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**How has "Biwako Sogo Kaihatsu" worked ?  
The case of Shiga Prefectural Government**

Cost sharing system among downstream local governments  
for comprehensive development plan

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**ABSTRACT:**

The purpose of this report is to investigate the 25 years experience of cost sharing system charged among downstream local governments to promote comprehensive development plan of Lake Biwa (BSK: Biwako Sogo Kaihatsu).

In 1960's and 1970's, Japanese government had promoted industrialization and modernization of primary industry. Through this period, Japan had continued rapid economic growth. During the same period, city and industry demanded for expansion of water supply. Local governments in urbanized area had been eager to develop water resources for urban and industrial use.

BSK has been implemented since 1971. It was an advanced water resources development scheme in Japan. Because this scheme included not only a development plan of water resources but also a regional development plan for the catchment area around the lake. The Lake Biwa Comprehensive Development Plan 1972-1997 stipulated that (1) Water resources development should be implemented as a whole of regional development plan to promote welfare of the catchment area, (2) National and downstream local governments should contribute to promote regional development of the catchment area financially because upstream local governments have not enough fund to implement its development plan solely and (3) Water resources development and regional development should compose an integrated development program, to which upstream local governments have a liability to implement it.

The distinguished character of the scheme is that downstream local governments shared the cost of regional development projects within upstream catchment area of the lake. The projects were made of (1) environmental improvement (pollution control, conservation of natural and built environment), (2) flood control (river and headwater area protection), (3) water resources development (water supply for the catchment area and fishery) and (4) water resources development for downstream. The pollution of lake water was recognized as a serious problem for both upstream and downstream governments. Both governments shared common interest to improve water quality of Lake Biwa.

This charge system on downstream local governments justified as they would receive benefit from the projects. Especially, it was so expensive for upstream local governments to set up sewerage network around Lake Biwa. Thus downstream local governments who benefit from the projects took part of financial burden. Meaning, between upstream and downstream governments have horizontal linkage to finance the regional scheme.

Here we describe (1) what kind of new development system has been established, especially how system worked to collect financial resources including subsidies from central government, (2) how much financial resources has been brought from the downstream, (3) for what purposes financial resources has been used and how those resources have contributed to improve environmental quality of catchment area of Lake Biwa.

- I Environmental policy to improve water quality in Lake Biwa.
- II Comprehensive development plan of Lake Biwa (Biwako Sogo Kaihatsu).  
- Case study of cost sharing among downstream governments and its results.
- III Contribution from downstream local governments.  
- Has it worked effective ?
- IV Future prospects

**Key words : Water Pollution, Regional Development, Cost Sharing,  
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