

## Comparative Study of Electoral Systems Module 3: Macro Report

Country: Japan  
Date of Election: July 29, 2007

Prepared by:  
Date of Preparation:

NOTE TO COLLABORATORS: The information provided in this report contributes to an important part of the CSES project. The information may be filled out by yourself, or by an expert or experts of your choice. Your efforts in providing these data are greatly appreciated! Any supplementary documents that you can provide (e.g., electoral legislation, party manifestos, electoral commission reports, media reports) are also appreciated, and may be made available on the CSES website.

### **Data Pertinent to the Election at which the Module was Administered**

1a. Type of Election

- Parliamentary/Legislative
- Parliamentary/Legislative and Presidential
- Presidential
- Other; please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

1b. If the type of election in Question 1a included Parliamentary/Legislative, was the election for the Upper House, Lower House, or both?

- Upper House
- Lower House
- Both
- Other; please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

2a. What was the party of the president *prior* to the most recent election?

2b. What was the party of the Prime Minister *prior* to the most recent election?

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)

2c. Report the number of cabinet ministers of each party or parties in cabinet, *prior* to the most recent election. (If one party holds all cabinet posts, simply write "all".) Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have Cabinet voting rights.

<u>Name of Political Party</u>	<u>Number of Cabinet Ministers</u>
Liberal Democratic Party	15
Komei Party	1
(Private citizen)	1

(The source is the list of Abe cabinet which was formed on Sep. 26, 2006.)

2d. What was the size of the cabinet *prior* to the election (total number of cabinet ministers detailed in 2c)? Please include only full ministers and the prime minister in the count. Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have Cabinet voting rights.

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3a. What was the party of the president *after* the most recent election?

3b. What was the party of the Prime Minister *after* the most recent election?

Liberal Democratic Party

3c. Report the number of cabinet ministers of each party or parties in cabinet, *after* the most recent election. (If one party holds all cabinet posts, simply write "all"). Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have Cabinet voting rights.

<u>Name of Political Party</u>	<u>Number of Cabinet Ministers</u>
Liberal Democratic Party	15
Komei Party	1
(Private citizen)	2

(The source is the list of Abe cabinet which was formed on August. 27, 2007.)

3d. What was the size of the cabinet *after* the election (total number of cabinet ministers detailed in 3c)? Please include only full ministers and the prime minister in the count. Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have Cabinet voting rights.

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4a. How many political parties received votes in the election? In this answer, we want political parties, not merely alliances or coalitions of political parties. Please include all parties that received votes, but do not include independents. Where coalitions are present, please count all member parties separately – for instance, a coalition of three parties would count as three parties in your answer, not as one party.

11(Proportional Representation:11, Prefectural District:9)

4b. Please provide a source of data and link to a website with official, detailed election results (votes and seats) for all parties participating in the election. If the data is not available electronically, please provide the information in paper format if possible.

[http://www.soumu.go.jp/senkyo/senkyo\\_s/data/sangiin21/pdf/sangiin21\\_all.pdf](http://www.soumu.go.jp/senkyo/senkyo_s/data/sangiin21/pdf/sangiin21_all.pdf)

4c. Please list all parties who received at least 1% of the vote nationally, and the applicable electoral results for each, in the following table. Please indicate the source (even if the same as in Question 4b), and add additional rows to the table as necessary. Please provide party names both in English and in the original language, if applicable.

<b>Party Name</b>	<b>Number of Votes</b>	<b>% of Vote</b>	<b>Number of Seats</b>	<b>% of Seats</b>
<b>(Proportional Representation)</b>				
Liberal Democratic Party (Jiyu-minshuto)	16,544,761	28.08%	14	9.17%
Democratic Party of Japan(Minshuto)	23,256,247	39.48%	20	41.67%
Komei Party (Komeito)	7,765,329	13.18%	7	14.58%
Japanese Communist Party(Nihon-kyosanto)	4,407,933	7.48%	3	6.25%
Social Democratic Party(Shakai-minshuto)	2,634,714	4.47%	2	4.17%
People's New Party(Kokumin-shinto)	1,269,209	2.15%	1	2.08%
New Party Nippon(Sinto-Nippon)	1,770,707	3.01%	1	2.08%
Jyoseito(Jyoseito)	673,560	1.14%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,322,460</b>	<b>98.99%</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>(Prefectural District)</b>				
Liberal Democratic Party (Jiyu-minshuto)	18,606,193	31.35%	23	31.51%
Democratic Party of Japan(Minshuto)	24,006,818	40.45%	40	54.79%
Komei Party (Komeito)	3,534,672	5.96%	2	2.74%
Japanese Communist Party(Nihon- kyosanto)	5,164,572	8.70%	0	0.00%

