

# **The Marriage System in Japan: Shall Dual Surnames be Allowed?**

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## **Abstract**

In this paper, we examine the current situation in Japan surrounding the marriage surname system and the validity of proposed dual surname system by: (1) reviewing the legal situation and presenting some arguments for and against the introduction of dual surnames system; (2) considering fairness and welfare improvement of law amendment; (3) presenting the survey results on public views about the dual surname system, with reference to two web-based surveys carried out in December 2009 and the government survey of 2006, supplemented with that of 2001 and 1996; (4) assessing the validity of claims regarding the system utilizing the collected data.