



Center for Sustainable Development Studies

SDGs and Center's Next Undertakings

Hidetoshi Kitawaki
Director

The Center for Sustainable Development Studies (hereinafter, "the Center") is conducting "Research for Human Security by Improving Living Environments in Developing Countries: Toyo SDGs Global 2020–2030–2037" under the auspices of the Toyo University Priority Research Promotion Program, which is scheduled for FY2019–2021. Toyo University established its SDG Charter in June 2021 and has been engaged in activities that contribute to the SDGs across the university. The Center has played a vital role as a global center in those efforts. We will compile our research results to date into a book titled "The SDGs and International Contributions in the Pandemic Era: Toward the 2030 Goals," which will be published by Asakura Shoten.

The COVID-19 pandemic that was declared last year has had a significant impact on progress toward the achievement of the global SDGs, leading to a decline in the Human Development Index (comprehensive scale of the world's education, health, and standards of living) for the first time since the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) began measuring it in 1990. As developing countries develop further in the future, viruses lurking in the natural world will move into the human world, and it is possible that pandemics such as COVID-19, which are said to occur once every hundred years, will happen more frequently in the future. Post-COVID-19 SDGs have naturally had to be amended, and the importance of the concept of "human security" (the seven most important types of security for the survival of individual persons: the economy, food, health, environment, individual, local society, and politics) that the Center has worked on has

also increased.

However, the methods that the Center has applied so far cannot sufficiently meet the world's needs as they are expected to develop rapidly in the future. We are in the middle of the "Decade of Action" for the SDGs, and we must address the challenge of how to revise and develop them in the future. It is necessary to discern the areas that have stagnated and those that have changed radically due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to contribute to eliminating that stagnation through innovative research using IT. Moreover, we also need to study how to coexist in a multicultural world that is likely to revert from "development" to "chaos." In addition, it is necessary to propose ideal relationships between Japan and developing countries, emerging countries, and other developed countries by applying developing country competencies through industry-academia collaboration and learning the experiences of local governments in Japan. In order to respond to the global agenda and build a carbon-free society, Japan needs to cooperate with international cooperation organizations and explore win-win relationships between the environment and the economy.

These may have already been undertaken as individual research themes. However, combining them with the concept of SDGs creates synergy. Combining these themes with SDGs and making them "SDGs+" can provide us with clues to potential solutions for various goals that could not be achieved from the MDGs to the SDGs. The Center is a unique group of researchers who are engaged in a variety of specializations. We will continue to act as a platform for coordinating interdisciplinary research.

On the Publication of The SDGs and International Contributions in the Pandemic Era: Toward the 2030 Goals

Gaku Manago, Book Editorial Committee

The Toyo University Center for Sustainable Development Studies (hereinafter, "the Center") has published a total of eight books.

In October 2021, we published the ninth book, titled *The SDGs and International Contributions in the Pandemic Era: Toward the 2030 Goals*. This book was edited during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has brought about global disorder, leading to dramatic social changes with significant impacts on the progress of SDG goals related to the environment, health, the economy, and so forth. We think that researchers and practitioners were unsatisfied with the progress and results because they were unable to conduct surveys and activities in the field.

We have heard that many companies withdrew their overseas presence due to restrictions imposed on overseas travel. We believe that precisely because this is a pandemic, it is essential to conduct research and practice on sustainable development in developing countries. Our research and activities should not be stopped and should be conducted even in difficult times.

The research was implemented during this time with colleagues, researchers, counterparts, students, and so on. The research results were compiled into this book, and the book reminds us "How we can achieve the SDGs in a pandemic" and "How we should implement research in a pandemic."

We have discussed how to achieve and contribute to the SDGs in a pandemic and have compiled the results in this book, which expresses our desire to contribute to the SDGs in this pandemic era and is titled *The SDGs and International Contributions in the Pandemic Era: Toward the 2030 Goals*. It also includes the content of lectures for the Center's first online symposium held in 2020, so it is our hope that you will take a look at it.

Finally, some of the authors of *The SDGs and International Contributions in the Pandemic Era: Toward the 2030 Goals* gave presentations at a symposium on October 22, 2021. We talked about the commentaries in the book and our current research. Symposium records and reports can be checked on our website. The website URL is mentioned on the last page of this newsletter.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



パンデミック時代の SDGsと 国際貢献



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北脇秀敏・松丸亮・金子彰・眞子岳 [編]



朝倉書店

*The SDGs and International Contributions in the Pandemic Era:
Toward the 2030 Goals*

Necessity of Waste Disposal in Lake Houses by Inle Lake, Myanmar

Takashi Yuasa, Visiting Researcher

Inle Lake is the second-largest natural lake in Myanmar, located in Shan State in the eastern part of Myanmar. The lake is one of Myanmar's most famous tourist destinations, a scenic lake known for its lake houses and the traditional fishing methods of the locals. It is also designated as a UNESCO Eco-Park. Recently, however, problems such as soil runoff and deterioration of water quality have been noted. In this paper, the necessity of human waste treatment for lake houses is described based on the interview survey on water utilization and wastewater treatment we carried out in lake houses and so forth.

