

Topic IV : Police Efforts toward Eradication of Special Frauds

(1) Present Situation of Special frauds

Chart IV-1 shows the change in the number of confirmed cases and total losses of special frauds, including remittance frauds ("hey, it's me" fraud, billing fraud, advance-fee loan fraud and refund fraud). In 2015, the confirmed number of all special frauds cases increased over the previous year while the total losses decreased.

Regarding the number of confirmed (accomplished crime) cases by type of delivery, while "remittance type," in which the victim transfers cash to the specified savings account, and "cash/cash card handover type," in which the victim hands over cash or cash cards directly to the criminal who comes to the victim's home or other locations to collect it, have increased over the previous year, "cash delivery type," in which the victim sends cash by delivery services, etc. decreased.

The elderly aged 65 and older accounted for 77.0% of the victims of special frauds, and the percentages were high, especially in "hey, it's me" fraud, refund fraud and special fraud under the pretext of trading financial instruments and such.

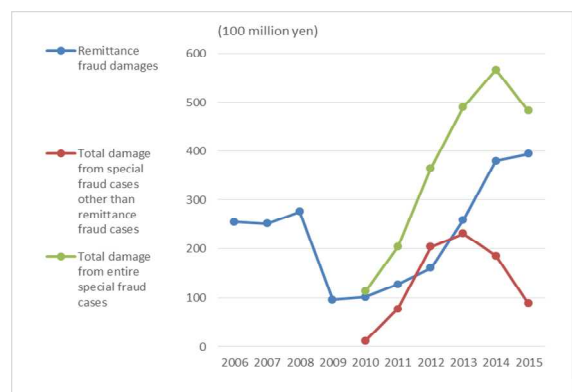
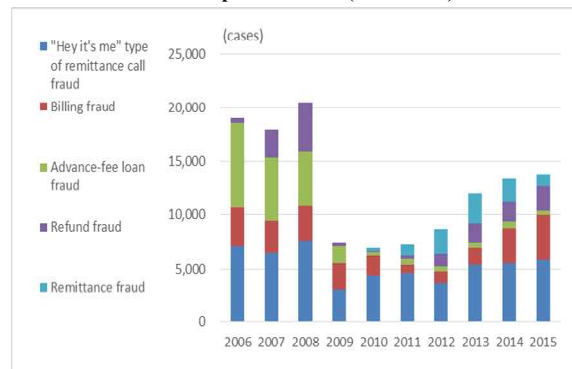
In addition, the number of cleared cases was 4,112, and the number of arrested persons was 2,506 in 2015: both increased from the previous year and were the largest since 2011.

(2) Promotion of Enforcement

1 Enforcement by Prefectural Police

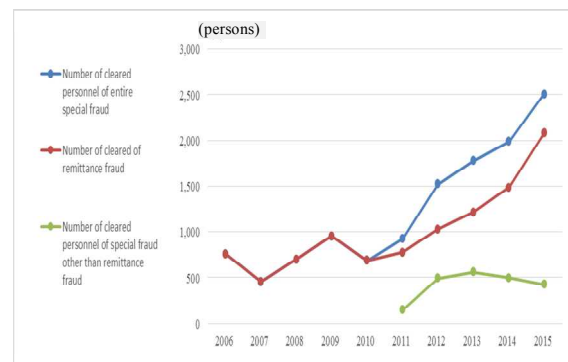
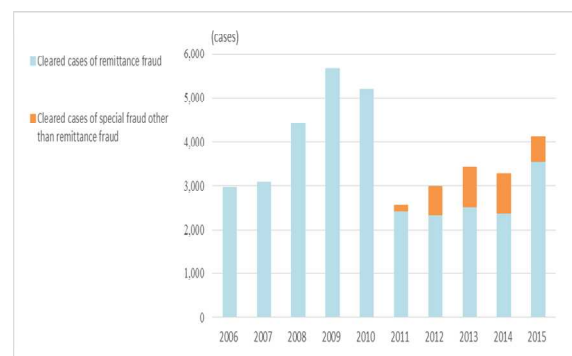
Special frauds are committed in an organized manner; with the criminal group's leader and its core members playing key roles, "caller," who makes phone calls repeatedly and deceives the victim, and "collector," who comes to the victim's home or other locations to collect the cash, etc. and such players

Chart IV-1: Change in the confirmed number and total losses of special frauds (2006-2015)



Note: Collection of data for special frauds other than remittance fraud started in February 2010.

