

## Authors' Response

Sir,

We previously showed some reports about the possibility of a relation between unemployment and suicide in Japan in our report in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* (1), and we also felt the necessity to discuss economic issues other than unemployment in relation to suicide based on reports of suicide in Japan in recent years. Therefore, we discussed the relation between stock prices in last value at the end of the year of the Nikkei Stock Average and suicide rates over a 25-year period from 1984–2008 in Japan in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*. The result of the yearly discussion among each sex was that stock prices may be related to suicide among men. We read your Commentary on: Inoue K, Fukunaga T, Okazaki Y. Study of an economic issue as a possible indicator of suicide risk (2).

In your comment, you showed that the correlation between the unemployment rate and the suicide rate was positive in the United States. Some reports have shown that unemployment is a risk factor for suicide in other countries (3,4), and we also described that the possibility of a relation between unemployment and suicide was shown in L1-2 in this Authors' Response in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*. You also discussed between the Dow Jones Industrial Average at the end of the year and the suicide rate in United States in some patterns, and we think that the relation between stock prices in last value at the end of the year and suicide may be informed by your result. In addition, you suggested that suicide rates will rise as the economy worsens. In the United States, there are reports (5–8) on the relation between suicide and suicide prevention programs. We discussed the relations between the last value at the end of the year of the Nikkei Stock Average and annual suicide rates in our report in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* (1), and we described that the report is the first step in a discussion of the relation between stock prices and suicide in Japan. Therefore, we plan to continue this discussion in detail in the future.

In Japan, further suicide prevention measures are needed based on the present suicide trends, so in the future we will discuss suicide prevention from various viewpoints. We would like to thank you for your interest in our manuscript.

## References

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