Social Democratic Party(Shakai-minshuto)	1,352,018	2.28%	0	0.00%
The People's New Party(Kokumin-shinto)	1,111,005	1.87%	1	1.37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,775,278</b>	<b>90.61%</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>0.41%</b>

Source: [http://www.soumu.go.jp/senkyo/senkyo\\_s/data/sangiin21/pdf/sangiin21\\_all.pdf](http://www.soumu.go.jp/senkyo/senkyo_s/data/sangiin21/pdf/sangiin21_all.pdf)

4d. What was the voter turnout in the election?

Proportional representation: 58.63%    Single non-transferable vote : 58.64%

4e. Please provide the following six statistics for the country at the time of the election studied, so that we may calculate voter turnout in various ways. Some definitions, where provided, are based on those developed by International IDEA.

(The source file is <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/200707/zuhyou/05k2-1.xls>)

- **Total Population:**  
Definition: The total population includes all inhabitants, of all ages, both citizens and non-citizens (including illegal aliens).  
127,780,000
- **Total Number of Voting Age Citizens:**  
Definition: This number is meant to approximate the eligible voting population.  
103,710,035
- **Total Vote:**  
Definition: The total number of votes cast in the relevant election. Total vote includes valid and invalid votes, as well as blank votes in cases where these are separated from invalid votes.  
Proportional Representation : 60,806,582  
Prefectural District: 60,813,927
- **Total Number of Invalid and Blank Votes:**  
Proportional Representation : 1,889,101  
Prefectural District: 1,464,700
- **Voting Age Population:**  
Definition: Includes all persons above the legal voting age.  
104,080,000
- **Number of Registered Voters: 103,710,035**  
Definition: The figure represents the number of names on the voters' register at the time that the registration process closes, as reported by the electoral management body.

5. Ideological family of political parties. For this question, please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 3 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I).

<b>Party Name</b>	<b>Ideological Family</b>
A. Liberal Democratic Party	(E) Conservative Parties
B. Democratic Party of Japan	(G) Liberal Parties
C. Komei Party	(O) Other Parties (Religious Parties)
D. Japanese Communist Party	(B) Communist Parties
E. Social Democratic Party	(D) Social Democratic Parties
F.	
G.	
H.	
I.	

Ideological Party Families: (These are suggestions only. If a party does not fit well into this classification scheme, please provide an alternative and some explanation.)

(A) Ecology Parties

(B) Communist Parties

(C) Socialist Parties

(D) Social Democratic Parties

(E) Conservative Parties

(F) Left Liberal Parties

(G) Liberal Parties

(H) Right Liberal Parties

(I) Christian Democratic Parties

(J) National Parties

(K) Independents

(L) Agrarian Parties

(M) Ethnic Parties

(N) Regional Parties

(O) Other Parties

6a. Ideological Positions of Parties:

Please indicate party positions on a left-right dimension (in the expert judgment of the CSES Collaborator). Please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 3 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I).

Party Name	Left										Right	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A. Liberal Democratic Party									*			
B. Democratic Party of Japan						*						
C. Komei Party							*					
D. Japanese Communist Party	*											
E. Social Democratic Party		*										
F.												
G.												
H.												
I.												

(This is same as the one in CSES 2 on 2004.)

6b. If you have asked respondents to rank political parties on an alternative dimension, other than the left-right dimension, please also provide your own rankings of the parties on this dimension. Please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 3 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I).

Name of dimension:

Label for left hand position: progressive

Label for right hand position: conservative

Party Name	Left										Right	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A. Liberal Democratic Party								*				
B. Democratic Party of Japan						*						
C. Komei Party							*					
D. Japanese Communist Party				*								
E. Social Democratic Party					*							
F.												
G.												
H.												
I.												

**(The source is Japanese Election Survey (JES4) conducted on 2007.)**

7. In your view, what are the five most salient factors that affected the outcome of the election (e.g. major scandals; economic events; the presence of an independent actor; specific issues)? Rank them according to their salience (1 = most salient).

The sources are below.

