Overview of Researches on Mathematics Education in Japan

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- Practical Research & Development
 - Lesson study, development of teaching material, etc.
- Historical Studies
 - Change of program, curriculum, objectives, contents, etc. on mathematics teaching
- "Scientific" Studies
 - Didactics of Mathematics

Practical or Empirical R & D

- Lesson Studies (cf. Stigler/Hiebert 1999)
 - organised by establishment or teachers from local to global level
 - open class and open forum
 - improving ordinary class, that is, targeted to teachers
- Development of teaching material
 - also with technology (cf. http://www.nicer.go.jp/english/)
 - by each teacher or by researchers







Historical Studies

"Taking a lesson from the past"

- Not mathematics history but history of mathematics teaching
- Study the change of Curriculum, Contents, Objectives, Competences, etc. and their origins in the past
- Objective is development of program or curriculum to improve the teaching and learning today



"Scientific" Studies

- Study and resolve the complex mechanism of diffusion of mathematics knowledge (teaching/learning process or situation), in the classroom or in the individual lesson.
- Often, results cannot apply directly to ordinary teaching practice (necessary a development)

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Dilemma on Researches

- Teachers need applicable method of teaching
 - they should NOW prepare tomorrow classes and there are NOW many children who have problem on mathematics learning
- There are a lot of unknown or unresolved mechanism of teaching and learning
- How do we make a bridge between them?