Future Party System in Japan

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Effective Number of Parties (ENP)

1994  4.4  2009  2.3

Japan has shifted to two party system.

◆ Duverger’s law  ◆

“plurality rule election system tends to favor a two-party system”

New election system was enacted in Japan 1994.
Change of government can easily occur in two party system

1) The people can choose their leader and policies directly.

2) Dissolution of the Iron Triangle.

3) Parties come to have responsibility and strain.
unexpected leaders

Morihiro Hosokawa

Tomichi Murayama
We can choose our leader and policies

45th general election

LDP

DPJ
Dissolution of the Iron Triangle

- LDP
- DPJ
- Bureaucrat
- Economic world
- Iron Triangle
- Change of government
Sudden change of the power balance

LDP general election DPJ
249 Just before 44th 175
296 44th (2005) 113
119 45th (2009) 309

Is it momentary enthusiasm?
Existence of the House of Councilors

A half member reelects

Power balance changes over six years.

“Checks and Balances”

EX) DPJ has 114 seats (47%) in the House of councilors.
Parties need to heighten design-of-policy capability.

- **Policy staffs**
  The number of the policy staff in U.S. (Ave.)
  Senator: 44 persons
  Representative: 16 persons

- **Think tanks**
  LDP: Think Tank 2005 Japan
  DPJ: Public Policy Platform
Conclusion

- New election system based on the single-member constituency system in 1994 came into existence.
- Two party system will develop in Japan.
- Two party system has three good points.
- The House of Councilors will play an important role in checks & balances from now on.
- Parties need to heighten design-of-policy capability.