Okinawa

Overview:
Okinawa Prefecture is Japan’s southernmost prefecture, and consists of hundreds of islands. Okinawa is best known as having a large concentration of U.S. military bases.

Territory:
The Okinawa prefecture consists of 161 islands (49 are inhabited and 112 are uninhabited islands), and those islands span 1,000 kilometers from east to west and 400 kilometers from north to south. The largest island is Okinawa with 53% of the total land area. Okinawa Prefecture’s inhabited islands are typically divided into three geographical archipelagos: Okinawa Islands: le-jima, Kume, and Okinawa Hoto Miyako Islands: Miyako-jima Yaeyama Islands: Iriomote, Ishigaki, and Yonaguni

Location:
Located southwest of mainland Japan, between mainland Japan and Taiwan in the Pacific Ocean. Okinawa is found in the same latitude zone as the other famous beach resort destinations such as Hawaii, Florida, and the Bahamas

Latitude and Longitude:
24 degrees to 27 degrees north latitude and 122 degrees to 128 degrees 30’ east longitude

Time Zone:
GMT +9

Total Land Area:
2

EEZ:
200

Climate:
The relatively constant warm temperatures and frequent rainfall of the subtropical zone keep the islands green throughout the year. It is not unusual for rainfall to be recorded for over half of the days of the year. Typhoons with monsoon rains strike regularly in late summer and early fall, leaving destruction in their wake. Annual temperature of Okinawa is 22.4 C (72.3 F). Even during the winter, the temperature averages 16 C (60.8 F) and never dips below 10 C (50 F).

Natural Resources:
Negligible mineral resources, fish,

ECONOMY:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total GDP</th>
<th>Per Capita GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>3,612,000,000,000.00 USD</td>
<td>2,078,000.00 USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>3,632,200,000,000.00 USD</td>
<td>2,055,000.00 USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>3,689,700,000,000.00 USD</td>
<td>2,045,000.00 USD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th>Tertiary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>88.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th>Tertiary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

External Aid/Remittances:
Okinawa was in desperate of receiving aid from mainland Japan after the reversion. Because of the unemployment problem, the Nippon Bank from the mainland had to provide massive of aid to Okinawa, to put in figure, it was like this: 1972 154,300,000,000yen 1973 230,100,000,000yen 1974 331,200,000,000yen 1975 349,500,000,000yen 1976 362,300,000,000yen

Growth:
Five years after the reversion, the biggest problem in Okinawa was unemployment. In 1977, unemployed people had gone up to 29,000 and the unemployment rate was 6.8 percent. (Unemployed people in 1971 was 4,000; and unemployment rate was 1.0 percent). On the other hand, the returned base land had provided opportunities to expand Okinawa’s economic development. After the reversion, although Okinawa experienced a very critical time financially, with the financial funds support from mainland Japan and the revitalization of tourism, Okinawa has gradually experiencing a economic
1998 statistic has revealed that Okinawa ranked number two in terms of Nominal Economic Growth Rate, at 1.6%, followed by Tokyo. Where Okinawa had a 0.7% Real Economic Growth Rate, where Tokyo had no increase, and the whole nation had a -1.9%. Since 1998, under the Okinawa Multimedia Island concept, 77 companies have been attracted to Okinawa to operate call centers, provide information services, and develop content and software. As of September 2003, their activities have created some 6,000 jobs. Furthermore, the returned base land provides for residential areas, industrial expansion and the balanced and healthy urban development of Okinawa’s economy. Accordingly, the Okinawa Development Special Measure Law of April 2002 offers special measures for the smooth and rapid transition of vacated base land to productive civilian uses. The Okinawa Development Plan, adopted in July of the same year incorporates plans for base land transition and sets up a framework for establishment of a base land council and a local municipality consultative and coordinating body.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labour Force:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>644,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unemployment</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate (% of pop.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Industry:
Tourism, agriculture, stock raising and forestry, fishery, IT industry, environmentally-friendly clean energy, and manufacturing industry

