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Assessing the sustainability of “Satoumi” and coastal governance

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Abstract

"Satoumi" has been defined by Prof. Dr. T.Yanagi in 1998 as an ocean region where harmonious human activities have enabled high biological productivity and biodiversity to be preserved. “Satoumi” is the most appropriate policy area to put a sustainable development plan into practice in the present situation of fishing village depopulation in Japan.

To actualize the "Satoumi", the comprehensive study which promotes the accumulation of scientific knowledge that is indispensable for furthering the environmental policy that will build a sustainable society is needed. The Environment Research and Technology Development Fund administered by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan provides funding for research and development named “S-13 Development of Coastal Management Method to Realize the Sustainable Coastal Sea.” (Head Researcher: Prof. Dr. T.Yanagi) had started from FY2014 to 2018. This study will involve a comprehensive examination of natural and human activity in coastal seas and the land areas that constitute their hinterlands, in order to determine how these areas should be changed from their present state to an appropriate status in terms of material circulation and ecotones.

To create methods for environmental management of "Satoumi", economic assessment and integrated coastal governance model based on ecosystem services in coastal seas, new governance concept and assessment methodology should be developed. To grasp the holistic state of "Satoumi", the six evaluating indices (Environment, Resources, Economy, Disaster, Culture, Management) were defined and investigated "Satoumi" which located Seto Inland Sea, Sanriku Coast, and the Coastal areas of the Sea of Japan. As a result of survey, the depopulation issues, a successor problem of fishery and the disappearance village problem are focused as a present crucial points in "Satoumi".

Under the circumstance, Japanese government enacted “ Enactment of the Basic Act on Ocean Policy (on April 20, 2007)”, and “Basic Plan on Ocean Policy(2013 April)”.

In order to progress the objectives of these Act and Policy, more comprehensive governance framework based on ecosystem services should be created.

Coastal zone Sustainability index including environment, social and economic factors should be developed for the sake of comprehensively evaluating the “Satoumi”. The

conceptual and institutional examine of the governance should be based on the current situation. And, final question is “How do we achieve sustainability?”. Especially, the TUNAMI caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake completely destroyed “Satoumi” in Sanriku Coast, then new idea and system are required to rebuild “Zosterabed, Atideland and Shoal” based on coastal zone sustainability.

The resolution of rebuilding is to rebuild a good and innovative relationship between individual policies including national land policy, regional policy and environmental policy based on “Satoumi”.