

"Devoluted urban system

— Japanese "Machizukuri Kyogikai" and US "Neighborhood Council" .

Soichiro Maeyama, Ph.D. Professor

Fukuyama City University. Urban Management

masichiro@aol.com s-maeyama@fcu.ac.jp

Thank you very much for giving me this chance for this presentation. My name is Maeyama, I work for Fukuyama City University, and as well a neighborhood activist in Hiroshima Japan.

In US, since 1970s, mainly in 80's and 90s such as Dayton (OH), Tacoma (WA), Seattle (WA), Portland (OR), Los Angeles (CA) neighborhood councils have been established. In Japan MACHIZUKURI KYOGIKAI, the like of Neighborhood council, have developed since 2000, especially 2005 in supposedly more than 500 cities among nearly 2000 cities. (By the way "Machizukuri" literally means Community Planning).

Today, I would like to do the presentation on "Japanese "Machizukuri Kyogikai" and US. "Neighborhood Council", focusing on How and why Neighborhood Council Movement has been developing in each context. And what kind of solution is possible in that context.

(Click)

As to the Background of Machizukuri Kyogikai, two issues have been related to it. One is : Number of Senior Citizens has growing .

(Click)

Now 25.1% is Senior population among all population.

(Click)

(Click)

And especially number of "senior living alone" is growing. Number of "Senior Living Alone" household occupies 10.4% among all households.

Second is: In close conjunction with it, social problems have increased, such as Isolated senior citizens, Alzheimer-type walk-around, their involvement to accidents, incidents, victim of crimes (fraud) etc.

(Click)

SO, here we should ask "what is the solution from Japanese context?"

(Click)

Machizukuri Kyogikai looks similar with US. Neighborhood Councils.

(Click)

This is the organizational Chart of a Machizukuri Kyogikai in my city, Fukuyama City. In one elementary school area, 30-40 associations such as neighborhood associations, senior clubs, PTAs, etc are organized into one organizational frame under Big president, Director.

And such associations are structured into several divisions for the specific purposes. Such as Neighborhood Affairs, Human Communication, Mutual Support, Safety, and youth etc.

(Click)

And as to the relational situation between Machizukuri Kyogikai and the city organization, Many cities have tried to build Coordinate Center and Coordinator staffs like the Figure. In my city, Fukuyama City, the city built 79 community centers for supporting 79 neighborhood councils.

(Click)

In 2013 "Japan Center for Cities" conducted Questionnaire to 812 Cities. They could collected the answer from 507 cities. It was 62.4%.

From the result, we could grasp the following key points.

(Click)

As to Machizukuri Kyogikai

We can understand that since 2000, Machizukuri Kyogikai System are developing in Japan. And among that 248 answer-cities, , namely 51% ,established it after 2005. There have been the prominent development in this ten years. (It might be said: Among the answered 507 cities, 248 cities , namely 50% ,showed the development of Machizukuri Kyogikai, In Japan among 1,916 cities, it is highly possible that double of 248 cities , namely more than 500 cities adopted Machizukuri Kyogikai.)

(Click)

And as to Legal Basis of Machizukuri Kyogikai, 56.8% is backed with ordinances, implementation outline, and comprehensive plans.

And as to the establishing purpose of Machizukuri Kyogikai, interesting thing is that 80.2% of Machizukuri Kyogikai has the purpose "for residents to resolve the

areal problem-issues". And on the contrary, percentage of the purpose which says "absorbing intention of residents/ reflecting" is small for 42.7%. This is notable difference from US neighborhood councils.

(Click)

For the merit of Machizukuri Kyogikai, the answer that remarks," promotion for voluntary-, autonomous actions in the area" is 80%.

(Click)

From the City / Municipality side,

Cities are trying to support neighborhoods by Grant-Money (92.,9%), Place for Machizukuri Kyogikai (46.7%) and Staffs such as Coordinator Staffs (66.3%).

