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## Announcement of Results for the Wave One Survey in Japan of an International Survey on Values during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, the “Values in a Crisis Survey”

—It is because “Japanese people are prone to anxiety” that they aim for a “stable society”—

Professor Naoko Taniguchi and Visiting Research Fellow Dr. Plamen Akaliyski of the Keio University Graduate School of System Design and Management (SDM; Kohoku Ward, Yokohama) and Associate Professor Joonha Park of the Nagoya University of Commerce & Business (NUCB; Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture) Business School conducted the wave one survey in Japan for the “Values in a Crisis Survey”<sup>\*1</sup> on May 15 and May 16, 2020. The survey was conducted during the period when Japan was split into regions for which the emergency declaration was in force (Hokkaido Prefecture, Tokyo Prefecture, Saitama Prefecture, Chiba Prefecture, Kanagawa Prefecture, Osaka Prefecture, Kyoto Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture) and regions where the declaration had been lifted, and it revealed the experiences and anxieties of Japanese people regarding COVID-19, the level of trust in the national government, local government leaders, medical professionals, and the media, and future predictions for the country, society, and the economy. Below is an outline of the survey results:

- (1) **The impact of COVID-19 on health, work, and the home (hereinafter “corona-related experiences”)** is being experienced more by younger generations and residents of prefectures where the emergency declaration was in force.
- (2) **Anxiety is high for people who have had corona-related experiences, for people ordinarily prone to anxiety, and for people who have a low sense of well-being.**
- (3) **People who feel anxiety regarding COVID-19 have low feelings of trust in the national government, local government leaders, medical professionals, and the media.**
- (4) **Although there are some people who feel a greater sense of solidarity than normal with others, persons who are feeling anxious tend to view other people somewhat more severely.**
- (5) **There are strong feelings of anxiety regarding the possibility of becoming infected in the future as well as the direction of the country and economy hereafter. Additionally, there is a call for a society with a stable economy and welfare system.**

Wave two and wave three surveys will be conducted in the future in the “with/post-corona” periods.

### 1. Background of research: overview of survey

Dr. Christian Welzel, Vice-President of the World Values Survey Association (WVSA) that has continuously implemented the “World Values Survey” in approximately 100 countries and regions, launched an international survey on values during the COVID-19 pandemic, the

“Values in a Crisis Survey.” A Japanese team conducted a wave one survey online, sampling 3000 adults who reside across Japan during the period when the country was split into regions for which the emergency declaration was in force (Hokkaido Prefecture, Tokyo Prefecture, Saitama Prefecture, Chiba Prefecture, Kanagawa Prefecture, Osaka Prefecture, Kyoto Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture) and regions where the emergency declaration had been lifted (mid-May 2020; survey company: Research and Development, Inc.). The gender, age, and residential area distributions of respondents is in line with the national census.

## 2. Research results: survey results

### (1) Experiences regarding COVID-19 (corona-related experiences)

Of the people who responded to the survey, 5.1% said they had “experienced mild symptoms suspected to be an infection,” 3.2% had “lost their jobs,” 9.5% had their “part-time work reduced,” 19% had “worked remotely (telework),” and 9.9% had looked after their children at home (due to the closure of schools, kindergartens, etc.)

Although male respondents had more experiences of either themselves or their friends becoming infected or suffering from symptoms, there was a trend for female respondents to have more experiences of job loss, reduced working hours, or looking after their children at home. For younger generations, there was a somewhat significant trend regarding the perceived impact on health and work, while remote work (telework) is advancing. It appears that people residing in prefectures where the emergency declaration was in force experienced more of an impact than residents of regions where the declaration had been lifted.

