

LORC 活動報告③

国立台湾大学との研究交流

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LORC は 2015 年 1 月 10 日、台北市の国立台湾大学で同大学の建築都市計画研究所と都市・地域問題をめぐる研究会を共催した。日本と同様に、台湾も少子化が急激で激しい人口動態の変化に直面している。台北市内でも空き地空き家が増えく空き>の創造的な再生が政策課題になっている一方、地方都市では、農林業の持続可能性が危ぶまれている。

都市・地域の縮小がつくりだす経済、社会問題をめぐって今後、積極的、戦略的な共同研究に取り組むことで合意し、具体的な研究プロジェクトの立ち上げを急ぐことになった。

研究会発表者：

LORC 側 白石克孝（教授） 矢作弘（教授）
 斎藤文彦（教授）
 的場信敬（准教授）
 阿部大輔（准教授）

国立台湾大学側 Shenglin E. CHANG（教授）
 Yu-Xiu LIN（URS 研究員）
 Min KANG（副教授）

研究会プログラム：

矢作：Shrinking Cities in Japan; Challenges of the Depopulation Society
 白石：Delivering the University's Third Mission; A Case Study of Kyoto Alliance
 的場：Renewable Energy Use for Local Sustainability; Lessons from Germany
 斎藤：3.11 and Possibility of Green Reconstruction; Lessons from Tohoku, Japan
 阿部：Cultural Landscape as a Regional Planning Strategy

Chang: National Taiwan University's Pinglin Engagement; A New Ruralism Approach of Eco-tea Actions

Lin: Urban Regeneration Cases (about URS) in Taipei

Kang: Urban Village for Urban Cultural Diversities; Cases in Taipei

LORC 側の発表要旨

Shrinking Cities in Japan;
 Challenges of the Depopulation Society

Hiroshi YAHAGI

Japan is estimated to lose one third of the total population in the next 40 years. The aging is rapid also. The landscape of depopulation is very popular in local cities. More than half of cities with the population of more than 100,000 have been decreasing population. Cities with the population of less than 100,000 have been experiencing more dramatic depopulation.

The depopulation of local cities has been produced by several factors; population outflow to Metropolitan areas since the age of high economic growth until today, low birthrate, deterioration of industrial bases and employment opportunity, and continuous suburbanization driven by the prevailing car-oriented society.

The shrinkage of local cities leads to the financial deterioration of city governments, difficulties of main streets (often more than half of stores close), less private investment, and community-power becoming weaker. That is, local cities face the crisis of sustainability.

The challenge to which we face up is to describe "A new form of local city", our paying an attention to demographic changes. "A form" means the whole of local city; not only something visible /architectural but also including the way of people working/living.

The finance of local city becomes more stringent and decreases money to spare. Private investments like new business developments are not expected any more. Depopulation and aging accelerate the lack of human resources, and produce all kinds of and lots of vacancy like empty houses, vacant lands and desolated public buildings.

We have to describe "A new form of local city" under these difficult conditions.

< Keys we have to think of >

- 1) Thinking that the full-settingism (= each city seeks to fully furnish every urban facility; public buildings of culture and sports, big box stores, hospital . . . through city competition) has lost its supportive condition of the age, we have to reallocate and share urban facilities among cities in a city-region.
- 2) We have to pay an attention to "all kinds of and lots of vacancy", which are inherited from the age of population increase and industrialization, as not the liabilities of the past but the capital of Re-(re-using and re-vitalizing) for urban regeneration.
- 3) Also we have to seek the road of endogenous development, building the urban social systems which produce social renovations by utilizing historical, cultural and natural resources of region.

Delivering the University's Third Mission: A Case Study of Kyoto Alliance

Katsutaka Shiraishi

The university's third mission after education and research comes to the foreground when the university's modern roles meeting social and economic needs are discussed in countries entering an era of knowledge economy. Which activity is stressed as the third mission depends on the contexts of each country and area as well as each university.