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/election/sangiin2007/feature/0019/>

<http://www.nikkei-r.co.jp/nikkeipoll/results.html>.

1. Discontent in politics, represented by insincere response of the Prime Minister and the government to the "missing pension records" issue.
2. The issue of the consumption tax (VAT).
3. The evaluation of "the structural reform" by Koizumi Cabinet. (Widening the gap between the rich and the poor)
4. Discontent in political corruption.
5. Educational issues (Education laws, decline in educational achievement)

8. Party Leaders and Presidential Candidates:

In the table below, report the leader(s) of each party. Please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 3 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I). If candidates were endorsed by more than one party, please indicate this.

<b>Party Name</b>	<b>Name of Party Leader</b>	<b>Name of Presidential Candidate, if appropriate</b>
A. Liberal Democratic Party	Shinzo Abe	
B. Democratic Party of Japan	Ichiro Ozawa	
C. Komeito	Akihiro Ota	
D. Japanese Communist Party	Kazuo Shii	
E. Social Democratic Party	Mizuho Fukushima	
F.		
G.		
H.		
I.		

9a. Fairness of the Election

How impartial was the body that administered the election law?

- Very impartial
- Mostly impartial
- Not very impartial
- Not impartial at all

9b. Was there a formal complaint against the national level results?

- Yes
- No

9c. Were there irregularities reported by international election observers?

- Yes
- No
- No international election observers

9d. On what date was the election originally scheduled to be held?

July 22, 2007

9e. On what date was the election actually held? If different from 1d, please explain why.

July 29, 2007

10a. Election Violence

To what extent was there violence and voter or candidate intimidation during the election campaign and the election day?

- No violence at all
- Sporadic violence on the part of the government
- Sporadic violence on the part of opposition groups
- Sporadic violence on all sides
- Significant violence on the part of the government
- Significant violence on the part of opposition groups
- Significant violence of all sides

10b. If there was violence, was it geographically concentrated or national?

- Geographically concentrated
- National

10c. Post-Election (and election-related) Violence

To what extent was there violence following the election?

- No violence at all
- Sporadic violence on the part of the government
- Sporadic violence on the part of opposition groups
- Sporadic violence on all sides
- Significant violence on the part of the government
- Significant violence on the part of opposition groups
- Significant violence of all sides

10d. Post-Election (and election-related) Protest

To what extent was there protest following the election?

- No protest at all
- Sporadic protest
- Significant protest

**Questions about the Possibilities of Electoral Alliance**

**Definitions:** A joint list refers to one on which candidates of different parties run together. Apparentement refers to a legal agreement between two or more lists to pool their votes for the purposes of an initial seat allocation, with seats initially allocated to the alliance then reallocated to the lists in the alliance.

11. Electoral Alliances

There are multiple types of electoral alliances/coalitions, but we are explicitly interested in those involving joint lists or candidates - i.e. those where parties compete as a unit during the election.

Is this type of electoral coalition legally allowable?

- Yes
- No

Is this type of electoral coalition used in practice, even if not legally allowable?

- Yes
- No

If “Yes” was answered to either of the above questions, then please complete the following table for the election at which the Module was administered. Please mention only alliances that received at least 1% of the vote nationally. Add additional lines to the table as necessary.

<b>Alliance Name</b>	<b>Participating Parties</b> (please indicate dominant members with an “*”)
Alliance 1:	
Alliance 2:	
Alliance 3:	
Alliance 4:	
Alliance 5:	

12. If joint lists are possible, are they subject to different regulations than single-party lists? For example, higher thresholds, different numbers of candidates that may appear on the list, etc. (please mark all applicable responses)

- Yes, joint party lists must satisfy higher thresholds
- Yes, joint party lists may present different numbers of candidates
- Yes, joint party lists are subject to other regulations that are different from the regulations governing independent parties; please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- No, joint parties are governed by the same rules as the other parties
- Not applicable; no joint party lists are allowed

13a. Is there apparentement or linking of lists?

- Yes
- No

13b. If apparentement is possible, what lists can participate in such agreements:

- lists of the same party in the same constituency
- lists of the same party from different constituencies
- lists of different parties in the same constituency

14a. Can candidates run with the endorsement of more than one party?

- Yes
- No

14b. If candidates can run with the endorsement of more than one party, is this reflected on the ballot?

