Summary

Opening article

The Global Trend of Urbanization and Urban Growth

Toshiyasu NODA
Special Researcher
Fukuoka Asian Urban Research Center/
Professor, Department of Law, Seinan Gakuin University

Summary

In the long history of urbanization and urban growth, this paper examined their global trend focusing on the rapid progress since 1970, following the discussion in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITATIII). It is evident that the fundamental direction is 'economic growth through urbanization and sustainable development' although there are usual conflicts between centripetal forces (like economies of scale) through urbanization and balanced territorial development. The paper argued the recent shift to balanced territorial development. In the meantime, there is an international consensus on the active responses to global environmental conservation in connection with sustainable development. It is inevitable for us to review and establish urban policies in the future, taking into account the determination to restrain global warming by improving energy efficiency of entire city and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.

Keywords: United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III), UN-HABITAT, Urbanization, New Urban Agenda (NUA), Economic Growth through Urbanization, Sustainable Development, Balanced Territorial Development

Research paper with referee reading

Relationship between Fukuoka's Yatai Food Stalls and Citizens

Takami MATSUNAGA Graduate School of Economics Osaka Prefecture University

Summarv

This study refers to the relationship between Fukuoka's Yatai Food Stalls and citizens. Understanding that "Yatai" is one of Fukuoka's "Lifescapes", this study examines how Yatai has existed as part of the urban system to cultivate citizenship in the aspects of morality and an identity. Fukuoka City conducted a survey toward citizens in 2011, two years before the enforcement of the Fukuoka City's municipal ordinance for Yatai. This study analyzes answers to this description type survey to consider how citizens have regarded Yatai. In its conclusion, this study discusses how to utilize Yatai as sustainable tourist attractions from the viewpoint of the relationship between Yatai and citizens.

Keywords: Tourist Attractions, Yatai, Communication, "Lifescape", Moral, Identity

Harmonization of International Training of Long-Term Care for the Elderly

Takeo OGAWA Special Researcher Fukuoka Asian Urban Research Center

Summary

In accordance with population aging in Japan, its dependency ratio has been growing since 1995. This means that economic growth becomes a demographic onus rather than demographic bonus. As a result, it would become difficult for long-term care service providers to recruit care workers in the labor market. Thus, municipalities as the insurers should make a strategy for recruiting a workforce of long-term care. But, how can they handle it? To tackle the problem, the Japanese national government has embarked on a change of its visa policy for foreign care workers: inviting foreign candidates of the Certified Care Worker under the bilateral economic partnership agreements with Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam, opening job chances as technical interns in the field of long-term care, and authorizing a new visa category for long-term care. In order to deal with the international challenge of ensuring good quality and reasonable quantity of long-term care workforce, municipalities need to establish a good harmonization program for the long-term care training. At first, long-term care work should be redesigned more realistically based on job competency. According to the reassessed long-term care competency, the needed knowledge and skills should be differentiated and stratified from beginners to experts. To the beginner level workers, internationally common training should be provided. In order to spread the international style of long-term care, the "Train the Trainer" program has to be developed. This paper, in its conclusion recommends Fukuoka City to establish the international long-term care training center as soon as possible.

Keywords: Long-Term Care Work, Training Program, International Migration, Population Aging

Research report

A Study on the New Stage of Support Policy for Overseas Business Expansion of Local Enterprises in Fukuoka City

Makoto OKADA Special Researcher Fukuoka Asian Urban Research Center

Summary

As is the case with Japan, the City of Fukuoka has also entered a hyper-aged society, and consumption in Fukuoka metropolitan area is expected to shrink; therefore, the expansion of Fukuoka's local enterprises into overseas markets needs to be accelerated.

This paper clarifies the Fukuoka City's policy to promote its local enterprises' overseas expansion based on the analysis of the changing economic structures of East Asian countries, and also, on the characteristics of Fukuoka City, such as its position on the industrial distribution layout, economic history, and urban function.

Some of the proposed policies are: 1) to attract people with overseas business knowledge and experience, 2) to provide services encouraging enterprises to use foreign languages by promoting multi-cultural and multi-language symbiotic urban society, 3) to accelerate the use of cross-border Electronic Commerce, and 4) to promote Fukuoka's local products and services to the inbound tourists.

Keywords: Japanese Economic Growth, Domestic Investment, Corporate Oversea Expansion, Cross-Border Electronic Commerce, Fukuoka City

Globalization of the Regional Hub Cities in Japan: Progresses over 35 years and Prospects for "Sapporo / Sendai / Hiroshima / Fukuoka"

Takayuki KUBO Senior Researcher / Director of the Information Strategy Office Fukuoka Asian Urban Research Center

Summary

In Japan, hierarchic urban system led by Tokyo has been formed. Within the urban system, Sapporo, Sendai, Hiroshima, and Fukuoka, known as "Sapp-Sen-Hiro-Fuku," have been playing roles as Regional Hub Cities in the regional parts of Japan. Relative positions of these four cities have changed, influenced by the trend of the Japanese economy as well as the globalization, which has been prominent since the 1980s. In comparing the domestic and the international indicators of the four cities, Fukuoka showed significant rises in most of the indicators, accompanying the economic growth due to the linkage with the global economy. Preceding the other regions in Japan, Fukuoka municipality government has created the Internationalization Promotion Plan and the globalization level of Fukuoka has improved more than the key performance indicators listed in the plan. As Japan is situated in the population decline era, not only Fukuoka but the rest of the cities should seek the way to be the Global Cities taking into account their positions in the urban system and their scales, implementing urban policies to achieve their sustainable growth.