Table 1 By attribute: Experiences and impacts of COVID-19 (%)

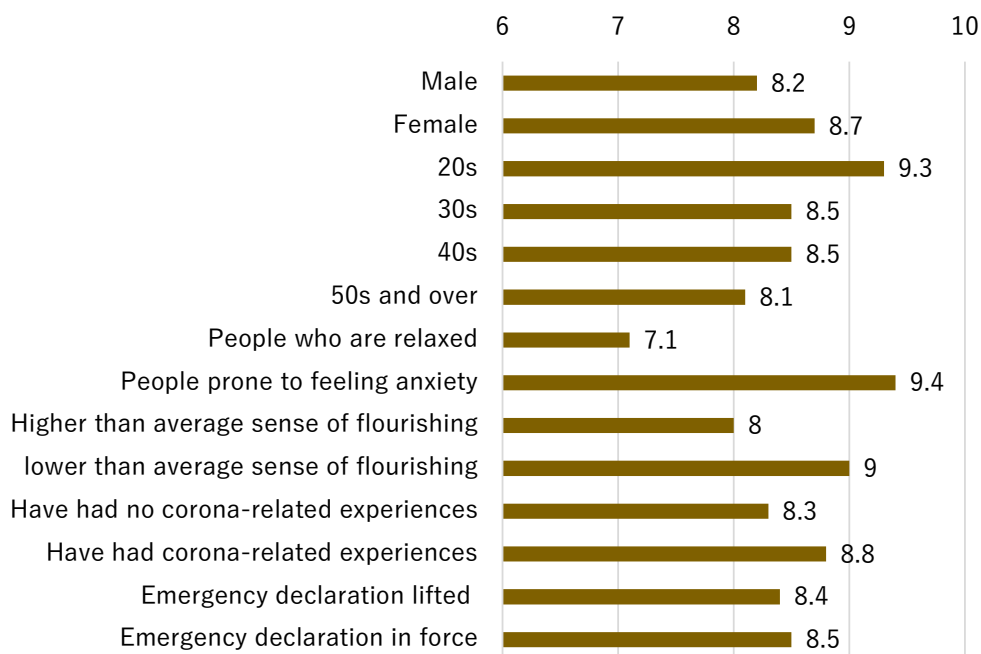
Experiences regarding COVID-19 (%)	All	Male	Female	20s	30s	40s	50s+	Emergency declaration in force	Emergency declaration lifted
Experienced mild symptoms suspected to be an infection	5.1	5.5	4.7	3.6	5.9	4.4	5.6	5.7	4.2
Experienced severe symptoms suspected to be an infection	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.3	0	0	0.2	0.1
Experienced mild symptoms and tested positive	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.2
Experienced severe symptoms and tested positive	0.1	0.1	0	0.2	0	0.1	0	0.1	0.1
Tested negative	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5
People close to me have or had mild symptoms.	2.2	2.1	2.3	3.6	3.2	1.9	1.4	2.5	1.9
People close to me have or had severe symptoms.	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.3	1.3	0.7	0.5	1.2	0.4
Lost job	3.2	2.7	3.7	4.5	2	2.6	3.5	3.5	2.8
Had to close business	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4	1.0
Part-time working hours were reduced	9.5	5.2	13.8	15.4	7.6	9.0	8.5	10.0	8.9
Worked remotely (telework)	19.0	23.7	14.2	23.5	21.6	19.5	15.7	23.4	13.5
Looked after my children at home	9.9	6.3	13.4	5.1	16.3	16.1	5.1	10.8	8.7

## (2) Individual differences in “anxiety, depression, loneliness,” etc., during the COVID-19 crisis

In the first half of May, approximately 60% of people had a feeling of “anxiety and nervousness,” 40% “worry,” “depression,” and a “loss of motivation,” and 30% “loneliness.”

Comparing the sum values of responses (5 being the lowest, 20 being the highest) to these five items (“I was never troubled=1,” “I was troubled for several days=2,” “I was troubled for a week or more=3,” “I was troubled almost every day=4”) revealed a tendency for a high total value of anxiety among females, people in their twenties, “people ordinarily prone to anxiety”<sup>\*2</sup>, people whose sense of continuous well-being<sup>\*3</sup> was lower than the average for the respondents, and people who have had corona-related experiences as detailed in the preceding section (impact on health, work, and the home).

