



US-Japan Conference July 2008

# **Social and Work Inclusion Challenges for Persons with TBI and Autism in Japan**

**Reiko Fukatsu**

**Director, Japan National Rehabilitation  
Center for Persons with Disabilities**

2008.07.14@Washington DC



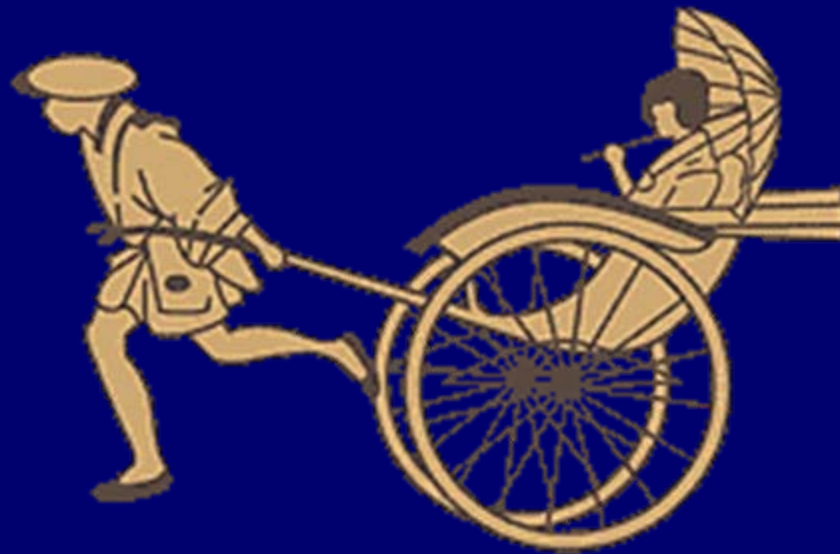
# Who is **Reiko Fukatsu**?

- A neurologist/clinical neuropsychologist
- A director at the Japan National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities since April 2006
- A professor at the Department of Functional Medical Science, Behavioral Neurology and Cognitive Neuroscience at Tohoku University School of Medicine
- A senior member of the national council for the higher brain dysfunction support promotion project at the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare

# An example research

- Proper name anomia after left temporal lobectomy : A patient study; *Fukatsu, Fujii, Tsukiura et al.*; *Neurology* 52 (1999)
- A case report of a patient with a selective deficit in retrieving proper names after left temporal lobectomy
- We found evidence that the rostral part of the left temporal lobe plays a crucial role in processing proper names without involvement of other verbal functions.

# Neuropsychology and Neuroscience



# A research developed from the case report

- Neural Basis of the Retrieval of People's Names: Evidence from Brain-Damaged Patients and fMRI; Tsukiura, Fujii, Fukatsu et al.; J Cognitive Neuroscience 14 (2002)
- Impairments in patients with
  - Lt temporal lobectomy: familiar and newly learned names
  - Rt temporal lobectomy: newly learned name
- Areas in undamaged adult brain where activations are revealed with fMRI:
  - Lt temporal polar region during the retrieval of familiar and newly learned names
  - Rt superior temporal and Blt prefrontal cortices during the retrieval of newly learned names





