



At the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:

- *discuss the advantage/disadvantage of the aging society
- *classify the factors of a booming elderly society.



Dialogue:

Big changes are taking place in Japan society. It is the leading country whose population is 65 years old and above. Statistics Bureau in 2010 recorded that the people aged 65 and above in the total population is the highest in the world. Study shows that by 2030, one in every three people will be 65 + years and one in five people will be 75 + years. Sophisticated health services improved health and life **longevity**.

Life expectancy at birth is the highest in the world, 86 for women and 80 for men (World Health Organization, 2011). Better health care and Japan's higher standard of living, the Japanese people are living longer than ever before. With few babies being born and people living longer, Japan has become a "**GRAYING SOCIETY**."

A lot of contributing factors to aging population has been weighed out, rapidly declining **fertility**, career-oriented women who delayed marriages or stay single, lack of societal support from both families of married couple, the fear of financial burdens of raising children.

After the world war II baby boom and the second baby boom in 1971-1974, Japan's population is aging and declining in size. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, the government is now taking moves toward establishing a better welfare system.

Nursing homes will soon become a big business and all sort of products designed to make life easier for old people will emerge on the market.



Let's Talk:

1. The retirement age of Japan has been raised from 61 in 2013 to 62 in 2016 and a new government proposal has decided to raise it to 65 by 2025. What do you think the retirement age should be?
2. Do you think a person should be forced to retire at a certain age, even if he or she is still able to work well for the company? Why or why not?
3. What are the consequences of an aging population?



Express Yourself:

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of an aging population?
2. What is the main factor of Japan's aging society?
3. Are there any political implications of an aging society?
4. How would you like to spend your retirement?
5. More and more senior citizens are choosing to live apart from their children, if you have children, do you want to live with them when you retire? Why or why not?