Relationships and Characteristics of Tokyo and Wards, Cities, Towns, and Villages

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Administration Department, Bureau of General Affairs, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
The System for the Organization of Local Public Entities

According to the Constitution, the basic principles of the regulations concerning the organization and operation of local public entities shall be stipulated by law, and the content of that law shall be based on the "Principle of Local Autonomy."

The Constitution of Japan

Regulations concerning organization and operations of local public entities shall be fixed by law in accordance with the principle of local autonomy. (Article 92)

Local Autonomy Act

It fixes the the basic principles of regulations concerning the classification, organization and operation of local public entities. (Article 1)
Categories of Local Public Entities

Cities, towns and villages ("municipalities") are "ordinary local public entities,"
The special ward is categorized as a "special local public entity."

Local public entities
  - Ordinary local public entities
    - Prefectures
    - Municipalities
    - Special wards (23 wards of Tokyo)
      - Associations of local public entities
      - Public property districts
  - Special local public entities
Ordinary Local Public Entities

In the Local Autonomy Act, both prefectures and municipalities have the same status as an ordinary local public entity and are in an equal relationship.

- Regional local public entities
  - Handle affairs relating to broader areas, affairs relating to liaison and coordination concerning municipalities, and affairs that are deemed inappropriate for general municipalities to handle in terms of the scale or nature

- Basic local public entities
  - Handle affairs directly related to residents’ everyday lives
Among local public entities, legal entities other than ordinary local public entities

- **Special local public entities**
  - **Special wards (23 wards of Tokyo)**
  - **Associations of local public entities**
  - **Public property districts**

- **Basic local public entities**
  - Handle affairs that municipalities generally handle, excluding the affairs metropolitan government handles from the viewpoint of the unity and uniformity of metropolitan administration

- **Associations for certain administrative affairs, wider regional alliances**

- **Entities which are parts of municipalities/special wards and given a legal status for the management of property, etc.**
The special wards constitute a metropolitan area, where at least 9.3 million people live and more than 10 million people work. It is difficult for a single ordinance-designated city to serve the whole of such a huge area. Therefore, in the areas of the special wards, each special ward, as a basic local government, and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, as a wide area local government, share a role and cooperate with each other to administer the entire metropolitan area.

Reasons why the special wards are not categorized as an "ordinance-designated city"

○ Securing unity and uniformity as a large metropolis
In order to respond to the situation of a large metropolis, such as the high concentration of population and the continuous nature of urban areas, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government handles affairs from the viewpoint of securing the unity and uniformity of a large metropolis.

○ Realization of local administration closer to residents and "Autonomy of Residents"
Promote decentralization even in a large metropolis, and handle administration near to residents as much as possible in special wards, which are local governments closer to residents.
### Special Ward System

**Relationship between general prefectures and municipalities**

(Article 2 of the Local Autonomy Act)

Division of roles between prefectures and municipalities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affairs for wide areas</th>
<th>Affairs relating to liaison and coordination concerning municipalities</th>
<th>Affairs that are inappropriate for general municipalities to handle in terms of the scale or nature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prefectures handle</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipalities handle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affairs of ordinary local public entities generally, excluding the affairs prefectures handle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Special Ward System
Relationship between the metropolitan government and the special wards
(Article 281-2 of the Local Autonomy Act)
Division of roles between the metropolitan government and wards in the areas where special wards exist

- Affairs that are supposed to be handled by prefectures
- Affairs relating to liaison and coordination concerning special wards
- Affairs that are generally supposed to be handled by municipalities, excluding the affairs the metropolitan government handles in an integrated manner
- From the viewpoint of ensuring the unity and uniformity of administration in the metropolitan area, affairs that are deemed necessary for the metropolitan government to handle in an integrated manner throughout the relevant area
Special Ward System

An illustration of administrative allocation between the metropolitan government and the special wards

Affairs of prefectures
(Regional affairs)
- Designation of city planning areas
- Police, etc.

Affairs of municipalities
(Affairs near to residents)
- Collection and processing of general waste
- Basic Resident Registers, etc.

Affairs that the metropolitan government needs to handle in an integrated manner throughout the area of the special wards
(Examples) Waterworks, sewage works, firefighting, etc.

Affairs that are conducted by wards and which are equivalent to the work of a city with a public health center and of a core city, etc.
(Examples) Establishment of public health centers, permits for restaurant operation, etc.
Metropolitan Government and Wards Financial Adjustment System

Purpose
Balance the allocation of financial resources between the special wards themselves, as well as between the metropolitan government and the special wards, and ensure the autonomous and systematic operation of the administration of the special wards.

Special ward financial adjustment allocation

Of the amount of revenue from "fixed asset tax", "city, town and village inhabitant tax (corporations)", and "special land possession tax" that are levied and collected by the metropolitan government, a certain percentage is granted to each special ward.

○ Ordinary allocation
The metropolitan government calculates the amount of the standard financial demand and the amount of the standard financial revenue for each special ward, and allocates it to special wards whose amount of demand exceeds the amount of revenue, in accordance with the revenue shortage.

○ Special allocation
Allocated to special wards with special circumstances, such as the financial demand arising from disasters.
Metropolitan Government and Wards Financial Adjustment System

**Mechanism of the system**

Amount retained by the metropolitan government

- Utilized as part of the financial resources required for the "metropolitan affairs" of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Financial resources
- Fixed assets tax
- City, town and village inhabitant tax (corporations)
- Special land possession tax

Allocation
- Special allocation
- Ordinary allocation

45% 55%
5% 95%
## Relationships and Characteristics of Tokyo and Wards, Cities, Towns, and Villages

### Area, Population, etc. of Special Wards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Area (October 1, 2016)</th>
<th>Population based on the Basic Resident Register (January 1, 2017)</th>
<th>Population of Japanese (people)</th>
<th>Population of foreigners (people)</th>
<th>Proportion of alien registration (%)</th>
<th>Population density (people/km²)</th>
<th>Population aged 65 or over (January 1, 2017) (people)</th>
<th>Proportion of population aged 65 or over (%)</th>
<th>Daytime to nighttime population ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chiyoda Ward</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11.66</td>
<td>59,788</td>
<td>57,123</td>
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<td>5.128</td>
<td>10,786</td>
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<td>Chuo Ward</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10.21</td>
<td>149,640</td>
<td>143,464</td>
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<td>14.656</td>
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<td>11.29</td>
<td>213,969</td>
<td>204,795</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>19.171</td>
<td>45,750</td>
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<td>157.5</td>
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<td>Taito Ward</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10.11</td>
<td>193,822</td>
<td>179,222</td>
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<td>16.585</td>
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<td>19.262</td>
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<td>Itabashi Ward</td>
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<td>13.858</td>
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<td>82.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total of special wards</td>
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<td>826.79</td>
<td>7,902,962</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>14,842</td>
<td>2,012,271</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>129.8</td>
</tr>
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