

Promoting Collaboration between Government and Private Sector as a Means of Preventing Children from Falling Victim to Crime Through Their Use of Community Sites

The number of children falling victim to crime through their use of community sites is rising as a result of the explosion among children (those aged under 18; the same applies hereunder) in the use of smartphones and other devices with internet connectivity, smartphone apps, and various other online services. A total of 1,652 children fell victim to crimes relating to community sites in 2015, while 889 cases were recorded in the first half of 2016. These are the highest numbers since the National Police Agency (NPA) started taking statistics in 2008.

The internet has become an established element of the social infrastructure, one that is essential to both civilian life and socioeconomic activity, where cyberspace is now an integral part of day-to-day living. The same holds true for children, and more and more elementary school children now have smartphones. The internet continues to evolve, the technology is constantly advancing, and children actively utilize the powerful tools that they are given, pushing to extend the possibilities as a means of achieving self-actualization. As the range of a child's activities widens with age, so it becomes necessary to use the internet as a means of communicating with many different people.

At the same time, children do not have the same capacity for judgment as adults and are immature/unworldly in all areas of life. Community sites can have unimaginable consequences for children inexperienced in the art of communication, and adult support and functional restrictions are critical if children are to be able to use these services safely. Given the importance of cultivating a new generation of wholesome internet users, the operators of community sites also need to be fully aware of the fact that children use the services that they provide and to recognize the necessity for care on quite a different level to that provided in respect to services that cater exclusively to an adult market/audience. The operators of community sites with a high incidence of child abuse, meanwhile, have a social responsibility to prevent such crime and should be held accountable for the protections for children that they have put into place to prevent such crimes from occurring.

In response to the rising numbers of children falling victim to crime through their use of community sites, the police are strengthening crackdown efforts on offenses related to child welfare (crimes that have a harmful effect on the mind and/or body of children and that significantly inhibit the healthy development of such children) and are promoting the use of cyber guidance. They are also working with the relevant ministries and agencies to: promote the widespread use of filtering, monitor mini-mails (the email service available only among the SNS users), and provide support for the introduction of internet zoning. Community site operators have begun implementing various measures, and several are making strenuous efforts to prevent crime in full consciousness of the necessity of preventing online child abuse. Cybercrime prevention volunteers have also begun stepping up their activities. It is, however, impossible to keep pace with the advances in internet technology and the diversification of services being made available by domestic and foreign community site operators, and the provision of full protection for the child victims of online abuse is yet to be achieved.

To prevent children from falling victim to cybercrime, the issue of child exposure to thousands of inappropriate posts, including those attempting to attract compensated dating (a problem in Japan), needs to be resolved, and an environment needs to be put into place that will enable children everywhere to use the internet both safely and

effectively. Again, with new technologies and services emerging continuously, the public and private sectors must coordinate more closely than ever before in order to protect children—who are the next generation—from any physical and mental harm arising from community sites and other internet services, and to ensure that such sites contribute to the healthy growth of and are attractive destinations for children.

To this end, discussions were held on “collaboration between government and private sector as a means of preventing children from falling victim to crime through their use of community sites”—which was the theme of Comprehensive Security Measures Conference in FY2016. This report examines the current state of cooperation between government and the private sector in preventing children from falling victim to crime through the use of community sites, summarizes the issues that need to be addressed, and provides an outline of the results of these discussions as a means of shedding light on the future direction of cyber security for children.

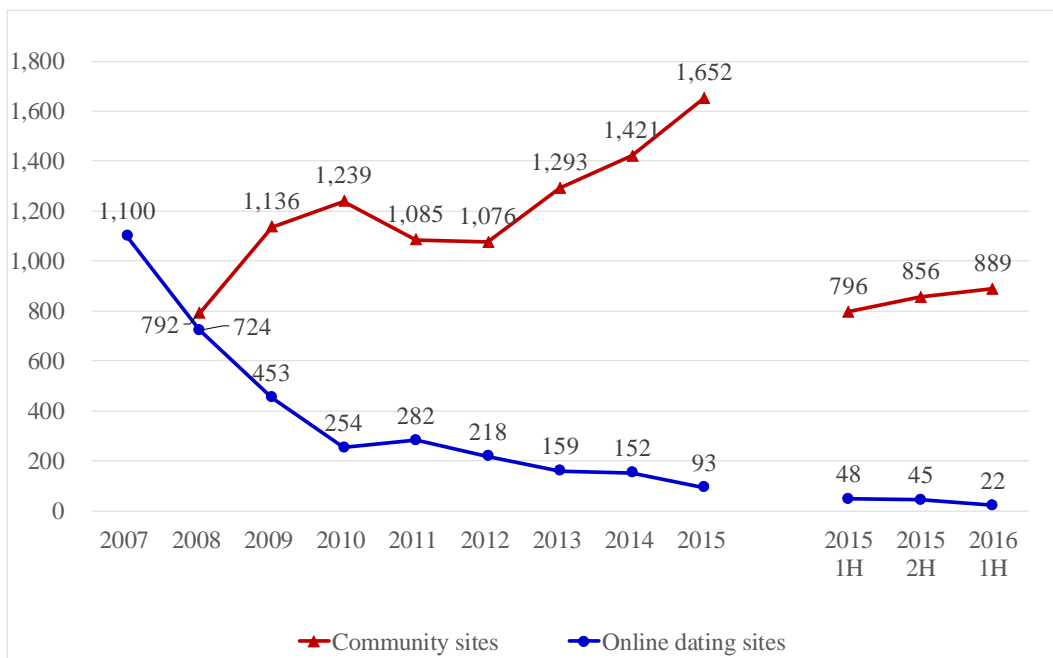
Chapter 1: Background to and the current status of child abuse via community sites

