



How local governments in Japan attract young couples and families to their regions

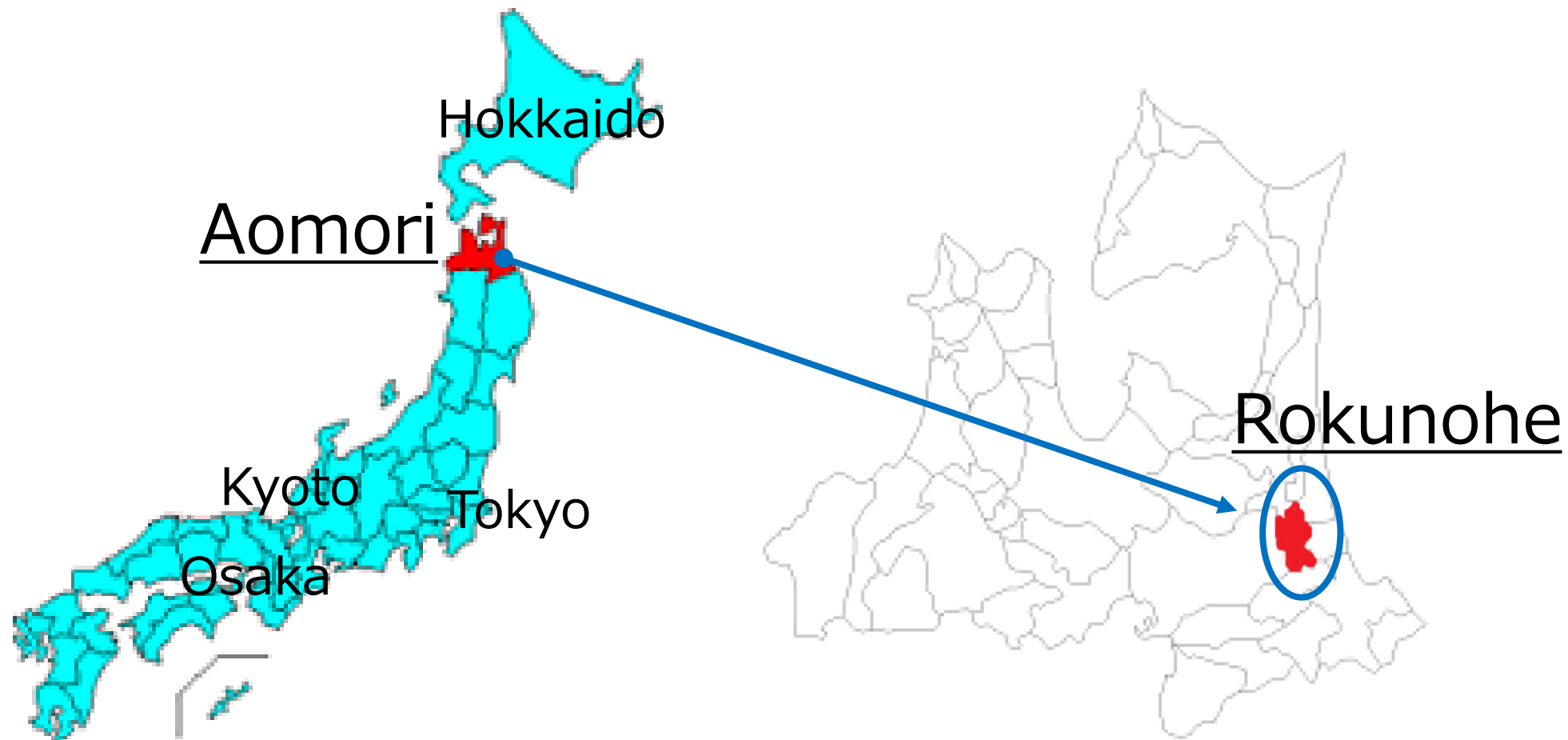
22/2/2017 wed.

