

Community Creation and Landmark

- Over the One Hundred Million Yen of the National “Hometown” Development Plan -

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I . Introduction

Community sceneries are often characterized, as one of their factors, by symbols produced spontaneously or artificially (intentionally). In many cases, such symbols bear an important task to generate the identities of the regions in question. At a personal level, they sometimes become the object of recalling good old scenes of the regions where a person feels a sense of return to his/her hometown, native place, or somewhere he/she was deeply involved with. At a social level, they sometimes prompt establishment of community images.¹⁾ In some cases, they are positioned as what is to make up amenities in the region.

There are various backgrounds that community symbols are artificially (intentionally) invented; some are based on direct motives and intentions, others come to be indirectly recognized as the objects of symbol. Typical of the former are various monuments and cenotaphs. Many of them are built with intent to publicly honor certain events, businesses and persons that people wish to keep in their memories. The latter are represented by various kinds of industrial remains and techno-landmarks which had been given highest priority to fulfill their original functions, were later on recognized as the symbolic objects and eventually positioned as the community symbols. Anyhow, the community symbols, regardless of directly or indirectly, often add new elements to the landscape of the regions in question by presenting new colors and shapes. Most of these symbols support our spatial behaviors and activities and often turn out to be the landmarks as the objects to enable clear distinction of locations.^{2)~10)} In other words, symbols and landmarks in communities are the entities that are positioned as the spatial-sensitive axes and behavior axes for people.

In recent years, discussions on community creation and town formation have been on the rise and various related undertakings have come to be implemented in many regions. The principle of community creation and town formation is that both hard and soft sides should be incorporated with balance in plans, which results in creation of comfortable communities and towns to live in. There, implementation of community creation and town formation call for recognition of community values and joint efforts by public and private sectors. Particularly, for realization of the hard-side businesses, it is required to secure funds and obtain consensus of community residents. So, the projects had been implemented under the restrictions, such as, budgetary and prioritized order of the municipalities in questions.

In the meantime, the Takeshita Cabinet, inaugurated in 1987 (Showa Era 62), set forth the National “Hometown” Development Plan as their administrative policy. Not like the conventional “pass-the-word-down” type business mode and budgetary steps, the “Self-initiated and Self-implemented Community Creation Project” (One Hundred Million Yen Plan for National “Hometown” Development) was implemented in support of independent and self-initiated efforts by the municipalities to carry out community creation, based on the conception that the municipalities scratch their heads and the Central Government supports them” . Underlain in that background was an intention to vitalize communities, to promote “multi-polar-dispersion” type national land development, and to create “hometown” where people at

various levels of the communities are able to be rich and proud of. To be specific, a flat sum of one hundred million yen was granted to the cities, towns and villages throughout the nation as the provision of Local Allocation Tax (20 million yen in 1988; 80 million yen in 1989). As a rule, no restriction was imposed on purposes for use of the money, and more than 3,000 municipalities nationwide could exploit the subsidy for any hard or soft businesses at their discretion. The Ministry of Home Affairs (presently named Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications) seemed to have intended to use the subsidies for soft businesses rather than for hard businesses, however, a great many kinds of plans were generated, because there was no clear indication of restrictions against the use of the provisions.

This paper sought after the significance that the “Hometown” Development Plan exerted on the formation of symbols and landmarks in communities and clarified the relation between community creation and landmarks, taking up the cases in which the fund for the National “Hometown” Development Plan led up to formation of community symbols and landmarks in Gunma Prefecture.

II. Outline of the National “Hometown” Development Plan

a. Details of the Undertaking

The “Hometown” Development Plan was the most important subject of domestic affairs both centrally and municipally. As The Central Government clearly manifested the necessity of independent and self-initiated community creation in the Fourth National Land Development Plan and the Economic Plan, the “Hometown” Development Plan was considered to correspond with the trend for community creation rising in various regions nationwide. It was explained that this Plan was supposed to encourage “self-planned and self-implemented community creation”, on the basis of conception that “the municipalities scratch own heads, and the Central Government supports them”, which was entirely different from the conventional ideas.¹¹⁾ That is, the Plan was something to have significance of a pilot business for decentralization where municipalities can demonstrate their own independence and self-initiatives, not like the conventional implementations of the projects initiated by the National Government.