Niche Industry:
U.S. military bases, IT industry and convention

Tourism:
The tourism income had also increased after the reversion. The number of tourists in 1971 was only about 200,000 but in the next year it went up to 440,000; and 1,558,000 in 1975. (This was because of the Ocean Exposition). In 1991, this number flows to 3,000,000. And by the end of 2003, there are total 5,084,700 tourist visited Okinawa. The income by the tourism was a very important support for the Okinawa economy. Gyokusendo, an extensive limestone cave in the southern part of Okinawa Honto, is a popular tourist attraction. Also, Okinawa is said to have the most beautiful beaches in all of Japan and normally enjoys above 20 degree Celsius weather for most of the year. Many coral reefs are found in this region of Japan and wildlife is abundant. Sea turtles return yearly to the southern islands of Okinawa to lay their eggs. The summer months carry warnings to swimmers regarding poisonous jellyfish and other dangerous sea creatures. But there is a big problem to this as well. Island's golden beaches are being spoilt by mud and sewage from the development, and the great coral reefs are dying visibly from the pollution. These environment problems should be thought about as well when we think about Okinawa and the Okinawa economy.

Imports and Exports:
Total Value of Imports: JPY 90,240,631,000 (Jan-June, 2005) From EU: JPY 5,675,587,000 Import Partners (EU): Denmark, the U.K, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy From outside EU: JPY 84,565,044,000 Import Partners outside EU: Iceland, Australia, China, Taiwan, Korea, the U.S. Nigeria, Malaysia, Guam, New Zealand Total Value of Exports: JPY 38,757,035,000 (Jan-June, 2005) To EU: JPY 190,507,000 Export Partners (EU): the U.K, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy From outside EU: JPY 38,566,528,000 Export Partners outside EU: Taiwan, Guam, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Main Imports: Fish, fruits, vegetable, meat products, beverage, coal, oil, chemical product, (make up), wood products, machinery, furniture Main Exports: Chemical products, steel, beverage and tabacco, pulp, precision machinery, machinery, fish products, re-exports,

| Tot. Value of Imports | 0.00 () |
| From Eu:             |       |

Import Partners (EU):
Partners Outside EU:
Import Partners:
| Tot. Value of Exports | () |
| To Eu:               |     |

Export Partners:
Partners Outside EU:
Export Partners:
Main Imports:
Main Exports:

TRANSPORTATION/ACCESS

External:
Number of Airports: 14
1 international airport, Naha Airport, and 13 class 3 airports. By class 3 airports, which means to be installed and governed by the prefecture. Naha Airport is also known as Okinawa Airport, located just outside of Naha, it serves as the southern gateway to Japan with a 3,000-meter runway, 25 apron berths, and four regular international routes, namely Shanghai, Seoul, Taipei and Manila, as well as flights to mainland Japan and other parts of Okinawa prefecture. It is the prefecture's major airport.
Number of Main Ports: 3
Naha port, Tomari port, and Aja Port (Naha Shinko): Naha Port is the gateway to Okinawa prefecture, supporting the economic activities of more than 40 surrounding island. It handles in excess of 50 liner routes, including international container shipping routes for North America and Asia. At present, Okinawa prefecture has begun promotion to invite an experienced international private terminal operator and is starting a 24-hour, year-round customs service for efficient management of the container terminal in order to turn the Naha Port into a transshipment port for the eastern Asian area.

Internal:

Air
There are direct flights from Naha into most parts of Japan, to various other islands within the prefecture and a few international destinations. Direct flights now run: Miyako-Tokyo, Miyako-Kansai, Ishigaki-Tokyo, Ishigaki-Nagoya, Ishigaki-Kansai. Flights are operated by Japan Airlines (JAL), All Nippon Airways (ANA) and their subsidiary airlines.

Road:
Local road networks connect all parts of Okinawa Island with three main routes: national route 329 on the east coast, national route 58 on the west coast, and the Okinawa Expressway. The Okinawa Expressway links Naha city to Nago city in 45 minutes, it costs 1,000 Yen per passenger car. All other roads on Okinawa are toll free. Okinawans drive on the left side of the road. Okinawa roads are packed with mini-cars, economy cars, vans, trucks, buses and construction vehicles. Combine them with several thousand taxis of all sizes and you have one of the highest vehicle/road densities in the world.