Yu Kawamura
Assistant Director
CLAIR Sydney

Intro

- 1 . About Rokunohe town
- 2 . Relocation Support Policies in Rokunohe
- 3 . Measures
 - 1) Medical subsidies for infants & children
 - 2) Relocation support for young couples and families
 - 3) Financial support for construction of new housing
- 4 . Results
- 5 . Next steps

About Rokunohe town



About Rokunohe town

- Population: Approx. 11,000
- Main industry: Agriculture
- GDP: \$283.5 mil

source : LGs accounts statistics
in Aomori 2014)

- Budget: \$70 mil
\$13 mil tax revenue

source : general account
in Rokunohe 2015



Relocation Support Policies in Rokunohe

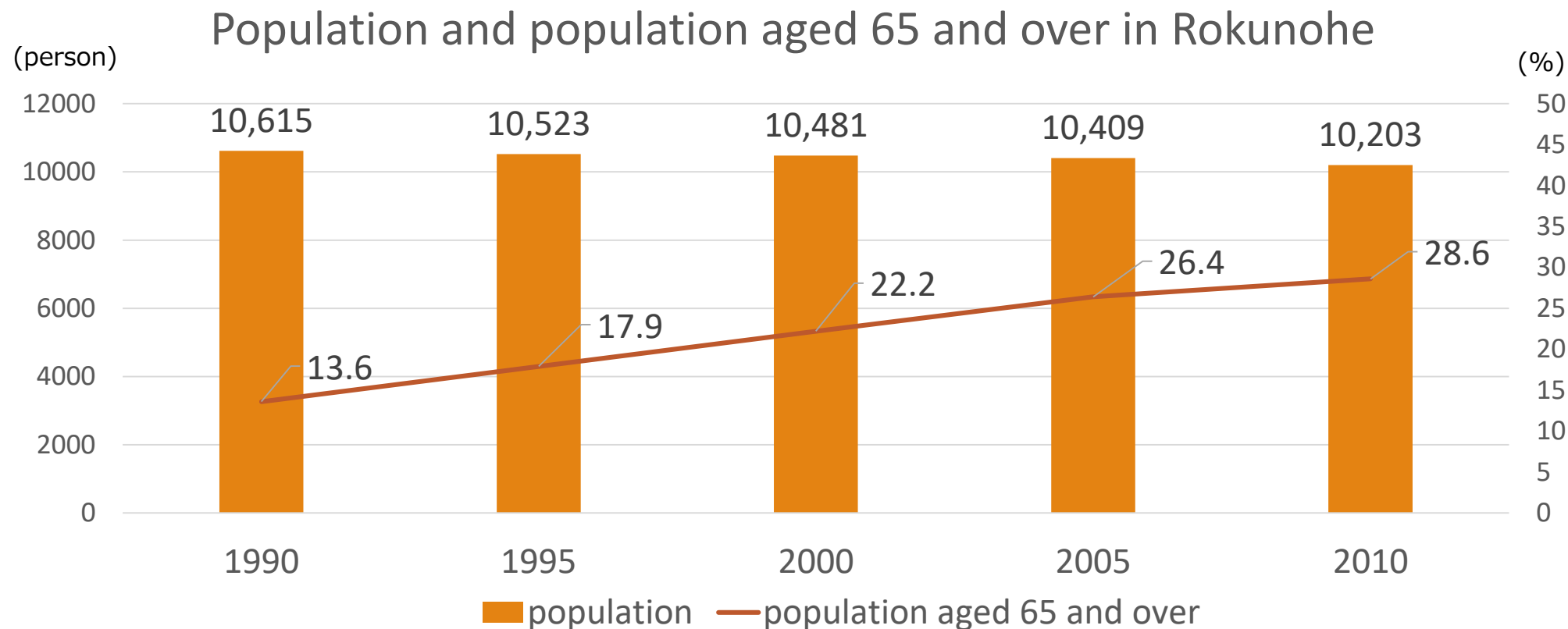
- Ageing population and declining birthrate in Regional Japan



Topic: 「Vanishing LGs!!!!」

The number of LGs will halve by 2040

Relocation Support Policies in Rokunohe



Source : residential affairs section of Rokunohe town office



Relocation Support Policies in Rokunohe

Prompted Rokunohe to develop own policies to curb depopulation

Relocation Support Policy

⇒ Prompted policies to help young couples & families to relocate in Rokunohe

Measures

1) Medical subsidies for infants & children

- Support for out-of-pocket expenses from the national health insurance program

- ※ Out-of-pocket medical expenses

- 0 to 6 age : 20%, 6 to 15 age : 30%

- Out-of-pocket → Free! \$ 0**

- Commenced in 2008
- Children aged 15 and under
- Scope: medicine, tests and services covered by the national health insurance program

