Framework of "Japan Survey on Information Society (JIS)": JIS2001, JIS2002 and JIS2004

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Today the development of information technology (IT) is remarkable and we can see widespread use of IT all over the world. Especially in Japan, such new technologies have permeated into our daily life in these years. What do these technologies bring to us now and in our future? To explore this point, we carried out national surveys about information society, that is, "Japan Survey on Information Society (JIS)".

We have already made a series of surveys on 2001, 2002, and 2004. In this session, our team presents five analyses from JIS surveys. At the first of our presentations, we report the framework of JIS surveys and give you the map for the subsequent presentations.

JIS surveys intend to explore the cultural, psychological, and social effects of IT in Japan as the information society. To monitor and analysis these effects, we designed our surveys on the basis of five theoretical concerns: Monitoring of diffusion of IT use, the relationship between IT use and social stratification, the effects on working conditions of diffusion of IT, the changes of values in information society, and the interaction among contemporary social changes.

From the analyses of JIS surveys, we confirmed that there exists differences of use rate of IT among social stratifications and that IT use affected people's working conditions, values and social networks. In such situation, the thoughts of Japanese people toward IT showed ambiguity. We succeeded to monitor the diffusion of IT use. But in the previous paper, we argued that there were differences of use rate of IT but it didn't lead to economical inequality. To confirm whether such differences, effects of and thought about IT produce inequality -- cultural, psychological, or economical-- among people, we need to continue our surveys.