- No
- No party endorsements are indicated on the ballot paper
- Yes, candidate's name appears once, together with the names of all supporting parties
- Yes, candidate's name appears as many times as there are different parties endorsing him/her, each time with the name of the endorsing party
- Yes, other; please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Data on Electoral Institutions**

If possible, please supplement this section with copies of the electoral law, voters' handbooks, electoral commission reports, and/or any other relevant materials.

The source is Public Offices Election Law. The URL is  
<http://www.houko.com/00/01/S25/100.HTM> (The language is Japanese).

Questions 15a through 21d must be repeated for each electoral tier (segment) of each directly elected house of the legislature.

### **Electoral Tier (Segment) and House**

15a. In your answers for questions 14a through 20, which electoral tier (segment) is being referred to? (Note: Countries with only one tier may skip this question.)

Upper House: Proportional Representation tier and Prefectural District tier (SMD or SNTV)

15b. In your answers for questions 14a through 20, which house is being referred to (lower or upper)? (Note: Countries with only one tier may skip this question.)

Upper House

### **Questions about Voting**

16a. How many votes do voters cast or can cast? In systems where voters rank order the candidates, if there are 10 candidates (for example), the response to this question should be 10.

Voters have one vote for the PR system (no subnational district) and one vote for the Prefectural District.

16b. Do they vote for candidates (not party lists) or party lists? (Note: Collaborators may select multiple answers, if appropriate.)

(Definition: Party bloc voting is used in multi-member districts where voters cast a single party-centered vote for their party of choice; the party with the most votes wins all of the district seats.)

- Candidates
- Party Lists
- Party Bloc Voting
- Other; please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

In the PR tier, Voters can choose a vote for a candidate or for a party list. In the prefectural district, voter can vote only for a candidate.

16c. How many rounds of voting are there?

One.

16d. If there are lists, are they closed, open, flexible, or is there party bloc voting?

- Closed (order of candidates elected is determined by the party and voters are unable to express preference for a particular candidate)
- Open (voters can indicate their preferred party and their favored candidate within that party)
- Flexible (voters can allocate votes to candidates either within a single party list or across different party lists as they see fit)

17. Are the votes transferable?

(Definition: In systems with preferential voting, a voter can express a list of preferences. E.g., votes can be cast by putting a '1' in the column next to the voter's preferred candidate, a '2' beside their second favorite candidate and so on. Votes are counted according to the first preferences and any candidates who have achieved the predetermined quota are elected. To decide which of the remaining candidates are elected the votes are *transferred* from candidates who have more than the necessary number to achieve the quota and from the candidate with the least number of votes. An example of this is the election in Ireland in 2002.)

- Yes
- No

18. If more than one vote can be cast, can they be cumulated?

(Definition: Cumulative voting refers to systems in which voters are allowed to cast more than one vote for a single candidate.)

- Yes
- No

19. Is voting compulsory?

(Definition: Voting is compulsory if the law states that all those who have the right to vote are obliged to exercise that right.)

- Yes; Strictly Enforced Sanctions
- Yes; Weakly Enforced Sanctions
- Yes; Without Sanction for Violation
- No

20. Please list and describe any other features of voting that should be noted.

The voters are expected to write down the exact letter for name of a candidate or a party. If a vote is regarded as unreadable, it is regarded as ineffective. And, if a vote where only family name is written and we have plural candidates with same family name, we divide one vote for each candidate with a decimal proportionally. For example, if we have 4 “Bush”es and distribution of the other votes for Bush is like below;

- A. Bush: 40 votes
- B. Bush: 30 votes
- C. Bush: 20 votes
- D. Bush: 10 votes.

The above case, if we have a vote for just written as “Bush”, a vote is distributed 0.4 votes for A. Bush, 0.3 for B. Bush, 0.2 for C Bush, and 0.1 for D. Bush.

This rule is applied to every election in Japan.

## Repeat for the Lower House

### Electoral Tier (Segment) and House

15a. In your answers for questions 14a through 20, which electoral tier (segment) is being referred to? (Note: Countries with only one tier may skip this question.)

Lower House: Proportional Representation tier (11 subnational area blocks) and 300 SMDs.

15b. In your answers for questions 14a through 20, which house is being referred to (lower or upper)? (Note: Countries with only one tier may skip this question.)

Lower House

### Questions about Voting

16a. How many votes do voters cast or can cast? In systems where voters rank order the candidates, if there are 10 candidates (for example), the response to this question should be 10.