Sea:
Ferries connect Naha with various ports on Kyushu and Honshu, including Tokyo, Nagoya, Fukuoka, Kobe, Osaka and Kagoshima. The one way trip from Tokyo to Naha takes about 44 hours and costs 22,000 Yen in the cheapest class. There is only one ferry per week. From Kagoshima on the southern tip of Kyushu, ferries depart for Naha every day, taking about 25 hours and costing around 13,000 Yen for the one way journey in the cheapest class.

Other Forms of Transportation:
Monorail, buses, rental cars, taxi. Besides the Okinawa Monorail (Yui Rail), which connects central Naha with Naha Airport, public transportation on Okinawa Island is limited to buses. Okinawa's bus network is quite dense, but finding the right connections can be complicated. Furthermore, service can be rather infrequent on some lines.

Economic Zones:
Okinawa is actively promoting industry by placing the processing, tourism and resort, and information and communications industries that use the Special Free Trade Zone in a priority position, thereby helping to stimulate the prefecture's economy. Okinawa is placing special emphasis on attracting processing industries, which will be based in the industrial zone within the Nakagusuku Bay Port Development Industrial Complex, the only Special Free Trade Zone within Japan. Enterprises setting up operations in this district are supported through generous incentives such as the 35 percent corporate income tax exemption and youth employment development subsidies. Initial investment subsidies for factory lease consolidation are also planned for the future.

Energy Policy:
Total Energy Production: 2002 2003 2004 Type: Most of the energy production is from Thermal Power Thermic information not available Geothermic: Other: Total Energy Consumption: 6,883,256 7,155,770 7,193,218 Sectors: Domestic: 3,435,342 Geothermic: Commercial: 734,906 3,778,283 8,797,911.7 (includes both commercial and industry use) Industry: Public Lighting: 2,704,007 2,807,816 2,809,088 Public Service: (includes both public lighting and public service)

Official Currency:
Japanese Yen

Banking and Insurance:
Number of Banks and Credit Unions: 10
Number of Agricultural Credit Unions: 1
Number of Insurance Companies: 4

Japanese Yen, Exchange Rate 2002 2003 2004 Per US dollar 125.39 115.93 108.19

Financial Services:
Borrowing, mortgage, mutual funds, portfolio management, personal saving advisor services are provided at most branches of various banks throughout the prefecture.

Communications/E-Commerce:
% of population who have access to cell phone/internet Cell phone Internet Internet with cell phone 2005 61.9% 31.3% 22.9%

Public Ownership:
Over the past several years in Japan, attempts have been made to strengthen the framework for privatization. The Koizumi government, which has adopted deregulation and major reform as its slogan, has laid a foothold for privatization through a spate of actions including proposals made through advisory councils for the deregulation and liberalization of government-developed markets to private businesses, as well as the easing of the legislation that forms the outer frame for deregulation and market liberalization. In 1988 there were ninety-seven public corporations, reduced from 111 in the early 1980s as a result of administrative reforms. Japanese government divided the national-level corporations into several categories. The first included the major public service and monopoly corporations: Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation, Japanese National Railways, and Japan Tobacco and Salt Corporation. However, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation was privatized in 1985, and the Japanese National Railways in 1987, and Japan Tobacco and Salt Corporation in 1988. The second category included the major development corporations devoted to housing, agriculture, highways, water resources, ports, energy resources, and urban development projects. The Japanese Highway operators were changed into public-owned private corporations in 2005. In 2003, Japan Post was formed out of the former government-run postal services, but privatization is still pending and a major issue in Japanese politics. Under the proposed bill, the incumbent postal public corporation, Japan Post, will be split into four units—the over-
the-counter service unit, the mail delivery unit, the savings unit, and the insurance unit in April 2007, which will be owned by a holding company 100% owned by the government. By 10 years later, April 2017, the savings company and insurance company will be released from government control through sale of their entire shares on the stock market to become private corporations, while the over-the-counter service company and the mail delivery company will remain 100% owned by the holding company, which by that time will be one-third controlled by the government. But in the future, the holding company will be allowed to buy back shares of the two financial service units from the market, if it deems it appropriate. The two units under the holding company will also be able to buy shares of the two financial units to form a group through crossholding.

**Land Use:**
There are 38 U.S. military bases in Okinawa; they occupy 18 percent of land of Okinawa Island. Commercial, residential and agriculture and forestry comprise the rest of the land in Okinawa.

