

A light blue map of Japan is shown in the background. The Hokuriku region, located in the northern part of the main island of Honshu, is circled with two white concentric ovals. The text is overlaid on this map.

Bird's-eye View

of HOKURIKU

HOKU (北 = NORTH)

RIKU (陸 = LAND)

why north ?

⇒ North of KYOTO

(longtime capital of Japan)

Hokuriku AJEC

(Around Japan sea Economic Exchange Conference in Hokuriku)

A light blue map of Japan is visible in the background. The island of Honshu is highlighted in a darker shade of blue. A white double-line circle is drawn around the central part of Honshu, indicating the location of the three largest metropolitan cities.

Situated in the midst of Honshu

(main island of Japanese archipel)

facing to Japan Sea

Japan's 3 largest metropolitan cities

Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka are

within 300km radius

But geologically separated

from Pacific Ocean side of island

by high mountains (2 to 3 thousand meters of altitude)



Wet climate:

Annual precipitation: 2,500mm

v.s. 1,500mm at Pacific side

Very rich in water which lead, historically speaking,
to acumulation of local industries such as;

- Electricity consuming industries (Aluminum indutries for exemple)

- Textile industries

- Semiconductor manufacturing indutries

Major meteorological difference from Pacific side:

wet wind from Japan Sea during winter

⇒ abundant precipitation

snowing very often

thunder storms

Hokuriku area covers 3 prefectures of Toyama, Ishikawa and Fukui.(I)

But, this concept of area is not the area of public administration. In Japanese administrative structure, there is no intermediate government between national (central) government and prefectural governments. In Japan, there are 47 prefectural (local) governments

(including Tokyo metropolitan government).

Because prefectures are generally too small, discussions continue for creating larger regional governments. Hokuriku may or may not be such region.

Hokuriku Economic Federation (Hokuriku Keizai Rengoukai···Hokkeiren) is founded by enterprises of 3 prefectures of Toyama, Ishikawa and Fukui.

Hokuriku area covers 3 prefectures of Toyama, Ishikawa and Fukui.(Ⅱ)

In some limited cases, Niigata Prefecture is included in Hokuriku area.

Historically speaking, the reign of Maeda during Edo era (265years) left strong cultural influence over the descendants of the area. Maeda, based at Kanazawa

(Kaga-han···country name during Edo era),

was the largest Daimyo (feudal lord) in Japan other than ruling Tokugawa family and ruled the vast area including present Ishikawa Prefecture and major part of Toyama Prefecture (including Toyama and Takaoka).

Hokuriku Population(2005): 3,107 thousand...2.4% of Japan

age 0-14: 14.1% 15-64: 63.7% ≥65: 22.2%

Major cities (population over 100,000):

[Toyama Prefecture	1,111,729]
Toyama	421,239
Takaoka	181,229
[Ishikawa Prefecture	1,174,026]
Kanazawa	454,607
Hakusan	109,450
Komatsu	109,084
[Fukui Prefecture	821,592]
Fukui	269,144
[3 prefectures total	3,107,347]



**GDP(2003 fiscal year):
12.3 trillion Yen...2.5% of Japan**

107.1 billion US\$ (US\$=115Yen basis)

Primary sector: 1.1%

Secondary sector: 30.5%

Tertiary sector: 68.4%

Traditional artisanal products(1)

The followings are some examples of the most well-known traditional crafts of Hokuriku;

Wajimanuri

Wajima lacquer ware is made after going through more than 100 different processes and is known for its deep and solid color. The main features of this lacquer ware are the techniques called chinkin and maki-e. Wajimanuri is probably the most well-known among the Japanese lacquer ware.



Kutani Porcelain

In the early Edo Period (1603-1867), colorful ceramics were initiated by the order of Lord of Kaga-han. Because of their bright colorful design, they are prized highly as works of art and Kutani pottery was also exported to foreign countries during Meiji(1868-1912) and Taisho(1912-1926) eras.



