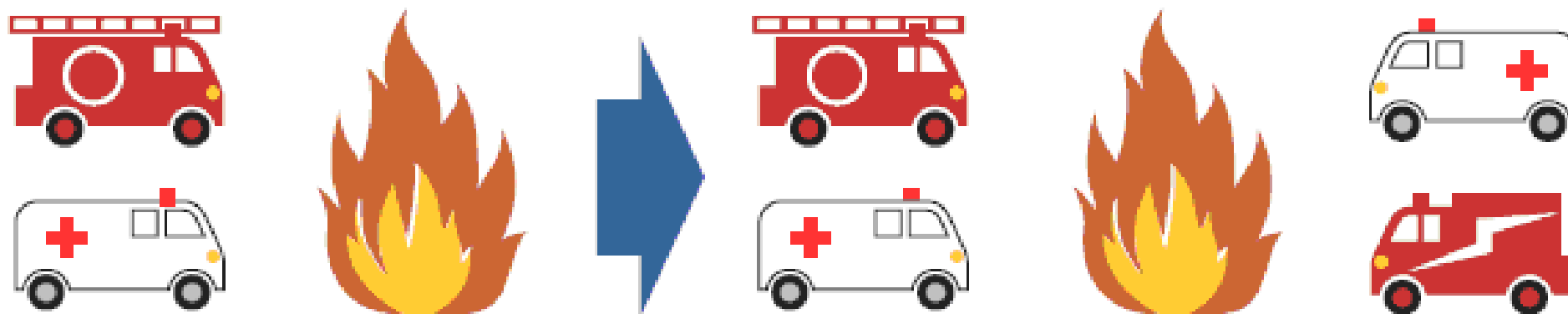
## Example: Fire Services

- The mayor of each municipality is responsible for fire services
- Municipalities establish **partial cooperatives** for dealing with fire services



## Example: Fire Services (Result 1)

- Improved services for residents



One municipality

Partial cooperative

## Example: Fire Services (Result 2)

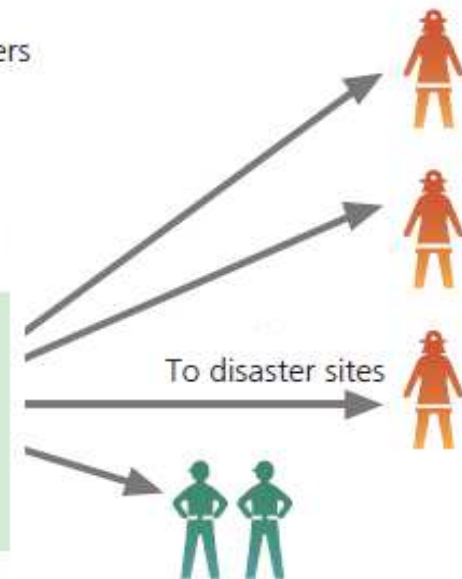
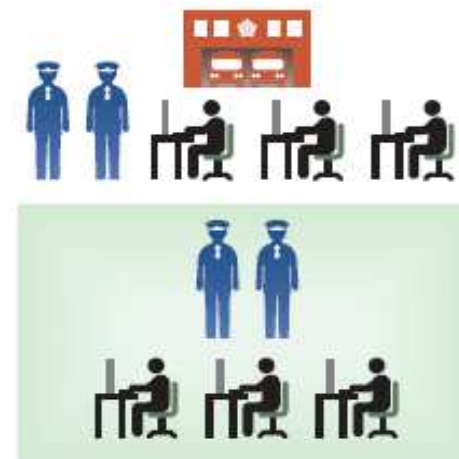
- **More efficient and appropriate deployment of personnel**

One municipality



Partial cooperative

New AB Fire Defense Headquarters



Training of specialist personnel

## Example: Fire Services (Result 3)

### Enhancements of fire prevention services

One municipality



■ Maintain minimal number of vehicles required



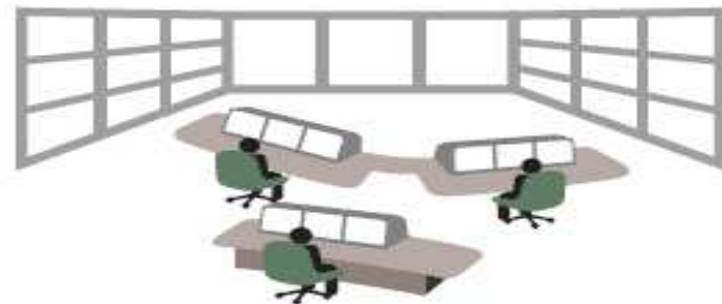
■ Maintain minimal facilities individually

