Japan is faced with three major domestic issues

《Read Aloud》

Amid the global economic turmoil, Japan is faced with three major domestic issues - the graying of the population, a declining birthrate and snow-balling public debt.

It has been predicted that the nation's workforce will shrink by about 300,000 each year for the foreseeable future. Because of this, Japan will become the first country in the world to carry out an experiment in which it has to attempt to achieve economic growth despite a contracting population.

The government's debt is equivalent to 170 percent of the country's gross domestic product, compared with 40 percent for South Korea, 20 percent for China and 60 to 70 percent for Western countries. If the government's debt continues to rise, the country will face bankruptcy and the public will have to foot the bills.

Let's talk about today's topics

Do you think Japan will retain its position as the second largest economic country in the world?

What do you think is most important for the growing economy in Japan?

Why did the government's debt become so big?

How will the government repay the debt?

Why is the Japanese birthrate declining now?