The Future of Rural Societies and Landscapes in East Asia
Exploratory Workshop

RIHN-Initiative for Chinese Environmental Issues,
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN)
25 July, 2014
Seminar Hall, RIHN

0900-0910	Opening Remarks	Tetsuzo YASUNARI (RIHN)
0910-0920	Explanation of the aim of this workshop	Hein MALLEE (RIHN)

Session 1 Comparative Study of Rural Societies in East Asia

Chair: Hein MALLEE

0920-0950 Social Construction of the Rural in Contemporary Japan and Korea
Motoki AKITSU (Kyoto Univ.)
Masako ICHINOMIYA (Kyoto Univ.)

0950-1020 Social and Landscape Change in Rural China in Recent 30 Years
Weihong ZHOU (Beijing Foreign Studies Univ.)

1020-1050 Major Causes and Consequences of Socio-Economic Change in Rural Korea Since 1980s
Jung-Sup CHOI (Mokpo National Univ./ RIHN)

1050-1120 Discussion

1120-1130 Break

Session 2 Rural Family and Society

Chair: Steven McGreevy (RIHN)

1130-1200 Change of Rural Society and Influence on Rural Environment in Japan after WWII
Tokuya KAWATE (Nihon Univ.)

1200-1230 Changing Rural Urban Demographics: Migration and Urbanization in China
Xizhe PENG (Fudan Univ.)

1230-1330 Lunch

1330-1350 Disucussion

Session 3　Landscapes and Agriculture

Chair: Jumpei KUBOTA (RIHN)

1350-1420 Multi-level Natural Resources Governance Based on Local Community: A Case Study on Semi-natural Grassland in Taroji, Nara, Japan

Daisaku SHIMADA (Fukuoka Women's Univ.)

1420-1450 The Evolution of Rice Farms in Korea

Taeho LEE (Seoul National Univ.)

1450-1520 Smallholder Farming Practices and Their Impact on Environment in Rural China

Ting ZUO (China Agriculture Univ.)

1520-1550　Discussion

1550-1610　break

1610-1650　General Discussion　Chair: Hein MALLEE

1650-1700　Closing Remarks　Jumpei KUBOTA

1700-　Konshinkai　party　(at RIHN Dining Hall)

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Rural Societies in East Asia have gone through tremendous change during the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Large-scale population shifts have made Japan and Korea largely urban-based and in China the urban population has passed the 50 percent mark. The share of agricultural production in GDP has dwindled in all three countries. This urban transition has had a profound impact on rural families, communities, livelihoods, regional economies and the way people relate to and engage with agricultural and natural resources and "nature". In Japan and Korea, family agriculture has lost much of its former vitality as farm households have become smaller and older. Rural communities have lost population on a dramatic scale and many are "on the brink" of disappearing. While in China rural population ageing may not be as advanced, rapid and large-scale rural-urban migration has similarly led to change in household and community composition and concern has risen about "hollow villages (空心村). Rural production landscapes are changing apace: Japan struggles with the problem of "underuse" of forest resources, which in China government initiatives such as the Grain for Green (退耕还林) Program have returned extensive areas of cropland to plantation forest. It is likely, but less well-documented, that many farmers have switched to less intensive forms of agricultural production. Parts of the countryside not intensively used for farming are designated as "nature" in the form of National Parks, protected areas, heritage sites, etc. At a more conceptual level, visions of rurality underlying many policy debates and public discussion have also shifted.

This workshop aims to explore the interrelationships among these demographic, social, economic and physical landscape transformations from comparative in China, Japan and Korea and to contribute to the development of a conceptual/research framework for further study.

Abstract

Social Construction of the Rural in Contemporary Japan and Korea

Motoki AKITSU (Kyoto University)
Masako ICHINOMIYA (Kyoto University)

Up to two decades ago '農村（농촌）', rural village or countryside, had been defined as the place for agricultural production and the place where farming families live. However, the word has changed its meaning substantially in Japan since the 1990s, because the great majority of those who lived in rural area no longer made a living from farming. In contrast, urban dwellers losing their roots as peasants yearned for their "ideal home" in rural areas. Various media such as TV programs, journals and books not only wanted to catch this public need, but also created and/or promoted the image of the rural. Rural policies by national and local governments utilized the urban gaze to the rural as well. In the 1990s, farmers suffered from a price decline for farm produce, chiefly in rice, which resulted in decline and aging of the farming population, and deterioration of social and economic potential in rural area. The governments set out new rural policies that encouraged rural tourism, processing businesses of local foods and farmer's markets in order to restore rural economies. All of these targets are based more or less on the consumption of the rural as a unique space. In this presentation, we explain the transition process of the definition of the rural in Japan generally, and then focus on one kind of media representing the rural image, '漫画（만화）', cartoon. Though the data about Korean comics is limited, similarity and difference of rural image between Japan and Korea will be drawn from comparing comics from both countries.