Traditional artisanal products(2)

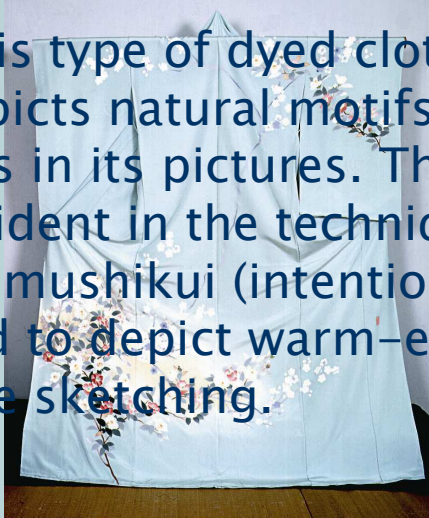
Kanazawahaku (Kanazawa Gold Leaf)

99% of the total gold leaf production of Japan is done in Ishikawa. In recent years, the paper used in “hakuuchi” –gold leaf beating methods is used as “aburatori-gami” or face-oil remover paper.



Kaga Yuzen

Kaga Yuzen is type of dyed cloth unique to Japan. It normally depicts natural motifs such as grass, flowers in its pictures. The skills of master crafts are evident in the techniques such as bokashi (fading) and mushikui (intentional insect bite method used to depict worm-eaten leaves), used to create lifelike sketching.



Takaoka Copperware

The Takaoka copperware produces 90% of all Japanese copperwares. It has developed by having created “Karakane Imono” (the bronze casting) which

applies metal carving on castings such as vases and Buddhist altar fittings.



Particularities of manufacturing industries in Hokuriku (I):

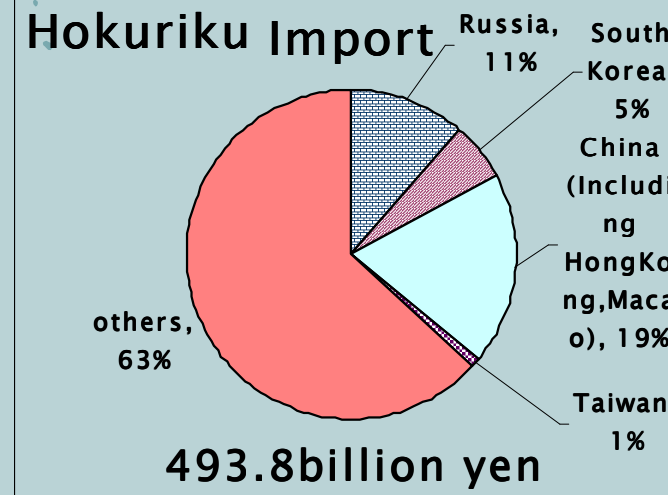
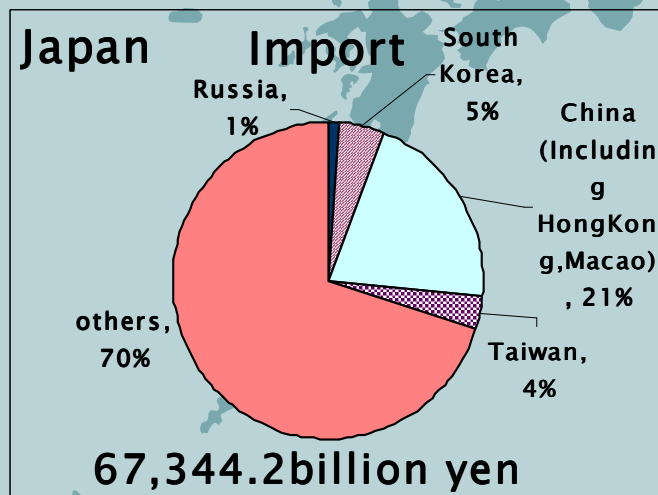
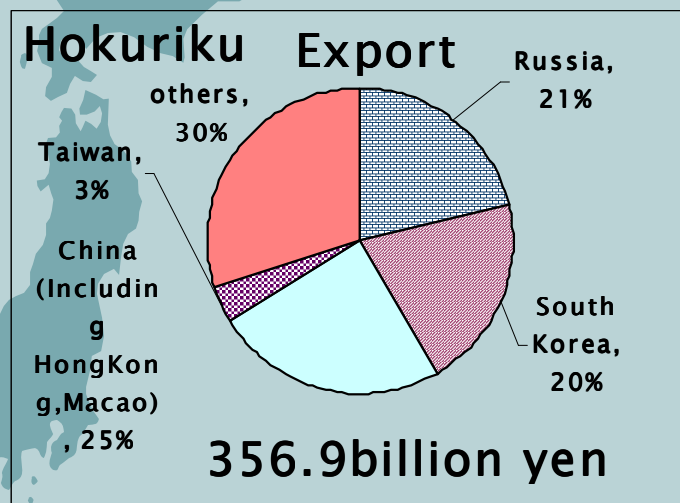
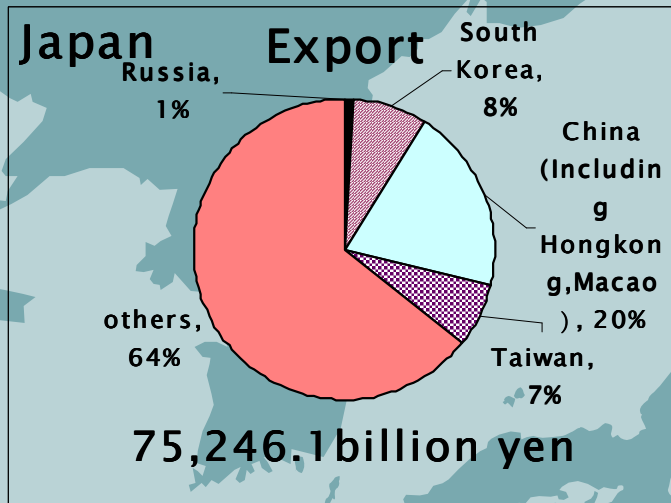
Because industrialization of Japan had been conducted mainly on the Pacific Ocean side sea front since Meiji era, heavy manufacturing industries such as steel mill, large scale shipbuilding, petroleum refinery, do not exist at Japan Sea side.