Partial cooperative

New AB Fire Defense Headquarters



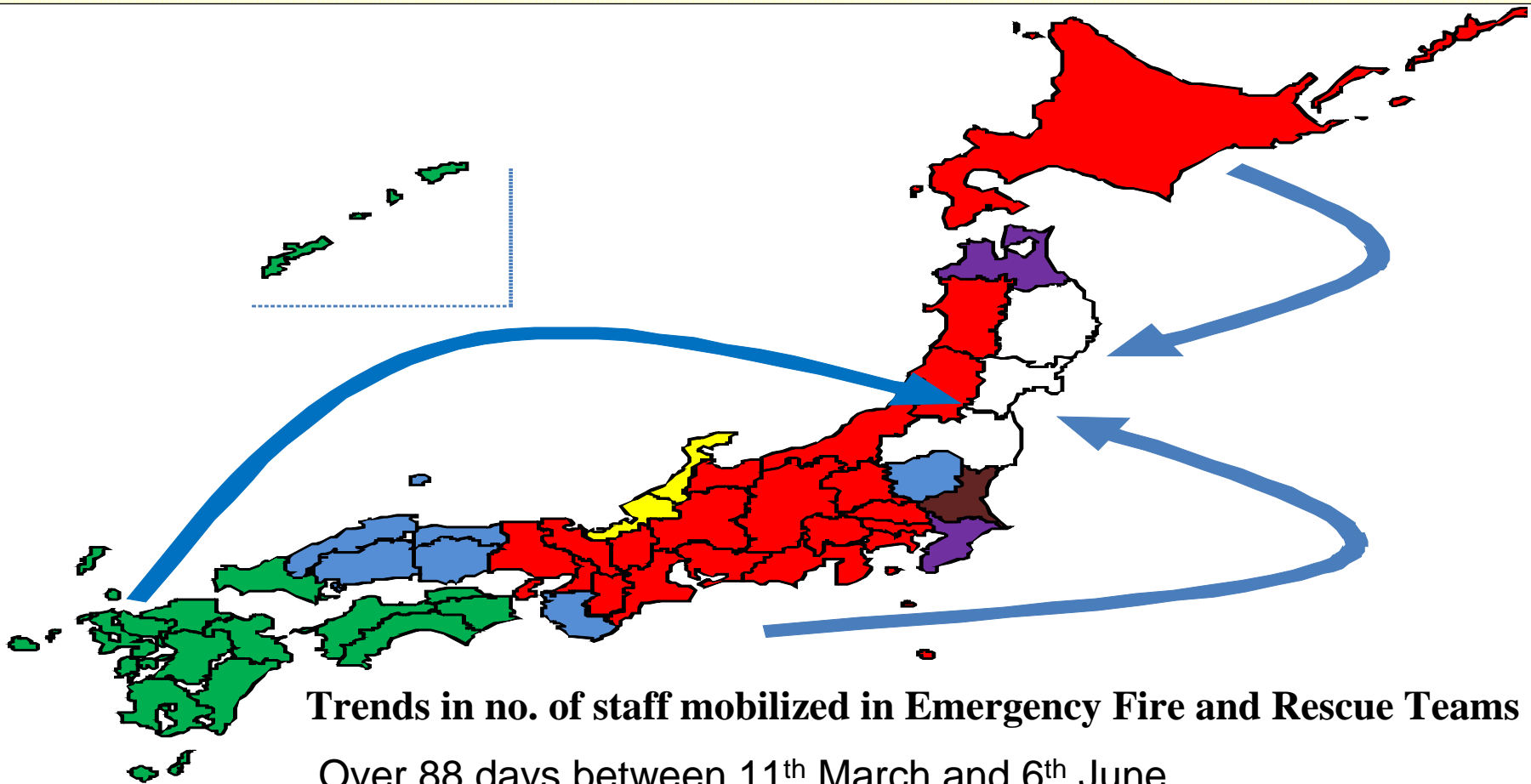
■ Strategic increase in special vehicles possible



■ Unified management of advanced facilities possible

## Emergency Fire and Rescue Teams to the Main Disaster Areas

-Immediately after the earthquake, Emergency Fire and Rescue Teams from 44 other prefectures were instructed to mobilize to the main disaster areas of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures.