Community sites (excluding online dating sites) provide a forum for communication between large numbers of people, where the services available to users range widely. In 2008, which is the year that the NPA began taking statistics, there were 792 recorded cases of child abuse via community sites, which was on par with the number of child victims of online dating sites that year.

In 2003, the *Act on Regulation on Soliciting Children by Using Opposite Sex Introducing Service on the Internet* (known as the “Online Dating Sites Regulation Act”) was enacted to prohibit the act of luring juveniles into sexual assault, etc., as the result of which the number of child victims of online dating sites decreased. This legislation was revised in 2008 following a spike in the number of underage online dating site victims in 2006, introducing a system of notification to prefectural public safety commissions in an attempt to strengthen the controls over the operators of online dating sites, and implementing a range of measures to encourage private sectors to take action in preventing children from using online dating sites. This has led to a dramatic decline in the number of underage online dating site victims.

By contrast, the number of child victims of community sites has shown an almost constant increasing trend since 2008, with 1,652 cases recorded in 2015 and 889 cases in the first six months of 2016 alone. Both figures are record numbers, and the current situation is cause for considerable alarm.

Figure 1: Trends in the number of child victims of crimes relating to community sites and online dating sites (2007 to the first half of 2016; NPA)



* The NPA began recording statistics on crimes relating to community sites in 2008.

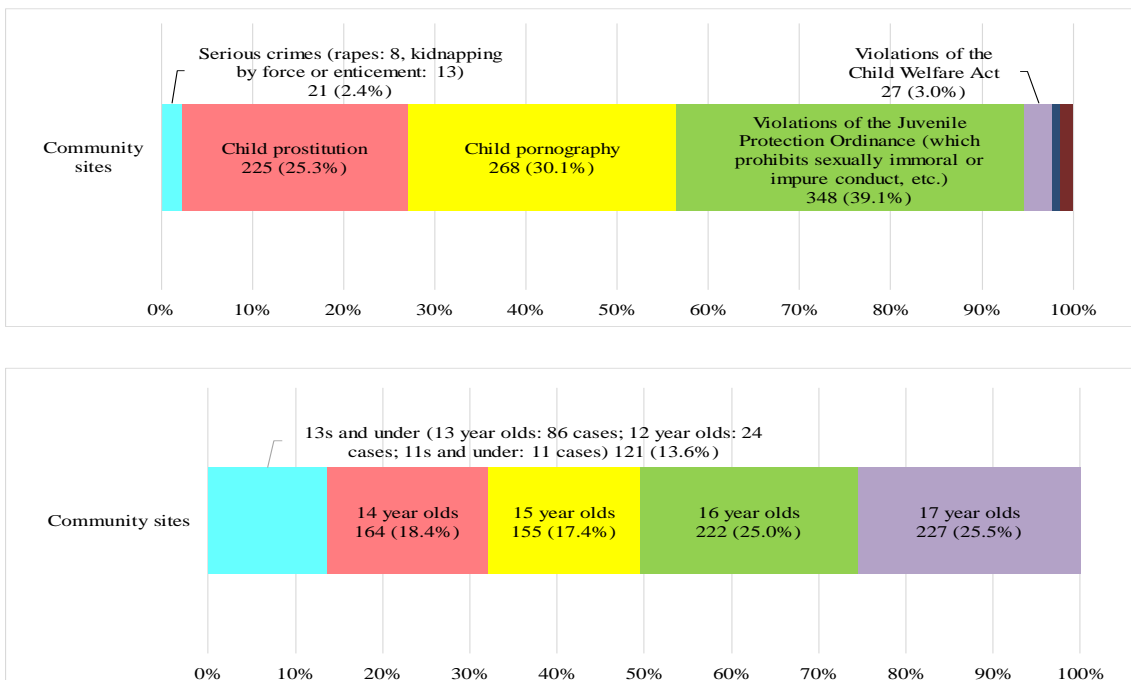
Chapter 2: Efforts made to date by various entities

