

Preface

Japan is setting the pace among the aging societies of the world. People aged 65 and over now make up over one-fifth of the population and in twenty years will reach one-third. How are individual older people faring in this “longevity society?”

“A Profile of Older Japanese,” prepared by the International Longevity Center-Japan (ILC-Japan), is a compilation of data from various ministries of the national government and other sources, along with brief interpretations. It is organized into six sections: “The Aging Population and Aged Society,” “Living Arrangements,” “Health Status,” “Family and Long-Term Care,” “Economic Status,” and “The New-Old and Social Participation.”

ILC-Japan hopes this information will be helpful in understanding the implications of population aging in Japan and in general. We welcome questions as well as suggestions for future editions of this report.

Finally, our special thanks go to the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare for its help in publishing this report.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the following persons who were responsible for the general supervision and compilation of information for this project.

John Creighton Campbell
Nora O'Brien
Yasuhiro Oda
Masanobu Masuda
Tetsuya Aman

Ruth Campbell
Yumiko Watanabe
Yoshiko Yamada
Michiko Mukuno

Susan Long
Masako Osako
Aya Sasaki
Shuichi Nakamura

March 31, 2009

Shigeo Morioka
President
ILC-Japan

The Aging Population and Aged Society

