

## Hitherto Impossible Relationships

### *Encounters With Long-Distance Crimes*

From last spring through summer, there occurred a number of unidentifiable source type of crimes which were perpetrated by schoolgirls and subsequent damage reports have been filed in many parts of Japan, including Tokyo, Gunma, Tochigi, and Toyama.

Following are two examples of these crimes:

Two school girls from Tokyo and Tatebayasi in Gunma (both were 17 years old) went to a hotel with a 27-year-old man who was from Takasaki. The girls robbed him of his wallet while he was taking a shower. Moreover, two schoolgirls (both were 14 years old) from Ota in Gunma were arrested for child prostitution. They went to a hotel to have sexual intercourse with a 42-year-old man from Ashikaga in Tochigi. On another occasion, they had sex with a 30-year-old man from Honjou in Saitama.

In the Hokuriku area, there also occurred a case of child prostitution, involving a 14-year-old girl from Nanao in Ishikawa and a 34-year-old man from Takaoka in Toyama. In another case of child prostitution between a middle school girl from Kanazawa in Ishikawa and a 38-year-old man from Toyama, there was even some trouble over the payment.

In the Tohoku area of Japan in August of last year, a 16-year-old high school girl's corpse was found near Shiogama Bay of Shiogama in Miyagi. She was from Utsunomiya in Tochigi. The remarkable aspect of this case was that the suspect was carrying the victim's cell phone when the suspect was arrested. According to the investigation they had connected with each other through the victim's cell phone input for the "Deaikei Site" and thus that same cell phone was the key factor in the suspect's capture.

These hitherto unimaginable cases have something in

common, which is “the impossible long-distance relationship of a child and an adult.” In other examples of this sort of case, there was also a relationship between a man and a Hokkaido schoolgirl, and another between a man from Iwate and a girl from Tokyo and a middle-aged man from Okinawa. These examples of long-distance, otherwise un-connect-able pairs formed between adults and adolescents, spanning geographical and generational gaps with connections that were hitherto impossible, have not been recorded until recently.

In fact, from around the year of 2000, inquiries for clarification made to my study department have come not only from my local Gunma police department but also from police departments in other prefectures, which required operational assistance. The number of inquiries has been steadily increasing since 2000.

The typical question stated that, “There are unidentified types of crimes now occurring. Children are involved in sex offences conducted over long distances. The expansion of these cases can not be explained only by the development of transportation. What sort of cause could make it possible?”

To this question, I have been offering the answer that “The Internet function which has recently been added to cell phones is the probable connection.” There is now a function in cell phones which can connect children with dangerous adults. Accessing the contents of a so-called “Deaikei Site” provides one such major dangerous link. At the end of last year, there was a lot of attention given to the announcement of the National Police Agency which proposed usage access restraints to this “Deaikei Site”.