Towards Environmentally Sound Development in Osaka Bay Area

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Regional development becomes to be characterized by deep planning concept and practice of ecological soundness and environmental consideration in the Osaka Bay area. Recently, over 2000 ha of wasted or low-densely used industrial lands are prepared for redevelopment and regional economic restructuring. Land recrations have been strongly preferred in the conditions of expanded demands of intensifying facilities of port and harbor, disposing of increasing solid wastes, and constructing new compact towns with hybrid of business, commercial, housing and recreational activities.

These development projects are now checked by means of environmental management plan and assessment system of local government, and further guided by area-wide environmental conservation initiatives by Japan Environmental Agency. The special law of Osaka Bay coastal development was enacted in 1993 and indicates formal comments by Japan EA in the process of formulating regional development plan. The Institute of Osaka Bay Area Development established in 1992, has functions of research and consensus-making among business and administrative sectors.

Grand plan on regional future designed under the voluntary leadership of the development promotion association showed the skeleton of environmental consideration in bay-area development, which is followed by the bay renewal plan by Osaka Pref. and the research report on revitalization of the Osaka-Kobe coastal area by Hyogo Pref..

In this poster presentation, administrative guide with clear indications by environmental agencies of central and local governments is compared with the descriptions of those development plans. The first types of directioning is area-wide environmental pollution control against NO2 pollution caused by exhaust gas of automobiles and against pollution of eutrophicated receiving water caused by treated/untreated municipal wastewater. This control is done by means of advanced regulatory programming for total loads (NOx or COD) reduction in the Osaka Bay area.

The second type of directioning is concerning to ecological restoration and urban recycling in eco-poleis. In addition to conservation of natural seashore, restoration of sand beaches which have been deteriorated and reformation of shape and texture of shoreline structures such as seawalls are encouraged towards more biological diversity. Furthermore, the administrative guide requests energy saving from viewpoint of countermeasures to global warming, waste recycling for reduction of environmental loads, and restructuring towards the more integrated eco-poleis network with the minimum consumption of regional and global resources.