

A Study on the Impacts of Proposal Systems of Urban and Regional Planning on the Planning Processes

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[SYNOPSIS]

Recently, many proposal systems have been introduced as a form of decentralization efforts. Under proposal systems, local governments make proposals related to their regional policies, then the central government assesses the proposals, and the central government supports only the proposals that pass their assessment. As proposal systems are very different from the existing traditional systems, many local governments may be confused for their rapid introduction. In addition, as many local governments are consuming their scarce resources (e.g. human resources, fiscal resources) for the paperwork for their merging with other local governments, only resource-rich local governments may be able to utilize proposal systems. In this study, we try to survey and analyze the responses of local governments to the introduction of proposal systems. We cover local governments in Tohoku regions and uncover the empirical characteristics of their actual utilization of proposal systems and survey their opinions about proposal systems.