

〔研究ノート〕

## Regional Impact of Expo Aichi: Cultural, Educational and Environmental Summary

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### Introduction

We have had three years after our experience of hosting Expo 2005 Aichi. Expo Aichi had clear purpose that be brought up the way of new construction of sustainable world through attractive exhibitions by more one hundred countries and regions, and many actual meetings by citizens' power. Especially cultural and educational developments on the concern for environmental issues at the region hosting Expo Aichi, were requested as rich fruits of international events.

On the relations between the EXPO project and its regional development, I have pointed the following 6 subjects out on my comment of the Symposium of AVE (The Association of Cities and Regions Hosting an International Exhibition) at Aichi, 2005.

No. 1: The main purpose of international Expos is to foster mutual understanding and communication among cultures. As the world globalizes more, it becomes more important to recognize and respect the diversity that exists in the movement of the actual world.

No. 2: The international exposition, regardless of its theme, provides opportunities of fair and equal communication for all people, insisting on world peace, dignity of life, harmonious coexistence with nature and the conservation of a sustainable earth.

No. 3: In addition the fact that the appropriate city/region selected for an international exposition brings participants together from the far corners of the globe, the Expo gives the locale an opportunity to claim its own significance and role as a member of the world through showing the various human activities of culture, art, industry, etc.

No. 4: the experiences of the international exposition make the hosting region's future potential and future perspective clearer. Expos have contributed to new regional developments with an international perspective in the hosting locales, and they always will.

No. 5: All past Expo cities with experience of international expositions and future Expo cities will cooperate to promote regional developments following the spirit of international exposition and the direction indicated by BIE, which is the agreement reach today.

No. 6: Through today's Symposium, we have become convinced that AVE member cities/regions, by exchanging and sharing information mutually, will cooperate for future expositions and undertake the

new tasks as advanced cities.

Now I point that the region hosting Expo must promote the actual change of regional structure of culture and human network, and in Seto city region where is one of the main support area of Expo Aichi, we start the reconstruction and change of regional community by cooperation between citizen and local government at Aichi prefecture. Therefore the author wants to say some successful results of Expo Aichi at Seto area.

## **Start for Change**

Expo Aichi have saved little surplus and a part of them were distributed to regional activities of sustainable development and international exchange by citizens. At first Expo Aichi should be held at Seto City area (Kaisho forest) and the site of exposition was planned to construction at the place formed the destruction of beautiful and biological rich forest. But the original plan was reconsidered and modified from the point of view of environmental protection. Accordingly main theme on Expo Aichi was decided *Nature's Wisdom* (good relations between human and nature).

We feel the following that we must change our actual style of life, and now we started to change our regional activities for environmental protection. We are changed by experience of Expo Aichi.

## **Our Present Activities**

Now we have some positive results on citizens' ideas and actual behaviors about regional preservation and cultural local and inter-exchange movements after Expo Aichi. We report the following three points.

- ⇒ Construction of citizens' organization for nature and cultural conservation
- ⇒ Learning center for regional preservation
- ⇒ International exchanges and communications

### **(1) Construction of citizens' organization for nature and cultural conservation**

In order to conservation of regional nature and our traditional culture, we have organized citizens' society named the Civic Society for Conservation at Kaisho Forest. This society was formed in December, 2004, and is maintaining by citizens' efforts. Now, regional problems on the preservation of nature and the development and change of traditional local community, are discussed and controlled by collaboration between local government and citizens. These movements are new wave of the decision making process in Japan. The citizens in Japan learned many political and democratic ways of autonomy through the active participation to Expo program. This is most important result of Expo Aichi for Japanese citizens.



**Fig. 1.** Activity by citizens for preservation of traditional life and events



**Fig. 2.** Traditional events will be transmitted to next generation.

## **(2) Learning center for regional preservation**

By re-using Aichi prefectural pavilion in Expo Aichi, local government constructed new facility named Aichi Kaisho Forest Center in cooperation with many citizens in September, 2006. This facility is used for a educational movement at Kaisho forest and for a environmental education on the global



**Fig. 3.** Kaisho-no-mori learning center for sustainability. This building was constructed as Aichi prefectural pavilion in Expo Aichi 2005.



**Fig. 4.** Educational display by citizens' group at Kaisho learning center.

issues. As of today, more 50 thousands visitants came and studied the states and needs of conservation of Kaisho forest and local traditional life. The other hands, this center promotes educational program “Kaisho-no-mori learning center for sustainability” since 2007, with citizens and academic supporters. This program has some educational courses (forestry, conservation, citizens' activities, etc.) and is



Fig. 5. Discussion between citizens and local government at learning center.