Chart IV-2: Change in clearance situation of special frauds cases (2006-2015)



Note: Collection of data for special frauds other than remittance fraud started in January 2011.

taking parts.

The police focus on special frauds that target the elderly and analyze the *modus operandi* and the actual situation of damages. Based on the analysis, the police make efforts to arrest criminal groups by exposing their footholds and setting criminals up for Pretend-to-be-deceived operation, etc.

Also, saving accounts and mobile phones under a fictitious name or in another person's name are being used in special frauds. Therefore, the police are advancing crackdowns on acts that facilitate special frauds such as buying and selling of saving accounts to block their circulation and prevent them from being handled by criminal groups.

2 Measures against Special Frauds Committed in Organized Manner

Among the persons arrested for special frauds in 2015, the number of Boryokudan members was 826, which accounted for 33.0% of all persons arrested for special frauds. The number suggests that special frauds are some parts of the financial resources for Boryokudan. By strengthening cooperation between the white-collar crime department responsible for the investigations of fraud cases and the organized crime department responsible for the investigation of crimes committed by Boryokudan and other crimes, the police push forward enforcement that utilizes methods of organized criminal control that includes attempts to arrest the hub of criminal groups and expose their footholds by thoroughly gathering, integrating and analyzing information regarding the actual situations of the organization of the criminal groups as well as investigating persons in higher rank of the criminal groups upwards using the statements and confessions of “collector” and such criminal group members.

In April 2016, in order to strengthen information gathering on the special frauds

criminal groups, local police officers in charge of countering special frauds were increased by 160 persons.

(3) Public-Private Sector Partnership in Advancing Crime Prevention Activities

1 Public Awareness Activities

The police take advantage of various opportunities to actively send out information on the *modus operandi* of crimes and precautions against being deceived. To call attention from various fields, the police promote public awareness activities especially for the elderly who account for a great number of the victims.

2 Partnerships with Organizations and Groups Concerned

Much of the losses of special fraud have been withdrawn or remitted using tellers' windows or ATMs of financial institutions. It is very important that the staff of financial institutions speak to their customers for preventing such frauds. The police are encouraging the staff of financial institutions to speak to their customers through initiatives



Street campaign by Saitama Prefectural Police
(2006-2015)

such as providing a checklist, a list of questions to detect possible victims of special frauds, to show the customers when speaking to them and conducting training in collaboration with the staff of financial institutions. In addition, the police strengthen coordination with mail and delivery services and convenience stores by requesting

detection and report of parcels that may possibly contain the losses derived from frauds. Through such crime prevention activities with private sectors, in 2013, 12,332 cases and losses amounting to about 26.7 billion yen were prevented in advance.

Also, based on the circumstances that vacant rooms of rental condominiums have been misused as delivery addresses for sending the losses and foothold of crime, the police promote real estate-related organizations to implement measures such as thorough management of vacancies and call for the use of a written promise stating that the rooms will not be used for special frauds. Furthermore, in cooperation with the municipalities, the police push forward with prevention of special frauds by asking the elderly to use an equipment that makes a warning announcement before the ring tone to notify the criminal that the contents of the call will be automatically recorded for crime prevention and then automatically records the call from the criminal.

[Column] Damage Prevention of Special Frauds by Using Call Centers

The police are making efforts to draw the attention of the elderly, especially those who were on the lists seized in the course of the investigation, through phone calls from call centers consigned to the private sector. There are many cases where the loss by frauds was prevented in advance.

For example, when Nagasaki Prefectural Police confirmed a "hey, it's me" fraud that was suspected of abusing the list of high school graduates, the police got hold of the list and provided the call center with the list. Utilizing it, the call center staff alerted the house of the graduates' parents listed on the roster thus preventing the loss of "hey, it's me" fraud of a woman in her 80s.