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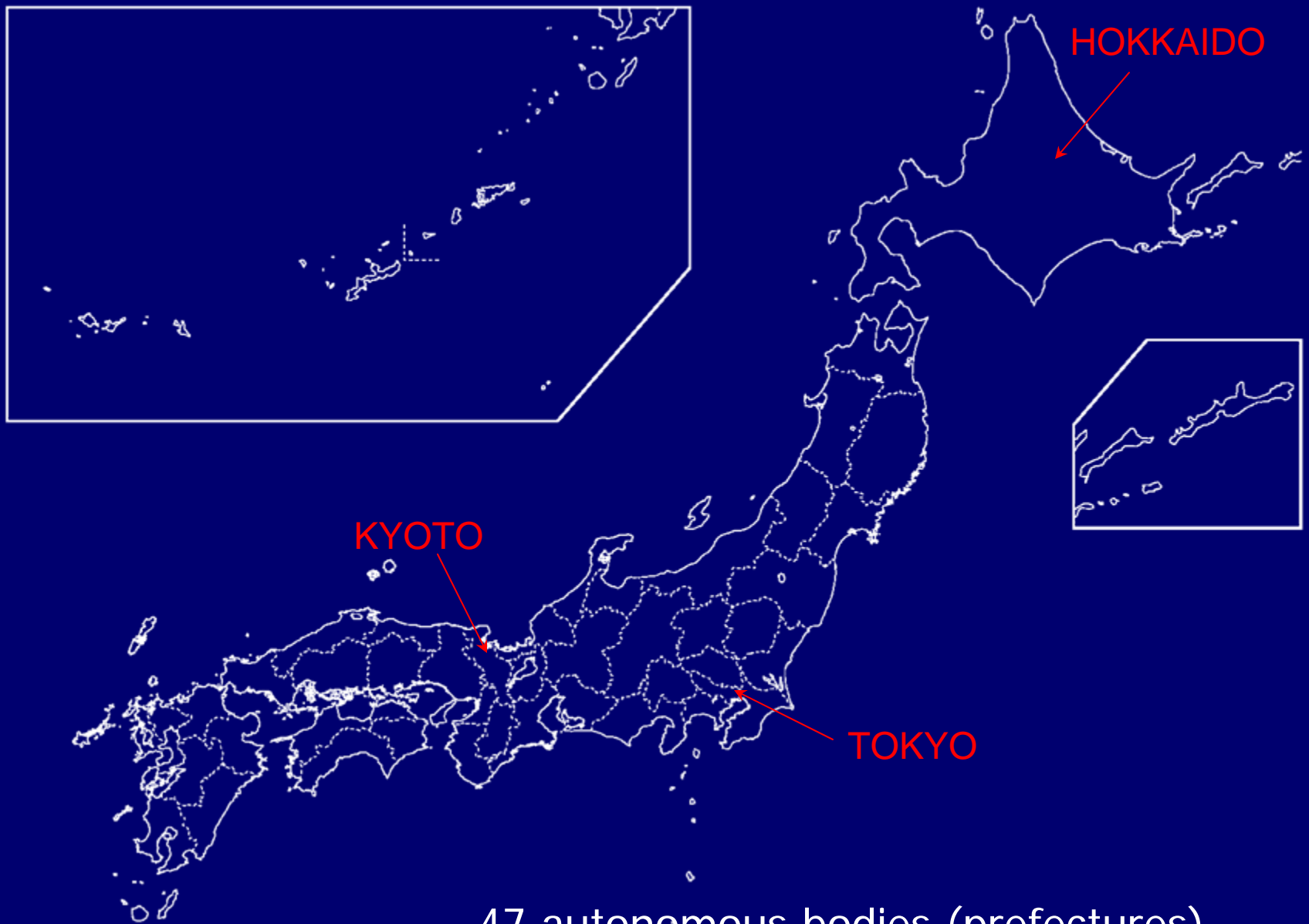
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# Japan National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities

- A facility established by the Ministry of Health and Welfare in 1979 to contribute to the promotion of the welfare of persons with disabilities by providing comprehensive rehabilitation services and by developing rehabilitation techniques
- <http://www.rehab.go.jp/>





47 autonomous bodies (prefectures)



# What is a disability?

- A difficulty in living
  - ICF (International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health)
- A physical, intellectual or mental disability
  - Japanese Disabled Persons Basic Law for Persons with Disabilities 1970 (amended in 2004)

# Development of the higher brain dysfunction support promotion project in Japan

2001 - 2003

Data collection from 10 model prefectures



Development of a guideline for diagnostic criteria

2004 - 2005

Trial implementation of a support system in the model prefectures



Data collection and analysis

2006 -

Establishment of the support system all over Japan under a newly-enacted law



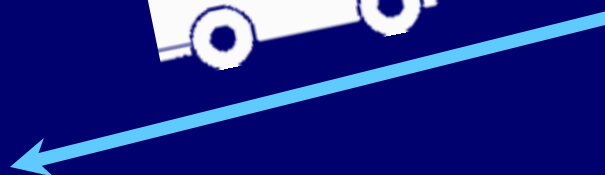
# Diagnostic Criteria of Higher Brain Dysfunction in Japan

- The primary criterion: brain damage due to an acquired disorder such as TBI, brain attack, encephalitis, and encephalopathy
- The major symptoms: memory disturbance, attention problem, executive dysfunction, and social behavioral disorder



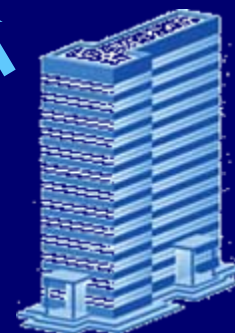
# Ongoing Support in Japan

Community

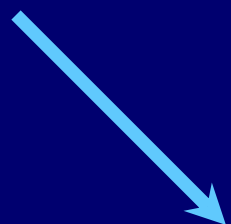


Emergency Hospital

Rehabilitation Hospital



Employment



Social Rehabilitation Facility



Vocational Rehabilitation Center





# Supporting people with autism



1 and 3-year-olds:  
early diagnosis

School age children:  
Special Support Education

Adults:  
support to get and keep a job

# Support for adults with autism



Developmental  
support center

JNRC:  
Hospital, Training  
center

Vocational  
Rehabilitation  
Center

# Goal



Early diagnosis

Early intervention

Education

Prevocational training

Vocational training

Support centers for people with autism

Hospitals and Rehabilitation centers



# Why Rehabilitation?

- Rehabilitation =  
    re (again) + habilitare (ability)
- Restoration of lost honor or status
- The honor of persons with TBI and autism is needed to be restored