Social and Landscape Change in Rural China in Recent 30 Years

Weihong ZHOU (Beijing Foreign Studies University)

My main research in the past, focused on the comparison of social change in rural China and Japan, and the major methods I used to resolve the social change in rural society are from the following three major level: economic structure change in rural areas, the rural economic organization transformation and agricultural concept itself changes. These studies have been published mainly in the last three books: *On Rural Industrialization*

—*See China from Japan (2008)*; *A Comparative Study of Rural Economic Organizations between Japanese and China (1997)*; and *A Comparative Study of Asian Urban Agriculture (2011)*. This report will be mainly based on these results, to summarize changes in the economic structure, economic organization and development of the urban agriculture in the rural China of the last three decades, the last will mention changes in China's rural landscape simply. This report consists of four parts: 1. economic structural change in rural China in recent 30 years; 2. social organizational change in rural China in recent 30 years; 3. the development of Chinese urban agriculture; 4. landscape changes in China's rural in recent 30 years. Because of personal and professional fields, I will also make a simple comparison between China and Japan in each section of the report.

Major Causes and Consequences of Socio-Economic Change in Rural Korea since the 1980s

Jung-Sup CHOI (Mokpo National University / RIHN)

The annual gross product of Korean agriculture reached 44.3 trillion won in 2012. In the same year, the annual gross product of the largest Korean company, Samsung Electronics, was valued at 201.1 trillion won. The product of one conglomerate company was over four times larger than the total value of product generated by over one million units of family farm. In Korea, as with other Northeast Asian countries, there is a severe gap between urban and rural regions and also between non-agricultural and agricultural sectors.

Even since Korea started pursuing an export-oriented economic development strategy, unbalanced growth and urban-rural gaps have widened. Educated youth continue migrating into the cities. Rural area, as a consequence, are emptying out and the remaining residents keep aging as time passes. Massive chemical inputs and mechanization boosted agricultural productivity, though not enough to maintain a reasonable level of food self-sufficiency. Within agriculture, at the same time, a significant bipolarization is proceeding between large- and small-scale farms and also between crop and livestock farming.

The main objective of this paper is to describe the change in Korean agriculture and rural area during the recent course of rapid economic growth. The causes and consequences of the changes will also be analyzed logically. More specifically, the impacts of free trade and market opening on small-scale family farm will be investigated. This will hopefully serve as a point of reference for comparative studies with China and Japan.

Change of Rural Society and Influence on Rural Environment in Japan after World War II

Tokuya KAWATE (Nihon University)

Japanese traditional farm households which is called “Ie” has played central role in agriculture and preservation of rural regional resources in Japan. The basic farming community which is called “Mura” has been conceived and governed as “Ie” coalition.
But “Ie” and “Mura” changed greatly after World War II, especially since rapid economic growth in Japan from 1955 to 1974. During this period, agriculture and lifestyle, human relationship of farm household were “modernized” in a clearly visible way. And part-time farmers increased and full-time farmers decreased notably while the number of farmers decreased dramatically. Part-time farmers who mainly earned their living from non-farm sector became overwhelming majority. Regarding farming community “Mura”, growing heterogeneity of rural residents can be enumerated. Recently about 90% of residents of farming community are non-farm households, although its landscape still remain “rural”. Consequently, (1) “modernization of agriculture”, especially use of an insecticide, a weed killer and a chemical fertilizer and “improvement” of agricultural infrastructure such as water canal, (2) shift away from farming by majority of rural residents caused to fall the management level of rural regional resources and to reduce multiple function of agriculture, including biodiversity derived from “Satoyoma”.
It is necessary to establish sustainable agriculture and to promote to revive and preserve multiple functions of agriculture, while urging participation of non-farm households and city residents. For that purpose, we should change our recognition about agriculture, that is to say, “Agriculture can produce not only food but also other various valuables which give us a big benefit.”

Changing Rural Urban Demographics: Migration and Urbanization in China

Xizhe PENG (Fudan University)

China has experienced an unprecedented migration and urbanization over the past three decades. More than 200 million rural-urban migrants are currently living and working in China’s cities, accounting for almost one third of China’s urban long-term residents.

Migration and urbanization have reshaped China's demographic map, and have had significant impacts on China's overall socioeconomic development. The major destinations of the migration are eastern coastal regions, particularly the three mega city groups: Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta and Jing-jin-ji city belt. The major sending area are those central and inland provinces. Chinese population on the whole is more concentrated towards the eastern coastal areas.

The rapid increase of China's official urban population can be attributed to natural growth of urban population (10.54 per cent), rural-urban migration (65.35 per cent), and administrative change of rural-urban boundaries (24.1 per cent).

While Chinese cities are heavily replying on rural migrants as the major source of labor force, the countryside are facing serious short supply of young laborers. This trend also affects the regional and rural-urban aging process and will have significant impacts on China's social security reforms.

