

Field trip REPORT

Rural farming villages' revitalization after the 921 earthquake disaster in 1999 - case study on Puli town in Taiwan -

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(921 Earthquake Museum in Taiwan)

Introduction

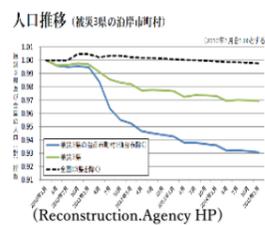
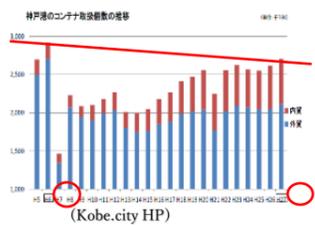
What is the secret of disaster recovery?

- Puli, where we studied in the field, is a rural depopulated town in Nantou county near the central part in Taiwan island. Moreover, the town was unfortunately hit by the 921 Jiji devastating earthquake in 1999.
- But now about 75 million tourists visit the town, and Tourism revenue reaches 1.7 billion yuan every year. Population decline has stopped, too.
- We thought Puli is one of the successful example to study on revitalization of rural farm villages.



Disaster recovery is not easy

- Japan has many disaster, but the areas made reconstruction from the disaster are not many.



Method

overseas high school students joint reserch!

- Joint survey with ;
National Chinan International University
Utsunomiya University students in Taiwan
Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation (慈濟佛教功德基金会)



Joint fieldwork in Puli with Dr. Yan Wu Xun (NCNU)

NEW ERA

Not mere international exchange.
Joint fieldwork with foreign resetchers!

Inteview

National Chi-Nan University Pu Li town hall officials 慈濟 Tzu chi Foundation



- Analysis of the material that we got in Taiwan
- walking around the town while observing

"Because I love the earth."

Result

What kind of local resources Pu Li residents utilized?

Turned the crisis to an oppotunity

The residents save the disaster remains for tourism resources, and they attract many tourists.



Squashed rice wine barrels by the disaster. This factory is very popular spot for tourists.



Collapsing Wu chang Temple. This attracts many tourists, without removal.



Newly-built Wu chang Temple. This has been built adjacent to old one.



Result

Secrets of Revitalization of rural farming villages

Only "ordinary" resources in their hometown

- Frogs (23species), Dragonflies (66 species), wetlands and small river.
- Affected residents cleaned their small river thoroughly. Now this river has become great tourism.
- Puli was the town of paper mill. After the disaster, the peper dresses, paper bags, and paper hats were all commercialized.



Nobody were permitted to enter while they cleaned up there.



Woodworking skills(side job skills,in the past) But now,they produce global music boxes.



The paper dome (紙教會堂) Pillars and chairs are all made of paper.



Paper arts Representation activities of Puli residents.



Affected residents built this Paper dome by themselves.



They are utilizing rural resources in economic revenue

- For exsamole, the affected residents learned a lot about their town, and became certificated interpreters for their hometown.
- At first, residents could not believe that study on frogs, birds and dragonflies in their hometown leads to economic revenue.



Menu of local design for consumption,which is the mechanism that allows designers to enter deign fee for the residents.



Proposal

Ordinary Resource, Extraordinary Performance

- (1) We have been suggested that it is possible to produce extraordinary fruits from "ordinary local resources" in rural town.

Strong leadership, rich imagination

- (2) We have been suggested that success in declined rural areas depends on whether there are excellent local leaders and intermediary.

Ms.Li Ying Ying(李盈盈),New hometown educational foundaiton secretary



- Despite the reconstruction by the residents'self-governing power, the intermediary named the New Hometown Educational Foundation (NHEF) had worked important roles with **strong leadership and rich imagination.**

Puli's Problems in the future

Disaster prevention measures in Puli are not still enough. e.g. Open space for disaster refugee are not sufficient.



Future Work

We have the plan to perform the following studies.

- How did the NHEF leaders solved the conflict with Puli residents?
- How did the NHEF leaders enhanced the power of self-governance of them?
- To develop the Joint research with local high school students in Taiwan