THE “BARCELONA MODEL” from an Asian, North European and citizen’s perspective

PROFILES

Jussi Jauhiainen (Finland)
Professor and Chair of Applied Geography and Regional Planning at the University of Oulu. His research interests are urban and regional development, planning and policies, technology enterprise networks, political geography, the European Union and northern Europe, and he has written over 150 academic publications in 11 languages. Recent research includes the role of social milieu and the environment on making technological innovations, creative urban networks between Helsinki and Tallinn, and the impact of changing seasons on urban planning, including Multipoli –Co-operation Network of Technology, Competence and Regional Development (2004), Challenges for Growing and Declining Finnish Towns and Urban Regions: Cities and Towns in Transition (2004), and Urban Networks between Tallinn and Helsinki: Talsinki or Hellinn? (2004).

Enric TELLO (Spain)
Doctor in contemporary history and full professor of the Economic History Department at the University of Barcelona. He teaches an Economy, Ecology and Society course devoted to sustainable development issues, and leads an interdisciplinary network to protect the cultural landscapes inherited, as well as studies of the relationship between energy supply, economic growth and environmental pollution in a long-term historical perspective. Advisor for the Catalan Autonomous Government in the water policy and green fiscal reform, among other environmental issues. Published many books and articles including Changing course? Principles and tools for local sustainability (2004), Eliminating waste or managing materials (2001), The environmental taxation system and the new water culture (1999).

Hidefumi Kurasaka (Japan)
Associate professor of ecological economics and environmental policies with the Faculty of Law & Economics of Chiba University. His recent interests are the theory of ecological economics to solve practical environmental problems, the new principle of the designer's responsibility applied to environmental problems. Presently he is engaged in research on a sustainable welfare society without material economic growth as the chief of the Public Policy Section of the 21st-century COE project, “Research Center of Public Affairs for Sustainable Welfare Society” at Chiba University. Published several books and articles including Economy Develops as We Conserve the Environment (2002), Theory of Environmental Policy (2004), On the Responsibility of the Designer (2003), and The Future of Ecological Tax Reform and the Kyoto Protocol (2005).
Akiko Okabe (Japan)
Architect and associate professor of architecture and urban policy with the Faculty of Engineering of Chiba. Has worked at the Arata Isozaki studio in Barcelona, and has planned several works of interior design, public space intervention, and housing both in Spain and Japan. As a researcher and journalist, her recent interests include urban issues, sustainable cities, urban policies, and regional strategies, as well as compact cities from the comparative viewpoint of Japan-Asia-Europe. Published several books and articles including *Euro-Architects* (1998), *Toward an Urban Renaissance: Cities as Common Social Capital* (2003), *Sustainable Cities: Regional and Environmental Strategies at the European Level* (2003), *Kitakyushu Eco-town Program: Toward an Environmentally Conscious City* (2000), *Toward Compact Cities in Asia* (2000)

YUJI MIYAHISHI (JAPAN)
Planner of Machizukuri (holistic urban set-up or community building), director of the Private Institute of Local Issues in Kobe. After having studied city planning and urban technology in university, Mr. Miyanishi has been practicing as navigator of Machizukuri in Mano Town in Kobe City. Mano Town is a small town of 40 ha, which intermingles the residential and industrial parts, has 4,355 residents, and is located in the southeast portion of the Nagata district. The Nagata district suffered some of the greatest damages of the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995. Long before and after the earthquake, Mr. Miyanishi has been engaged for over 30 years in the promotion of citizens’ empowerment and has participated in movements for sustainable progress of local potential.
He defines “local potential” as the ability of residents to resolve their local issues together. He has been making efforts to encourage this potential in a holistic approach in the fields of the environment, economical development, and regeneration of the local community in collaboration with residents, local leaders, owners of domestic companies, administrators, and researchers.

According to him, it is important to foster the feeling and sense of “place” for the regeneration of local society, which has been forgotten in Japan in the process of rapid economic growth since the 1970s. Residents of Mano Town have been working on such local issues as pollution, public space, and life-long education since the 1970s, which helped them to make a pioneering example of city recovery after the earthquake. This concept of Mano’s urban set-up is appreciated and known as “the longest Machizukuri planning in Japan,” and through these activities in this area, Mr. Miyanishi was awarded the Ishikawa Prize of the Academy of Urban Planning for his pioneering contribution to urban set-up in 2002.
He also promotes the preservation of the historical modern townscape in Kobe and advises Kobe City’s planning. The originality of his ideas lies in his concept of the collective town, an ambiguous accumulation or coexistence of public space and living space in the area of traditional downtown, where residents are happily living
together and helping one another. He himself lives in the first cooperative house in Kobe city.

He is co-author of *Decline and Regeneration of Big Cities* and *Mano Town: Its Machizukuri and Recovery from the Great Earthquake*.

**YUJI KISHI (JAPAN)**

Professor of Keio University, Ph.D. in Ecology and Regional Studies of Ecological Culture. Director of Tsurumi River Basin Networking, a basin-based citizens’ initiative with the aim of creating a river-conscious urban culture.

As an ecologist, Prof. Kishi advocates the “ecological symbiotic regeneration of the city” through a basin-based culture as a key concept of urban regeneration. He emphasizes that in today’s matured society the importance of ecological conversion of the meaning of the structure–function–culture of cities to realize a sustainable community that exists in harmony with nature.

According to him, ecological symbiotic urban regeneration is not only based on the affective sympathy for nature. It should also be a multi-dimensional regeneration policy against global and local issues such as disaster prevention, preservation of biodiversity and ecological balance, etc. He directs the Tsurumi River Basin Networking (TR-net) from this viewpoint, which promotes activities of re-learning what we know about nature and towns in order to foster various partnerships all over the basin of the Tsurumi River. With a common concern for the safety, amenity, and welfare of sustainable urban living, TR-net organizes a variety of activities such as water campaigns, basin-wide clean-up projects, eco-tourism walking tours, educational programs on basin, and nature and biodiversity research, and also gives advice for citizens’ activities and local policies as well as offers a general information service.

The key concept of his philosophy exists in the creation of a “sense of landscape habitation.” He defines “landscape” as a topological structure of nesting watershed, composed of several natural elements, including basins, fields, green zones, coasts, etc. Prof. Kishi has been trying to generate and foster the sense of natural landscape habitation within each resident through a “mapping” of the natural landscape and enlarging of the network of this sensitivity. He also engages in the master plan of this area to create a sustainable urban living area co-existing with natural biodiversity.

He has grown up in the basin area of the Tsurumi River and is living in the area of its headwaters, which makes him a man of the river basin and one of the citizens in this area.

He is author of *A Look at Nature* and *River Name*, co-author of *Evolutional Ideas and Society, Preservation of the Basin Environment*, and *Age of Basin-wide Planning*; he is also the translator of *On Human Nature* (E. O. Wilson), *The Selfish Gene* (R. Dawkins) and *The Origins of Virtue* (M. Ridley).