Combining Activities of Sato-umi and Sato-yama in Japan: Towards a New Type of Integrated Coastal and Watershed Management

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In the coastal marine environment of Japan, a concept of integrated coastal management (ICM) has been officially introduced very recently through establishment of the Basic Ocean Law in 2007 and the following planning of the Basic Ocean Plan in 2008. This new policy includes comprehensive management of watershed and coastal waters beyond the border of administrative sectors relating to the management of forest, river, land, agriculture, coastal environment, port and harbor etc. However, implementation of ICM based on the Basic Ocean Plan is making very little progress mainly due to strong bureaucratic sectionalism. On the other hand, activities of citizen and NGOs/NPOs which connect functions of forest, river and sea has made a remarkable progress. Among these, combining activity of Sato-umi and Sato-yama is one of promising movement towards the implementation of ICM in the private sector. Sato-yama and Sato-umi can be both defined as a dynamic area that inter-relates people and nature in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Compared to Sato-yama which is pretty well known as traditional sustainable land use and landscape in Japan, Sato-umi is relatively new concept which indicates coastal sea under the harmonization of sustainable wise use with conservation of appropriate natural environment and habitat conditions. Sato-umi should provides higher biological diversity as habitat and higher biological productivity as fisheries ground. Recent official systems and local activities on Sato-umi will be presented and some case studies of combining activities of Sato-umi and Sato-yama in the Seto Inland Sea area towards a new type of integrated coastal and watershed management will also be presented.

Keywords: Sato-umi, Sato-yama, integrated coastal management (ICM), environmental management, resource management, sectionalism