Although the Ministry of Home Affairs (presently the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications) requested such business contents that the municipalities should come up with their own ideas and put them into business in order to create original and unique communities by making the best use of diversified histories, traditions and industries in each regions, it also applied certain brakes to the municipalities by presenting such guidelines for soft businesses required for the regions as human resources development, village vitalization, regional exchange, international exchange, succession of traditional culture, establishment of community identity and image, development of local special products, development of local industry, promotion of information-oriented communities, holding events, regional welfare services, health care, encouragement of life-long education and etc. Basically, they were the businesses to strengthen soft side, and hard side businesses were hardly considered. In fact, most of the business plans were in line with the guidelines. Some regions carried out various kinds of businesses. A number of businesses in which soft and hard sides were inseparably combined were also recognized. There were many cases where the municipalities made efforts not to make the undertaking a mere administrative business, working out promotional measures, inviting participation by the inhabitants over wide ranges, advertng for ideas, organizing research meetings. It was also assumed that, if the municipalities so judge at their discretion, plural number of municipalities were able to cooperatively work together on the undertaking. Furthermore, the municipalities well familiarized the inhabitants with the purpose of this undertaking, asked for their participation and efforts to concentrate wisdom and information in the region, so that the undertaking would not end up to simply no more than an attempt within the municipal public organizations.

b. Summary of the Undertaking

The main constituents of the undertaking were the municipalities nationwide, the period of implementation was from 1988 through 1989, and a flat sum of one hundred million yen per municipality (a supplementary budget of 20 million in 1988, and 80 million yen in 1989, respectively) was added to the Standard Demanded Financial Amount of Local Allocation Tax (legitimate expenses needed for the municipality in question to carry out normal businesses). Later on, financial measures needed for long-standing projects have also been taken. Therefore, this financial measure was interpreted as what “was added up outside of the Standard Demanded Financial Amount, and should be spent for general businesses and nationally

subsidized businesses as little as possible” , or “The Local Allocation Tax was a self-imposed source of revenue that the municipalities originally have in common, and the very calculation of Standard Demanded Financial Amount was already in deficit, so it may well be positioned on an extension of normal businesses.”¹²⁾ As a result, under the slogan of “Self-initiated and Self-implemented Community Creation Project” , no restrictions or conditions were imposed on the purposes of expenditures, and the judgment on use was entrusted to the discretion of the municipality in question. This is the point that could be positioned as the “touchstone” to check administrative and financial capabilities and the will of the people of the municipality in question as the test case for decentralization. The Ministry of Home Affairs (presently called Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications) set up the Headquarters to Promote National “Hometown” Development Plan as the supporting system to smoothly push forward the Plan. The prefectures plus Tokyo, Hokkaido, Osaka and Kyoto also assisted the municipalities through propagation of purport and basic idea of the Plan and public relations activities. Since then, the undertaking has been taken over in the form of the “Promotion Plan for Community Creation (1990 through 1992)” and the “Hometown Creation Plan (1993 through 1995, 1996 through 1998 and 1999 through 2001).” However, an extensive re-examination of the business is now underway, because the original policy, which emphasized soft-side businesses, has begun to place a burden on financial administration, linking with the national large-scaled economic countermeasures in 1990’ s in the course of shifting itself to the policy that focused on hard businesses by exploit the “Regional Comprehensive Business Bond” .

III. Efforts by the Municipalities¹³⁾

a. General Trend

Such was the purpose of the undertaking that there recognized a variety of cases, like independent businesses deployed over wide regions, cooperative businesses with prefectures or the Central Government, and joint efforts with the adjacent municipalities on common issues. The themes picked up were, “General Vitalization including Promotion of City Creation” , “General Vitalization by Promotion of Regional Culture” , “General Vitalization of Regional Economy” , “Vitalization by Holding Attractive Events” , “Vitalization by Inter-regional Exchange” , “Vitalization by International Exchange” , and “Enrichment of Education and

Welfare/General Countermeasures to the Aging Society” . Each undertaking was carried out based on the circumstances of the municipality in question, in the form of reflecting will of the regional inhabitants. For instance, the respective main goals of the above themes were as follows; image creation, human resources development, and system-making in “General Vitalization including Promotion of City Creation” ; succession and exploitation of traditional cultures, “modern” oldness, and promotion and development of cultures in “General Vitalization by Promotion of Regional Culture” ; promotions of agriculture, forestry, fishery, commerce and industry, promotion of tourism, maintenance and development of resorts, creation of cities for conventions in “General Vitalization of Regional Economy” ; holding events such as culture, sports, sightseeing, and etc. in “Vitalization by Holding Attractive Events” ; sister city tie-ups and exchange among cities and villages in “Vitalization by Inter-regional Exchange” ; friendly tie-ups and exchange through sister city tie-ups in “Vitalization by International Exchange” ; promotion of health care and promotion of life-long education in “Enrichment of Education and Welfare/General Countermeasures to the Aging Society” . In every case, the key word was “vitalization” , and the businesses which lead to further improvement and progress of the regions in one way or the other were pressed ahead.