As presented in slide 3, textile industry is the most typical industry of Hokuriku. But, even in this industrial sector, the role of local industries was complementary vis-a-vis large scale textile yarn manufacturers of national/international scale, because local industries were relatively small in its scale. Even now, majority of local industries of Hokuriku is middle and small scale enterprises, though large companies such as Komatsu (head-office registered in Tokyo) of construction machineries, YKK of zippers (fasteners), Fujikoshi of NACHI brand bearings, are examples of exception.

Particularities of manufacturing industries in Hokuriku (Ⅱ):

Textile industries brought up textile machinery industries, then machine tool manufacturers. Furthermore, Hokuriku's soil of light industries also helped developments of plastic molders and electronic component manufacturers. Semiconductor manufacturing industries are also flourishing in Hokuriku which needs abundant pure water.

Hokuriku 3 prefectures Customs Data 2006



International liner container services of Hokuriku (3 ports as of 15/6/2007)

Port	Sea route	service/week	Ship type	Calling ports
Fushiki Toyama	Korea (4 services /week)	1	container	Fushiki Toyama → Niigata → Akita → Busan → Kanazawa → Fushiki Toyama
		1	container	Fushiki Toyama → Niigata → Sakata → Busan → Kanazawa → Fushiki Toyama
		1	container	Fushiki Toyama → Busan → Naoetsu → Niigata → Fushiki Toyama
		1	container	Fushiki Toyama → Niigata → Tomakomai → Busan → Kanazawa → Fushiki Toyama
	China (2 services /week)	2	container	Fushiki Toyama → Otaru → Dalian → Qingdao → Shanghai → Sakaiminato → Niigata → Fushiki Toyama
				Fushiki Toyama → Kanazawa → Dalian → Qingdao → Shanghai → Niigata → Fushiki Toyama
TSCS \$LB) (1 service /month)	1 (service /month)	container	Fushiki Toyama → Vostochny	
Kanazawa	Korea (3 services /week)	1	container	Kanazawa → Fushiki Toyama → Niigata → Akita → Busan
		2	container	Kanazawa → Fushiki Toyama → Niigata → Sakata → Busan Kanazawa → Sakaiminato → Busan → Sakaiminato → Naoetsu
	China (1 service /weekly)	2	container	Kanazawa → Sakaiminato → Shanghai → Qingdao → Dalian → Maizuru → Niigata → Fushiki Toyama
				Kanazawa → Fushiki Toyama → Niigata → Otaru → Nihgbo → Shanghai
North America (1 service /month)	1 (service /month)	RO/RO	Kanazawa → (intermediate calling port, but irregular) → New York	
Tsuruga	Korea (2 services /week)	1	container	Busan → Niigata → Naoetsu → Tsuruga → Busan
		1	container	Busan → Maizuru → Tsuruga → Sakaiminato → Busan

Airway routes (I)

[Toyama airport] (Toyama Pref.)

Domestic flights:

Tokyo (Haneda)	6 flights daily
Sapporo	1 flight daily
Fukuoka	1 flight daily

International flights:

Seoul	3 flights weekly
Vladivostok	3 flights weekly
Dalian	3 flights weekly
Shanghai	3 flights weekly

Airway routes (Ⅱ)

[Komatsu airport] (Ishikawa Pref.)

Domestic flights:

Tokyo(Haneda)	11 flights daily
Tokyo(Narita)	1 flight daily
Sapporo	1 flight daily
Sendai	1 flight daily
Fukuoka	3 flights daily
Naha(Okinawa)	1 flight daily

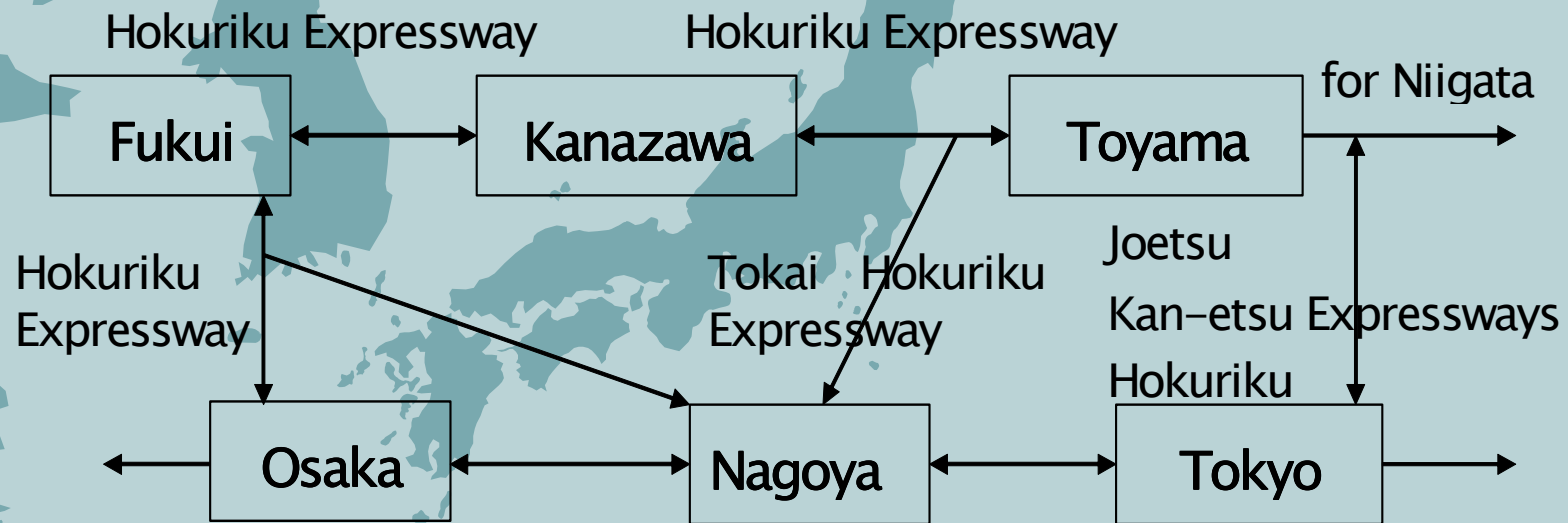
International flights:

Seoul	4 flights weekly
Shanghai	3 flights weekly
Luxemburg(cargo)	3 flights weekly

[Noto airport] (Ishikawa Pref.)

Domestic flights: Tokyo(Haneda) 2 flights daily

Highways



Sightseeing and Leisure spots (I)

Well known sightseeing spots:

[Toyama Pref.]

Tateyama—Kurobe Alpine Route

Zuiryuji Temple (in Takaoka)

Gokayama Village (world heritage)

[Ishikawa Pref.]

City of Kanazawa

Kanazawa Castle—Kenrokuen Garden (in Kanazawa)

[Fukui Pref.]

Eiheiji Temple

Sightseeing and Leisure spots (Ⅱ)

Matsuri (festivals) :

especially in summer in various places

Leisure spots (spas) :

Unazuki (Toyama Pref.)

Wakura (Ishikawa Pref.)

Yamanaka (Ishikawa Pref.)

Yamashiro (Ishikawa Pref.)

Katayamazuru(I), Awazu(I), Awara(F)

and so on