

International Symposium on “The Wind from the Future: Sustainable Urban Development in East Asian Cities”

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We are very pleased to report on the successful international workshop held in Tokyo on 28th, 29th and 30th October 2016. This was initially planned as a bilateral project between Rikkyo University and the University of Seoul for promoting international scientific exchanges between Japan and Korea. Prof. Yasushi Matsumoto from Rikkyo University and Prof. Dong-Kyun IM from the University of Seoul had jointly applied to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) after several years of research cooperation concerned with contemporary urban issues. But in addition to the support from these two Universities, the symposium has also been contributed by Chinese academics, scholars from Tongji University and Fudan University. They have been a part of cooperative and coordinated efforts for advancing the studies on Asian cities for several years. And so this symposium, as part of what is being organized by the above-mentioned bilateral project is evidence of continuing international research co-operation between Japanese, Korean, and Chinese Universities.

The conferences have been held on a shared and rotational basis. The first was held at Rikkyo University in 2010, followed in the next year by Tongji University of Shanghai, and following that by the University of Seoul. This is the 7th symposium since our inaugural 2010 workshop at Rikkyo University, and a year since our most recent workshop at the University of Seoul. Owing to the cooperation of the staff of four Universities, the symposium was largest ever. There were eleven paper presentations from scholars of three countries. It was not only funded from the research funds obtained for our bilateral projects, but also supported with Grant Aid (of which Professor MATSUMOTO is project leader) and the Rikkyo Institute of Global Urban Studies.

This international workshop was named “The Wind from the Future: Sustainable Urban Development in East Asian Cities”, the title already in use from the bilateral project. This is a symposium in Tokyo which is officially affiliated with both Universities. We will now explain the background to this theme. We have attempted to examine the possibilities for citizen participation in city governance, urban planning and sustainable city renewal and

reproduction. Seoul has experienced anti-growth policy demanded by active civic participation; Yokohama is the venue of the socially responsive company that reckons with support for the needy; Hamamatsu has witnessed the symbiosis of many cultures. It is with such examples that our research work is inspired. We have also planned to search for the directions of urban regeneration through some case studies such as gentrification and community participation or residents' involvements in Seoul, urban developments and local cultural heritage in Shanghai, urban policies relating to arts and culture in Yokohama and Tokyo.

Let us now briefly outline the program for this workshop: The first day was 28th October, when we held a Reception at the Reifsnider Hall, Rikkyo University Ikebukuro Campus. At the reception, Prof. Dong-Kyun IM (Department of Urban Sociology, The University of Seoul) offered opening remarks for joint project, and Prof. Ariyoshi OGAWA (Director, Rikkyo Institute for Global Urban Studies) gave the official welcome. The Reifsnider Hall itself is listed for its heritage value in Tokyo as it was built in 1926 and now subject to protection as an item of memorial architecture.



Sugamo Jizo Dori shopping street

On the second day, October 29th, we engaged in a study tour to the Jizo-dori, a shopping street in inner-city area of Tokyo, the Sugamo district, which is called “the Harajuku-city for elderly ladies.” Harajuku in central Tokyo is well-known as the fashionable city precinct for youth, while Sugamo provides a variety of commodities for elderly ladies. We visited some sightseeing spots including Shinshoji and Koganji which is a famous temple, of the so-called “Togenuki Jizo”, thought to heal ailments, treat illness and relieve soreness. One of the directors of the Sugamo Jizo Dori shopping street, who is person in charge of community development, guided this excursion and offered an address on this area’s developments.

On the third day, October 30th, a symposium was held at Tachikawa Memorial Hall on Rikkyo University Ikebukuro Campus, Tokyo. It commenced with the opening address by Prof. Yasushi MATSUMOTO (Dean of College of Sociology, Rikkyo University). All the paper-presentations were simultaneously interpreted: When the paper was in English, it was interpreted into the Japanese language, and vice versa.