Not only soft businesses, but also hard ones were widely incorporated in implementation of projects, and there were many cases where municipalities combined both soft and hard sides together in the projects. Some municipalities even promoted large-scaled businesses that exceeded the limit of one hundred million yen by adding general fiscal resources; others established targets and funds toward the realization of community and town creation, taking the opportunity of this one hundred million yen grant. Approaches attempted for implementations were not only by single municipality, but also tie-ups with various kinds of public organizations (agricultural cooperative associations and chambers of commerce and industry) and cooperation with private enterprises by employing semi-public corporation (the third sector) system. Some municipalities, thinking that community creation depended on development of human resources, put a great deal of effort to foster talented persons. There were many who tried to deal with the issues they are facing now, such as internationalization, information-oriented society, declining birth rate, aging, permanent settlement in depopulated areas, and medical care. The form of undertakings ranged over diversified areas, from those which concentrated on a single business, spread over businesses of plural numbers, pooled the money as the fund for future business, and spent it for planning and conducting research.

b. Efforts by the Cities, Towns and Villages within the Prefecture

In Gunma Prefecture, the grant has been used for a variety of businesses of both soft and hard sides.¹⁴⁾ Usage styles are diverse, ranging from single business to plural business; single businesses were developed in 20 cities, plural businesses in 50 other cities. Relatively, it seems originality was weakened in proportion to the increase of number of business.

Looking at the status of usage by 11 cities in the Prefecture, Maebashi City spent the money for construction of a literature museum. The city is advocating itself as “the City of Water, Greenery and Poem” , and the museum is contributing to improve the image of the Hirosegawa riverside by displaying exhibitions, mainly the works of Sakutarō Hagiwara, a poet born in the hometown. Here, by overlapping the image of hometown with the Poet, creativeness was intended and a blend of soft and hard businesses was attempted. Takasaki City spent the money mainly for the purchase of works of art. The purchase of such works were determined by the research committee members, whose course of actions were to purchase, 1) the works by the artists who are closely associated with the city and the works by those who lived in and out of the country in the same ages as these local artists, and 2) works by Pablo Picasso and the artists surrounding him as well as other domestic and foreign modern arts. The city, advocating itself as the foothold city for exchange of human resources, goods, culture and information, intended to enrich the exhibitions in its museum. Kiryu City, Isesaki City, Numata City, Tatebayashi City, Shibukawa City and Annaka City respectively appropriated the money for holding events and seminars, community creation planning, funds for various domestic and international exchange activities and financial support funds. In Ota City, improvement of the gold mine zone, which is the symbol of the city, and the surrounding areas had been strongly called for by the citizens, and the money was spent for the construction of Fountain Hill in Shinsui Park, which was developed based on the Basic Plan for Higashiyama Shinsui Park. The Fund for the National “Hometown” Development Plan became the priming for creation of the symbol zone and symbol itself of the entire gold mines in Ota City. Fujioka City, who had been planning the “Creation of Wisteria Village” project under the theme of wisteria, the flower of the city since 1979, was able to accelerate the business thanks to the Fund for the National “Hometown” Development Plan. The basic plans were, 1) to create hometown with full of individuality, 2) produce comfortable life space, 3) publicize energetic image of hometown, and 4) promote enrichment of industry. Among the various projects implemented, “Fuji-no Saku Oka (The Wisteria Blooming Hill)” was

completed in 1995, and “Fuji-Fureai-kan (Wisteria Communion Hall)” , “Fuji-dana Hiroba (Wisteria Trellis Plaza)” , “Fujimi Honkan (Wisteria Viewing Main Building)” and “Event Plaza” were opened. In this way, the city creation project was pressed ahead by setting forth wisteria flowers all over, though their image had been somewhat weak before then. The emblem and catchphrase were determined to improve image of the city. Tomioka City spent the money to carry out a variety of projects for construction and maintenance of institutions. The way the 11 cities in the prefecture spent the grant was relatively focused on soft businesses. The cases that intended creation of community symbols or clear landmarks were few, even with the case of building hardcore facilities.