On the water utilization side, lake water is not used as drinking water in the lake villages, and commercial water in a water tank, etc., is used instead. Recently, it was found that commercial water became inexpensive along with the improvement of road access, etc., and that the use of commercial water as drinking water is becoming popular. Cooking water uses a source similar to that of drinking water. Lake water is often used for dishwashing and laundry, but in Kay Lar Village, the same water is used for rinsing purposes as is used for drinking. With respect to laundry, it was said that the black-colored clothes were washed only in lake water, while the white-colored clothes were washed too much in the lake water for color. In many cases, lake water is also used for bathing (Photo 1).

However, in lake houses, toilets are installed on

the lake, and untreated waste is released straight into the lake (Photo 2). It was proven that domestic miscellaneous wastewater was likewise released untreated. In water quality surveys we conducted in waterways around lake houses, both coliform and E. Coli were detected in many cases (Photo 3), and there were concerns about the risk of water-based infectious diseases, confirming the necessity of taking appropriate domestic wastewater treatment measures, particularly measures to treat urine.

In the waters around the lake villages, the deterioration in water quality is becoming obvious because the burden on the ecosystem is discharged directly into the waters untreated. This is not only a problem in terms of the living environment and health of the residents; it could also lead to loss of value as a natural resource and a tourism resource. Therefore, it seems necessary to take measures to store and recover domestic wastewater, especially urine. From the interview survey of inhabitants, some households installed a tank made of resin, but people said it was fragile because of fluctuations in the level of the lake water. Therefore, the method of installing and storing a concrete ring-type pit used in areas other than the lake villages seems to be effective. Implementation of this countermeasure will also be effective in reducing the burden of what flows into the lake.



Photo 1 Use of lake water (left: laundry, right: bathing)



Photo 2 Toilets releasing untreated waste (Kay Lay Village)

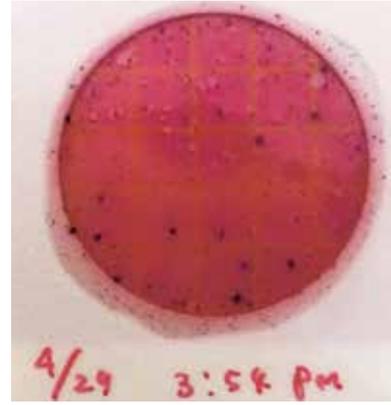


Photo 3 Left: Children swimming in a waterway in Kay Lay Village, Right: Coliform, E. Coli detected in Kay Lay Village

Vulnerability Assessment of Communities for Tsunami Risk Reduction in the Coastal Areas of Pakistan

Agha Babar Ali Khan, Research Assistant

Substantial losses to human life and economic value were borne in Pakistan due to the devastating tsunami in 1945. Its nearly 1000 km long coastline extending from India in the east to Iran in the west along the Arabian Sea, which is vulnerable to tsunamis. The triple plate junction of the Arabian, Indian, and Eurasian tectonic plates is situated near the coast, where many active faults also exist. The coastline dwellers live in structures that cannot withstand the forces of nature during a tsunami. The potential for the loss of life and high damage costs is greatly increasing with time, as the trend of population migration is increasing toward the coastal areas of Pakistan due to growing trade activities.

There is an urgent need to conduct studies based on scientific techniques and sociological approaches in coastal areas of Pakistan, focusing on tsunamis. Moreover, the identification of a pragmatic approach is needed through which scientific information (being gathered by using the available state-of-the-art technology in Pakistan) could appropriately be utilized to bridge policymakers, organizations working on disaster risk reduction (DRR), and communities vulnerable to tsunamis. To achieve this, numerical simulation of tsunamis, formulation of models for vulnerability assessment, and future planning for disaster management using sociological methods and means is required.