Brief review of two sessions program is as follows: The first session entitled “Urban Governance, Public Participation, and Sustainable Development”, was chaired by Prof. Wonho JANG (President, Korean Association of Regional Sociology), and consisted of six papers:

- “University for Community: Finding the Role of University Campus in Urban Regeneration” by Prof. Dong-Kyun IM (Department of Urban Sociology, The University of Seoul). This paper was a discussion of various possibilities as to how universities can cooperate with their neighboring communities to improve the social quality of the neighborhood and also provide new social and economic opportunities to university students;
- “Heritage Conservation and Urban Regeneration: A Case Study of Shanghai Shikumen Houses,” by Prof. Xiaohua ZHONG and Prof. Jian ZHOU (Department Sociology and Department of Urban Planning, Tongji University). This described China’s experience of rapid social change since the 1980s, “fundamentally changing the power of urban spatial restructuring.” The authors examined the nature and role of heritage from the perspective of urban regeneration, heritage conservation, and so on;
- “Urban Governance and Sustainable Community Development: From the Viewpoint of Comparative Study” by Prof. Shiho NISHIYAMA (College of Sociology, Rikkyo University). Pointing out how Japan’s urban policy has changed from the development period it explained the current need for partnership between different sectors such

as government and private for ‘urban governance.’ One of the major examples she examined the sustainable community was Kanazawa city, a historical castle town, and its municipality has introduced creative city policy;

- “Social Capital and the Elderly Health: Based on the Comprehensive Investigation of Communities in Shanghai” was presented in the Japanese language by Prof. Weijuie ZHU (Department of Sociology, Tongji University). The nexus between social capital and the health status of the elderly was illustrated, by reference to the data from “Shanghai city community comprehensive survey.”;
- “Identifying Gentrifiers in the Commercial and Culture-led Gentrification: The Case of Seochon Region in Seoul, Korea,” by Prof. Kee-Bom NAHM (Department of Urban Sociology, The University of Seoul), whose paper categorizing five gentrifiers: “building owners, real estate consultants, cherry-picking tenants, established artists, and planners,” which are all related to urban regenerations;
- The last paper for the first session was “The Archipelagos of Imagination: Spatial Memories and Community Life in Tongli and Zhenze (Jiangsu Province, China)” by Prof. Jin CHEN (Department of Sociology, Tongji University). There is a demonstrable dynamism between “touristic development and heritage protection” in the “ancient water towns” of Tongli and Zhenze.



Tachikawa Memorial Hall, Third Floor

The second session, “Urban Cultural Space and Sustainable Urban Regeneration,” was chaired by Prof. Tetsuo MIZUKAMI (College of Sociology, Rikkyo University) who opened proceedings after the tea break.

- First paper-presenters were Dr. Sang-Hyum KIM (Department of Urban Sociology, The University of Seoul) and Prof. Wonho JANG (Department of Urban Sociology, The University of Seoul), “Modeling Urban Scenes in Seoul: A Network Analysis”. This was a discussion analyzing and modeling the urban scenes in Seoul, by illustrating types and effects of the amenity networks.;
- “Development of ‘City of Music’ Policies in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture: From ‘City of Musical Instrument Manufacturing’ to ‘City of Music,’” was presented in Japanese by Prof. Koichi TAKAGI (College of Sociology, Rikkyo University), who introduced the city of Hamamatsu, well-known for the manufacture of musical instruments, and provided an explanation of the development of policies for the “City of Music.”;
- “Dynamics between Individual Art Career and Creative Clusters: Based on the Case Study of Occupational Painters in Shanghai” by Prof. Chao ZHANG (Department of Public Management, Tongji University), focused upon “the relations of the painters with the clusters” and clarified that “the variations of capital and dispositions towards cultural production contribute to the different levels of association to the site.”;
- “The Spatial Change of the Close Alleys in Jingu-mae Shibuya Tokyo: From the Standpoints of the Sign Value of Urban Space and Investment in Real Estate” by Prof. Tomomi MITA (Department of Administration, Prefectural University of Kumamoto), centered on the close alleys in Jingu-Mae, Tokyo, the place for fashionable image-making since the 1990s. He concluded that “the cultural production of clothing creates an opportunity for the fashionable street to make some strong connections with global economy.”;
- The final paper of the five presenters in the session was “From Spatial Renovation to Community Redevelopment: Case Studies in Shanghai” by Prof. Hai YU (Department of Sociology, Fudan University), who explained different types of community life, and social developments in the Shanghai district. He showed that “The Community Garden in Shanghai provides a case for community redevelopment through spatial building approach.”

The stimulating hours of the symposium was concluded with a closing address by Prof. Wonho JANG (Vice President, Korean Sociological Association). We promised to discuss and develop further studies of East-Asian cities and organize the eighth international workshop next year in Shanghai. A farewell party was held in a tavern in the Ikebukuro city, spending a pleasant evening together reflecting on our intense and profitable three days together.