Research Centre for the Local Public Human Resources and Policy Development (LORC), Ryukoku University has developed collaboration called Kyoto Alliance, cooperating with nine universities, local authorities, business organizations and non-profit organizations in Kyoto Prefecture. Kyoto Alliance presents "social engagement" as the university's third mission. Although Kyoto City accumulates universities, Kyoto Prefecture, an upper-tier authority in Japanese local government, contains some areas where higher educational institutions cannot be found such as the northern and the most southern parts of the prefecture. Even in these areas, Kyoto Alliance has developed projects on the university's third mission.

What the university alliance implements as "social engagement" is to take part in solving problems in local communities and local economies and, in so doing, to promote human resource development. Particularly important is that universities and other organizations build collaborative foundations from the disciplines of social sciences and human sciences. This is considered to be one of cutting-edge ideas in the world.

Current problems include firstly whether universities can systematically develop efforts to be accepted as partners holding a key to

local collaboration by local communities, and secondly whether universities can invent and manage programs for providing required human resources.

Experiments on an eco-village and ecotourism in Taomi Village in Taiwan, which the LORC visited previously, can highly be evaluated as a good case. After suffering severe damage by an earthquake, the traditionally farming village succeeded in recovery, for which local organizations involving university lecturers and local hotel industry have worked in collaboration. The village has been successful in establishing a curriculum and certification system for Resident Ecotour Guides, who have maintained the eco-village and ecotourism by guiding tourists to observe frogs and butterflies.

Learning from experiences of bottom-up problem solving in local communities and local businesses in Taiwan and the rest of the world, Kyoto Alliance proceeds with inventing a problem-solving approach in the northern parts of Kyoto Prefecture.

3.11 and Possibility of Green Reconstruction: Lessons from Tohoku, Japan

Fumihiko SAITO

On March 11, 2011, a mega earthquake and unimaginably large-scale tsunami hit the eastern coast of northern Japan. These natural disasters triggered an unprecedented nuclear power plant accident in Fukushima. Thus, “3.11” came to be widely known as triple disasters.

With nearly four years after 3.11, reconstruction and recovery efforts are still underway, and Japan now is at critical crossroads. While some of those who are affected by 3.11 started to reestablish their

new lives, others still struggle hard to figure out in what ways their lives can be meaningfully rediscovered, let alone reconstructed. The gap between those who are benefitting from massive reconstruction activities and those who are left behind is widening.

Furthermore, in western parts of Japan, ordinary people nowadays have little interactions with those affected by 3.11. Thus, their memories of the triple disasters started to fade significantly. In short, “3.11” is now coming to be a socially divisive issue in several aspects.

3.11 undoubtedly accelerated the pace of depopulation and aging in the affected areas of northern Japan. Even if some were anxious about future effects of the serious demographic changes before 3.11, the triple disasters forced many to face the severe consequences with immediate effects in post-disaster period.

In the affected areas, all actors need to play its respective roles for recovery and reconstruction. Local communities are particularly important to reassert their roles in (re) forging community cohesion, otherwise participatory planning to envision revitalized communities often in new location would become extremely difficult, if not impossible.

However, this very notion of community cohesion is at risk in most of the affected areas in northern Japan. Especially in Miyagi prefecture, one issue is now becoming virtually taboo as this issue is feared, among the local people, to make communities divisive: gigantic seawall construction. This is initiated by the Prefectural Mayor (Mr. Yoshihiro Murai 村井嘉浩) not to allow any more people to pass away due to tsunami. Even though his reason may be understandable, ongoing constructions of

about 9-meter-high seawalls across entire prefecture is not appreciated by many local residents, due to various reasons. For some, this is an issue of economic survival. For local fishermen to grow oysters, it is necessity to preserve natural river flows. Yet, their disapproval of the gigantic seawall is not what is openly discussed in local planning meetings. The main reason is that many local people put priority for housing reconstruction over the seawall issue, and openly discussing the seawall construction problem may tear apart local communities. If such break down happens, that inevitably affects housing planning, which nobody wants to see.

