Introduction:
Why Minamata now?
~Learning from Minamata ~

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Figure 1: Japan’s Post-WWII GDP growth

Japan's GDP growth rate and per capita GDP

Year

Million Yen

GDP Growth

Per Capita GDP

0.5 mY

4 mY

Figure 2: School Enrolment Rate for Secondary and Tertiary Education in Japan

- Pursuit of higher education
  - Higher secondary and tertiary education
    - School Enrolment Rate (SER) for University From 10% to 50%
    - SER for High School from 50% to more than 95%

(Data Source: Basic Surveys on Schools, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)
Figure 3: Life Expectancy at birth in Japan

- Health condition and system improved (see Figure 3)
  - Expected longevity has been upward-trend.
    - Male: 50.1 yrs (1947) ⇒ 78.6 yrs (2005)
    - Female: 53.9 yrs (1947) ⇒ 85.5 yrs (2005)

(Data Source: Life Table, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)
Figure 4: Japanese Overall Life Satisfaction

(Data Source: Survey of Lifestyles and Needs, Cabinet Office)
Figure 5: Trends on Share of Satisfied People and per capita GDP in Japan
Diagram 1: GPI Construction

Adjustments (Social Benefits (+) or Social Costs (-))

[Adjustment items]
- Household & volunteer work
- Income distribution
- Crime and family breakdown
- Resource depletion
- Pollution
- Long-term environmental damage
- Changes in leisure time
- Defensive expenditures
- Life span of consumer durables and public infrastructure
- Dependence on foreign assets

GDP

GPI
Figure 6: Trends on Share of Satisfied People and per capita GPI in Japan

Share of Population with satisfied

Per capita GPI
Learning from Minamata’s experiences

- Rethinking of GDP-based Economic Growth Approach
- External Shock and Demise of Local Community: An Example of Human Security
- Learning from Process for Recovery and Restoration of the Local Community: A Search for Sustainable People-centered Development