

# Enhancing our Role as the “Brains of the Legislature”

30<sup>th</sup> IFLA Library and Research Services for  
Parliaments Section Pre-Conference, Paris

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# Research and Legislative Reference Bureau

- Legislative support organization for the Diet (Parliament)
- Provides two types of research services for Diet Members and committees of both Houses as well as affiliated political parties
- About 190 staff members and 100 policy analysts

# Two Types of Research for the Diet

## Requested Research

- Total 37,000 (FY2013)
- Lectures and meetings 700
- Research reports 6,600
- Information services 28,700

## Anticipatory Research

- Ad hoc research on our own initiative in anticipation of major legislative issues and future research requests
- About 350 articles, 4,100 pages (FY2013)

# Purposes of Anticipatory Research

- Development of resources for future research
- Improvement of our research capabilities
- Expansion of our research capacity

# Objectives 2012-2016

## **Objective 1: In Support of the Diet**

To enhance reliable research and analysis with advanced expertise in public policy issues.

To emphasize prompt and precise information services in providing the Diet with full assistance.

# Strategic Goals

- Enhance external cooperation

To cooperate with research institutions, researchers, and others, both in Japan and abroad, and to utilize their expertise in our research.

To acquire a broad range of materials and information from a variety of sources, and to utilize them in our research for the Diet.

# Major Research Projects

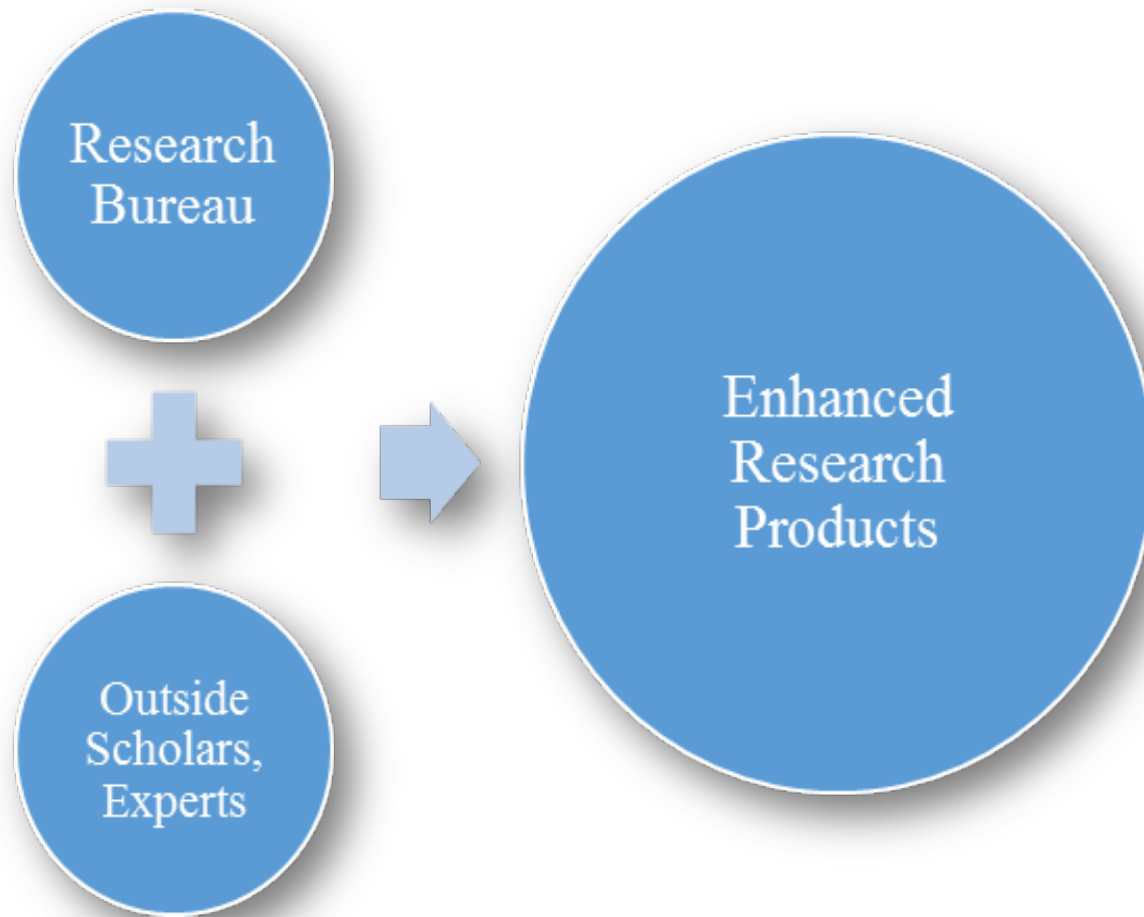
- The Research Bureau undertakes on its own initiative a variety of research projects in collaboration with independent scholars and experts.
- These research projects enable us to expand the scope and quality of our research.

- Research Cooperation Projects
- Interdisciplinary Research Projects
- Foreign Constitution Research Projects
- Science and Technology Research Projects



# Research Cooperation Projects

- Carried out by researchers from one or more research divisions in the Research Bureau in cooperation with independent scholars.



# Interdisciplinary Research Projects

- Conducted on wide-ranging issues in collaboration with guest scholars, who contribute different perspectives and research methods.

Year	Subject
2001-2002	Emergency Measures Taken by Local Communities and Residents against Large-Scale Natural Disasters: Focusing on the Disaster Caused by the Oyama Volcano on Miyakejima Island from 2000
2002	Emergency Management in Major Countries
2002-2003	U.S. Reform from the 1980s: Implications for Structural Reform in Japan
2003-2004	Aging Society with Fewer Children
2004-2005	Regional Revitalization: Creation of Communities with their own Characteristics by Decentralization and Autonomy
2006	Agenda for Peace-Building Support Activities
2005-2006	EU Enlargement: Organizations, Policies and Issues
2006-2007	Problems of Immigration Policy and Foreign Workers Policy in a Depopulating Society
2007-2008	Attempt at a Solution for Juvenile Problems
2008	First Year of the Rudd Government of Australia
2008-2009	Policy Issues of Japan in International Comparison
2009	Toward Establishing a Sustainable Society
2010	China in Global System
2011-2012	Regeneration of Japan through Technology and Culture
2012-2013	Japan-U.S. Relations Reconsidered
2013	Decentralization in the 21st Century: Implication for the Doshusei Regional System Plan

# Foreign Constitution Research Projects

- Focus on comparative analysis of constitutions from various countries.
- Has published translations of the constitutions of Sweden, Ireland, Austria, Canada, Greece, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Portugal.

# Science and Technology Research Projects

- Comprehensive policy study projects performed in collaboration with independent think tanks and experts.

## NDL Research



Planning Committee  
Visiting Scholars  
Researchers of the Research  
Bureau



## Research Products

## Contractor Research



Think Tank  
Research Committee  
Scholars



## Research Products

# Conclusion

- Diet Members are in need of comprehensive, cross-disciplinary, non-partisan, professional research and analysis on a wide range of policy issues as well as information on various policy options.



- The Research Bureau is responding to these needs by enhancing both our research capabilities and the quality of our research through collaboration with independent experts and scholars.
- The major research projects enable us to collect a wider range of information and to improve our analysis and quality of research.

# Thank You