A meeting was held in June 2021 between Prof. Takahito Mikami of Tokyo City University, Tokyo, and Prof. Ryo Matsumaru, and Babar Ali (Ph.D. student) of Toyo University. During the meeting, several technical aspects were discussed regarding the simulation of tsunamis along the coasts of Pakistan employing numerical modeling techniques. Prof. Mikami provided

a computer model for tsunami simulation that can be operated on a desktop or laptop PC. Presently, this model is being used by Prof. Ryo Matsumaru and Babar Ali to simulate tsunamis by keeping the Makran Subduction Zone (MSZ), one of the most prominent geological features in southern Pakistan, as a source. The spatial window selected for this purpose is from 19°N to 28°N latitude and 55°E to 74°E longitude.

As a first step, several simulations were performed by assuming that the tsunami would be triggered from the same location as it was due to the 1945 earthquake. This process helped in the evaluation of various tsunami source parameters near the coastal areas of Pakistan for further simulation. The impacts of tsunamis in various coastal cities of Pakistan were observed through simulations. After careful consideration of various factors, nine points were selected along the coastline of Pakistan to observe the tsunami wave height and its arrival time. Comparisons between the amount of displacement along the fault planes during an earthquake and the run-up height of the tsunami that was produced as a result were performed. For this purpose, various possibilities of displacement along the MSZ during an earthquake were considered. The run-up height of the tsunami simulated along the coastal areas of Pakistan is under examination.

The results of this study will be used to estimate the likelihood of maximum tsunami inundation and run-up. These factors refer to the physical vulnerability of the coastal areas, which are also key factors for further assessment of sociological vulnerability of the population. Overall population vulnerability can be helpful for policymakers in formulating realistic and practical disaster management plans.

A Study on the Relationship between Resident Participation in Korean Development Projects and Local Social Capital

Kim Jun-hee, Research Assistant

In the past, government-centered development policy promotion in regional and urban development projects in South Korea has caused a variety of social problems, including forced evictions, gentrification, destruction of local communities, and widening disparities. Inter-actor conflicts over regional development projects and opposition to residents in NIMBY (“Not In My Back Yard”) facility locations were also limitations of government-centered development policies. In order to solve the side effects caused by such “development from above,” there has been a rise in interest in “development from below,” which emphasizes communication and participation with local residents and community members. However, as a result of the Korean War, military dictatorship, and high growth, the sense of community in the local areas has weakened, and the recent phenomenon of an aging population and declining birthrate has further accelerated the dismantlement of local communities. Therefore, the necessity of strengthening local communities, in other words, social capital, was raised as much as possible to form the basis of resident participation such as in Europe, the United States, and Japan.

In the latter half of the 2010s, as the decline of small and medium-sized cities and the urban problems caused by existing development projects became more serious, the Urban Regeneration Project was formulated as a new policy to solve these problems. The Urban Regeneration Project in South Korea emphasizes the role of residents in restoring relationships and reinforcing local social capital, not to mention the development of declining areas. However, as a result of the democratization of the Republic of Korea and the implementation of local autonomy, the cooperation of local residents is becoming increasingly important in the location and operation of NIMBY facilities. The South Korean government started the community support project around the NIMBY facilities with a view to the convenient location of the NIMBY facilities and the development of the damaged areas. The neighborhood support project for NIMBY facilities that started in the 1990s has expanded resident participation through the inhabitant participation expansion project.

The two types of projects, regeneration and support, are targeted at declining and damaged areas, each of which has a common element of aiming to improve areas that are in a bad state. While regeneration projects aim at economic improvement through regional regeneration and social improvement through

project participation, support projects involve cooperation with local residents and economic benefits from facilities. They are aiming at the sharing and future development of the local area, and each project has a complex character such that it is more than a mere physical improvement of the local area. In addition, the process of resident participation has been introduced in the project selection process for both types of projects. Information such as business briefings for local residents has been provided for the local selection of both projects, and the participation, understanding, and consent of residents have been evaluated as being important elements in the selection of projects.

However, the two projects are showing differences in terms of their social capital content. First, while the regeneration project is a unique attempt by South Korea to restore social capital by the government, the support project has a relatively universal character of compensation for damage because it is carried out for the purpose of locating NIMBY facilities and compensating for damage. Then, compared to the regeneration projects that are involved in various programs, such as participation programs and educational activities, with the aim of strengthening social capital in the region, the support process of resident participation is concentrated within the process of project selection, and there is no support program in implementation. As a result, the relationship between the two businesses and the social capital of the region is expected to differ.

