

COMPLETION REPORT

Subject of research project: A study on the institutional capacity of Sato-dzukuri in Japan: the case of Kobe city

Report:

The fulfillments of the research project show as follows:

Bottom-up and governance paradigms are becoming more prevalent in rural community planning in East Asia. Rural communities must enhance their institutional capacities, which are the baseline for planning future changes. However, few studies have analyzed the relationship between institutional capacity and rural community planning. Previous planning studies have shown that institutional capacity is a vague concept. According to Healey's assertions, building institutional capacities with knowledge resources, relational resources, and mobilization capacity influences the quality of place-making. For rural community development, knowledge resources reflect a community's commitments to rural life and problem-solving responsibilities. Relational resources are a community's accessibility to resources. Mobilization capacity is a sense of community that motivates people to participate in activities. Using a quantitative method of event history analysis, this study examines the effect of institutional capacity on rural community planning for conference establishment and plan approval. The research compares the hazards of establishing conferences and plan approval from the Sato-dzukuri of Kobe City, Japan. It found that knowledge resources and relational resources are related to the proxy mobilization capacity for conference establishment. These resources are related to plan approval, although no relationship exists between conference establishment and plan approval. Conferences can be planned more rapidly than can plans for approval, although both require substantial time. Communities with rural contexts present more rapid conference establishment than do suburban areas, although there are no significant differences in plan approval. This suggests that rural communities require more effort for the plan approval process. Rural community planning should judiciously address issues of institutional capacity regarding restrained knowledge resources and progress management, and should maintain vigilance regarding administration to achieve local governance.

The chief lesson from Kobe is that institutional capacity is crucial to rural community planning (i.e., hazards of conference establishment and plan approval). This research elucidated the relationships among the elements of institutional capacity and rural community planning. A rural community's knowledge resources and relational resources are significantly associated with its mobilization capacity (i.e., Sato-dzukuri conference). In addition, a rural community's knowledge resources and relational resources are significantly associated with its rural community planning (i.e., Sato-dzukuri plan approval). However, the results showed that a rural community's mobilization capacity (i.e., Sato-dzukuri conference) is not significantly associated with its rural community planning. Although a rural community can mobilize for activities, community representatives still face difficulty for enhancing rural community planning.

Future studies can expand the variables, such as officials' changes, organizations, advisors, and community leadership, and conduct comparative examinations of integrated rural community planning in Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and other Asian countries. In conclusion, the research empirically examined the relationship between institutional capacity and rural community planning to elucidate bottom-up and local governance policy.

The research project will result in two article entitled "institutional capacity and rural community planning in Japan: an event history analysis" and "A study on efficiency of community-based rural planning" which have been submitted for possible publication to journal theses.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

(NA)

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

1. Li-Pei Peng, Yasuaki Kuki, Shizuka Hashimoto, and Yeu-Sheng Hsieh. 2013. "Institutional capacity and rural community planning in Japan: an event history analysis", submitted for possible publication to "Paddy and Water Environment".

2. Li-Pei Peng, and Chen-Fa Wu. 2013. "A study on efficiency of community-based rural planning" (in Chinese), submitted for possible publication to "Journal of Landscape".

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

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