There is no easy way out of the current situation. The new opportunities made available by 3.11 can be a double-edged sword: does it go to good or bad ways? On the one hand, the outsiders, especially the young people, are bringing interesting and innovative ideas, which are not usually proposed by local residents. If the old "indigenous" people can demonstrate flexibility and there are frank exchanges of opinions between outsiders and insiders, there are possibilities in which something new can emerge. On the other hand, Tohoku is reputable in its conservatism in social attitude. Thus, it may be very difficult to see that the interactions between outsiders and insiders, between the young and the old may result in more promising ideas and activities. It all depends. We thus need more time to see in what directions post-3.11 Japan would be unfolding.

Cultural Landscape as a Regional Planning Strategy

Daisuke Abe

How to maintain or reinforce cultural identity has been crucial subject for local cities in Japan. Conserving its unique landscape has been traditionally one of the effective methods for that sake. In general, a landscape comprises the visible features of an area including its physical elements, living elements and human elements such as human activity and the built-up environment. Since a landscape is shaped by human activity, we may use the expression "cultural landscape". Traditionally, a landscape is considered as an expanse of natural scenery that people come to see and enjoy.

Cultural landscapes are historically significant landscapes. Similar to other historic resources, cultural landscapes connect us with our past; help to tell the story of how our regions developed and how our society evolved. Cultural landscapes are vital to contemporary society; they contribute to great communities by enhancing character, identity and a sense of place. Cultural landscape becomes a lever of economic development through tourism, which has come to be widely known as cultural tourism. This was already true of mountainous and coastal areas, but it is now also applicable to urban and rural areas where the landscape is a priori less spectacular. It is thus advisable to manage and reproduce such landscapes as a source of employment and income.

In 2004 the Landscape Act was enacted, under the following purpose: "to build a beautiful and dignified land, create an attractive and comfortable living environment and realize vibrant communities with distinct personalities by taking comprehensive measures to develop good urban and rural

landscapes such as formulating landscape plans, in order to improve the quality of life of the people of Japan and contribute to the growth of the national economy and sound development of society” (Article 1).

After this legislation, many cities have started to develop the cultural landscape preservation as a regional planning instrument to establish a set of policies and strategies to identify, protect, manage, and celebrate the rich, unique collection of historic resources found within local cities in Japanese context. In this presentation, two cities would be selected to explain the actual policy approaches: 1) City of Himi, Toyama Prefecture, whose local characteristics can be described as a traditional rural area and good combination with its urban area, and 2) Uji Area, where there still stretches Japanese tea gardens that demonstrate rich cultural landscape then help us understand our tea culture and its mechanism between production and consumption.

Cultural landscape does not necessarily mean the scenic beauty of national importance, but local scenic beauty residing in the regions. It would be necessary for local authorities to position cultural landscape not merely as a subject to preserve, but as a new planning strategy to redesign lands that support the scenic, recreational and environmental well-being of communities in Japanese local cities.

Renewable Energy Use for Local Sustainability: Lessons from Germany

Nobutaka MATOBA

Many of Japanese local governments in rural areas are facing the serious danger of

extinction, due to the decline of the birth rate, aging population, and the outflow of younger generation. This situation became even worse for Tohoku area with the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. This tragedy also brought us a new and serious issue of energy source, or more specifically nuclear power use in Japan. In any case, there is an urgent need to develop alternative local social and economic frameworks in which people can keep their lives and that contribute to enhance the chance of local sustainability.

As one of such a new social and economic source for the country's sustainability, Germany has been promoting and installing the renewable energy throughout the country. Renewable Energy Act of 2000 and the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) system within it as the catalysts, new players such as citizens, small companies, and local governments have entered into the energy industry and the movement of “Energiewende (clean energy transition)” has been rapidly progressed. Many of Local governments in Germany are now very active in investing in the renewable energy, and utilize the profits to improve the public services of their localities.

In this presentation, one small village called Wildpoldsried will be introduced for analysing the successful renewable energy installation and utilisation of its profit at local level. Considering this case, there are at least 4 factors that contributed to the success: 1) local government's will and holistic approach to the promotion; 2) law and institutional infrastructures; 3) cooperative relationship and mutual trust between local citizens and government; and 4) capacity building of local citizens. These factors will be analysed with the Japanese current situations and the key challenges for Japanese local governments will be considered.