(Click)

And also from the view point of cities/ municipalities, disaster prevention, beautification, safety and social work are regarded as the necessary works for Machizukuri Kyogikai.

To summarize these questionnaire-answers, it would be understood; Machizukuri Kyogikais have been developed since 2000, especially 2005, by organizing 30-40 small neighborhoods groups.

Machizukuri Kyogikais' mission tend to be understood and focused on "solving issue and committing urban services by themselves". It is very interesting, when we think about that the US neighborhood Councils focus on democracy. (in other words, "Vessel for residential intention").

(Click)

III We are going to proceed to the last part "Delivery function of areal public services".

As we saw at previous Figures, Japanese local societies are strongly becoming"aging society with fewer children"; and Household of "senior living alone" are growing up to 10.4% of all households! And social problems are growing relate to that.

How could we cope with? Here, we should look at some test case in Fukuyama City.

(Click)

Fukuyama City has middle sized city with 471,000 population. And now 79 Machizukuri Kyogikai are established since 2006. And every year Grant for each Machizukuri Kyogikai is provided by city for about 14,500\$ a year.

(Click)

I showed this institutional relation between Machizukuri Kyogikai and the City.

(Click)

Here are the main projects that Machizukuri Kyogikais have committed. ○For providing “living alone seniors” with place to stay and belonging , Rose Garden, and Lively Saloon; ○For seniors and handicapped persons, Volunteer Center; ○Watching Team for Kids’ School-Commuting; ○Finding Areal History etc.

(Click)

Among them I would like to gaze at one attempting project in Miyukuki Area in Fukuyama City. Miyuki Area with about 11,000 population has one elementary school and one Machizukuri Kyogikai.

They established “Volunteer Center” that is run by resident volunteers of Machizukuri Kyogikai, and they are supporting So-called “Lively Saloons (for Seniors”.) at 17 locations in Miyuki Area.

(click)

Under the Machizukuri Kyotgikai's framework, each associations , such as PTA , Senior Club, Neighborhood Organization, Welfare Association etc, unitedly create and support to maintain the MIYUIKI Volunteer Center .

(click)

Volunteer Center in “Miyuki Community Center”.

(click)

The Miyuki Volunteer center was Established 2012 August to consult and help residents’ life problems.

Their motto is “we, residents, help each other”!

In the pictures we could see the face of the president, and some faces of 7 staffs. And beside them 50 volunteers are registered to the center.

On demand from the elderly and handicapped persons, volunteer center send volunteers for Trash conveying Service to Drop-off Site. The Fee is 100 yen a time (that is about 90cent). And Weeding yards services are done for 500 yen per an hour (about 4 \$).

And the center assist for 17 “Lively Saloons”

(Click)

Lively Saloon” is held in small center, or residents’ home etc. Once or twice a week. A few to 10 plus elderly persons get together , and enjoy time, through Chatting; Easy music, Easy Cooking.

(Click)

We checked one test case that is related to an urban service delivery by Machizukuri Kyogikai , that is by hands of resident citizens.

And as to the Process for the Service Delivery, following has being implemented for years. First, Machizukuri Kyogikai write their Project Plans that includes Volunteer Center, Lively Saloon, Kids-Commuting=watching Team etc. And they submit it to the City. After some check the City provides grant Money to each Machizukuri Kyogikai. The average of 79 Machizukuri Kyogikai is about 14,500\$ for each. And at the end of the year they should submit the report about their implementation to the City.

(click)

Finally we came to the findings:

★First what we find is: Machizukuri Kyogikais tend to focus on “solving issue and committing urban services by themselves”, in other words “Community Work”.

(In the case of US Neighborhood Councils their focus is on democracy.)

★The Second: It is related to Trend and Needs of Aging Local Society in Japan.

★The Third: Machizukuri Kyogikais strongly commit to delivery of local public services (for elderly persons’ problems and needs) by hands of residential citizens.

@I would like to say Thank you very much for your great and warm attention.