

Attempt to construct a disaster prevention network by utilizing vacant houses to secure travelers' safety

Ch. Yoko FUJII (Research Assoc., Faculty of Engineering and Design., KAGAWA Univ.)

[SYNOPSIS]

The Shikoku pilgrimage route is consist of 88 official temples and numerous other sacred sites located around the island of Shikoku. The Shikoku pilgrimage route culture, aggressive activities towards world heritage registration and an increase in travelers are seen.

However, there are risks in depopulated settlements around the Shikoku pilgrimage route which also concerns securing an evacuation route at the time of a disaster because of intricate and narrow alleys. In addition, disaster response to tourists (pilgrims) is also inadequate.

There are some accommodation options for the pilgrims. However, there are only a few choices for low cost accommodation, especially for women and foreigners.

Zenkonyado is a low cost accommodation based in the Shikoku Pilgrimage culture called Osettai, where local residents welcome the pilgrims by subsidizing their overnight stay in their personal residences.

In this study, my university students together with the local residents, set up a Zenkonyado (shelter cabin) which is a low cost accommodation for women and foreigners by repairing unoccupied houses around the pilgrimage road.

We also explored the possibility of establishing a disaster prevention network by ceating more Zenkonyado in the area utilizing the vacant houses. There are a lot of vacant houses in the area which might collapse anytime especially when earthquakes suddenly occur. These houses can be transformed into a Zenkonyado and make them more useful to pilgirms. (creating "the place for Osettai" in the Shikoku pilgrimage route).