**Agriculture/Forestry:**
Okinawa is a major producer of sugar cane, pineapples, papayas and other tropical fruits. Animal husbandry in Okinawa has vigorously grown since reversion. Animal products now account for about 40 percent of total farm output, clearly making them a key part of the farm economy. Forests yield a variety of wood products. Abundant forests also ensure the supply of water needed for daily life, protect against disasters such as floods and landslides and contribute to a pleasant living environment.

**Marine Activity:**
Fishing:
Okinawa produces some 8,000 tons of mozuku seaweeds every year, 95 percent of the total production in Japan. Prawn cultivation yields 750 tons of products, making Okinawa Japan’s leader in their industry. In addition to traditional mainstay products, malabar grouper, cobia, and giant clam varieties have been designated as strategic products and the prefecture is aggressively promoting their cultivation. In view of the growing importance of aquaculture and fish farming, the functions of the Fish Farming Center are to be strengthened. A deep-water research system has also established to develop production technology.

**Marine Life:**
Coral reefs, sea turtles, jelly fish, and other variety of sea creatures.

**Critical Issues:**
United States Military Installations on Okinawa. These bases affect the lives of the Okinawan people, and also they have an adverse impact on economic and industrial development. Accordingly, many Okinawans support consolidation and reduction of the base presence, a rape incident in September 1995 involving a young Okinawan girl sparked a worldwide outcry. In response, the governments of the United States of America and Japan established the Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) in November 1995 and began negotiations on reducing the excessive burden of the bases on Okinawa. The two governments issued a joint final SACO report in December 1996. The report provided for the return of Okinawa of eleven military facilities, including the total return of the Futenma Marine Corps Air Station, which many Okinawans had long sought. The total area to be returned is projected to be 5,002 hectares. If all provisions of the SACO Agreement are carried out, the amount of land returned will exceed all returns to date since Okinawa was reverted to Japan. Besides land return, the SACO report also calls for steps to reduce excessive noise stemming from base activities and for various improvements in the operation of the Status of Forces Agreement, which governs relations between base personnel and the local community.

**JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES**

**Capital:**
Naha

**Political System:**
Japan is academically considered a constitutional monarchy with a bicameral parliament, the Kokkai or Diet but most Japanese feel strange about the term monarchy and quite a few scholars argue Japan is a republic. Japan has a royal family led by an Emperor, but under the current constitution he holds no power at all, not even emergency reserve powers. The executive branch is responsible to the Diet, consisting of a cabinet composed of a prime minister and ministers of state, all of whom must be civilians. The prime minister must be a member of the Diet and is designated by his colleagues. The prime minister has the power to appoint and remove ministers, a majority of whom must be Diet members. Sovereignty, previously embodied in the emperor, is vested by the constitution in the Japanese people, and the Emperor is defined as the symbol of the state. The legislative branch consists of a House of Representatives (Shugi-in) of 480 seats, elected by popular vote every four years, and a House of Councillors (Sangi-in) of 247 seats, whose popularly elected members serve six-year terms. Each house contains officials elected either directly or proportionally by party. There is universal adult suffrage with a secret ballot for all elective offices.

**Political Parties:**
Democratic Party of Japan or DPJ [Seiji MAEHARA, leader]; Japan Communist Party or JCP [Kazuo SHII, chairman]; Komeito [Takenori KANZAKI, president]; Liberal Democratic Party or LDP [Jinichiro KOIZUMI, president]; Social Democratic Party or SDP [Mizuhito FUKUSHIMA, chairperson];

**Important Legislation:**

**Principal Taxes:**
Taxation in Okinawa is generally divided into two categories; one is the so-called direct taxes, which include income tax, corporation tax, and heritage tax. And the other one is the indirect tax; it is comprised of sales tax (5%), liquor tax and cigarette tax.

**Associated Power:**
Mainland Japan
Citizenship:
Japanese

Paradiplomacy:
Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), International Venture Club, NGO Asia Child Support (ACS),

HUMAN RESOURCES


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Island</th>
<th>Area (km sq.)</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>% of Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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Population:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Resident Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>264279</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Migration:
In 2005, there were 4,951 newcomers to Okinawa, and there were 4,779 people moved out.