The major characteristic was that a number of hot springs were dug and public bath facilities were developed in the cities, towns and villages within the prefecture. Takayama Village in Agatsuma County had started boring in 1989 and confirmed the gushing of a hot spring in 1990. Though the cost well exceeded one hundred million yen for this work alone, vitalization of the village was accomplished by opening “Takayama Onsen Ibuki-no Yu (Vigorous Takayama Spa)” and the “Takayama Onsen Fureai Plaza (the Communion Plaza in Takayama Hot Spring)”. In some cases, the money was spent for environmental preservation. In Ueno Village of Tano County, it was used to support installation of small-type septic tank (miscellaneous domestic wastewater treatment tank) for the preservation of water quality of the Kanna River. There are many instances where the money was spent for improvement of parks for tourism and leisure, such as development of the areas around the Funao Falls in Yoshioka Town of North Gunma County, and development of the surroundings of the Takatsudo Gorge in Omama Town, Yamada County. The Hanetaki Bridge, completed on the Watarase River in 1994, is a pedestrian bridge of A-type bent-shaped structure with the length of 120 m and total width of 3.5 m, and its triangle tower that imaged a mountain is positioned as the new landmark and highlighted in the evenings. Projects with a viewpoint on international exchange were often seen as well; Fujimi and Naganohara Villages are making exchange of home stays between Livingston, State of Montana in the U.S.A. Kurabuchi Village, Gunma County, spent the money for scholarship system and training of successors, based on the mind-set that community creation starts from human resources development. Furthermore, Shirasawa Village, who celebrated the 100-year anniversary in 1989 since the enforcement of village establishment, used the subsidy to publicize a photo album, “Seisou-no Furusato (the Hometown after the Laps of Years)” as part of commemorative business. The village was provided with photographs from the villagers, and the copies of the completed

album were distributed to all the households in the village. The album consisted of such themes as outline of the seven regions, sceneries in four seasons, people in the last 100 years, children, livelihoods, breath of the times, mountains, fires of the war and tradition, and was illustrated by a number of old and new pictures. Also, in many instances, the subsidy was exploited to hold festivals and preserve traditional performance arts, particularly for expensive purchase and repair of miniature shrines. The municipalities, scratching their own heads, made a variety of individual efforts on their undertakings.

IV. Establishment of Landmarks

Many of the “Hometown Development Plan” businesses were carried out in the course of materializing such aspects as nature, history, culture and international exchange, and resulted in construction of facilities for hard business and buildings that function as the landmarks.

a. Symbol Tower in Ora Town: “Mirai (Future)”

Ora Town is located in the central part of the Tomou District sandwiched by the Tone River and the Watarase River in the eastern part of Gunma Prefecture. It adjoins to Ota City and Oizumi Town in the west, to Chiyoda Town in the south, to Tatebayashi City in the east, and to Asikaga City in the north. Development of the zone approximately over 17ha in central part of the town is now underway, based on the central park plan to put both developments of public facilities and a park into one unified plan. The town aims to complete a multi-functional park zone that can accommodate the government office building, cultural and recreational functions in the future. Erected in the center of the zone is the “Mirai (Future)”, the symbolic tower of the town.

Since the “National Hometown Development Plan” constituted the framework for construction of the tower, the plan was carried out in “people-initiated” approach in which the town first invited ideas from inhabitants, the representative inhabitants then selected relevant ideas, and the town authority finally carried out the actual business. Its detail is that an invitation for ideas was advertised in June 1989, and as many as 364 ideas were collected. At the same time, the “Review Committee on Hometown Creation Plan for Ora Town” (21st Century Dream Club) consisting of 14 members, and the “Promotion Council for Hometown Creation Plan in Ora Town” consisting of 50 members were organized, and after reviews and

discussions, a report to recommend construction of the symbol tower was submitted to the town mayor. Later on, investigations of the cities with precedence and relevant training were conducted, and, after filing an application for subsidy for “the Fund of Promotion Plan to Create an Attractive Hometown in Gunma Prefecture” , construction of the tower was launched in December 1991, and completed in March 1993. The height of the tower is 59.5 m (including the ornamental tower and lighting rod) and three-storied, of which, the second floor is the observation room, and the third floor is the rooftop observatory (Photo 1). The total construction cost amounted to ¥514,329,300, including the costs for main tower (¥369,770,000), the control house and outside structures. This means the total cost was about five times of the One Hundred Million Yen for Hometown Development Plan.

