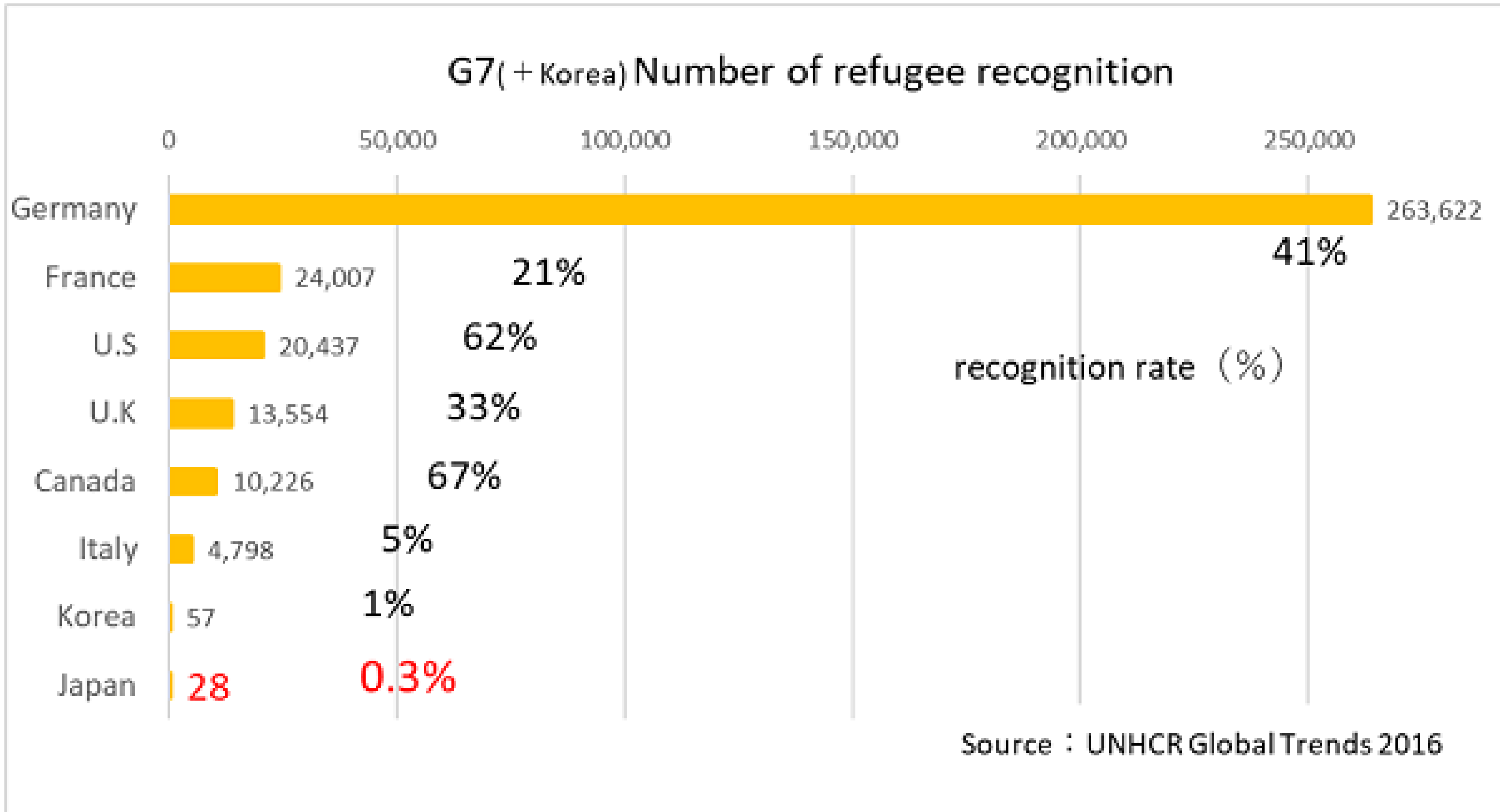


★What is a refugee?

for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country

Quoted from "Refugee Convention" | UNHCR



Japan's recognition rate and total number stands out as the lowest
⇒Validity is questionable

Comparative

1.RSD(Refugee Status Determination) Organization

	US	UK	Germany	Japan	Canada	France	Italy
Organization	○	○	○	×	○	○	○
Independence	△	△	△	×	○	○	△

Based on Refugee Studies Forum's data

- ...Organizations for first determination and for appeals are different
Is independent from related ministries and agencies
- ×...the same
Not independent
- △...Don't have independence statement, they are experts on refugees

★Only the Japanese system is far from other G7 countries'
Discussion: Japan can't make accurate and neutral RSDs

Comparative

2.Determination Criteria

The author interviewed a lawyer about the challenges facing Japanese recognition system for this study. The quotations with " " are from the interviews. ✕it's translated into English from Japanese.

Interviewee Wataru Takahashi

(Deputy Executive Director, Human Rights Now; Lawyer)

"There is a unique interpretation of refugee status that requires applicants to be personally identified in determining refugee status."

If the applicant is individually recognized (known) by the persecuting entity because of his/her attributes or activities, this may be a positive circumstance in determining the applicability of this requirement.

Quoted from "難民該当性判断の手引" and translated in English

3.Interview Process

- ① Permission to be accompanied by a lawyer or representative
- ② Permission to make recordings

	US	UK	Germany	Japan	Canada	France	Italy
Accompanied	○	○	○	×	○	○	○
Recording	×	○	○	×	○	○	○

Compiled with excerpts and additions from the Refugee Studies Forum

- ...Permitted
- ×...Not permitted

★Only Japan does not allow recording or being accompanied by a lawyer or representative
Discussion: It is hard to get refugee status for applicants

Conclusion

According to the 3 comparatives and discussions, the author found Japan has a unique refugee recognition system and lacks international validity. However, there are more aspects in the systems. Therefore, the author wants to research more and confirm that the results of this initial research is correct.

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