1. Police efforts

(1) Apprehension and guidance

A look at crimes arising from community sites by type of offense shows violations of the *Juvenile Protection Ordinance* (which prohibits sexually immoral or impure conduct, etc.) accounting for the largest number of child victims, followed by child pornography and child prostitution, and demonstrates that community sites are being used as a means for sexually exploiting children. By age group, children aged 16 or 17 account for the majority of victims, but numerous children aged 13 and under are also falling victim to crime, which suggests that community site users are becoming younger in focus. The police have mounted an aggressive crackdown on child welfare offenses of this nature, and are using cyber patrols of the internet as a means for locating underage users that make inappropriate posts soliciting compensated dating partners. The police are also providing cyber guidance by making contact with such users to issue warnings and/or guidance as appropriate so as to protect them from falling victim to child welfare offenses.

Figure 2: Number and ratio of child victims of crimes relating to community sites by type of offense and age (First half of 2016; NPA)



(2) Cooperation with community site operators

The police are also: working with the operators of community sites according to the type of the service that they provide, strengthening the monitoring of mini-mails, and promoting the introduction of effective internet zoning as a means of preventing minors from falling victim to crime. In cooperation with the related government ministries and agencies and other organizations, efforts are also being made to promote the widespread use of filtering, and the “Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee (Task Force) Regarding Measures to Protect Children from Crime,” set up in February 2011 as a group that is subordinate to the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime, has formulated and is promoting “Urgent Action to Protect Children from Falling Victim to Crime through Their

Use of Community Sites,” which consists of a three-pronged approach that involves the expanded use of filtering, voluntary introduction of internet zoning, and voluntary monitoring of mini-mails.

2. Efforts being made by the operators of community sites

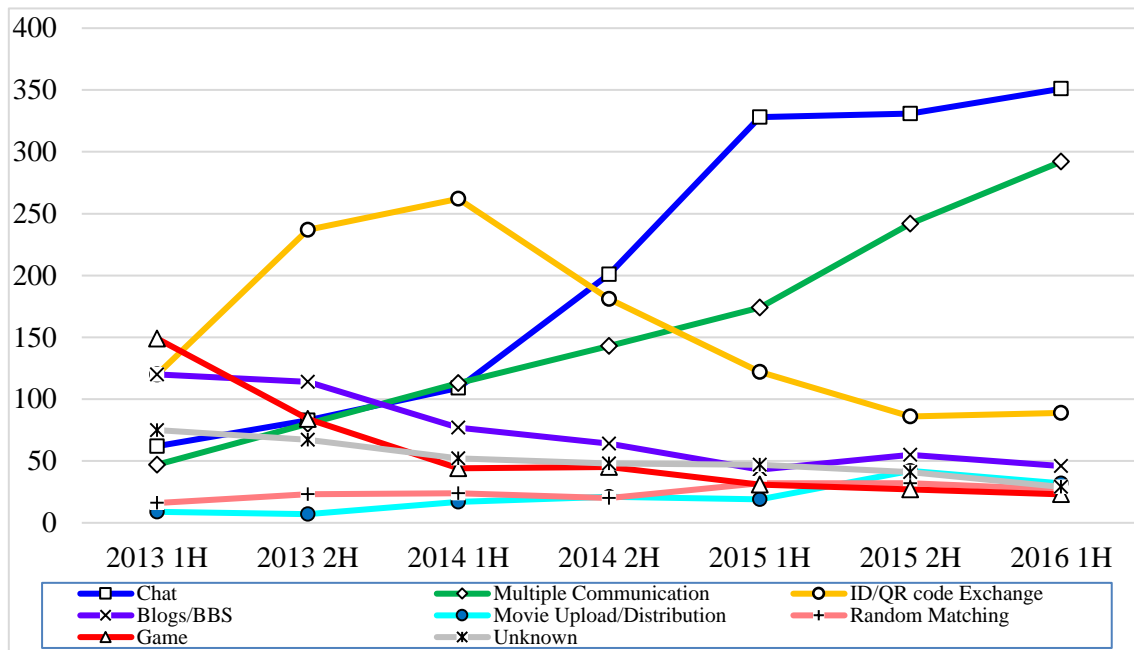
(1) Changes to websites that have become a hotbed for child abuse

The number of child victims of crimes relating to community sites exploded in 2010 against an increase in the number of users of social networking services (SNS) provided by major operators such as DeNA and GREE, etc., and quickly outstripped the number of child victims of crimes relating to online dating sites.