Voters have one vote for the PR system (at subnational area block) and one vote for SMD.

16b. Do they vote for candidates (not party lists) or party lists? (Note: Collaborators may select multiple answers, if appropriate.)

(Definition: Party bloc voting is used in multi-member districts where voters cast a single party-centered vote for their party of choice; the party with the most votes wins all of the district seats.)

- Candidates
- Party Lists
- Party Bloc Voting
- Other; please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

In the PR tier, Voters can choose a vote for a candidate or for a party list. In the SMDs, voter can vote only for a candidate.

16c. How many rounds of voting are there?

One.

16d. If there are lists, are they closed, open, flexible, or is there party bloc voting?

- Closed (order of candidates elected is determined by the party and voters are unable to express preference for a particular candidate)
- Open (voters can indicate their preferred party and their favored candidate within that party)
- Flexible (voters can allocate votes to candidates either within a single party list or across different party lists as they see fit)

17. Are the votes transferable?

(Definition: In systems with preferential voting, a voter can express a list of preferences. E.g., votes can be cast by putting a '1' in the column next to the voter's preferred candidate, a '2' beside their second favorite candidate and so on. Votes are counted according to the first preferences and any candidates who have achieved the predetermined quota are elected. To decide which of the remaining candidates are elected the votes are *transferred* from candidates who have more than the necessary number to achieve the quota and from the candidate with the least number of votes. An example of this is the election in Ireland in 2002.)

- Yes
- No

18. If more than one vote can be cast, can they be cumulated?

(Definition: Cumulative voting refers to systems in which voters are allowed to cast more than one vote for a single candidate.)

- Yes
- No

19. Is voting compulsory?

(Definition: Voting is compulsory if the law states that all those who have the right to vote are obliged to exercise that right.)

- Yes; Strictly Enforced Sanctions
- Yes; Weakly Enforced Sanctions
- Yes; Without Sanction for Violation
- No

20. Please list and describe any other features of voting that should be noted.

The voters are expected to write down the exact letter for name of a candidate or a party. If a vote is regarded as unreadable, it is regarded as ineffective. And, if a vote where only family name is written and we have plural candidates with same family name, we divide one vote for each candidate with a decimal proportionally. For example, if we have 4 “Bush”es and distribution of the other votes for Bush is like below;

- A. Bush: 40 votes
- B. Bush: 30 votes
- C. Bush: 20 votes
- D. Bush: 10 votes.

The above case, if we have a vote for just written as “Bush”, a vote is distributed 0.4 votes for A. Bush, 0.3 for B. Bush, 0.2 for C Bush, and 0.1 for D. Bush.

This rule is applied to every election in Japan.

### Questions about Converting Votes into Seats

21a. Are there legally mandated thresholds that a party must exceed before it is eligible to receive seats?

- Yes
- No

The answer is “no” for the PR systems at the upper house election and the lower house election. On the other hand, it is “yes” for the SMD at the lower house election.

21b. If YES in Question 21a, what is the threshold?

To have a seat, the winner candidate must have more than 1/6 of total effective votes at SMDs.

21c. If YES in Question 21a, what is the unit for the threshold mentioned in Question 21b?

- Percent of total votes
- Percent of valid votes
- Percent of the total electorate
- Other; please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

21d. If YES in Question 21a, please specify to what House/ Electoral Tier (Segment) the threshold(s) apply.

All.

### **References**

22. Please provide an official source for district-level election results. English language sources are especially helpful. Include website links or contact information if applicable.

[http://www.soumu.go.jp/senkyo/senkyo\\_s/data/sangiin21/pdf/sangiin21\\_all.pdf](http://www.soumu.go.jp/senkyo/senkyo_s/data/sangiin21/pdf/sangiin21_all.pdf)  
(Official Report of the upper house Election in 2007 by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. The language is Japanese)

The contact information is;

phone: +81-11-5253-5111

Postal address: Zip Code 100-8926

Kasumigaseki 2-1-2, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo-to, JAPAN

The URL of the English website <http://www.soumu.go.jp/english/index.html>

23. Please list any resources that were consulted in the preparation of this report, or that the CSES community may find especially helpful in understanding the political system described. Include website links if applicable.

[http://homepage2.nifty.com/paper/law\\_english.htm](http://homepage2.nifty.com/paper/law_english.htm) (Links on Japanese Law)