### Trends in no. of staff mobilized in Emergency Fire and Rescue Teams

Over 88 days between 11<sup>th</sup> March and 6<sup>th</sup> June

Total no. of staff : 30,684 (8,854 teams)

Total no. of days worked by crew members : 109,919 (31,166 teams)



# Activities of the Emergency Fire and Rescue Teams

## Activities of the Emergency Fire and Rescue Teams (Kessenuma, Miyagi (1))



Outbreak of fire



Hoses extended through the city



Firefighting activities by Team (1)



Firefighting activities by Team (2) Photographs supplied by Tokyo Fire Department



# Activities of the Emergency Fire and Rescue Teams

## Activities of the Emergency Fire and Rescue Teams (Kessenuma, Miyagi (2))



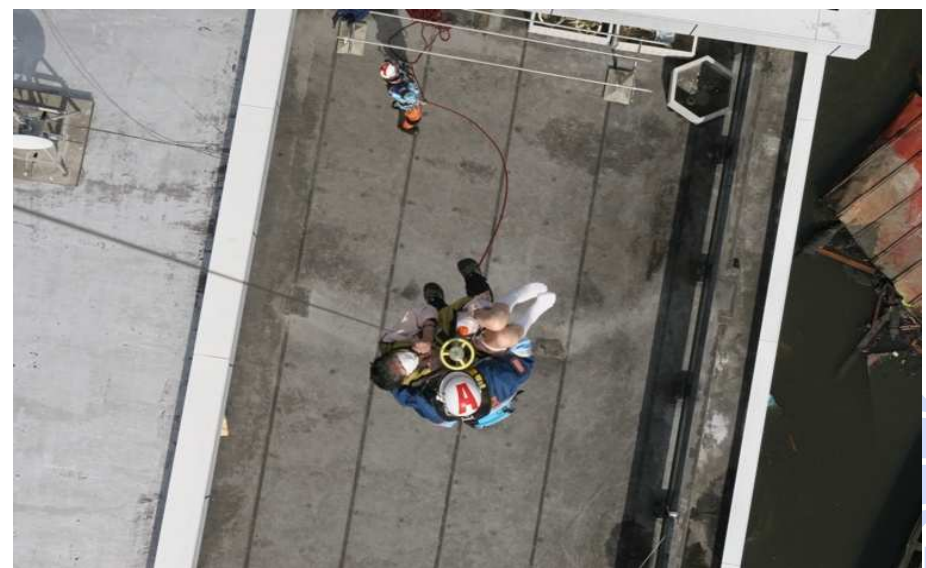
Rescue activities by Team (1)



Rescue activities by Team (2)



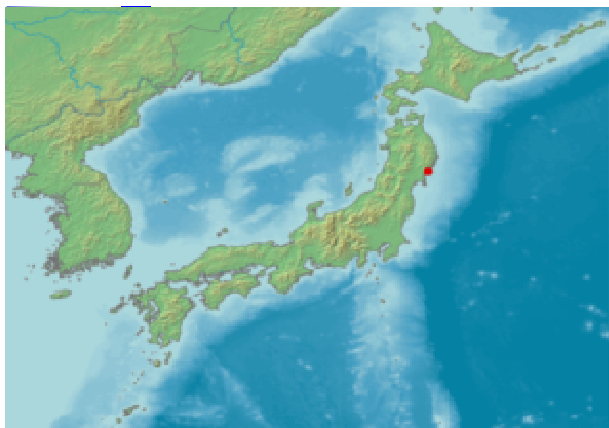
Rescue activities by Team (3)



Rescue activities by Team (4)

Photographs supplied by Tokyo Fire Department

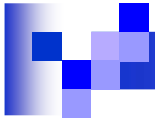




Courtesy of Tokyo Fire Department



**Kesennuma city, Miyagi prefecture. 12 March, 2011**



# Typical problems

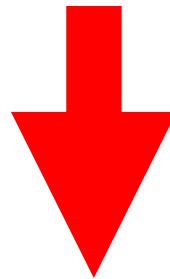
- **How to decide the location of facilities**
- **How to decide the cost sharing between participating municipalities**
- **Lack of responsibility**





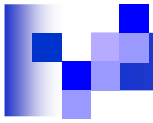
# New ways of regional cooperation

- **The need for a re-evaluation of regional cooperation**
- **Facing an aging society with decreasing population**
- **Necessity of trying to stem the outflow of people from rural areas and create a flow of people into rural areas**