Fig. 6. They discussed the way of conservation and co-existence between human and nature.

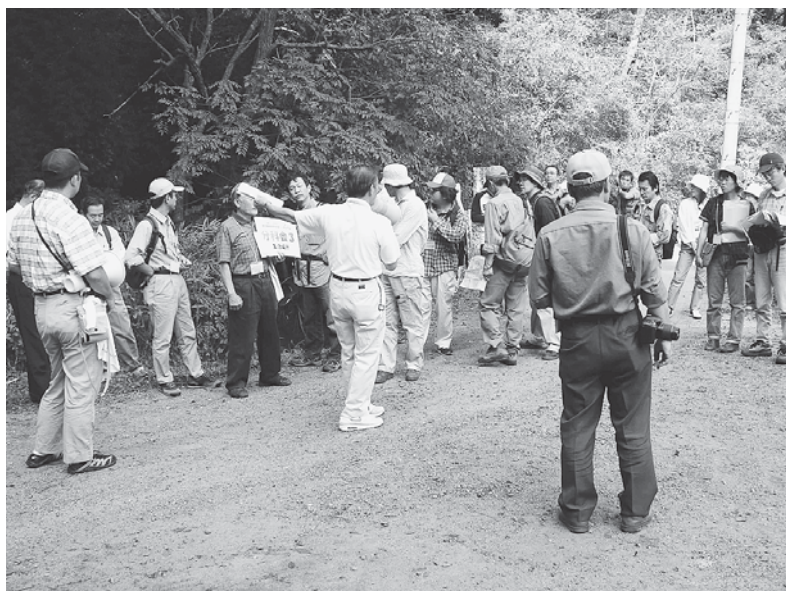
available for all citizens in Japan and foreigners (international course). This program will be continued 10 years.

### **(3) International exchanges and communications**

Aichi prefectural government and cooperate-committee by citizens are promoting now, “The International Forum on Interrelationship between Nature and Human Beings”. The first congress was

held on November 24–25, 2007. More 500 persons gathered and discussed. In this forum, Dr. Alphnse Kambu (Papua New Guinea), Institute of Advanced Studies of United Nations University, came by invited lecturer. The declaration for nature conservation and sustainable society was discussed and was to be sent as a message from Kaisho forest to all over Japan and the world. This forum also will be continued for 10 years.

Citizens' activities as volunteers were great waves in 2005, and continue now. For example, one of the civic chorus group at Seto city that they had a joint concert with Chinese orchestra at Shanghai when Expo Aichi was held, continue inter-communication and they want to perform at Expo Shanghai 2010. Civic activities in 2005 still live and Shanghai will succeed our actions and purposes of International Exposition.



**Fig. 7.** Seminar tour of forest education at Kaisho forest led by citizens' group.

One part of volunteers at Expo Aichi, especially worked at railroad station or Information for visitors, are continuing there activities as volunteers at the festival in Seto city. Every September big event, so called *Setomono-Matsuri* (Ceramic Festival) at Seto is held and more 500 thousands visitors come and buy traditional and modern ceramics, and more 100 civic volunteers work and serve for visitors. These behaviors of volunteers was brought up by Expo spirit and activity.

### **Construction of Basic Structure on Civic Society**

At Seto city region they (local government and citizens) wanted and prepared reconstruction of

city functions before Expo 2005 Aichi. Expo gave good chance to the region financially and politically. Actually at Seto region two big facilities were constructed near central railroad terminal (Owari-seto Station). One is a industrial and commercial center named *Setogura* and another named *Parti-Seto* has two functions, guide center for visitors and educational public center for citizens. The author committed the constructive plan of *Parti-Seto* and suggested the following; (1) this facility is a landmark at central zone of Seto and entrance for Expo 2005 Aichi, (2) it has the important function for concentration of citizens' activities, and then (3) it must have a academic and cultural organization in it's functions. Therefore the SETO consortium of universities was established and is working for civic educations now. These activities are main body of cultural movements at Seto region. Next year (2009) we want to start a international exchange program with Korean city for university students belonging to our consortium.

Many programs for citizens' activities and international missions was prepared and carried out after Expo aichi at Seto region. And we should continue for future. We learned the importance of international communications when we held the Expo.

Expo is good teacher for us to study the needs of civic independency and international communications in order to world peace and sustainable development.

Now at Aichi prefecture and Nagoya city we are preparing to invite the international congress for biodiversity (Aichi-Nagoya COP10 CBD). We can contribute to international actions for conservation of nature in the world and construction of sustainable earth and our common future. It is most rich fruit gotten from Expo Aichi for us.