Thereafter, DeNA, GREE, and other SNS providers began actively working to tackle the problem, monitoring mini-mails and introducing internet zoning, thereby stemming the increase in child victim numbers in 2011 and 2012, albeit temporarily. Between 2013 and 2014, however, there was a sharp increase in the number of crimes relating to social networking websites such as LINE, where users exchange their IDs to make contact with other users (ID, QR code exchange sites), as LINE gained in popularity. While measures were taken to combat LINE-related offenses, the number of child victims again rose sharply in 2014 and 2015 following the appearance of a slew of new apps allowing users unacquainted with each other in the real world to chat with one another (chat sites/chat rooms), and sites with high crime rates are evolving at a dizzying pace.

In 2015 and in the first half of 2016, Twitter, the social networking service that allows users to broadcast information to a wide audience and interact with multiple “friends” simultaneously (multiple interaction sites), gave rise to the largest number of child victims, and the numbers continue to rise.

Figure 3: Trends in the number of child victims by major community site types
(2013 to the first half of 2016; NPA)



Chat sites: Sites that provide a venue for strangers to chat with one another in real time

Multiple interaction sites: Sites used to broadcast information to a wide audience and interact with multiple “friends” simultaneously

ID, QR code exchange sites: Sites that provide a venue for interaction based on the exchange of user IDs; this would include LINE, Kakao Talk, Skype, etc.

Blogs, online discussion boards: Sites that provide a venue for users to write comments on specific hobbies/interests and/or categories, post diary entries, etc., and interact with users that view such posts

Video posting, transmission sites: Sites that provide a venue for users to post and/or transmit videos, images, and audio content, and to interact with users that view such posts

Random matching sites: Sites that connect random users and provide a venue for interaction with such users

Game, avatar sites: Sites that provide a venue for users to interact, primarily as the characters and/or avatars of online games

Unknowns: Cases where related websites and/or apps could not be identified

(2) Outcomes of community site operator initiatives

In reaction to the rash of child abuse cases that coincide with increases in the number of service users, DeNA and GREE, two of the largest community site operators in Japan, voluntarily stepped up their monitoring of mini-mails and introduced internet zoning utilizing the user’s age data, which they acquired from Japan’s mobile phone companies. These efforts have yielded a significant decrease in the number of children falling victim to crime through the use of community sites. LINE, a communications tool (app) that has exploded in popularity and whose free messaging services are used by everyone from elementary schools to adults, meanwhile, introduced internet zoning using information on user age, which successfully stemmed the increase in child victim numbers. Based on these success stories, it seems clear that monitoring the content of short messages and online posts together with internet zoning serves as an effective means for removing ill-intentioned adults from community sites and preventing underage users from falling victim to crime via the use of these sites. The measures adopted by these three providers to protect children from falling victim to crime are detailed hereunder.

(i) DeNA

DeNA began monitoring short-message content in 2007 and imposed restrictions that prevented users under 18

years of age from sending short messages to any user more than three years older than themselves. It then went on to introduce internet zoning in 2011 utilizing data on user age, which it acquired from mobile network operators. In addition to the system-based screening of keywords, DeNA focused on visual checks of short-message content and has staff patrolling its community sites round-the-clock.

These measures resulted in a significant decrease in child victim numbers, which peaked in 2008, recording no child victims in the first half of 2016.

(ii) GREE

As of 2009, GREE imposed restrictions on the sending of short messages to users under the age of 18, and in 2010 it began monitoring short-message content. That year, it also introduced internet zoning utilizing data on user age acquired from mobile network operators. Initially, GREE's monitoring of short-message content simply involved the removal of inappropriate wording from already posted content, but in 2011 it began monitoring content in advance, removing inappropriate wording before it could be posted online.

These measures resulted in a significant decrease in child victim numbers, which peaked in 2010, recording only one child victim in the first six months of 2016.

(iii) LINE

LINE introduced internet zoning utilizing data on user age acquired from mobile network operators in 2012, disabled the function allowing users to search for the IDs of other users under the age of 18, and disabled the function allowing users under 18 years of age from searching for the IDs of other users. These restrictions on the ID search function apply both to users under the age of 18 and those who have not verified their age.

These measures stemmed the increase in the number of children falling victim to crime having switched to LINE from an ID exchange message board, which peaked in 2013.

