

## Abstract of Doctoral Thesis

Title: History of the Amendments to Japan's Local Autonomy Act

コニシ アツシ

KONISHI Atsushi

This thesis examines in chronological order the intent and content of a total of 402 amendments to Japan's Local Autonomy Act. These amendments were made over the course of 66 years, from the Act's enactment in 1947 through 2012.

The primary points summarizing the revelations acquired through the study of the 402 separate amendments to the Local Autonomy Act as well as the prospective from said revelations are described (see pp. 671-673 herein) as follows.

First, it is expected that amendments to the Local Autonomy Act will continue with frequency for years to come. Amendments to the Local Autonomy Act that can be considered 'important amendments to fundamental rules' account for 35 of the amendments made over 66 years.

Second, it is assumed that amendments to the Local Autonomy Act that focus on decentralization reforms will continue well into the future as well.

Third, it is expected that the degree of influence exerted by the Local Autonomy Act will decline as individual systems are stably implemented.

Fourth, it is believed that amendments to the Local Autonomy Act will contain compromise regulations. Some regulations of the Local Autonomy Act will be created as a result of adjustments to various opinions regarding amendments.

Fifth, careful review will be necessary to ascertain whether or not a simple reduction of the number of clauses in the Local Autonomy Act would be appropriate.

Sixth, it is expected that social changes such as rapidly accelerating aging in major cities will have significant influence on amendments to the Local Autonomy Act in the future.

Seventh, it is assumed that amendments to the Local Autonomy Act thus far would grant valuable knowledge for future amendments to said Act.