Keywords: Regional Hub Cities, Fukuoka, Sapporo, Sendai, Hiroshima, Global City, Hierarchic Urban System

Research report

Revitalizing Regional Economy through the Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Supporting Foreign Human Resources:

The case study from activities of CIP (Creative Interchange Platform)

Kiheon RYU Chief Researcher Fukuoka Asian Urban Research Center

Summary

In this case study, the researcher established an organization for international students known as CIP (Creative Interchange platform). The organization utilizes social media (with Social Networking Service and video clips in particular), which is an area of ICT (Information and Communication Technology), as a new method in supporting foreign human resources. From the experiment's result, CIP is capable of revitalizing the regional economy. Thus, it is proposed as the solution for regional revitalization. CIP considers self-promotion videos as an effective tool in addition to the website. The videos provide opportunities to strengthen relations between Japanese people and foreigners, and they are able to respond to the needs of foreigners as well as the local people. CIP activities not only provide job search support for foreigners, but also contribute to regional revitalization through empowerment of local businesses and local people. CIP looks forward to expanding its function to facilitate the cooperation between Japanese people and foreign residents in Japan to bring about improvement in resolving current issues and responding to local needs.

Keywords: Support Activities for Foreign Human Resources, ICT, Social Media, Self-Promotion Video, Revitalizing Regional Economy

Research on the Current State of Nepalese Students in Japan: A Case Study of Fukuoka

Kiheon RYU Chief Researcher Fukuoka Asian Urban Research Center

Summary

Fukuoka is the city with the second biggest number of Nepalese students in Japan following Tokyo, and the current number of Nepalese students in Fukuoka is rapidly on the rise. This study examines various aspects of the current situation of Nepalese students in Fukuoka. It mainly focuses on the background of the increasing number of the international students enrolled, in Japanese educational institutions to pursue higher levels of education, as well as seek employment in Japan. Completion of the study and conduction of an opinion survey aimed at international students bring to light some of the present issues faced by Nepalese students. Lastly, this study focuses on important issues of job search activities and international exchanges with local Japanese people, and analyzes each issue in an attempt to figure out the kinds of support needed to resolve any problems that may arise in international students' life.

Keywords: Support Activities for Foreign Human Resources, Nepalese Students in Japan, Human Resources Skills Mid-Level, Fukuoka

Research report

Study on the Social-Territorial Development Process in Art-Site Naoshima

Ritaro SHIMIZU Coursework Completed without Degree, Graduate School of Human-Environment Studies Kyushu University

Takeru SAKAI
Professor, Dr.Eng
Campus Planning Office, Kyushu University
Graduate School of Human-Environment Studies, School of Engineering
Kyushu University

Summary

Our previous research defined the problem-solving, sustainable model of the territorial development process as "Social Territorial Process" with five essential factors, and developed a theoretical framework in order to analyze territorial development practices for shrinking society. This paper focuses on a case in a small island of rural Japan called Naoshima that has been developed by a large enterprise taking the initiative since the late 1980s. This paper performs detailed analysis on the project development using the theoretical framework. The analysis showed not only the importance of continuous involvement of private sector over decades but that of the connection of the project with sub-national and national governments' political, economic and social development goals. More precisely put, this paper makes it clear that the Naoshima project utilized many kinds and scales of voids in rural locales and transformed them into a platform for artistic expressions and social interactions. Such way of using voids provided not only artists and designers but even ordinary local inhabitants with means to take part in the spatial development and subsequent bottom-up activities, which fostered strong and broad social dynamism and supported the entire process of the project.

Keywords: Territorial Development Process, Landscape Urbanism, Social Innovation, Art Site Naoshima

The Issues on Diversification of Human Resource and Language in Establishing Global City:

From Global Human Resource Management Perspective

Yuya TAKAMATSU Doctoral Program of the Business Administration Seinan Gakuin University Graduate School

Summary

This paper tries to suggest a growth strategy for Fukuoka City from global human resource perspective. It introduces a concept of linguistic auditing for this approach. However, this term is unfamiliar in Japan. Linguistic auditing means specific language usage for globalization, which monitors the ruling language at private enterprises to hire and make use of global human resources. So, it has the same power as an audit in Europe. In short, we should deal with language issue to be able to make use of diverse human resources.

Keywords: Linguistic Auditing, Management, Diverse Human Resource, Development and Use of Global Human Resource, Development of Global City