These three community site operators also give talks to children and their guardians and to school teachers, and use various media to emphasize the importance of information ethics and to raise the rate of internet literacy among service users. The three community site operators are actively developing educational and awareness-raising activities aimed at protecting children from crime relating to their use of community sites. All three providers have intensified their efforts in recent years, increasing the number of talks they give, etc., and this is helping to prevent children from falling victim to crime via their use of community sites.

3. Efforts being made by cybercrime prevention volunteers

The number of cybercrime prevention volunteers has been on the increase nationwide since 2012, and as of the end of 2015, there were 224 groups comprising 9,406 members. By parent organization, student volunteers are the most numerous, with their activities focusing on the younger generations. The activities of cybercrime prevention volunteers primarily involve educational and awareness-raising activities aimed at preventing children from falling victim to cybercrime, as well as cyberspace cleanup activities that involve the cyber patrolling of the internet.

University-aged cybercrime prevention volunteers are engaged in educational and awareness-raising work in cooperation with the police, with the aim of preventing children from falling victim to crime through their use of community sites, and some also report inappropriate content to the operators of such community sites.

The police, meanwhile, are supporting the activities of cybercrime prevention volunteers by offering training workshops.

Figure 4: Numbers of cybercrime prevention volunteer groups and memberships (2012–2015, NPA)

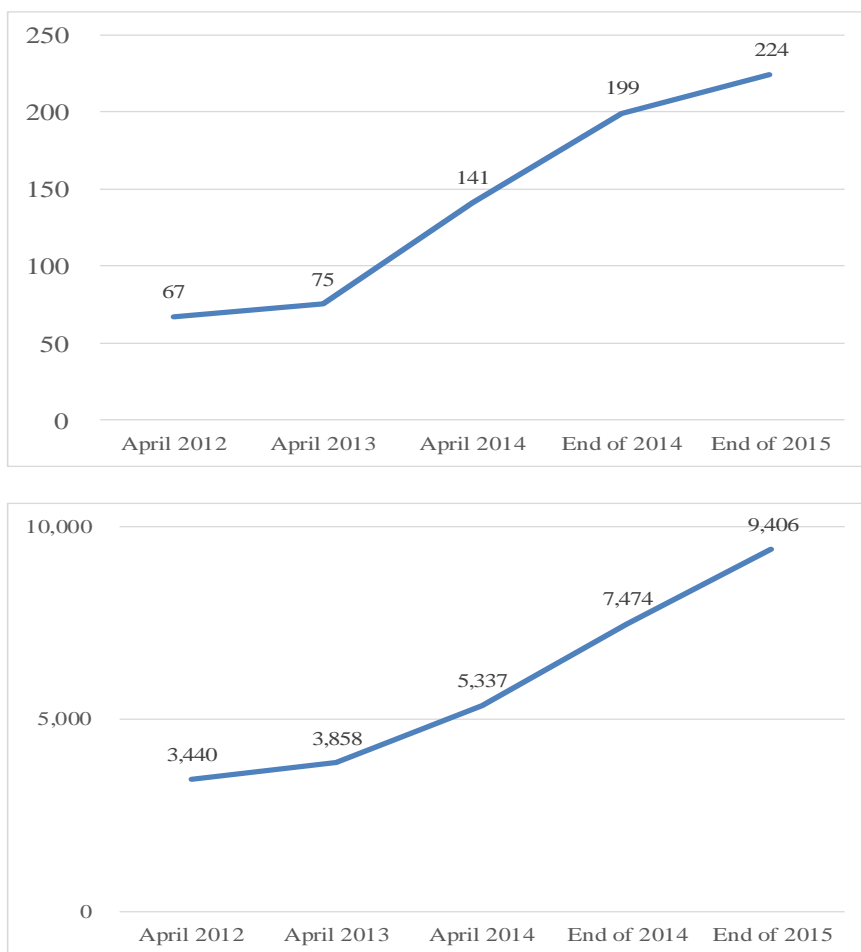
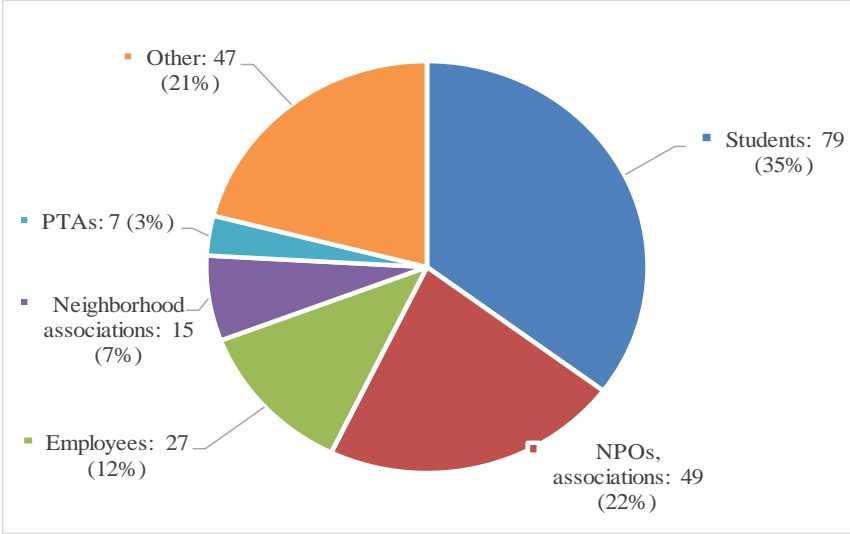