Figure 1 Anxiety (sum values)



## (3) Trust in the national government, local government leaders, medical professionals, private corporations, and the media

Of those people who expressed trust in various groups (total number of people who responded “I somewhat trust them” and “I really trust them”), 76.2% trusted medical professionals and specialists, 54.6% private corporations, 52.2% local government leaders, 37% the media (news outlets), and 35.2% the national government. Male respondents tended to trust the national government, while female respondents tended to trust medical professionals, specialists, and the media. A tendency for somewhat higher trust in the national government and the media was seen among residents of regions where the emergency declaration had been lifted. It was shown that there was generally a high feeling of trust among people in their fifties or older, of which trust in medical professionals was especially robust. Additionally, people who have had corona-related experiences also appear to have increased feelings of trust toward medical professionals and the media. People with feelings of anxiety generally had low feelings of trust, and this trend was especially noticeable toward corporations and politicians (national and local).

Furthermore, when comparing trust in traditional media such as television and newspapers with trust in social media including Twitter and Facebook, although as a whole nearly half of the respondents placed greater trust in traditional media, there was a tendency to trust in social media more among younger people.

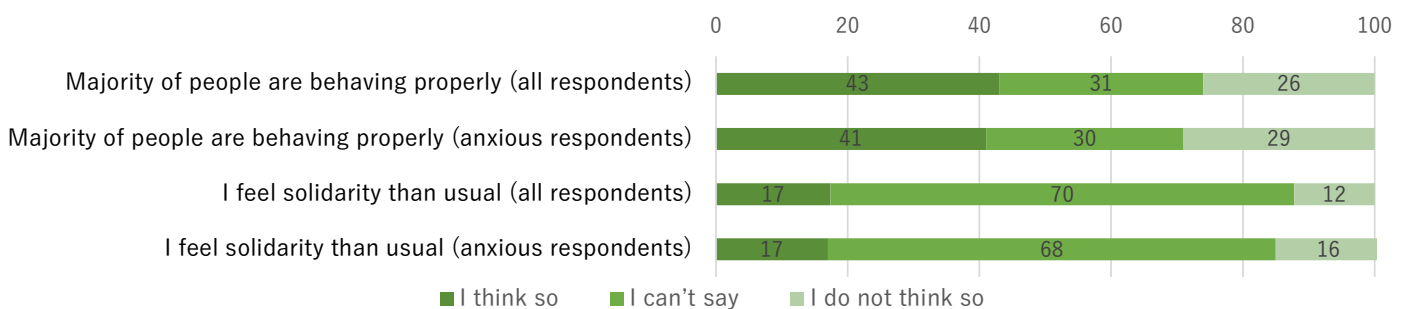
Table 2 By attribute and position: Ratio (%) of “people trusting each institution or body”

Trust in each group (%)	Gender		Age				Was impacted by COVID-19		Anxiety		Emergency declaration	
	Male	Female	20s	30s	40s	50s+	Was impacted by COVID-19	Was not impacted by COVID-19	Recently felt anxiety	No feelings of anxiety	Emergency declaration in force	Emergency declaration lifted
National government	39	32	34	34	33	37	35	35	33	39	34	37
Local government leaders	52	52	50	46	50	58	52	52	50	55	52	53
Medical professionals, specialists	74	78	67	69	76	83	78	75	76	76	76	76
Private corporations	54	56	48	50	52	61	55	54	52	58	55	54
Media, news outlets	35	40	30	28	35	45	38	36	37	37	36	38

#### (4) Evaluation of other people’s behavior and feelings of solidarity

43% of all respondents said, “I think the majority of Japanese people are behaving appropriately during the COVID-19 crisis,” while 26% responded, “I do not think so.” 17% of all respondents said, “Recently, I feel a greater sense of solidarity than normal when I meet other people,” and 12% responded, “I do not feel any sense of solidarity.” It was shown that more people had positive feelings regarding others during the crisis; however, there is a somewhat more severe evaluation of others when limited to the responses of “people who have felt anxiety for the last two weeks,” with an increase to 29% for “I do not think the majority of Japanese people are behaving appropriately” and to 16% for “I do not feel any sense of solidarity.”