This study is an attempt to clarify the relationship between resident participation of development projects and social capital, paying attention to the introduction of resident participation in development projects in South Korea. Through this study, we analyze the interrelationship between resident participation and social capital. Additionally, comparing the Urban Regeneration Project, which existing studies have frequently discussed, with the relatively marginalized peripheral community support projects, we examine the impact of the differences in business types on the nature of the projects and the relationship that processes have on them. In addition to the metropolitan area and regional wide-area cities, which have been dealt with frequently in the past, we will collect information on more diverse cases in the targeted areas, as well as local small and medium-sized cities. Ultimately, the goal is to present alternatives to increase the social capital enhancement effect through resident participation in future development projects.

Considering History Education and Research for Sustainable Development

Chikara Uchida, Research Associate



My name is Chikara Uchida. I became an assistant researcher at the Center in August. I am sure that, in this position, I will get to work with you in running the Center in a variety of ways. Thank you in advance.

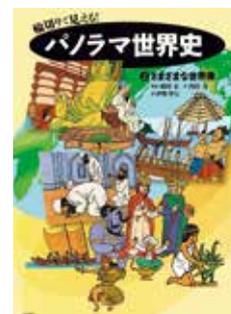
Below, I would like to introduce myself, focusing on the individual research activities I was involved in when I arrived at my post. My

research field is history of modern and contemporary Japan. I use this field to explore the activities of historians in postwar Japan and to provide theoretical insights for historical research and education in the coming years. In my doctoral dissertation, I discussed a historical researcher named Yoshihiko Amino who became popular in the 1970s and the 1980s and studied the development of postwar historical research and its relationship to media culture.

Historical perception has become a popular and timely topic in international politics in various parts of the world, and it includes disputes over the significance of the Holocaust in German history and the “comfort women” issue between Japan and the Republic of Korea. This is because how we think about the history of the world, including the memories of war, differs from country to country and region to region. However, these differing perceptions are only natural, and what is problematic is the lack of international exchange concerning historical narratives. Against this background, I have participated in activities related to the “internationalization of history” from a variety of angles. I have long participated in world history and global history projects and have been involved in research on the history of international exchange and international comparisons of historical events. My previous job was at the Institute of Advanced Studies on Asia, the University of Tokyo, where I was

part of a team that promoted the internationalization of Japanese studies through the “Global Japan Studies network.”

Moreover, visual works exist that can effectively convey historical understandings and that have different attractions, possibilities, and difficulties than an idea that is expressed in words. I have had the fortune of being involved in the production of world history picture books (Wagiri de mieru! Panorama sekai shi, 5 vols., Otsuki Shoten Publishers, 2015) and comic books about world history (vols. 5 and 19, KADOKAWA, 2021). These are works aimed at realizing the concept of communicating to children historical perspectives that take a panoramic view of the world. Fortunately, the former picture book has been translated into Chinese and is also read by Chinese children.



Recently, I have additionally become interested in the field of environmental history in order to explore the possibilities of history with a focus on the environment. Environmentalism is a global issue from the perspective of cross-border history, and from the perspective of contemporary environmental issues, many issues still need to be explored for both historical research and historical education. As a specific topic, I focus my attention on Seiroku Honda (1866–1952), a forestry scholar, and investigate how he reconciled the relationship between the environment and the economy.

Recently, “Education for Sustainable Development” has come to be advocated, and this is a theme I would like to think about as I work. At my new workplace, the Center for Sustainable Development Studies, I would like to further develop my own research while learning from the activities of the professors at the Center.

About the Center for Sustainable Development Studies



The researchers at the Center for Sustainable Development Studies include full-time teachers, visiting researchers from Japan and overseas, study assistants, research assistants, and secretariat workers. The Center holds annual international symposiums and workshops, inviting experts from developed and developing countries. Additionally, we hold open lectures for citizens and professionals, publish a Japanese–English newsletter containing information about research projects, and publish an annual report. These reports can be downloaded from the Center’s website. The Center’s activities are administered by the Toyo University Priority Research Promotion Program.



Toyo University supports the Sustainable Development Goals

TOYO UNIVERSITY

Center for Sustainable Development Studies
5-28-20, Hakusan, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-8606 Japan
Phone. +81-3-3945-7747
E-mail. cesdes@toyo.jp
URL. <https://www.toyo.ac.jp/en/research/labo-center/orc/>

- Five minutes' walk from Exit A3 of the Hakusan Station on the Toei Subway Mita Line to the main and south gate, and five minutes' walk from Exit A1 to the west gate.
- Five minutes' walk from Exit 1 of the Honkomagome Station on the Nanboku Line of the Tokyo Metro.
- Fifteen minutes' walk from Exit 1 of the Sendagi Station on the Tokyo Metro Chiyoda Line to the main gate and south gate.