Figure 5: Parent organization ratios for respective cybercrime prevention volunteer groups (2015, NPA)



Chapter 3: Challenges regarding preventing child abuse

1. Promoting collaboration between government and private sector

The wide range of stakeholders that need to be involved in efforts to prevent children from falling victim to crime through their use of community sites, including mobile phone companies, filtering service providers, and independent service review organizations, mean that far-reaching partnerships between the police, community site operators, and other public- and private-sector stakeholders are crucial. Meanwhile, the various community site operators need to be taking the initiative in implementing crime prevention measures regarding the awareness of the issues at stake, in order to generate momentum for child protection at all levels of society.

In order to make good use of cybercrime prevention volunteers in the effort to prevent children from falling victim to crime through their use of community sites, the police, community site operators, and other stakeholders need to step up their work with these volunteer groups.

2. Promoting collaboration between community operators

(1) Inconsistencies in the efforts being made by community site operators regarding child abuse prevention

The voluntary and proactive measures introduced by DeNA and GREE, etc., to prevent child abuse have resulted in a notable decrease in the number of child victims on such community sites, but there continues to be other community sites through which the number of child victims is increasing due to insufficient preventive measures by community site operators, the result of which is that the total child victim numbers continue to rise.

Some community sites are taking measures to prevent crime, but the continued existence of sites that give rise to child abuse and the emergence of a succession of new community sites mean that the industry as a whole needs to find new ways of preventing online child abuse.

(2) Different countermeasures for different services

In view of the work of DeNA and GREE, it seems clear that monitoring the content of posts is an effective means of preventing child abuse online, but this monitoring necessitates the creation of personnel systems, physical systems, and rules to govern the visual monitoring process.

Operators that offer closed communication tools, meanwhile, insofar as they do not monitor the content of messages for inappropriate wording, must find other alternative methods of effectively preventing child abuse online. Based on the example of LINE, the introduction of internet zoning using data on user age obtained from mobile phone companies is effective, but if the zoning process is to be carried out effectively, age settings appropriate to service content and the age bracket of service users need to be put into place.

The challenge for community site operators, therefore, is to incorporate child abuse prevention measures (such as monitoring the content of posts and internet zoning) that are appropriate to the various services that they provide.

Chapter 4: Future directions

1. Establishing a system for collaboration between community site operators

(1) Encouraging community site operators to act voluntarily

(a) Establishment of a conference of community site operators (essential)

In preventing children from becoming victims of crimes arising from community sites, it is of paramount importance for the operators of all community sites, which have become a hotbed for online child abuse, to uniformly acknowledge the fact that the situation has reached a crisis point, with community sites awash with inappropriate content that is having a harmful effect on children and with a large number of children becoming involved in crime as a result of their use of community sites, as well as to uniformly appreciate the urgency of taking active measures to combat the problem. Moreover, given the necessity of creating an environment conducive to voluntary action on the part of the various community site operators, the establishment of an industry association of community site operators is deemed advisable.

(b) Roles and responsibilities of the conference of community site operators

By creating guidelines on the practical knowledge needed to operate the systems and equipment required to monitor the content of posts, for internet zoning and to implement other measures that have been proven effective in the prevention of child abuse online, and by using the conference of community site operators as a forum for sharing information, the various community site operators should gain a deeper shared understanding of the need to take measures to prevent child abuse online and should find it easier to introduce measures that are tailored to the various services they provide.

In this regard, the conference of community site operators could additionally serve as a forum for exploring and sharing efficient abuse prevention measures that utilize new technology, such as artificial intelligence, to monitor the content of posts, as well as forward-thinking initiatives and legal systems being deployed overseas, so as to ensure that progress is made in the countermeasures being implemented.

