

Cooperation Strategies and Cross Border Relationships between Busan and Fukuoka

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[SYNOPSIS]

Both Korea and Japan, facing the regional asymmetries and excessive spatial concentration of economic and administrative functions and population in Seoul and Tokyo, have taken the development of peripheral regions and the decentralization of multiple core cities outside capitals into account. The conception of cross border metropolis between Busan and Fukuoka has been paid attention to and both cities played principal roles in the transboundary cooperation initiatives.

This study aims to examine the current situation in the cross border relationship between Busan and Fukuoka and discuss the sustainable development strategy of peripheral regions in the hierarchical structure of the urban system in both countries, by analyzing the role of public, business and private actors. The results are as follows. Previous mayor's enthusiastic conviction has played a decisive role in crystalizing the conception of cross border metropolis between Busan and Fukuoka. Its conception was suggested by 64 projects as mutual promising collaborations. Business actors based in both cities were expected to collaborate in diverse industries. However, both relationships emerged especially from the cooperation driven by the private actors, including tourism and sports exchange projects.

The Conception of Cross Border Metropolis between Busan and Fukuoka epitomized horizontal cooperation relationship, neither vertical nor hierarchical integration dominated by one side over the other. Although there was predominance of collaborations led not by business actors but by private actors, the fact that Busan and Fukuoka as peripheral regions autonomously attempt to propel diversity of cooperation projects, acquires significance, in the asymmetry of spatial structures inherent in Korea and Japan with "mono-polarization in Seoul and Tokyo".