

and inflation eroding the value of savings, investments, and pensions, there is a high risk that the old life plan may no longer apply.

What's more, today's older generations have relatively stable pensions and assets, but younger and working-age generations cannot expect the same. The wealth gap between generations is already widening. To respond to this situation, which is fast approaching, we must do more than simply despair about the future—we must open new paths with our own hands.

Timeline and Challenges

2025–2030: The Acceleration of Change — when traditional lifestyles begin to falter Challenges

- Rapid increase in demand for medical and nursing care as the baby boomer generation enters late old age
- Declining tax revenues and heavier social security burdens due to fewer working-age people
- Loss of white-collar and knowledge-based jobs as AI evolves
- Decline in the real value of assets and pensions due to inflation
- Outflow of young people from rural areas and concentration in cities

Impacts

- Fewer choices in how to work
- Greater instability in future pensions and savings
- Fixed economic inequality between generations
- Shrinking local economies and services

Countermeasures

- Build skills in growing fields (healthcare support, repair, community services, etc.)
 - Seek out jobs and work styles that can coexist with AI as early as possible
 - Possess values beyond money (skills, networks, community ties)
 - Develop the ability to live in both urban and rural areas
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2030–2040: Full-scale population decline Challenges

- Depopulation of rural areas and increase in vacant houses
- Difficulty maintaining infrastructure (roads, water, electricity, etc.)
- Industrial decline and supply shortages due to lack of workers
- Shrinking of social security systems
- Disappearance of some local governments

Impacts

- Reduction of public services such as healthcare and transportation
 - Rising living costs even in urban areas
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- More young people and elderly living in isolation

Countermeasures

- Use vacant homes and idle land to secure low-cost living options
- Participate in local businesses and production activities that can function at a small scale
- Take part in projects where the elderly and young can collaborate
- Build ways of working that use one's strengths and allow movement between rural and urban areas

What ZIKUU Can Do

ZIKUU provides a **practice ground** for building the future of our lives with our own hands.

- **Skill acquisition and application:** woodworking, metalworking, construction, repair, software development, learning by doing
- **Dual-skill / hybrid human resources:** supporting the growth of people who can handle IT, AI, manual crafts, and construction, strengthening local supply capacity
- **Entrepreneurship support:** helping young people and women start businesses to stabilize their livelihoods
- **Use of local resources:** utilizing regional timber, creating disaster prevention tools and daily necessities, making use of local materials
- **Collaboration with peers:** building teams across generations and professions
- **Creating value beyond money:** promoting barter, sharing, and repair culture

What can be learned at ZIKUU is not just qualifications or academic achievements, but the **power to survive on your own**. Together with those who refuse to give up on the future, across generations and social positions, we will create new forms of society.

We will continue to pay close attention to this theme and summarize our thoughts as needed.

Category

1. **Category**

Tags

1. **2030**
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