Measures

1) Medical subsidies for infants & children

- Average annual medical expenses per child

Age	Out of Pocket
0 to 4	\$430
5 to 9	\$314
10 to 14	\$244
15 to 19	\$291

**Rokunohe will pay
for these expenses!**

※1 AUD≐86 JPY

source : September 2015 report from Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Families with two children ⇒ save around \$700 annually

key : an environment that gives young families peace of mind



Measures

2) Relocation support for young couples and families

- Rental assistance for young couples & families
- Commenced in 2009
- Maximum of approx. \$230/month for two years
- Eligibility :
 - **Married couples younger than 40**
 - Agree to rent property for two years
 - All parties register as residents
 - Pay taxes on time

※ All subsidies must be paid back if rental term is less than two years

Measures

2) Relocation support for young couples and families

- Average monthly rent in Japan (1 room=approx. 45m²)

Aomori Prefecture: \$616

→correspond to approximately
37% of monthly rent!!!

※Tokyo: \$1,442

※The financial assistance (\$230)
is similar to the subsidy from
workplaces

The impact is quite large!!

Ex) \$616 (monthly rent)

- \$230 (Rokunohe)

- \$230 (workplace)

= \$156

Measures

2) Relocation support for young couples and families

- Approx. 2 per cent population growth(2010~2016)
→ move in 218 person
- To help people have the opportunity to live in Rokunohe
- Support for two years as young couples and families transition from rental property to their own new home
→ Financial support for construction of new housing

Measures

3) Financial support for construction of new housing

○ Financial assistance to partially offset housing construction costs

○ Commenced in 2011

○ Amount : Three per cent of housing construction costs
(up to approx. \$5,800)

Young couples under 40 get an additional \$1,160

○ Eligibility : • Resident registration for their new property
• Agree to live in property for at least three years
• Pay taxes on time

※ All subsidies must be paid back if residents leave new property in less than three years

Measures

3) Financial support for construction of new housing

- Approx. 4.8 per cent population growth(2011~2015)
→ move in 504 person
- increase in new housing construction since 2011

table: a number of new housing construction

year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
number	31	48	65	82	84	62	78
%	100	154	194	265	271	200	252