Figure 2 Other people are behaving properly/feel more solidarity than usual(%)

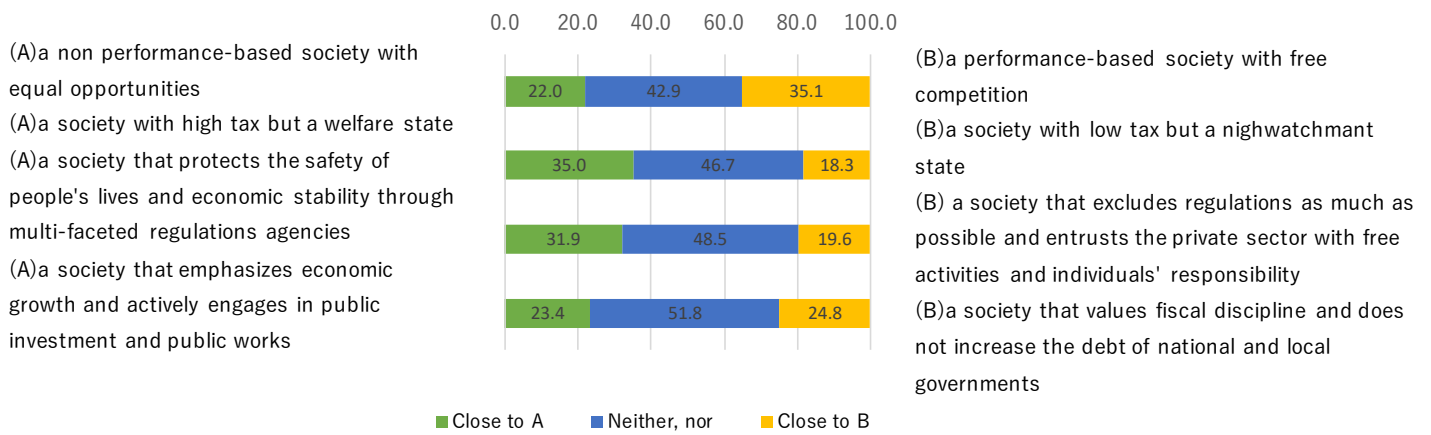


#### (5) Outlook for the individual, country, economy, and society in the “with/post-corona” eras.

At the time of the survey in mid-May, many respondents were worried about the future, with 73% of people fearing that they themselves or their loved ones would be infected by or suffer greatly from COVID-19, while 72% of people feared suffering under a future recession. Additionally, 46% of people thought that “Japan would be in a severely damaged state after the COVID-19 crisis has passed,” compared to only 8% who thought that Japan would “become

very strong,” which again shows a pessimistic outlook. Many people had expectations for an economic recovery or were of the opinion that economic growth should take precedence over environmental protection, and there was also a desire for solving problems through science and technology. As for the direction Japan should take in the future, there was a tendency to desire a society, which although values free competition, has a comprehensive welfare system in place, even if this meant higher taxation, and for which the state would take a lead on the safety of its citizens and the stability of the economy. With the expanding scale of fiscal packages for measures against COVID-19, opinion was divided on whether economic growth through public investment, etc., should be emphasized or whether or not fiscal discipline should be considered.

Figure 3 Direction that Japan should head in the future (%)



