

A Study on the Incorporation of History and Culture into the Urban
Planning System in Japan
-An Analysis on the Compact City Pilot Project of for local Revitalization-

Chief: Mariko Fujioka

(Assistant Professor, Global Cooperation Institute for
Sustainable Cities, Yokohama City University)

[Synopsis]

Respecting unique history and culture in designing the urban environment is essential to enhance the cities' attractiveness. Discovering unique value based on local resources is especially of more important when achieving the compact city and local revitalization is encouraged. In Japan, however, relationship between cultural heritage administration and urban planning administration has been weak, and the urban planning has not considered history and culture enough. Although the Act on Maintenance and Improvement of Historic Landscape in Communities was enacted in 2008, the basic framework of urban planning system in general has not changed.

Against the above, this study regarded the Compact city pilot project for local revitalization by the national government as worthy of attention regarding the relationship between history and culture and urban planning. It is a part of the compact city policy but one of the aims is to support initiatives for utilizing vacant shops and revitalizing castle towns which inherently requires consideration for local history and culture. In fact, the plans of 32 selected cities for the project include a project contains a nationally designated historic areas and a project focusing on historic environment. It is a new type of pilot projects in the urban planning field.

This study selected 5 cities that made plans focusing on history and culture as case cities and conducted research on history and measures of coordination among urban planning and historic urban conservation in those cities. As a result, it clarified that how general plans in the urban planning field has incorporated history and culture in them, coordination among different administrative sections, and nature of present and future issues in historic urban conservation.