

Eco-Glamping Project from the environmental capital



2810 Kumamoto Prefectural Minamata High School 

Summary

We have introduced Minamata City to many people, including foreigners. We have thought about the strengths and problems of Minamata City. According to the results of a questionnaire we conducted at our school, there are three important issues: the depopulation of young people; few jobs; many vacant houses. In order to solve these problems, we suggest the following project: with the 3R's as our objective, we want to make good use of deserted houses as eco-glamping facilities, and look for residents for these houses. Moreover, we have considered the difficulties of realizing this idea, as well as its possible effects.

Background

(1) The Strengths of Minamata City

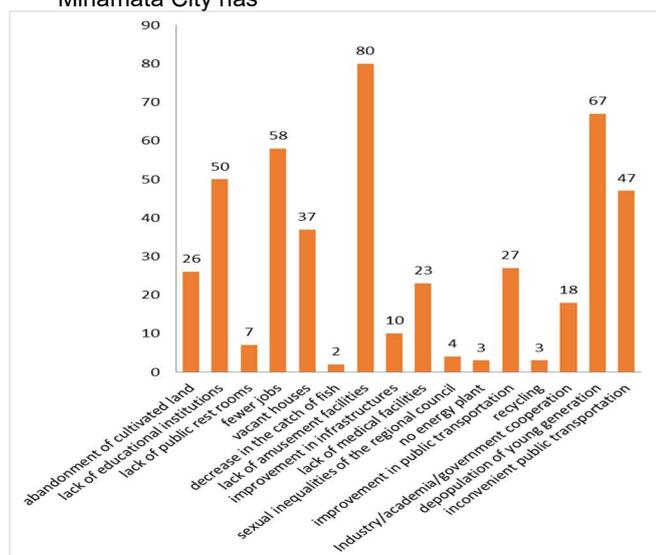
- Minamata City was the first city in Japan to be designated the "Environmental Capital City" in 2011.
- This city was ranked within the top 50 of elderly people-friendly cities in Japan in 2016, which evaluated enhanced medical care and nursing facilities.

(2) The Problems of Minamata City

- The population is about 25 thousand. (As of 2015)
The population of people over 65 years of age is more than 36% of that of Minamata City.
- The number of senior citizens over 65 years of age living alone is about one thousand and nine hundred.

(3) The questionnaire concerning Minamata City

- Asked 152 2nd grade students of our school what issues Minamata City has



Issues to solve

We will suggest a solution to the problem of the "Decrease in employment and increase in vacant houses because of depopulation"

Solution

To make good use of deserted houses as eco-glamping facilities, while considering the 3R's, and looking for residents for these houses.

(1) 3R's

- ① Residents living in vacant houses will lead to expanding the lifetime of vacant houses
→ Reduce vacant houses ··· Reduce
- ② Secondhand goods in good condition will be used, such as electric appliances and furniture ··· Reuse
- ③ Using several trash boxes to separate garbage
Waste wood are used as chairs and firewood ··· Recycle
※ M.H.S. students studying technical subjects are in charge of doing ② and ③.

(2) Eco-glamping plan

- ① Use food from Minamata, local production and consumption
- ② Include plans in which we can experience in Minamata, and visit commercial facilities
- ③ Make a plan related to seasons and the local district
※ M.H.S. students studying in the general education course and commercial course are planning ① to ③.

(3) Sustainable residential system

- Look for residents by advertising the property for rent at the eco-glamping facility.
- Give incentives such as free hot spring passes
- Keep on using the houses as eco-glamping facilities if there are no residents

Preparation to realize the project

- Look for local real estate agents, constructors, and supporting organizations that agree with the purpose of the project
- Make plans for rebuilding vacant houses to be friendly to the environment
- Advertise the project by using the bulletin board at the train station, the signboard at the Interchange and SNS.

The expected effects

- Living in vacant houses will lead to securing the safety of the community, expansion of the lifetime of vacant houses and an increase in population.
- Eco-glamping will lead to economic development of the community and job creation.
- Managing vacant houses will lead to job creation.

Hurdles

- Clarifying the standards of the vacant houses' security
- Working in cooperation with Minamata City's administration, local companies, and local residents
- Be conscious of the danger of the possibility of Minamata City disappearing
- Promote Minamata through the younger generations

参考文献

- ・ 環境首都創造 NGO 全国ネットワーク (<http://www.eco-capital.net/projectseach/projectseach-429/>)
- ・ 日本経済新聞. (2016年8月9日).
- ・ シニアにやさしい街 総合ランキング (<https://vdata.nikkei.com/datamap/senior/>)
- ・ 水俣市役所. (2018年3月12日). 統計情報. 参照先: 水俣市役所 (<https://www.city.minamata.lg.jp/kiji00315/index.html>)