If children—who are the next generation—are to be protected from harm, measures taken retroactively after a child falls victim to crime are too late. Instead, measures need to be put in place that will stop children from becoming involved in crime in the first place. At the same time, competition among community site operators is fierce, and the emergence of a succession of new sites mean that sites with a high incidence of child abuse are changing at a dizzying pace. Forecasts suggest that there will be a barrage of new operators and services entering the community site market going forward, but using the conference of community site operators as a forum for promoting a shared awareness of the need for abuse prevention measures and for sharing practical knowledge on specific countermeasures should serve to give such new entrants a preliminary awareness of the importance of abuse prevention measures and to encourage them to introduce measures that are appropriate to the services that they provide.

In addition, given the fact that community site user numbers are increasing as the age of children owning smartphones becomes younger and younger, and given the fact that there is a concomitant risk of further increases in the number of children falling victim to crime through their use of community sites as a result, community site

operators need to promote educational and awareness-raising activities aimed at informing children, their guardians, and school teachers of the risks involved in using smartphones and community sites, along with how such tools can be used appropriately, with increasing internet literacy. Leading community site operators are already conducting educational and awareness-raising activities of this nature, and could use industry associations as a forum for sharing their expertise in this area and for creating the necessary curriculums for these activities.

(c) Tie-ups with the police

Furthermore, it is hoped that the police will participate in conference of community site operators, where every effort should be made to provide briefings on children that have fallen victim to crime through their use of community sites and to share information on actual arrests made and the type of the community sites with high incidence rates of crime, as well as to make an ongoing effort to encourage the operators of community sites with a high incidence of online child abuse to take abuse prevention measures.

Specifically, community sites that are provided by operators based overseas are widely popular in Japan, and the high incidence of online child abuse on such sites is a major issue. It is, however, conceivable that the operators of these sites do not fully appreciate the level of abuse that is occurring in Japan and have not fully grasped the problems involved. In the United States, where the providers of SNS that are widely used in this country are based, for example, children aged 13 and under are required by law to obtain parental approval in order to obtain an ID for SNS use, and it is possible that these providers have not understood the necessity of taking voluntary action to combat the problem or their role in this respect in working with Japanese community site operators and other stakeholders. Given that community sites provided by operators based overseas are not taking adequate abuse prevention measures, the police and the conference of community site operators should explore ways of emphasizing the need for such measures while giving due consideration to country-based differences in thinking on and institutional arrangements for the protection of children.

(d) Tie-ups with other stakeholders

A wide range of parties need to be taking measures to prevent children from falling victim to crime through their use of community sites, including mobile phone companies (as described in (2) below), filtering service providers, and independent service review organizations, and the conference of community site operators could serve as a forum for strengthening cooperation between the various stakeholders.

Promoting the widespread use of filtering has been identified as a key abuse prevention measure in the “Urgent Action to Protect Children from Falling Victim to Crime through Their Use of Community Sites” and other documents, but several problems have arisen in this respect, including the stratification of filtering due to the widespread use of smartphones and apps, etc., the desire of children to use sites that become inaccessible when a filtering program is applied, and the lack of understanding among parents and guardians of how filtering works and its necessity. Approximately 90% of the child victims recorded in the first six months of 2016, for example, were not using a filtering program. The police should therefore do their utmost to provide information on actual arrests, encourage discussion on filtering modalities at the conference of community site operators meetings, and promote efforts to include independent service review organizations and mobile companies in the discussion so as to highlight the effectiveness of filtering in the prevention of online child abuse.

(2) Utilization of the user's age data which mobile companies owned

Along with or instead of the monitoring of the content of posts, internet zoning utilizing the user's age data obtained from mobile phone companies, which prevents adults with malicious intent from gaining access to children, is acknowledged to be an effective means of preventing online child abuse, but it is expensive to set up and is not widespread in use. Accordingly, it is hoped that community site operators will use the conference of community site operators as a means to strengthen their tie-ups with mobile phone companies, share any concerns on the handling of the user's age data, and come up with a less costly means of utilizing such data.

Specifically, it is hoped that operators with large user numbers and those with a high incidence of online child abuse will make active use of the user's age data which mobile phone companies owned as a means of preventing such abuse.

Mobile phone companies, meanwhile, are advised to look into taking measures to ensure that appropriate checks on users are performed at the contract stage so as to determine whether their users are children or not, and to ensure that the mechanisms used to provide data on user age are consistent among all mobile phone companies so as to facilitate the use of such information by the operators of community sites.

As demonstrated above, it is hoped that in establishing a system for cooperation among the various stakeholders, it will become easier to implement abuse prevention measures on the community sites provided by operators participating in industry associations and that these measures will result in significant improvement. The following measures are also considered essential, however, in light of the existence of community sites provided by non-participatory operators.

