

Utilizing the Computer Communication Network as a Learning Tool or Machizukuri (Community Building) Activities: A Case Report of the City of Nagareyama, Chiba

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One of the most important elements for sustainable activities of machizukuri, or community building, is the growth of the machizukuri "workers." Therefore, the machizukuri learning process is a very important topic for research as well as in practice. So far many learning tools have been tried and developed. This paper focuses upon a yet rarely explored tool, the computer communication network (hereafter "net").

This is a case study concerning Nagareyama City, Chiba, where three such nets have been operated by citizens and the city: (1)"Everybody's Town, Nagareyama," which emerged from a training program designed for city officials, which was succeeded by (2)"Nagareyama Information Station" and (3)"Patio for the Samurais."

The purpose of this paper is: (1)to evaluate these nets as learning tools for machizukuri activities and (2)to suggest several basic conditions necessary for these nets to be effective, based upon the author's personal experience of participating the nets and upon the analysis of their log records.

Generally it was found that these nets can be particularly useful in exchanging information among the participants, expanding their interests, strengthening their sense of unity and overcoming space and time limitations. However, it was noted that a system for removing technical and psychological barriers from the participants is crucially important.

Urban Information on Web Sites

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Since the introduction of -World Wide Web technology, a lot of information has been put on the web-sites. It is favorable for the city planners, decision makers, citizens to navigate, collect, provide, apply and issue useful information through the web. Undoubtedly, the new paradigm of information exchange will change our urban life and activity pattern a lot. In this paper we will introduce the current status of web sites constructed and maintained by the local governments under the umbrella of the National project of Information Infrastructure (NII) on Taiwan. While information is individually provided by different official departments, it is beneficial to organize them in a vision of urban planning. We identify available web information by laws, news, local brief, publications, statistical and geographical data bases, housing, etc. The success and difficulty of implementing web sites will also be discussed.

An Outlook for Urban Planning in Cyberspace: Toward the Construction fo Cyber Cities with the Application of Unique Characteristics fo Cyberspace

Narushige SHIODE

Cyberspace is a new form of living space generated virtually in the Internet. It relates to urban planning in two aspects. One is the presentation of actual town plans using cyberspace. The other is the definition of cyberspace as a new form of urban space and our contribution to its planning and construction from urban-planner's viewpoint. In the first half of this study we aim to grasp the spatial characteristics and the present status of cyberspace.

Cyberspace has unique spatial order where physical distance is no more valid and accessibility depends thoroughly on the topological linkage. It is also unique in that spaces can be easily modified and different places can be united. However, the existing cyberspace appears to be a vast chaotic space filled with various kinds of information. Among

this collection of information exist many cyber cities that simply imitate the real world with delicate images and still contents. Most of them fail to utilize the unique spatial features of cyberspace. The latter half of this study inquires the outlook for construction of useful cyberspace and proposes a structural model. In particular, we propose to actively involve these spatial features to the planning of cyber cities and spaces. In order to create a useful and enjoyable cyberspace, we should design the spatial structure in the way that it utilizes the unique characteristics of cyberspace. As a conclusion, we state the possible relationship between urban planning and cyberspace in the future.

A Study on the Conflict Management of NIMBY Facilities

Yung-Jaan Lee

NIMBY (Not-In-My-Back-Yard) has been described as the attitude against the siting of certain facilities or land uses. Environmental conflicts derived from the NIMBY syndrome has become a difficult issue for countries around the world. Therefore, in planning and siting NIMBY facilities, management and maintenance of NIMBY facilities must be considered to reduce unsatisfactory reactions from nearby neighborhoods and hence reduce NIMBY effects of NIMBY facilities. The main purpose of this paper is to explore the content and context of NIMBY conflict management.

The causes of NIMBY conflicts can be categorized as follows: different spatial cognition, conflicted interests, unbalanced interest distribution, unbalanced resource distribution, and inaccurate information. To mitigate NIMBY conflicts, a cooperative management strategy must be adapted to develop a NIMBY conflict management model. To make this model work, all stakeholders must be in an equal position. Furthermore, to effectively manage NIMBY spatial conflicts, this paper proposes three widely used strategies--risk-reduction programs, economic incentive programs, and public participation.

An Impact of New Information Technology on the Office Communication

Kenshi BABA

Along with the trend that working patterns have become diversified by computerization, a study of the impact of the development of new information infrastructure on business traffic as well as communication behaviors may be regarded as essential for the future city planning and transportation planning. The purpose of this paper is to clarify an impact of new information technology on the office communication patterns and to examine the substitutability of new information technology for usual telecommunication media and transportation. The RP data on the communications actually performed in the offices was collected by a questionnaire which was made with spreadsheet program on PC and was sent and retrieved through email. The main results are as follows: The reason for the choice of facsimile and mail/home delivery could be the uncertainty of the addressees' PC availability and so on. In future, however, with enhancement of computerization in all parts of the society as well changes in business practices, replacement by e-mail may be greatly developed. It is likely that telephone and face-to-face contact will be clearly distinguished with e-mail communications. In future, the communication for adjustment & decision making with very high equivocation will probably become more important, which can only be realized by face-to-face contact.

Potentially Imminent Factors Prone to Hazardous Urban Catastrophes Accrued in the Korean Urbanization Process

Yang Suk Kang

No Abstract