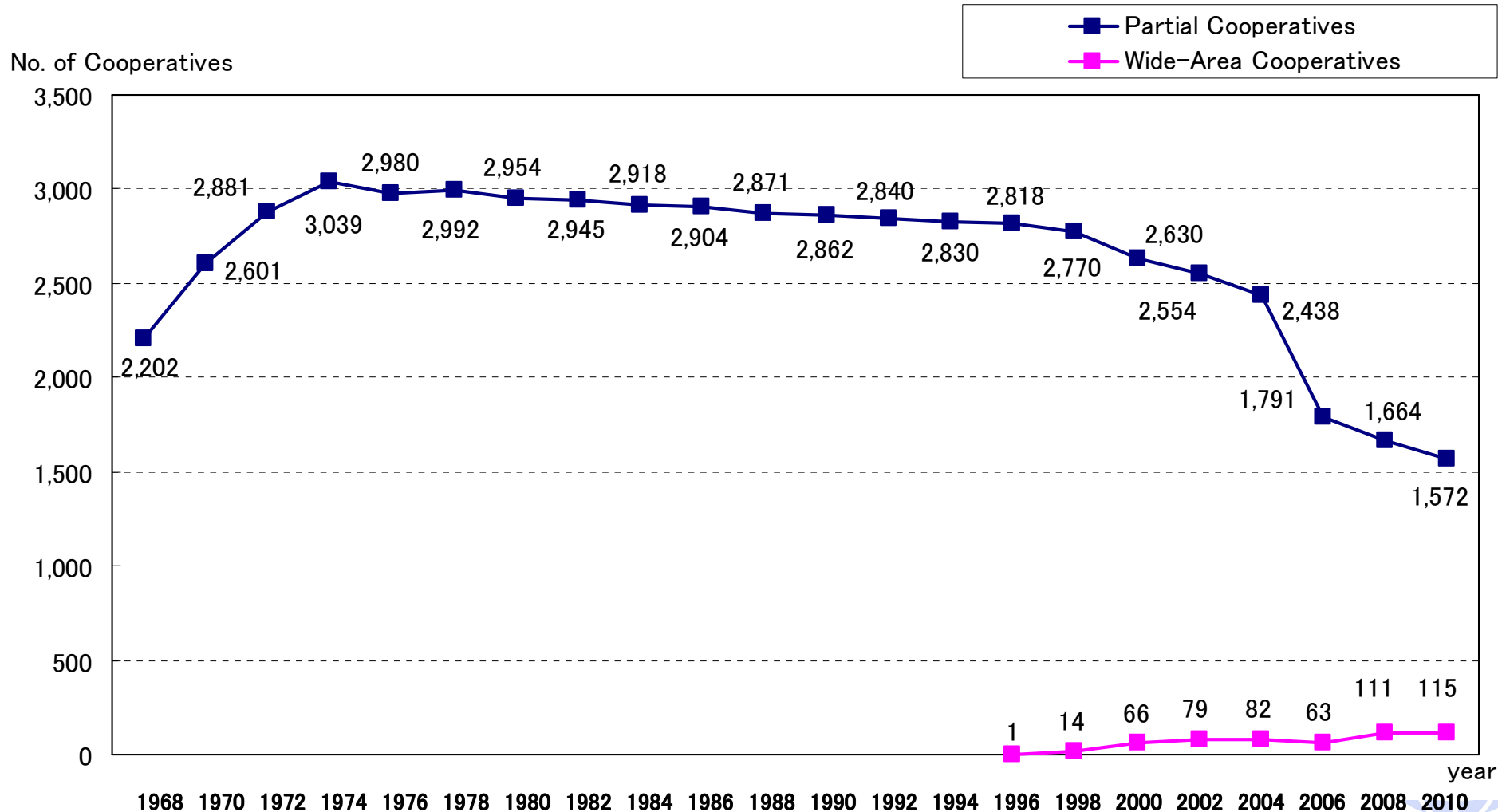
**Concept of Regional Alliances**





# Regional Cooperatives

Chart of the movement in number of Local Public Cooperatives





## How to establish Regional Alliances

- The declaration of a core city (**80** cities)
- One-to-one agreement with the surrounding municipalities (**67** agreements)
- Deciding a shared vision for the future of the regional alliance (**64** visions)



# Image of Regional Alliance

**Core City** ↔ **Surrounding Municipalities**

