
SUMMARY



Sustainable Community Building Policy for Balanced National Development

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Local Small and Medium-sized City, In-depth Case Studies

In order to shift the policy of balanced national development from dispersion to decentralization, it is necessary to employing both the top-down and base-centered national balanced development strategy and bottom-up and small-scale network-type national balanced development strategy. It is worth paying attention to community building as the most representative methodology for pursuing bottom-up and small-scale network-type balanced national development. From this point of view, this study aims to improve the effectiveness of securing the sustainability of community building project by conducting a field survey to ensure successful community building project in local small and medium-sized cities as a new balanced national development methodology.

The purpose of this study is as following. First, this suggests the concept and importance of community building in terms of balanced national development. Second, this study attempts to derive the key challenges related to community

building by analyzing the results and limitations of community building projects by government departments. Third, through the in-depth analysis on the community building project targeting local small and medium-sized cities, this study tries to suggest effective and sustainable community building progression schemes.

This study consists of six parts. First, the concept and importance of community building were examined and secondly, the overview and direction of the community building project by government departments were summarized. Third, in-depth case studies focusing on local small and medium-sized cities were conducted to find out the key issues for the successful and sustainable community building projects in those areas. Fifth, this study analyzed Japanese policies and cases related to promoting community building project focusing on the citizen's participation. Lastly, it proposed strategies pursuing sustainability of community building project in local small and medium-sized cities.

The most significant feature of this study is the in-depth analysis of community building projects in local small and medium cities. The analysis of seven project types were undertaken such as Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, the Ministry of Public Administration and Security, and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. And two case studies were selected for seven each project types. Totally 14 cases were selected for the in-depth analysis. The in-depth analysis targets small and medium-sized cities with a population from 50,000 to 500,000. The issues of each stage were discovered, including the preparation stage, planning stage, project implementation stage, and operation and management stage.

As a result of in-depth case studies, four core tasks and 15 directions for improvement were derived and finally, policy and institutional improvement suggestions were introduced to reflect these core tasks and directions for

improvement of community building project. In order to improve the system, first, a new type of public project for community building project targeting local small and medium-sized cities needs to be established. Second, it is to prepare and distribute the manual for the sustainable community building project in local small and medium-sized cities. Third, it is suggested several revisions of existing public guidelines for community building project. Fourth, it is suggested the enactment and revision of local ordinances for establishing and operating regional support organizations.