### 3. Summary and future developments (wave two and wave three surveys)

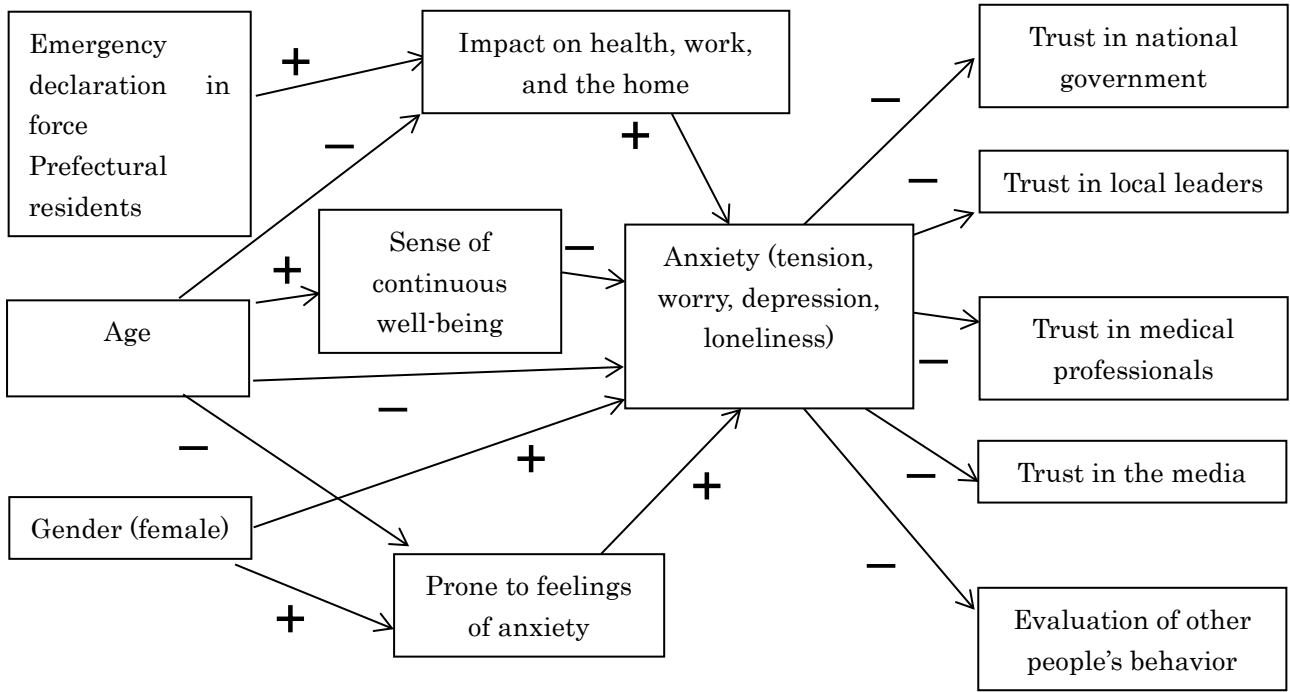
When the results of the structure of the impact of anxiety and mistrust due to COVID-19 are shown as a result of a sequential path analysis as in figure 4 (displaying statistically significant relationships at the 5% level only; “+” indicates relationships with increasing trends in the direction of the arrow, “-” indicates decreasing trends), a trend was found in which younger people and residents of prefectures where the emergency declaration was in force experience the impact of COVID-19 on health, work, and the home more. Furthermore, there was a tendency among people who had experienced these impacts, people who are ordinarily more prone to anxiety, and people with a low sense of continuous well-being to be have more worries related to COVID-19 (e.g., nervousness, depression, or loneliness).

There is a tendency among people with greater levels of anxiety to have low feelings of trust in the national government, local government leaders, medical professionals, and the media, and to strictly evaluate the behavior of other people. It is thought that the background to the low level of trust viewed internationally expressed by Japanese people regarding the responses of various bodies to the COVID-19 crisis is this “high level of anxiety.”

At the same time, positive feelings such as a greater sense of solidarity than normal when evaluating the behavior of other people during the COVID-19 crisis were also seen. Furthermore, a desire to try and aim toward a country with a stable economy and welfare system was also discernible, even if this resulted in a greater societal burden (taxation, etc.). In other words, our wish at the moment may be “to reduce anxiety regarding COVID-19 and

to create a stable society together.” Comparing these results with the data from other countries, wave two and wave three surveys will be conducted in the future to learn the characteristics and behavior of Japanese people in the “with/post-corona” eras as well as their stance toward the future.

Figure 4 “Impact” and “anxiety” of COVID-19 leads to “mistrust”



[Notes]

\*1: For details of the international survey on values during the COVID-19 pandemic, “Values in a Crisis Survey,” refer to the relevant page on the “World Values Survey” website. (Accessed: July 14,2020)

URL: <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSEventsShow.jsp?ID=416>

\*2: Measurement of “emotional instability (neuroticism)” (prone to feelings of anxiety and disposition that makes it difficult to relax) among the five personality traits called the “Big Five” in psychology. Refer to “*Big Five Handbook* (third revised edition)” (Murakami & Murakami, 2017, Chikuma Shobo), etc.

\*3: Measurement using the flourishing (continual prosperity and happiness) scale. Refer to Seligman, M. E., Rashid, T., & Parks, A. C. (2006). Positive psychotherapy. *American Psychologist*. 61, 774-788, etc.

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URL of report: <http://www.sdm.keio.ac.jp/2020/07/21-133726.html>

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