

US-JAPAN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH FOR URBAN EARTHQUAKE DISASTER MITIGATION

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Abstract

Measure of low-income housing is the most important problem in housing restoration after massive city disaster. Therefore, sites of American advanced housing policies for low-income class is surveyed in this research, mainly of Community Development Corporation (CDC). Survey areas are Seattle in Washington and San Francisco in California. Research method is photo recording of characteristic housings and block scenes, and hearing if possible. As a result, it is clarified that community is not the product of good people's hobby but there is social background that needs community, such as poverty, crime, discrimination, confrontation between foreign cultures and development pressure. In the case of Japan, externally, there seems to be no social background that needs community organization. The system is required which made importance and necessity of community recognized.

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1. Introduction

Measure of low-income housing is the most important problem in housing restoration after massive city disaster, because it is the most difficult and high-cost. A tenant's housing reconstruction is difficult because they are low income. Residence acquisition requires several years and they are restricted to inconvenient residences such as the large-scale public housing in a new city area. Moreover, a tenant lives in many cases depending on a local community, but a local community is disassembled in this migration process.

This cause is because a means to supply new residence for low-income earners is restricted to public housing in Japan. The amount of supply is insufficient; so many low-income earners live in old wooden, rental and low quality housing. These residences are weak to a disaster. Therefore, new means to supply the residence for low-income earners should be developed.

In the United States, the supply scale of public housing was reduced through the 1980s and new housing supply means is growing instead. Therefore, I surveyed sites of American advanced housing policies for low-income class, mainly of Community Development Corporation (CDC) that supply low-income housing with local community.

1.1. Research method

Research method is photo recording of characteristic housings and block scenes, and hearing if possible.

1.2. Research areas

Research areas are low-income districts in Seattle and San Francisco.

- Tenderloin District, San Francisco
- International District, Seattle
- Central District, Seattle
- Chinatown, San Francisco
- Mission District, San Francisco

2. Situation of communities

2.1. Tenderloin District, San Francisco

A citizen on the street is here and there; this district has

an atmosphere like Kamagasaki. There are stores of various nationalities are located in a line and no chain store in this area, like the old shopping center in Japan (Figure 1). It is said that there are fewer citizens on the street since business is good. Some people were talking standing, or passed and exchanged greetings with each other.

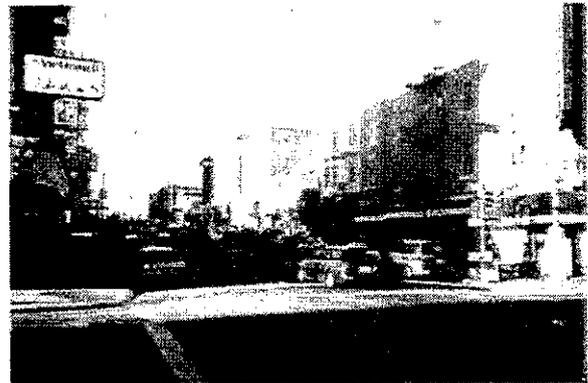


Figure 1 Tenderloin District

2.2. International District, Seattle

There are many skyscrapers in Downtown (the Seattle center of commerce), and International District is immediately near Downtown (Figure 2).

There is a building of a low layer from the middle layer. Parking lots are conspicuous maybe because landlords abandoned buildings. There is no popularity in an alley, so passing is fearful. There is no atmosphere of a child's playground. In many old residences, almost all windowpanes have not been fixed and the wooden board has closed the broken windowpane, and paint of internal wall has separated and fallen.

Development pressure is applied to this area; for example, a huge stadium was built in recent years near this district.



Figure 2 International District

All research areas have the atmosphere of strong poverty and crime. Situation of communities is severer than that of Japan.

3. Measure of communities

3.1. Tenderloin District

There are various community institutions, such as a community school, a cross culture family center, a job training school and etc. Some CDCs supply the residence in this area, such as CCHC (Chinatown Community Housing Corporation)(Figure 3).



Figure 3 Housing of CCHC

3.2. International District

There is a community garden called "Danny Woo Community Garden" that is one of results of CDC (Interim Community Development Association - ICDA)(Figure 4). Community garden has been established in the United States of America and qualification of master gardener is institutionalized in each state. There is medical skill called a horticultural therapy that is a means for community maintenance.

ICDA also built a job training school, two parks and a museum. ICDA and the city made the community museum together whose fundamental theme is cultural understanding. In this district, various people such as Chinese, people from the Philippines, and South Koreans, live. The exhibition at the visit time was the situation of an accommodation camp of the Japanese under World War II. The blackboard was installed in front of the door and children can scribble with chalk: "What make a community?" "Love!"



Figure 4 Danny Woo Community Garden

3.3. Central District, Seattle

CADA (Central Area Development Association) built community center, housings.

In order not to worsen the urgent environment further, the community is carrying out various measures. It seems that residents' consciousness is high compared with Japan.

4. Public housing

Public housing is the main low-income housing measure in the Hanshin-Awaji Great Earthquake. Then, a site survey of U.S. public housing was made.

4.1. Research objects

New Holly, Rainer Vista (Figure 5), and some high-rise public housings in Seattle.



Figure 5 Rainer Vista

In the United States of America, there are not so many high-rise housings as in Japan. There are many public single housing complexes. One of the backgrounds is the situation that U.S. land is much larger than Japan.

5. Conclusion

Community is not the product of good people's hobby but there is social background that needs community, such as poverty, crime, discrimination, confrontation between foreign cultures and development pressure. In the case of Japan, externally, there seems to be no social background that needs community organization. But the rises of community activities in Kobe city after the Hanshin-Awaji Great Earthquake show that there is the social background, potentially. The system is required which made importance and necessity of community recognized.