Crude Birth Rate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Life Expectancy:

Japan has the highest life expectancy in the world, and Okinawa has the highest life expectancy in Japan. Life Expectancy at birth Total Population Male Female 2005 83.15 80.02 86.89

Crude Death Rate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ethnicity:
Due to Okinawa’s location and history, it is more ethnically diverse than other parts of Japan. Okinawans are a unique blend of Malay from Formosa and Philippines, Chinese from China, and Japanese from Japan, also native Okinawans.

Class Division:
In Okinawa, there is no very big gap between the rich and the poor. However, the ones who are white collar and government employees tend to better off financially.

Languages:
Japanese and Okinawan

Religion:
Observe both Shinto and Buddhist 84%, other 16% (including Christian 0.7%)

Literacy:
99% of total population

Education System:
People of Okinawa follow the same education system as the rest of Japan, which consists of six years of elementary school, each three years of junior and senior high school and four years of university or two years of junior college. Compulsory education includes elementary school and junior high school. Over 90% of all students graduate from high school and over 40% from university or junior college. At universities, the percentage of male students is higher than that of female students while the opposite is the case at junior colleges. The number of graduate university students is relatively low. The Japanese school year starts in April and consists of three terms, separated by short holidays in spring and winter, and a one month long summer break. A characteristic of the Japanese school system are entrance exams, and with them a high competitiveness among students. Most high schools, universities, as well as a few private junior high schools and elementary schools require applicants to write entrance exams. In order to pass entrance exams to the best institutions, many students attend special preparation schools (juku) besides regular classes, or for one to two years between high school and university (yobiko).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Pre-schools: (2005)</th>
<th>283</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Primary Schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Level:</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Level:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Famous cultural export is karate, probably a product of the close ties with, and influence of China on Okinawan culture. Karate is thought to be the Okinawan language is near extinction.

As the standard language, the local dialect persisted as the informal language of the home and friends. Recently, however, radio, television and increased travel between Okinawa and the main islands of Japan have accelerated the Ryukyu language.

Music, Dance, Handicraft and Patrimony:
Meetings in Okinawa has been especially important in spotlighting Okinawa as a major convention resort destination.

Recent Significant Events:
Okinawa has proposed the offshore zone of Marine Corps Camp Schwab along the Henoko coast of Nago City as a site for relocation of the air station and has stipulated four conditions to the National government including a fifteen-year limitation on the new facility. The resolution to narrow the environment impact of construction and operation. In July 2002, a major step toward starting construction was taken when local organization met with the representatives of the National and Prefectural governments and agreed on a basic plan governing the size of the new facility, its construction method and its precise location, and appropriate environmental measure. The success of the 2000 Kyushu-Okinawa G8 leaders' meetings in Okinawa has been especially important in spotlighting Okinawa as a major convention resort destination.

Music, Dance, Handicraft and Patrimony:
Hiring historically been a separate nation, Okinawa language and culture differ considerably from that of mainland Japan. The Ryukyu language is a major dialect of Japanese. The separation of the Ryukyu dialect from the language of the Japanese main islands took place about 1500 years ago. Over the subsequent centuries, Ryukyuans gradually became unintelligible to the Japanese. Despite government efforts after 1879 to establish Japanese as the standard language, the local dialect persisted as the informal language of the home and friends. Recently, however, radio, television and increased travel between Okinawa and the main islands of Japan have accelerated the Ryukyu language.

Refereña: There was no referendum in Okinawa.

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synthesis of Chinese kung fu with traditional Okinawan martial arts. Another traditional Okinawan product that owes its existence to Okinawa’s trading history is awamori—an Okinawan distilled spirit made from indica rice imported from Thailand. The people of Okinawa also maintain a strong tradition of pottery. Furthermore, other prominent examples of Okinawan culture include the sanshin, a three-stringed Okinawan instrument, closely related to the Chinese sanxian, and ancestor of the Japanese shamisen, somewhat similar to a banjo. Its body is often bound with snakeskin (from pythons, imported from elsewhere in Asia, rather than from Okinawa’s poisonous habu, (which are too small for this purpose, but which are sometimes used to make habu awamori). Okinawan culture also features the eisa dance, a traditional drumming dance. A traditional craft, the fabric named bingata, is made in workshops on the main island and elsewhere.

Sources: