



世界と日本の COVID-19 の推移

新型コロナウイルス感染症 (COVID-19) 拡大防止のため、在宅勤務やテレワークなどによる stay home 状態からほぼふた月になりました。ひとけも少ない地球研の周りも、いつのまにか桜の季節は過ぎ、新緑の中にヤマツツジの花が咲き乱れる季節となりました。

世界の COVID-19 のパンデミックは南米や南アフリカなどに拡大し、5月25日(4月5日)のデータで、感染者数540万強(100万強)、死者は約34万5千人(5万人強)にのぼっています。

(カッコ内は、4月5日の安成通信で調べた時の数値です。) この50日間で感染者も死者も5~6倍の増加です。国内では東京など大都会を中心に拡大し、5月25日(4月5日)現在、感染者数が約17000(4000)人、死者は839人(93人)です。感染者数は同じ期間で、4倍程度ですが、死者数は約9倍です。ただ、図1のように、5月の連休に入った頃から、減少傾向が続いているということで、4月7日に政府が出した緊急事態宣言は、本日(とりあえず)解除されました。

京都における COVID-19 の推移

さて、(京都市・京都府を含む)京都の状況ですが、図2に示すように、欧州の卒業旅行から戻った大学生達からのクラスター(感染者集団)が3月29日に確認されて以来、感染者数は急上昇し、市内のひとつの病院で集団感染が発生したことなどもあり、4月3日には、1日に20人近い感染者数に達し、このまま、欧米でみられたようなオーバーシュートと言われる爆発的増加にならないかと心配されました。幸いなことにその後小康状態のまま、4月中頃から減少傾向となり、ゴールデンウィーク(GW)の頃からは数人以下、そして5月15日以降は感染者数ゼロとなっています。

なぜ京都で4月中頃以降、減少に転じたのでしょうか。政府の出した緊急事態宣言は4月7日であり、しかも、京都府はその時点は、この対象都道府県には入っていませんでした。緊急事態宣言の効果がすぐに出てくるものではないはずですが、いくつかの理由が相乗的に効いた可能性があります。まず、学生による集団クラスターの形成は、京都府・京都市に大きな衝撃を与え、知事と市長は4月2日に緊急の合同記者会見を行い、3密による社会的距離を保つことに加え、不要不急の外出、京都への観光、急激に感染が増加している関西圏での(通勤・通学も含む)行き来の自粛を強く訴えました。今年の桜の満開日はちょうど4月初めでしたが、例年なら京都市内、府内の桜の名所は多くの花見客が集まる時期でしたが、この自粛要請はみごとなほど効果が上がったようです。もうひとつ幸いであったことは、この数年来、大量に押し掛ける外国人観光客が、それぞれの国での COVID-19 問題のため、移動禁止などで、ほとんどいなかったことです。写真1は、4月3日の賀茂川沿いの満開の桜ですが、人の姿もまばらなことがわかります。今回の

ウイルスは、感染から1~2週間程度で発症するとされています。最初の学生クラスターによる府内感染や病院での感染が、4月初めの知事・市長合同の緊急宣言以降、かなり効果的に抑えられたようで、その結果が、4月中頃に現れてきたと考えられます。その後、全国での緊急事態宣言が出されたことも、他府県からの人の移動などを抑えることに一定の効果があったかもしれません。

地域レベルでの民主主義の大切さ

例年なら大勢の観光客が訪れるはずの京都では、さらに4月末からのGWでのstay homeキャンペーンによる感染抑制の効果がかなり効いたようです。GW中に覗いた木屋町、先斗町界限も、例年なら人でごった返していますが、今年は飲食店街もすべて閉店で、ほとんど人も歩いていない通りになっていました。写真2は連休最後の5月6日の四条大橋付近の鴨川の夕方です。例年は、5月から鴨川沿いのどの店も川床(ゆか)を始めて、賑やかな夜景が広がりますが、この日はまるでゴーストタウンの夜景でした。市内の観光名所である神社や寺院もすべて参詣・拝観の自粛を行っていました。写真3は5月10日(日)の清水寺全景の写真ですが、清水の舞台にも人影は全くありません。そして、このGWでのstay home効果により、約2週間後の5月15日前後から、京都では感染者ゼロの日々が達成されました。初夏を告げる鴨川の鮎放流がおこなわれ、カワウ除けのロープも四条大橋付近に張られました(写真4)。鴨川沿いの床で飲食を楽しむ人たちも少しづつ増え、京都の町は、ようやく季節を取り戻したかのようです。

いっぽうで、Stay home および休業の要請は、非常に多くの商店や事業者の収入を大きく減少させています。休業の要請は、休業補償とセットで実施されるべきですが、この問題についての政府の対応は遅く、むしろ、多くの地方自治体からの強い要請で細々と開始されつつあるのが現状です。それでも、自粛ベースのstay home や休業要請がかなり効果的に実施できたのは、京都府・京都市などの自治体と市民の間の信頼関係にもとづく問題の共有があったからではなかったでしょうか。医療機関の崩壊を防ぐために、市内のホテルが積極的に協力したことなども、効果的でした。東京都や大阪府などでも同様の効果が見られています。ヨーロッパの一部の国々では罰則も伴う緊急事態の法的措置によるロックダウンを行いましたが、それでも医療崩壊が起り、爆発的な感染者・死者の増加が起ってしまいました。日本が少なくとも現時点で感染拡大をかなり抑制できているのは、そのような法律の制定よりもまず、地域レベルでの民主主義的施策と行動こそが重要であることを強く示唆しています。

------(English version)-----

A message from Yasunari (安成通信) 2020/05/28

The transition of the COVID-19 under the seasonal change of Kyoto

Transition of COVID-19 issue in the world and Japan

It has been almost two months since we started to stay at home and work from home in order to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus infectious disease (COVID-19). The cherry blossom season has already passed, and the azalea flowers are now in full bloom in the fresh green around the quiet Chikyu-ken with few staff members present.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has spread to South America and South Africa, and the data as of May 25 (April 5) shows that the number of infected people is more than 5.4 million (more than 1 million) and the death toll is about 345,000 (more than 50,000). (The numbers in parentheses are based on Yasunari Tsushin as of April 5.) The number of infected and dead people has increased by 5 to 6 times in the last 50 days. In Japan, it has expanded mainly in big cities such as Tokyo and as of May 25 (April 5), the number of infected people is about 17,000 (4,000) and the number of deaths is 839 (93). The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases increased fourfold in the same period, but the number of deaths jumped nearly ninefold. However, as the cases have been decreasing since the beginning of Golden Week holidays in May as shown in Figure 1, the declaration of a state of emergency issued by the government on April 7 has been lifted (for the time being).

Transition of COVID-19 issue in Kyoto

Now, with regard to the situation in Kyoto (including Kyoto City and Kyoto Prefecture), as shown in Figure 2, since a cluster (group of infected people) from university students who returned from a graduation trip in Europe was confirmed on March 29, the number of infected people has soared, and due to the outbreak of a group infection at one hospital in the city, the number of cases reached nearly 20 a day on April 3, and there was growing concern about an explosive increase called "overshoot" just like what happened in Europe and America. Fortunately, the number of cases has been declining since mid-April. Only a few cases have been confirmed since Golden Week, and zero cases since May 15.

Why has it started to decline in Kyoto since mid-April? The government declared a state of emergency on April 7th, and Kyoto was not even included at that time. The effect of an emergency declaration cannot have appeared immediately. Several factors may have worked synergistically. First, the formation of group clusters by students had a great impact on Kyoto Prefecture and Kyoto City, and the governor and the mayor held an urgent joint press conference on April 2nd to urge the citizens to refrain from going out unnecessarily, sightseeing in Kyoto, and refrain from coming and going (including commuting to work and school) in the Kansai area where the number of infections is increasing rapidly in addition to maintaining a social distance. The cherry blossoms were in full bloom at the beginning of April this year, and there would have been so many people gathering at the famous Sakura spots in Kyoto city and Kyoto prefecture if it were not for the request for self-restraint, which seems to have been highly effective. The other fortunate factor was that a large number of foreign tourists who would rush to Kyoto to see the cherry blossoms at this time of year could not make their trips due to COVID-19 problems this year. Photo 1 is a picture of the cherry blossoms in full bloom taken at the Kamogawa River on April 3, but you can see that there are few people along the river. This virus is said to develop within 1-2 weeks after infection. It seems that infections

caused by the first student cluster and hospital cluster in Kyoto prefecture have been effectively suppressed since the joint emergency declaration by the Governor and Mayor of Kyoto in early April, and the results seemed to have appeared in the middle of April. The declaration of a state of emergency nationwide issued afterward may have had a certain effect in suppressing the movement of people from other prefectures as well.

In Kyoto, where a large number of tourists usually come visit every year, it seems that stay-at-home requests, which came into effect from the end of April to Golden Week, were quite effective to reduce the number of cases. During this Golden Week, I looked into the Kiyomachi and Pontocho neighborhoods where a crowd of people can be seen every year, but this year all the restaurants were closed and almost no one was walking. Photo 2 is taken at Kamogawa near Shijo Ohashi on the evening of the last day of Golden Week, May 6th. Every year, restaurants along Kamogawa start opening a river bed (Yuka) in May, and the lively night view would spread, but it looked like a night view of a ghost town that day. All the shrines and temples that are tourist attractions in the city were also voluntarily closed. Photo 3 is a full view of Kiyomizu-dera Temple taken on Sunday, May 10, but there is no sign of people on the stage of Kiyomizu. Since May 15, about two weeks after the Golden Week, the days with zero cases have been achieved in Kyoto due to the stay-home effect. Ayu (Sweetfish) were released in Kamogawa to signal the beginning of summer, and ropes to keep away Japanese cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) were also stretched near Shijo Ohashi (Big Bridge) (Photo 4). The number of people who enjoy dining and drinking on the Yuka along the Kamogawa river has gradually increased, and the town of Kyoto seems to have finally regained its season.

Importance of local/regional level democracy for the COVID-19 issue

On the other hand, stay-at-home and business suspension requests have significantly reduced the income of so many shops and businesses. Requests for business suspension should be carried out in combination with compensation, but the government's response to this issue is so slow that they have only started to put it into practice little by little by the strong demands from many local governments. Nevertheless, the reason why the request for voluntary stay-home and business suspension could be carried out quite effectively was probably because there was sharing of problems based on the good relationship of trust between local governments of Kyoto Prefecture /Kyoto City and citizens. The positive cooperation of hotels in the city to prevent overwhelming hospitals was also effective. Similar effects have been seen in Tokyo and Osaka as well. In some European countries, mandatory lockdowns were carried out accompanied by penalties, but they couldn't stop hospitals from being overwhelmed, causing an explosive increase in infections and deaths. Japan's considerable control over the spread of infection, at least at this point, strongly suggests that democratic policies and actions at the local/regional level are more important than the enactment of such legislation.

(Acknowledgment: I am grateful to Ms. Megumi Arita for completing the English version of this message.)

図 1: 日本全国でのコロナウイルス感染者数 (5月28日現在) Number of COVID-19 infected people in Japan (as of May 28)

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/special/coronavirus/data-all/>

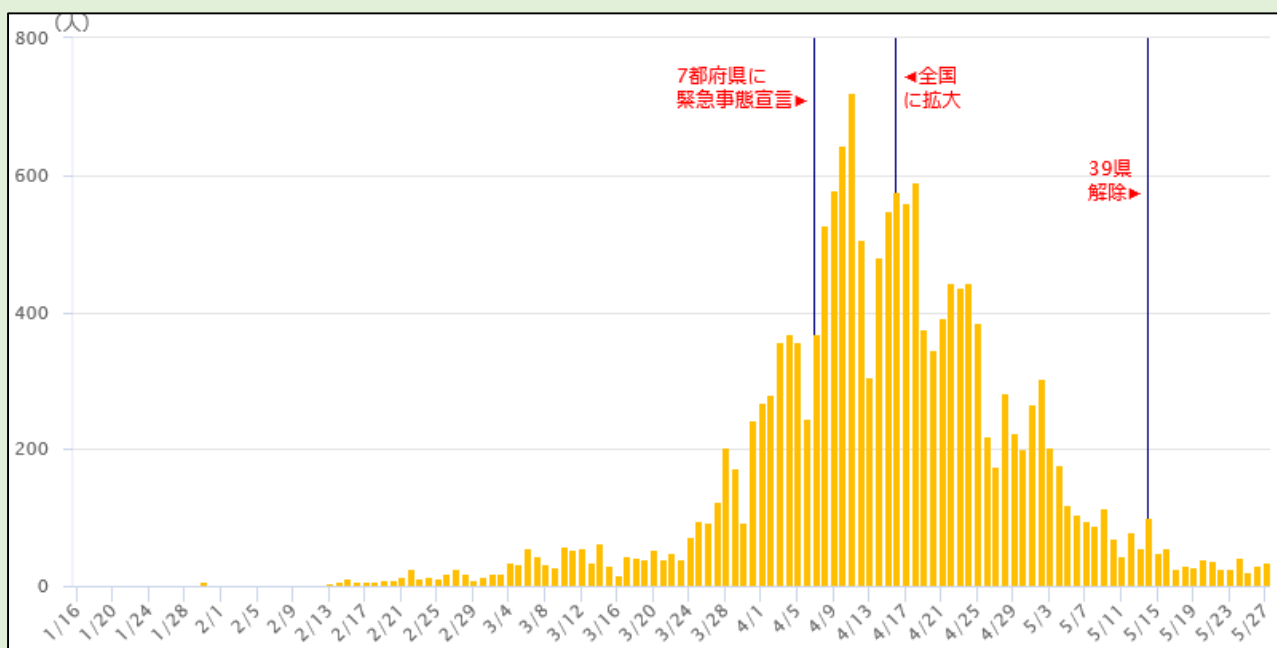


図 2: 京都府における新型コロナウイルス感染者数 (5月28日現在) Number of COVID-19 infected people in Kyoto Prefecture (as of May 28)

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/special/coronavirus/data/>

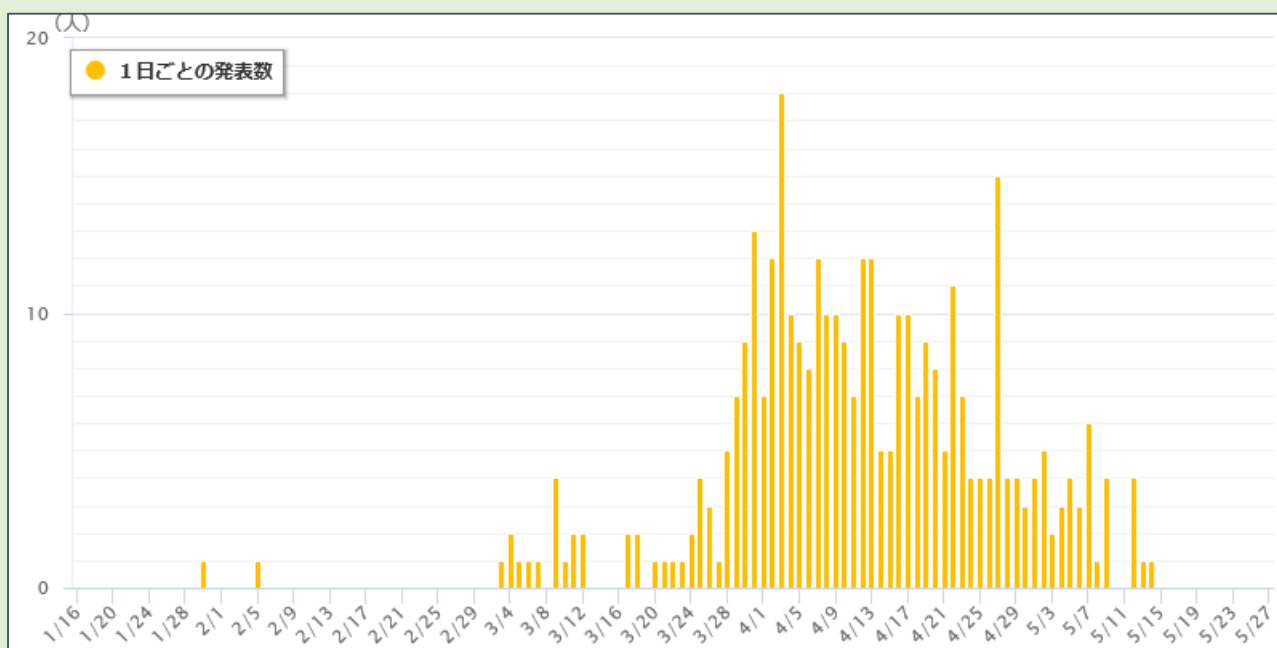


写真1：賀茂川沿いの満開の桜（4月3日）。（左）下鴨出雲路橋付近（左岸） （右）下鴨葵橋付近（右岸）。

Photo 1: Full blossom of cherry trees along Kamo river at Shimogamo (April 3) (left) left bank near Izumoji-bashi, (right) right bank near Aoi-bashi.



写真2：四条大橋付近の鴨川の風景（5月6日夕方）。大橋南西角の中華料理店東華菜館ビルの灯も消えている。

Photo 2: Evening scenery near Shijo Ohashi (Bridge) at Kamo river (May 6). The lights of most of buildings were off.



写真3：東山阿弥陀が峰から撮影した清水寺全景（5月10日）。観光客に人気の舞台にも全く人影が見られない。

Photo 3: Whole view of Kiyomizu-dera temple from Amidagamine, Higashiyama (May 10). No tourists were seen at the famous Butai (Stage) of the temple.



写真4：鴨川の風景（5月21日、四条大橋方面を松原橋から撮影）。鮎をねらうカワウ除けのロープが張られている。

Photo 4: Upstream view of Kamo-river from Matsubara-bashi (May 21). Ropes to keep away Kawa-wu (cormorants) were also stretched across the river sides.

