

Comparative Study on Port City Alliance in Mediterranean Sea -Their framework and regeneration methodologies-

Ch. Hiroshi OTA (Lecturer, Institute of Industrial Science, The University of Tokyo)

[Synopsis]

Port has always been controversial site in the process of urban regeneration, as (1) although it historically locates in the heart of the city, it is difficult to share the common vision between the port authorities and the city planning bureau, (2) it needs the drastic change in land use plan, such as the shift from heavy industry site to the cultural site, (3) in Japan, small port cities with 100-300 thousand population are lacking the human resources and network to propose the entire vision, and they lack (4) the open written documents and discussion opportunities to share the concerns, experience and knowledge.

This study focuses on Mediterranean port cities, which also are in need of changes on functions and land uses in port area. To know the proper case studies, the study starts from collecting the information on "Port City Alliances", which are the international organization exchange and share the ideas on port regeneration. The examined alliances are (1) SUDEST in Naples (2000-2007), (2) CTUR in Naples (2009-2011), (3) IONAS in Venice (2004-2007), and (4) RETE in Venice (2001-).

After the interviews to the chairmen of these organizations and the site visits of ongoing projects in their member port cities, the author has found the following issues.

-It is quite essential to exchange and share the vision and the knowledge of port regeneration, as many Mediterranean port cities have strong interests in cruising industry, which needs a shared and collaborative vision for commercial promotion.

-Each city has the benefit for being the member of alliances. Especially for the smaller governmental bodies, the documentation done in alliance projects is very practical resources in their practices.

-As some cities become the members of the alliance with their port authorities and city planning bureau, alliances give the opportunity to enhance the discussion between them, in the wider international context.

-Port city alliance is applicable in Japan, and will play quite an important role in Japanese urban/port regeneration. As it makes up the lack of knowledge and communications, and can raise the bigger vision for networked port industries, such as cruise industry.