

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROJECT NAME 	Volunteer Probation Officer Law
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TYPE OF PRACTICE 	Reintegration of offender and crime prevention.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CITIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES, COUNTRY/IES 	All of Japan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMPLEMENTED SINCE... 	Law adopted in 1950.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRIEF DESCRIPTION 	Volunteers assist parole and probation officers by providing closer accompaniment to released offenders, helping them reintegrate society, which is seen as an important step in preventing them from reoffending and therefore contributes to public safety. Each volunteer is required to follow a number of training courses and they are appointed for a two-year term.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROMOTING OR LEADING ENTITIES 	Ministry of Justice and other national and local government ministries and agencies such as the Women's Association for Rehabilitation Aid (WARA) and the Big Brothers and Sisters Association.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARTICIPANTS 	Between 48,000 and 49,000 individuals - whose average age is just younger than 64 - come from nearly every area of Japanese society to serve as VPOs. Nearly half are retired, 15 percent are housewives, slightly more than 12 percent come from farming and fishing environments and just fewer than 11 percent are part of the religious community. The remaining volunteers include government workers, company owners, manufacturers, social workers, school teachers, medical doctors and lawyers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OBJETIVES 	Reintegrate offenders into society and preventing reoffences therefore contributing to crime prevention.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TARGETS 	Offenders released on probation or parole.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAIN RESULTS 	The VPO system in Japan has a long and successful history. It remains strong and provides both help for offenders and education to the general public as to the need and effectiveness of community-based criminal justice sanctions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • METHODOLOGY 	<p>VPOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervise and assist probationers and parolees; • Inquire about the environment in which inmates in a correctional institution will live after release and address any problems in that area;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work as neighbors to offenders, assisting them on behalf of the community, some even make use of their community network to secure employment for offenders. <p>VPOs submit a monthly progress report to the probation office.</p>
• EVALUATION INDICATORS / METHOD	
• DEGREE OF SUCCESS (EVALUATION RESULTS)	
• CONTACT	
• PROJECT LINKS	
• PROJECT LOGO	
• OBSERVATIONS	Although there it is difficult to obtain specific information with regards to the success of this practice, the longevity and continuation of it, as well as the number and variety of people and entities involved is evidence of its sucess.
• SIMILAR PROJECTS	
• OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION	<p>http://www.allbusiness.com/public-administration/justice-public-order/1078717-1.html</p> <p>http://www.moj.go.jp/ENGLISH/issues/issues04.html</p>