

# Bring the “Nagano Revolution” to Japan

## New Party Nippon has the answer

As Governor of Nagano, Yasuo Tanaka implemented a fundamental reform of the murky public works tendering system which spawned numerous bid-rigging cases. Under his leadership, Nagano also became the only prefecture in Japan to realize a reduction in fiscal deficit for 6 straight years and to achieve consecutive primary surpluses.

He established daycare facilities for both children and the elderly, and improved the elementary school system by limiting all classes to 30 students. He also increased the forestry budget by 250 percent.

New Party Nippon headed by Yasuo Tanaka, who champions community-based welfare, education, and employment, has a track record of producing concrete results and has the answers to creating a “Japan we can trust”.

### “Declaration Against Dam Construction” and local job creation

Dam construction was symbolic of massive public works projects in the past, with 80 percent of the total budget going to general contractors from Tokyo. Yasuo Tanaka revamped this system and made public works projects community-based by working with local residents and reducing reliance on dams through flood control and soil-conservation measures.

### Realized “30-Student Classes” in all elementary schools

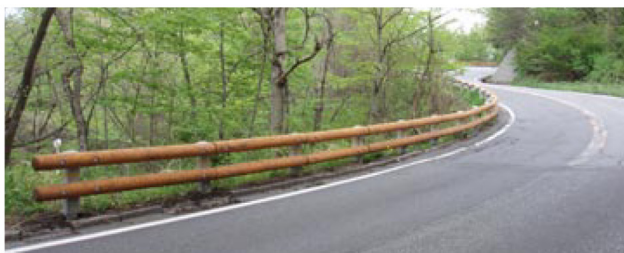
Reduced the number of students in all elementary school classes. Abolished the age limit for teacher recruitment examinations and aggressively recruited people from a variety of backgrounds as school principals and teachers. Promoted a change in thinking among teachers in the classroom.

### Overhauled the bid-rigging-plagued prefectural government through drastic reforms

Introduced an open and transparent bidding system in all fields. Employed legal experts experienced in exposing bid-rigging to reinforce the inspection division. Cut off questionable use of taxes and diverted those funds to finance welfare, medicine and education.

### Job creation in the community through development of “wooden guardrails”

Conventional steel guardrails are typically produced by non-local businesses despite installation costs being paid by local governments. Under the concept of local self-sustenance, wooden guardrails were developed locally, also helping to improve the local scenery.



Shinshu-type wooden guardrails were developed jointly by local contractors, logging companies and the civil engineering department of the prefectural government. The guardrails are as durable as those made of steel, and created 5 times the number of local jobs with the same budget.

### The only prefecture to achieve budget surpluses for 6 straight years

Nagano Prefecture was on the verge of a financial collapse when Yasuo Tanaka took office. As governor, he immediately went to work rebuilding the prefecture's finances. He achieved consecutive primary surpluses and reduced the budget deficit for 6 straight years by a total 92.3 billion yen, becoming the first nationwide to do so.

### Set up joint daycare centers for both the elderly and children

Refurbished vacant homes in villages and shopping districts, transforming them into joint day care centers both for the elderly and children aged 3 and younger. 300 facilities were established in the prefecture. This was a revolutionary change from a welfare policy focused solely on the construction of new buildings.

### Introduced ‘Dr. Helicopters’ to enhance the emergency medical system

Nagano became the first prefecture to install two helicopters for medical emergencies, allowing doctors and nurses to reach the injured quickly and shortening the response time to emergency calls. Rescue operations in winter and summer resort areas were significantly more efficient with the use of these helicopters.

### Direct talks with community residents through town gatherings

Reservations are not required and anyone can attend to speak at these 2-and-a-half hour gatherings, which have been attended by a total of 10,500 people. Numerous measures have been born from these gatherings such as the dispatch of licensed nurses to special-needs schools.

Assistance Program for the Structural Reform of the Construction Industry / Shinshu Lumberjack Training Course / Certification System for “Safe, Reliable, and Honest” Onsen Signboards / Place of Origin Labeling System / All Cattle Tested for BSE / “Less 50, Less 100 Producer Assistance Program” to assist farmers halve or fully eliminate use of agricultural chemicals and fertilizers / Loan Shark Emergency Hotline / Child Emergency Hotline / 24-hour Child Abuse & Domestic Violence Hotline / Smoking Ban in All Prefecturally-Owned Facilities / Use of Hybrid Vehicles- for all Kamikochi national park tour buses / Karuizawa Condominium Method Declaration / Information Website for Missing Dogs and Cats / Remote Hospital Vehicles for Medically-Underserved Areas / Streamlining of Extra-Governmental Organizations / “Labor is the Biggest Project Cost - Zero-Budget” Projects to raise employee awareness / “Home Delivery” of prefectural policy explanations by experts / Concierge desk service by section and division chiefs at the prefectural government office

For further details on reforms and achievements, visit

URL <http://www.love-nippon.com>

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