A variety of wisdoms were thrown in construction of the tower. The tower body has the shape of an equilateral rectangular prism with sides of 11 m long each. The reason why this shape was chosen was likely that, not only for its lower construction cost, but also for the background that Ora Town had been born by marriage of the three villages, i.e., Nagae, Takashima and Nakano. Special favors to rectangular shape can also be seen with the clock on the tower wall, the entrance roof and poles. In the evening, the tower is lit up in three different lights changing on time zone by automatic blinking device. It could be said that incorporation of various intentions into construction led up to crystallization of wisdoms.

The town is planning to build a town-run library and a processing plant of agricultural produce, to transfer the town office building and to build a multi-purpose hall, as well as to develop a park around the symbol tower. The park is supposed to be free of electric poles, and serve as the symbol zone of Ora Town.

Significance of erecting the symbol tower as landmark lies in the role that this high tower is to play; a function of eye-catcher was added to the development of symbol zone, and existence of the observation room functions as the setting to look down upon the region and its vicinity. Ora Town occupies the tip of Kanto Plain and the landform of the town is relatively flat. Therefore, there are few landmarks to catch eyes, and it is relatively hard to check locations. Symbol tower is an example that the feature of the landmark as exerting effects in finding spatial locations was reflected.

Incidentally, there are many cases where construction of regional symbols, towers and

observatories are integrated in one project, as seen in the case of the 25 m high symbol tower with image of five-storied stupa in Inabe Town of Mie Prefecture, and the 19 m high “Hoshi-no Tou (Star Tower)” with “a star” as the theme.

b. Miyagi Lighthouse (Fureai Todai - Communion Lighthouse)

Miyagi Village is located in almost central part of Gunma Prefecture, stretching over the southern foot of Mt. Akagi, and adjoins Fujimi Village, Ora Town, Niisato Village and Kasukawa Village in Seta County. Based on enforcement of the town and village system in 1889 (Meiji 22), the village was born as the result of the merger of seven villages. In this village, compound facilities mainly for “day trip to hot spring” and their surroundings were developed with a focus on “Development of Communion Village” as the “Hometown Development Plan”. In addition, erection of “Miyagi Lighthouse” was planned and realized with the cooperation of the Central Electric Power Research Laboratory, a Nonprofit Corporation. The plan to erect a lighthouse in the southern foot of Mt. Akagi was started with a proposal raised in the course of a discussion on symbol of the village. At first, the village had requested an erection of orthodox lighthouse, but eventually made use of the central pylon out of the three 97 m high central pylons for test transmission owned by the Central Electric Power Research Laboratory. Two sets of light were installed to the central pylon at 90 m high. Of the two lights, one turns to the direction of Maebashi and Takasaki and the other to Kiryu and Isezaki. The lights can change colors through filters, changing to blue from April through September, and orange in October through March, blinking about 20 times a minute, and continuously irradiates until 22:00. The Central Electric Power Research Laboratory bears maintenance and repair costs. Irradiation by light is a kind of land sign, however, it could also be regarded as a landmark when combined with transmission pylons. Considering the environment in the vicinity, the light level is held down to less than 2800 cd, therefore, the visibility in wide radius is not so high depending on the weather condition. However, the pylon, located in the inland, can be positioned as the unique land sign and landmark at night that visualized the community identity.

c. Green Flower Ranch in Ogo Town

Ogo Town is located in almost central part of Gunma Prefecture, outstretched over the southern foot of Mt. Akagi, and adjoins Maebashi City, Miyagi and Kasukawa Villages in Seta

County. In 1990, the town launched, as the “Hometown Creation Plan” , development of “Green Flower Ranch, Ogo” . Skeleton of the plan consisted of three points, “a place of relaxation for the townspeople” , “tourist facilities” and “promotion of dairy farming” . Initially, the zone had been developed under the name of “Akagi Windy Park” , visualizing the image of the wind blown down from Mt. Akagi, along with the promotion business for community creation. In order to demonstrate the visualization of wind more clearly, a Dutch style windmill was built in three years from 1990 to 1991, and a plaza was developed as well. In addition, a monument (a sundial-cum-anemoscope) that can imagine wind was also installed (Photo 5). About 1,000 cherry trees were planted around the monument and there are some bungalows to enjoy outdoor lives in the premises. Furthermore, special regional products are displayed and stores open to directly sell flowers, trees and agricultural products.

