

Symbiotic Culture and Settlements with Water on Lowland -Case of Saga Region, Japan

Shigemori KANAZAWA

Lowland, found in almost every part of the world, has fostered peculiar ecological systems and a variety of human culture that coexists with its water environment. Its development needs not only appropriate technology but also a careful consideration of the culture historically formed with the environment. On Saga lowland in the western Japan, some symbiotic culture and spatially unique settlements with water can be found. In former times, water and its network shaped both the inside and outside of villages providing a variety of functions and benefits that the daily lives of the inhabitants totally depended on. People no longer need and rely on most of these and water and its networks around residences have come to have environmental problems today.

The Attitude and Activities of Artists towards Community Vitalization

Tetsunobu YOSHITAKE & Chikashi DEGUCHI

This paper aims to investigate changes of attitude of local artists and their activities concerning community vitalization; based on the fact that other local residents change their attitude and activities through communication with neighboring artists. A nationwide questionnaire survey was conducted of artists listed in two published directories. The questionnaire sought answers related to 1) personal attributes, 2) places and opportunities for communicating with other local residents, and 3) community attachment and degree of self-disclosure to neighboring residents. The major findings were: 1) That quite a few artists change their attitude and activities regarding community vitalization. 2) Artists' attitudes and activities are significantly connected with their birthplaces, circumstance of residence, and the places and opportunities for communication with other local residents. Further, they decide their residential places in connection with their artistic field. 3) Respondent category classification, based on Hayashi's Type III Quantification Method and Cluster analysis, clarified that the artists who positively change their attitude and activities tend to practice self-disclosure. Thus, it was also clarified that the artists, a) who were born in the same municipalities as they now reside and b) reside in a conventional urban areas and c) communicate with other local residents at events held by artists/artists associations or school activities, have positive changes of attitude and activities. The results of this paper revealed the availability of profound community vitalization from focusing on communication between local artists and other local residents. The findings are also useful for vitalization management in connection with art/artists, which has been tried in many municipalities.

Obtaining Knowledge on Different Age Groups from Urban Public Places: Measuring the Reliability of Information Sources

Takaaki KATO

This study clarified the role of urban public places in Japan such as railway stations and public squares as a media of intergenerational communication. Although relationships among strangers in these places are of weaker types which last only momentarily, they provide a good opportunity for knowing information about other age groups. The study focused on the reliability of urban public places as a channel of cross-generational communication. Readers' column articles from three Japanese newspapers were collected and the information sources of these articles were classified; in

particular the study compared the reliability of information obtained from urban public places and newspapers. Articles based on information obtained from urban public places contained more expressions of reliability than those based on newspaper sources. Authors of articles with newspaper-based information sources tended to crosscheck their information with other information sources in order to lend support to their arguments. On the other hand, information obtained in urban public places was used in many cases without such crosschecks. Thus, urban public places are considered to be a reliable information source and provide an effective means of intergenerational communication. An interesting characteristic of those places is that they are not directly intended as a place of intergenerational communication. However, since their primary function serves various populations and produces a gathering of lots of people, communication among different age groups is a natural outcome.

Is it possible to create co-production(collaboration) society ?

Nobuhisa TAIRA

Recently, the word 'co-production' is often seen in documents of local governments. In the field of community building, co-production has increased its importance. However, systematic studies on co-production are limited.

In order to clarify key principles, namely, objective sharing, mutual understanding, and equal partnership, co-production needs to be redefined. Development of co-production activities in various fields creates co-production society where local affairs are managed mainly by citizens and complemented by local governments.

Fujieda City was picked up to study present situation regarding co-production. A questionnaire survey with target of citizen groups and interviews to some citizen groups and government officers reveal that several co-production activities have been already conducted and some government officers fully understand the importance of co-production. Also, it is confirmed that about two-thirds of theme-oriented citizen groups exchange with neighborhood organizations. However, some officers still look down on citizens and do not have enough information on citizen groups.

In order to create co-production society, first, sharing common image and objectives of the co-production society is needed. Secondly, co-production activities should be promoted in every policy cycle with enhancement of citizen participation to co-production and support to citizen groups. Thirdly, it necessary to create and/or modify rules and systems to manage local society such as decision-making system, rules to build consensus among citizen groups (3) with different opinions, selection system of a co-production partner, rules of division of responsibility between citizen groups and local governments, and evaluation system of co-production activities.

Implication of Clustered Gated Communities on Urban Space: A Preliminary Investigation in Quezon City, Metro Manila

Kenneth V. TANATE & Kenjiro OMURA

Gated Communities (GCs) in Metro Manila are exclusive communities that provide better road facilities strategically connected to the main thoroughfares. GCs increasingly attract other community residents and drivers to use its major road facilities as alternative access routes to congested metro streets. Over the past decade, the gating/closing of major private roads allotted as right-of-way to other neighboring communities have caused a number of conflicts between homeowners associations and affected communities. This scenario presents an interesting and important research subject, which focuses on the implication of clustered GCs on urban space and mobility potential of the urban population. The investigation reveals that: a) security and road maintenance concern are the reasons for closing major roads; and b) clustered GCs virtually solidified significant parts of the urban space due to the closing of major private roads, which broaden the so-called .restricted access zone. and thereby decreasing direct road access and suppressing the mobility of urban population. The findings indicate that the issues on road connectivity and mobility of urban population should be strictly considered and clearly defined in the housing/community development policies.

Study on Activities of the Community Network in Ayutthaya

Yasuhiko SASAKI & Toshinobu FUJII

The paper is to evaluate community developments through community networks that are primary development strategy of CODI (Community Organization Development Institute). Firstly, the way in which CODI organize community networks is reviewed. Secondly, activities of informal communities in Ayutthaya are introduced. Thirdly, activities of the community network in Ayutthaya are analyzed through various projects carried out by the community network. Finally, based on the analysis, the possibility on activities by community networks and their issues are discussed. In conclusion, these are pointed out; 1) saving groups/communities organize working groups in the community network to undertake temporary projects, 2) with an initiative of each saving group/community, activities of the community network have two characters that are regional one and theme-oriented one, 3) a community network should be taken up as activities to make a breakthrough in a city planning, 4) as community networks have tended to be in popular especially among low-income people in developing countries, it seems to have a possibility to be adopted in developed countries.

How can we ensure fairness in public participation for facility siting process?

-The implications from the experiences in Western countries and Japanese public's attitudes

Kenshi Baba

As the public has tended to express being involved in decision making process of various facility siting which would cause NIMBY (not in my backyard) syndrome, and some institutions on public participation has been enacted recently, the authorities have been required to secure visibility and to take accountability. European and North American countries have developed many public participation programs and "fairness" notion forms the basis of these. This paper primarily proposes a view and framework on fairness in facility siting by literature survey in particular on political philosophy, sociology and social psychology. Findings from evaluating two cases of solid waste landfill siting process in Canada and Switzerland with the framework by interview and literature survey demonstrate that deepening common understanding on potential perception gap on fairness among stakeholders in the early stage would help making successful progress of the process. Moreover, a result of interview with the practitioners of a decision making body in Japan dealing with NIMBY facility siting indicates that they are concerned about public awareness for participation, mutual trust with the mayor and local assembly, appropriateness of public participation method itself and the uncertain outcome caused by participation. In addition to it, a result of questionnaire for the general public in Japan suggests that most public raises "Representativeness" as important criterion among the framework of fairness at participation for facility siting process.