

## **JAPAN**

Politics and Youth in Japan: Changes after the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster, 2011

The Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster took more than 15,000 people's lives, and still more than 2,500 missing persons are yet to be found. It was the unprecedented catastrophe. However, it brought not only sad song but also hopeful changes, energetic youth activities. It is said that Japanese youth have not been interested in politics. Actually, the voting rate in youth is about 20% lower than the average. You cannot find anti-government movement by youth in this country. They look compliant and unpolitical. This essay shows these images are incorrect. From the World Values Survey, Japanese youth has the same political concerns as other developed countries, but less sense of political efficiency. In this situation, Japanese youth did not do a lot in politics. The Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster drastically changes their mind. Thanks to a "more relaxed education policy" since the beginning of this century, the youth tried to move not by politics but for the public. Now 6 years has past, we can find a number of youth activities in Japan.