As mentioned above, the southern foot of Mt. Akagi is one of the regions where dairy farming and hog raising businesses are prosperous, thus, the development of a park with the concept of a ranch and wind was brought about. The prefecture, too, gave much importance to the Akagi tourist route where a lot of sightseeing spots are clustered together (from Akagi Village in Seta County and Omama Town in Yamada County on the national highway route 353, and Omama Town to Azuma Village in Seta County on the joining national highway route 122), named it “Akagi Wind Line” , and has been putting a great deal of efforts on development of tourism in the region. In 1995, the route was registered on the “Stations on the Routes” , a public roster of compound multi-functional rest facilities built along the highways nationwide by the Ministry of Construction (presently the Ministry of National Land and Transport) since 1993.

In this way, the zone generated a lucid concept taking the opportunity of the National Hometown Development Plan, and its development was carried out by continued acquisition of budget. As seen in the fact that it became one of the “Stations on the Routes” , this, too, might be an example of community creation that flexibly coped with the change of the times in the process of its development.

V. Closing

The National “Hometown” Development Plan, implemented with a flat sum of one hundred million yen allotted to the cities, towns and villages nationwide without putting any

restrictions on its application, aroused pros-and-cons disputes because it was used for diverse soft and hard businesses. The gist of the affirmative opinions was that the independent and self-initiated community creation plans by cities, towns and villages coupled with financial resources for them, were granted in the form of forerunning the age of decentralization. Not like the conventional business mode of “pass the word down” style and budgetary measures, the idea that the municipalities scratch their own heads and the central government supports them had scarcely existed in the past, and independent and self-initiated efforts by cities, towns and villages on implementation of community creation was indirectly supported by this Plan. Among the opponents, there were many who pointed out waste of money possibly caused by such a free use of subsidy. In fact, there were cases that too many public hot spring facilities were built in various places throughout the nation and there were sometimes plans just to show off the difference. A lot of municipalities re-examined their own plans after learning and inspecting successful precedents in other municipalities. Many of them made stereotyped plans; some municipalities spent the budget for no more than all-round but superficial plans. Because a flat sum of one hundred million yen was allotted to each municipality, there was a voice to point out the sense of unfairness between cities and farming and mountain village areas. Later on, The National “Hometwon” Development Plan has been taken over by “Community Creation Promotion Project” and “Hometown Creation Project” . While shifting from the original policy focused on soft businesses to the policy centered on hard businesses by exploiting “Bond for the Comprehensive Regional Development Plan” , the Plan led up to the move to drastically re-examine the entire business due to stringent financial administration. Nevertheless, many municipalities took this opportunity to further expand their scope of business; some continued the same businesses and others pursued related businesses. There is no doubt that, thanks to this undertaking, the municipalities could get chances to tackle vitalization of their own communities. It was also a good chance to think over the manner and method of participation by the residents, and also led up to the trend to seek after ways to concentrate wisdom of both municipal administration and the inhabitants.

It is another characteristic of this undertaking that various types of landmarks were invented for community creation and establishment of community images. Both the municipal administrations and the residents had come up with ideas together, facilities related to “hometown” creation were constructed, and the new landmarks have been developed one way or the other, whether they are directly or indirectly related with the “hometown” plan. Fermentation of community identities is made from both soft and hard aspects. The land-

marks erected as eye-catchers take direct visual effects. Aside from the question of assessment on them, there is no doubt that the National “Hometown” Development Plan became the trigger for constructions of a number of symbols and landmarks nationwide in the period from the end of Showa Era to Heisei Era. “Community creation starts with human resources development” might be the word to be used for many years to come, however, there would be no community creation without human resources development accompanied by wisdom. In the future, many kinds of landmarks to ferment community identities will continue to be invented. It is desired that a system to facilitate concentration of wisdom will be made by both public administrations and residents.

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Notes

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Supplementary Note: A part of the following thesis was used for compilation of this study; “*The Function and Requirements of Landmarks in Urban Space (by Yasuo Tsugawa, Representative Researcher)*” (a awarded the Bounty for Special Studies from Takasaki City University of Economics in 2002)