

# The Economic Impact of the Removal of the Utility Poles



## Necessity of Underground Poles

- ① Landscape will improve.
- ② Increased safety during disasters.
- ③ Barrier free access.

### Introduction

Japan has a lot of utility poles above ground. Other countries are actively working on eliminating poles.

Fallen Utility poles cause much damage in times of disaster.

Why can't Japan go pole-free?

- ① High cost
- ② No professional engineers
- ③ Longer construction time
- ④ Problems with PCB's

## Problems with PCB's

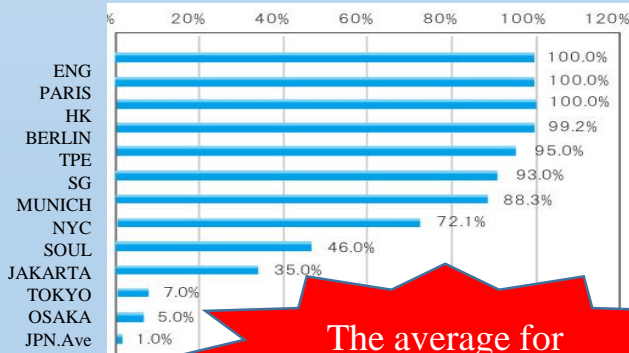
PCB's are damaged to human.

Japan has only one company that can remove PCB's.

Takes a long time to remove  
Technology needs to be shared with other companies and more technicians.



## Utility pole removal by country



The average for Japan is only 1%

WHY?

Devastation in WW2

Needed to quick recovery during high economic growth

## PROS

- ① Increase in land price value.
- ② Landscape will improve.
- ③ Increased safety with a disaster.

Increased tourism and Improved safety in the city  
Revitalized local economy !

## List of Damage from Disasters in Japan

Disaster	Utility poles	Victimization Rate		Collapsed utility pole
		Underground Poles	Utility poles	
Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake	Lightning	0.03%	2.4%	1/80
	Typhoon	4.7%	10.3%	1/2
	Flood			About 3,600
	Earthquake			About 4,500
The Great East Japan Earthquake	Fire	telecommunications cable	Earthquake : 0%	Earthquake : -0.0%
		telecommunications cable	Liquefaction : 0.1%	Liquefaction : -0.9%
			Tsunami : 0.3%	Tsunami : 7.9%
		Electricity cable	No data	No data
	Tornadoes			1/25
	Tsunami			About 28,000

The damage rate would be reduced to 1/80th of what it would have been if utility poles were removed.

Underground poles are more resistant to various disasters than overhead wires.

Underground poles have one weakness .

That is disaster involving water. For example, tsunamis and floods.

Removal of utility poles must be implemented in high elevation areas!

In cities with low elevation, run electrical wires under the roofs of buildings.

## Conclusion

Utility poles should be removed. Priority based on landscape and major cities and areas above 50 meters in elevation.

Landscape will improve.

Increased tourism and economic benefits can be obtained.

Increased safety in the city

The region is revitalized.

Increase in land price values

The local economy is revitalized.

Conclusion

Japan's economic development is possible.