

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910791185303321
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Titolo	Public Policy and the Old Age Revolution in Japan // by Scott Bass, Masato Oka, Jill Norton and Robert Morris Deceased*
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Boca Raton, FL : , : Taylor and Francis, an imprint of Routledge, , [2014] ©1996
ISBN	1-317-94889-0 1-138-98425-6 1-315-86250-6 1-317-94890-4
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (212 p.)
Disciplina	362.6/0951 362.60951
Soggetti	Older people - Government policy - Japan Older people - Services for - Japan Older people - Japan
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"Has also been published as Journal of aging & social policy, volume 8, numbers 2/3 1996"--T.p. verso.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references at the end of each chapters and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half Title; Title Page; Copyright Page; Table of Contents; Introduction: Japan's Aging Society; Health and Social Care; The Health Status of Elderly People and the New Direction of Health Services; Japan's Financing System for Health Care of the Elderly; Paying for the Health and Social Care of the Elderly; Work and Retirement; An Overview of Work, Retirement, and Pensions in Japan; The Challenge of an Aging Work Force: Keeping Older Workers Employed and Employable; Policies for a Smoother Transition from Work to Retirement Between Policy and Practice: Japan's Silver Human Resource Centers as Viewed from the Inside Social Policy; Implementing Public Policies and Services in Rural Japan: Issues and Problems; Expansion of Formalized In-Home Services for Japan's Aged; Possibilities for Change Toward Universal Design: Japanese Housing Policy for Seniors at the Crossroads; From Transfer to Social Service: A New Emphasis on Social

Sommario/riassunto

Thirty years ago, when compared to the U.S., England, France, and Sweden, Japan had the lowest life expectancy for males and females. Today, Japan has the highest life expectancy and is the world's most rapidly aging society. *Public Policy and the Old Age Revolution in Japan* captures the vitality of Japanese policymakers and the challenges they face in shaping a modern society responding to its changing needs. The rapid transition to an aging society poses a set of complex policy and resource dilemmas; the responses taken in Japan are of great value to policymakers, professionals, and students in the fields of gerontology, Asian and Japanese studies, sociology, public policy, administration and management, and anthropology in other industrial aging societies. Readers of *Public Policy and the Old Age Revolution in Japan* will discover the array of social and economic implications that comes with an increasingly aged society. Such a change in demographics affects pension expenditures and pension contributions, capital formation and savings rates, health costs, service systems, tax bases, labor pools, career counseling, training, advertising, and marketing. This book does not stop with these topics, however. Readers also learn about: how older Japanese workers are staying employed and employable policies in Japan for a smooth transition from work to retirement Japan's Silver Human Resource Centers the new direction of health services in Japan the Japanese financing system for elderly health care the expansion of formalized in-home services for Japan's aged Japanese housing policy and the concept of universal design the Gold Plan, a comprehensive ten-year plan to promote health care and welfare for the aged the concept of ikigai--promoting feelings of purpose and self-worth in the aged *Public Policy and the Old Age Revolution in Japan* is one of only a handful of books prepared in English by American and Japanese authors for an international audience about aging and social policy in Japan. The book's recent collection of articles by leading scholars on the subject makes it a unique and timely source of information. Above all, *Public Policy and the Old Age Revolution in Japan* makes it clear that the rest of the world has many valuable lessons to learn by studying Japan's approach to its rapidly aging society.