source : Tax section of Rokunohe town office

Results

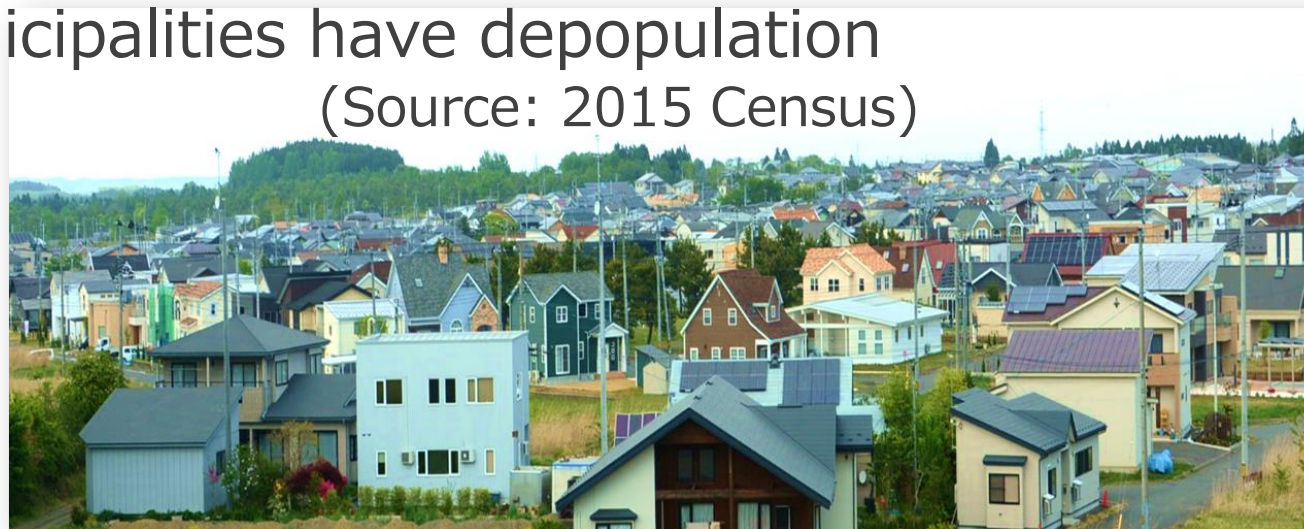
○Population Growth

10,524 people (in 2011) \Rightarrow 10,901 people (in 2016)

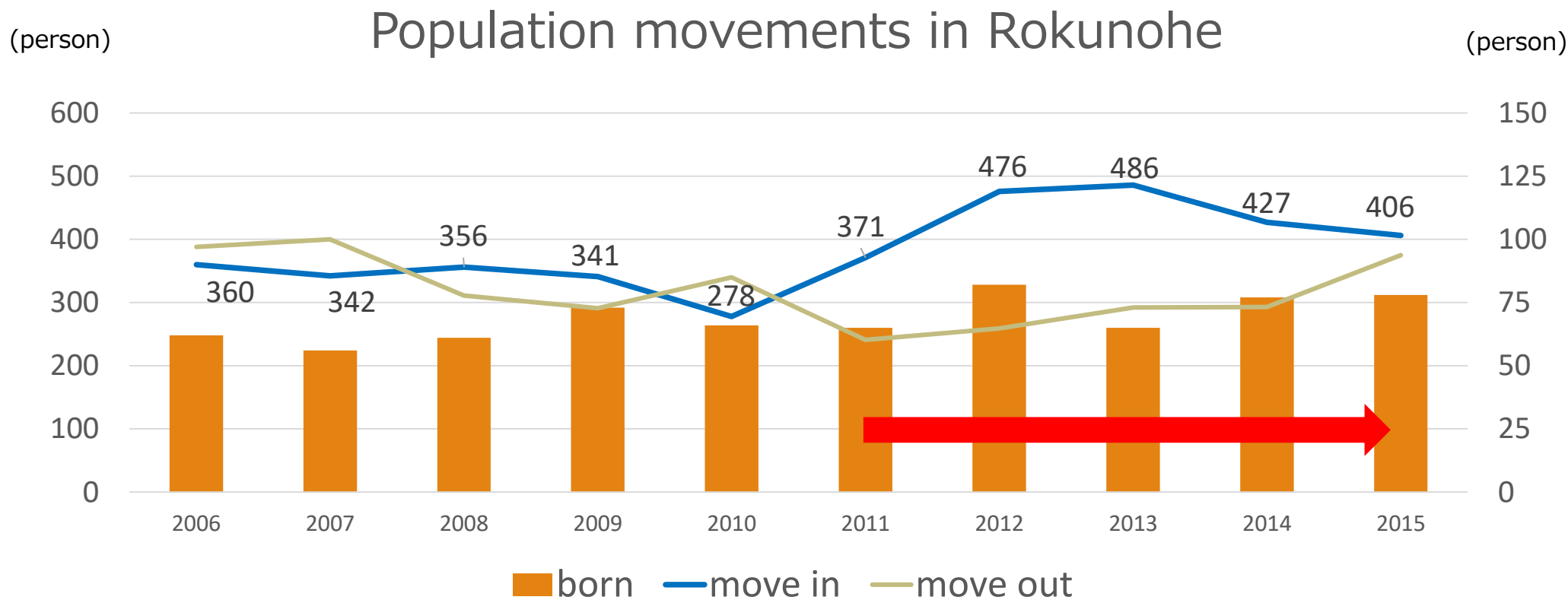
net increase 3.5 % (377 people)

82.4% of 1,719 municipalities have depopulation
(Source: 2015 Census)

put up a good fight!



Results



source : residential affairs section of Rokunohe town office

Next steps

However... This result is only fleeting...

- We consider that we cannot go against the flow the overall population decline in all of Japan

Importance for the future

- the goals you set yourselves are realistic.

ご清聴ありがとうございました!

at burdock farm