Multi-level Natural Resources Governance Based on Local Community: A Case Study on Semi-natural Grassland in Tarōji, Nara, Japan

Daisaku SHIMADA (Fukuoka Women's University)

Japan is facing a biodiversity crisis as a result of rapid industrialization. The Japanese Ministry of the Environment formulated a National Biodiversity Strategy based on the Convention on Biological Diversity signed at the Earth Summit in 1992. After an amendment in 2002, the National Biodiversity Strategy addressed three kinds of crises in biodiversity: over exploitation and development that destroys habitat, underutilization (the *satoyama* problem), and artificially introduced factors (chemicals, alien species and so on). This paper focuses on the second problem.

Secondary natural environments that we call *satoyama* have been created and maintained over the centuries by human activity. Because natural environment in Japan have been affected by human-induced disturbance for 35,000 years, many species have evolved in response to this disturbance from humans. If this human activity comes to an end, many of species that have evolved so they can survive in these managed environments become threatened.

Most *satoyama* have been managed as commonage or common lands, which we call *iriai* in Japan. One natural resource system created by commoners is semi-natural grassland, and economic modernization has led to the abandonment of traditional management practices on these grasslands, one of the more evident change in Japanese *iriai* practices.

Before industrialization, semi-natural grasslands were managed as a source of green mature, harvesting of roofing materials (thatch), and as pasture for animals. After industrialization, however, the introduction of chemical fertilizers, changes in building practices, and the importation of animal feeds rapidly decreased the use value of these grasslands for the local residents. On the other hand, their value as public goods – as historical and cultural landscapes and places of biodiversity – which concern a much broader population than the local community, became relatively more important. The resulting problem is how to manage this resource with its new value for beneficiaries. This paper examines the multi-level management of a semi-natural grassland at Tarōji, in Soni, in Nara prefecture. In Soni, members of the local community provide the key management input, while local government at the village and prefecture level share the management costs.

The Evolution of Rice Farms in Korea

Taeho LEE (Seoul National University)

Rice is not so a competitive crop in Korea. Yet it has survived the compact industrialization and the rapid trade liberalization over 60 years. Certainly rice is the staple grain for Korean people and it has been under intensive care. Even so, sometimes it makes people wonder how it still can maintain the status of major crop through so many difficulties such as the aging of farmers, the increase of MMA import, the reduction of demand, just to name a few. Some say that it is because the government helped the farmers, the others say it is because the farmers adapted to the changing environments. In this presentation, we will try figure out the nature of its success (or failure?) by looking into the evolution of rice farms in Korea.

<Tentative Contents>

1. Introduction
2. Korean Agriculture before the Trade Liberalization
   A. Pre-industrialization Period: before 1962
   B. Take-off Period: 1962-1976
   C. Transition Period: 1977-1993
3. The Evolution of Rice Farms after the Trade Liberalization: 1994-
   A. Rice Policies
   B. Indirect Farming

i. Farming by Fields
ii. Farming by Outsourcing
C. Bipolarization
i. Non-farm Income for Small Farms
ii. Direct Payment for Big Farms
4. Visions and Directions

Smallholder Farming Practices and Their Impact on Environment in Rural China

Ting ZUO (China Agricultural University)

Dominant agricultural farms are still operated by peasant householders under the collective ownership. In average, a smallholder farm has 3.9 affiliated family population, 2.8 laborers (including 2 half-laborers). Such farm has about 9 mu (or 0.6 hectare) cultivated land, half of which can be irrigated. In terms of income sources, roughly, 50% of the income comes from farm products, 30% from labor wage, 10% from non-farm business, and 10% from transfer and assets. The practices of smallholder farming are more harmonizing with their embedded agro-ecosystem. However, it is now facing more environmental constraints and challenges in the process of agricultural modernization.
Traditional smallholder farming was labor intensive with a lot of crop and land cares from peasant families, e.g. agroforestry, intercropping, organic farming, multi-purpose farming, etc.. Due to various reasons, labor input were substituted by chemical inputs. Different from Mao's agriculture expansion strategies in 1950-1970, to cope with the decrease of arable land, intensification (in both landscape scale and micro-scale) become a policy preference, e.g. the identification of Main Grain Production Area, Concentrated Livestock Plots and the subsidized greenhouse technology. Overuse of land resulted in both visible change of underground water and surface water pollution and invisible change of land degradation. Agricultural specialization, mono-plantation and scale enlargement, which seems an inevitable choice for many local decision-makers and smallholders to meet the market competition, has caused agro-ecosystem degradation (e.g. soil erosion, loss of agro-biodiversity, loss of indigenous species, etc.).
Although China's smallholder farming system is famous for its endurance and resilience, those related environmental issues must be addressed. The overall agriculture policy should be set on the safety of agro-ecosystem. Policy priorities and preferences should be reviewed and be more supportive to smallholder farms.