

## COMPLETION REPORT

This research collects and examines a variety of debris flow-related folk media in the two communities in Kiso Valley, Nagano Prefecture: Nagiso Town and Kiso Town. The objectives of this study are (1) to collect folk media that locally preserve memories of debris flows and pass them on to future generations in those towns, and (2) to investigate the potentiality of folk media in the modern sediment disaster control in Japan. During the 2012-2013 period, two field trips were made to collect folk media in Kiso Valley, and conduct interviews with informants with knowledge of debris flow related folk media in Kiso Valley.

Though fieldworks and archival research, a variety of folk media on debris flows in the towns were collected, i.e. the vernacular naming of debris flows, folktales, monuments, natural objects, proverbs and names of places. They record invaluable information about occurrences of debris flows and pass on the memories to future generations. Folk media is a storehouse of local memories over generations. They address specific needs of Local people, and reflect unique conditions where they live. They are shaped and reshaped in the local community, and told in a local dialect, with specific local references. Therefore, folk media are accessible to all walks of people, from children to the elderly.

However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to pass on local memories to future generations. Rapid urbanization accelerates outflows of younger population. As life in the valley was dangerous and difficult in the past, the people lived closely by being mutually dependent through communal activities. However, such communal life is rapidly disappearing from the valley. Social changes are making folk media obsolete. Therefore, it is important to recognize the limitation in utilizing folklore against disasters.

One of the solutions is state intervention; as is the case with the MLIT's project in the Ina Valley, conscious efforts must be made to keep folklore relevant to the modern society. In this process, local partners, such as schools, academics and local governments, are also expected to play an important role in incorporating folk media into modern disaster prevention efforts. For example, In the Ina Valley, local curriculums are created by the stakeholders with the aid of MLIT in order to pass on memories of natural disasters and to enhance children's sensitivity to risk of natural disasters.

Due to sediment and erosion control technology and sophisticated warning system, the 2 towns have been free from severe sediment disasters in recent years. It is a great achievement for the valley which used to be hit by severe sediment disasters every several years in the past. However, it is dangerous to imagine that modern technology can control debris flows. Thus, the balanced blend of soft technology with hard technology helps the people more effectively cope with natural disasters.

**Publication of the Results of Research Project:**

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

October 18, 2013: Oral presentation at Japanese Studies Network, Thailand “Japan-Asian on the Move”, at Naresuan University, Phitsanulok (in Thai, refereed) As for acceptance letter (A) and the article (B) please refer to attachment. After the conference, the whole article will be included in the proceeding. The article will be sent to Sarakadee Magazine (in Thai).

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

We are submitting the English version to the first issue of 2014 Chulalongkorn University’s Journal of Communication Arts. A copy will be sent to the Sumitomo Foundation upon the acceptance of the article. As for the draft (C), please refer to attachment.

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