2. Activation of cybercrime prevention volunteers

Promotion of education and awareness raising activities in collaboration between the police and community site operators

University students, who account for more than a third of all cybercrime prevention volunteers, are not only close in age to the children who use community sites but are also well-versed in the use of such sites, and as such can be expected to produce significant results in their education of children in this area.

Currently, there are groups of cybercrime prevention volunteers that have taken the initiative in producing materials that highlight the appropriate use of smartphones and importance of filtering, and who are working actively with the police in undertaking education and awareness-raising activities. However, these activities are only being undertaken in certain areas where, for example, there are universities with professors who are highly knowledgeable regarding the problems associated with the use of the internet by children.

It is hoped that such grassroots activities will be developed on a wider scale in an attempt to build momentum across all sections of society in the bid to prevent children from falling victim to crime through their use of community sites. To this end, those volunteer groups that are already actively campaigning to prevent online child abuse need to: find ways of working with other groups so as to expand the scope of their activities, urge the parents and guardians of children as well as university students to get involved in the volunteer effort, and find ways of

increasing the number of cybercrime volunteer groups working to prevent children from falling victim to crime through their use of community sites and memberships for such.

In addition, encouraging cybercrime prevention volunteer groups to work with those community site operators and mobile phone companies that are currently undertaking educational and awareness-raising activities in connection with smartphone and community site use, along with sharing helpful information, materials, and equipment relating to their activities with these operators, would serve to make their activities more efficient and effective.

The police should also make every effort to provide briefings to cybercrime prevention volunteers on children that have fallen victim to crime through their use of community sites and to share information on actual arrests made and the type of the community sites with high incidence rates of crime, as well as to provide advice on the creation of materials for use in educational and awareness-raising activities. This should be done to facilitate the efforts of these volunteers in promoting their understanding of the current status of online child abuse and the need for countermeasures, as well as to augment their educational and awareness-raising campaigns.

3. Promotion of measures targeting adults that post inappropriate content

(1) Encouraging reporting by cybercrime prevention volunteers to community site operators

The cyber patrolling of the internet, which is widely used by cybercrime prevention volunteers, could be used as a means of notifying community site operators of inappropriate content, such as invitations and/or requests for compensated dates, in an attempt to cleanup those sites that have a particularly high incidence of online child abuse.

As mentioned above, there are some cybercrime prevention volunteers—primarily university students—that are already engaged in such whistleblowing activities, and it is hoped that such activities can be expanded nationwide. The NPA has compiled the *Manual for Cybercrime Prevention Volunteer Activities (Model)*, but this needs to be revised so as to incorporate the notification of community site operators as a specific action that can be taken by cybercrime prevention volunteers.

In addition, the police need to do more to promote arrests and guidance for child welfare offenses and should work with the Internet Hotline Center in providing support to cybercrime prevention volunteers by providing instructions on what to look for and what precautions need to be taken when cyber patrolling the internet. Again, there is a need to remove individuals posting inappropriate content on community sites from such sites, and this can be accomplished by having the police use information provided by cybercrime prevention volunteers who have identified the individuals that are repeatedly posting inappropriate content during their cyber patrolling of the internet, in order to facilitate the making of arrests and/or the taking of such individuals into guidance.

(2) Promoting site cleanups by the operators of community sites

Some community site operators are already actively deleting inappropriate posts from their sites, but this effort needs to be expanded to other operators so as to eliminate spaces on which it is easy to post such inappropriate content.

It is hoped that the various community site operators will: acknowledge the role that their cleanup activities can

have in preventing online child abuse, delete any inappropriate posts they are notified of, and devise appropriate whistleblowing forms, so as to create an environment conducive to the reporting of inappropriate content not only by cybercrime prevention volunteers but also by general site users.

It is further hoped that the operators of community sites will adopt a proactive stance to their efforts and that, if possible, they will create a mechanism that will allow the processing results of individual whistleblowing cases to be searched so as to give cybercrime prevention volunteers the motivation needed to continue their whistleblowing activities. Where this proves unfeasible, it is hoped that community site operators will release figures on the total number of whistleblowing cases that have been processed.

Conclusion

The public and private sectors have taken various measures to prevent children from falling victim to crime through their use of community sites and these have achieved some positive results, including a dramatic decrease in the number of child victims on some community sites. With numerous operators providing a wide range of services, however, many children continue to fall victim to crime due to the exploitation of community sites whose operators have failed to take sufficient measures to prevent online abuse.

If Japan is to protect its children—who are the next generation—a broad cross-section of public- and private-sector stakeholders, including those community site operators that are based overseas, must voluntarily step up the measures they are taking and endeavor to work ever more closely together.