



Joint Usage / Research Base 2014 - 2019 Supported by MEXT

Platform for Leading-Edge Urban Studies

— Resilient Cities in the 21st Century

Platform for Leading-Edge Urban Studies

— Resilient Cities in the 21st Century

URP Director
ABE, Masaki



The cities of Japan are currently facing many issues. On the one hand, they are forced into inter-urban competition by ever-expanding globalization forces in order to survive. On the other hand, there is an imminent need to address population decreases due to low birth-rates and rapid aging. Moreover, the means by which urban governments should counter the effects of multiple decentralization reforms and increase the well-being of its citizens is a serious issue.

These issues are unprecedented and thus require new solutions. Yet, such solutions should not be simple or quick measures that, in the long run, might put the very survival of our cities at risk.

What is required now is to gather theoretical insights from

various disciplines and connect them to the practical insights already gained through numerous efforts to deal with these issues on the ground. In this way, new urban research paradigms can be developed and we can start to accumulate trust worth evidence that can be used for improved policy-making. The main purpose of the Urban Research Plaza's "Platform for Leading-Edge Urban Studies" project provides an essential insights for urban policy in this new age.

We call out to all urban researchers to optimize the use of the rich pool of intellectual resources at Osaka City University, as well as its organizational and human networks, and to work together to advance more innovative forms of urban research.

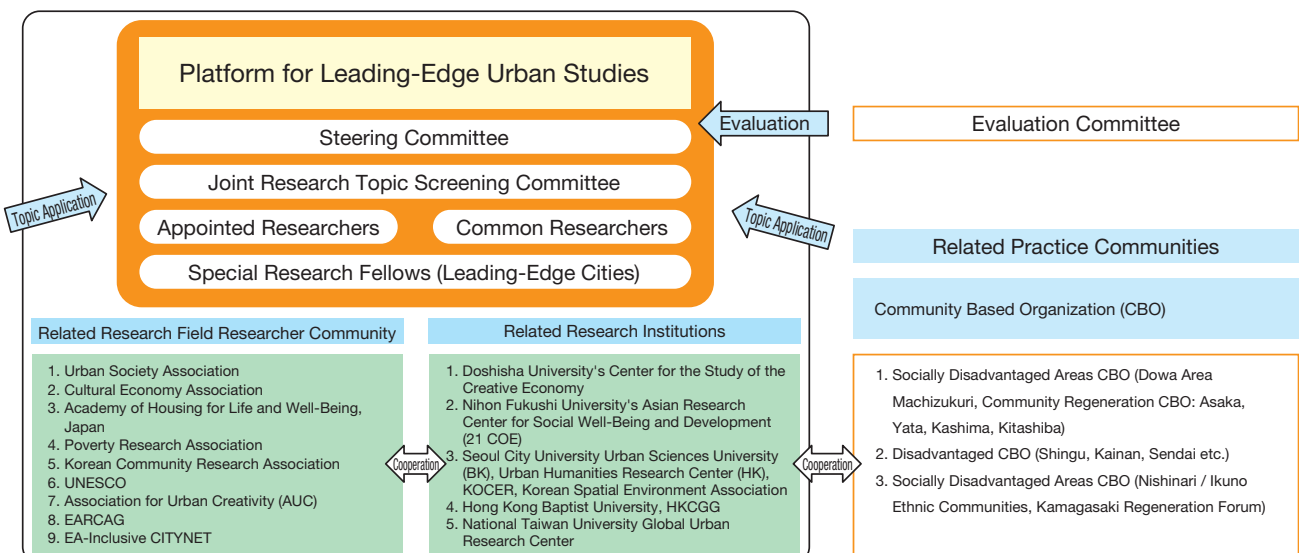
Outline

The Osaka City University Urban Research Plaza (URP), in line with the university's philosophy of "The University exists with the City, and the City exists with the University," regards cities as places where studies are developing. We at URP have been confronting urban issues head-on by mobilizing expert knowledge and openly communicating our education and research results with our fellow citizens. In so doing, we are also contributing to local communities and international society. Together with various citizen groups that likewise wish to realize 'true wealth', we are constantly seeking to enhance the functions of urban culture, economy, industry, medicine, etc.. Furthermore, by leading the field in comprehensive and academic research on cities and communities, we build on the basic principle of education as "an urban place" or a "city university of its citizens." The URP is driving forward its previous Global COE Program of "Reconstructing Cities towards Cultural Creation and Social Inclusion (2007—2011)". We are doing this through cooperation with international researcher communities and networks, especially through our own Overseas Centers and Offices, and we have already achieved a research track record involving multiple academic fields that include, for example, "Cultural Creation and Social Inclusion" and "Disaster Reconstruction through Art." By making use of joint-research activities for developing integrated domestic and international field networks, and cross-border

connections, the URP has taken initiative from its wide experience of platform creation between international communities and practical knowledge. The URP's "Platform for Leading-Edge Urban Studies" has been acknowledged as a "Joint Usage / Research Base" by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

The "Platform for Leading-Edge Urban Studies" will extend the URP's existing network and research resources and focus will be put on a collaboration between communities, general society and related research institutions.

Focusing especially on Asia, we aim to develop theoretical and practical models that can demonstrate what resilient cities of the 21st century should be. We will do this by expanding our base for joint usage/research on cultural creation and social inclusion.



◆ The Holonic Research Projects of the Four Units

First Unit: Urban Theory (ABE, Masaki/TSUJIKADA, Takashi/FUJITA, Shinobu/NIKI, Hiroshi/FUKUDA, Miho/TATEMI, Junya/SASAKI, Masayuki)

■ **Unit Theme:**

Human/Social Science or Interdisciplinary Research on the effects of changing industry structures and population decreases on cities as a result of globalization, and practical policy-related work on urban governance.

■ **Research Fields:**

Urban Sociology, Urban Economics, Urban Administration, Theories of Urban Industry, Urban Social History, Housing Planning

■ **Keywords:**

Globalization, Creative Cities, Shrinking Cities, Large Urban Regimes,

Urban Law, CDB Housing

■ **Research Projects:**

- (1) Cities in the Post-Regional Reform Era, (2) The Regeneration of Osaka through the Industrialization of Social Design, (3) The Conditions of Establishing Creative Tourism and the Possibilities of Networking Creative Cities, (4) The Social Experiment of Constructing a Network to Preserve Osaka Nagaya, (5) Law and Society of Pre-modern Osaka, (6) Comprehensive Research on Toyotomi Osaka Castle and Castle Town

Second Unit: Cultural Creation (KANA, Koichi/NAKAGAWA, Shin/MIYAMOTO, Yoshiaki/HASHIZUME, Shinya)

■ **Unit Theme:**

Promoting empirical research projects towards urban regeneration by means of art and design. Improving the creation of attractive cities by rediscovering and utilizing spatiotemporal resources that symbolize pre-modern architecture and waterfronts. Conducting empirical experiments on urban regeneration by introducing art programs into community rebuilding etc., and new values and expressions.

■ **Research Fields:**

Urban Planning, Art Management, Architectural Planning, Culture Policies,

Urban Designs, Tourism Policy.

■ **Keywords:**

Area Management, Social Experiments, Communities, Cultural Resources, Tourism, Living Architecture

■ **Research Projects:**

- (1) Developing Urban Planning Management Methods through Wide-ranging Empirical Social Experiments on City Center Revival, (2) Research on Utilizing Historic Building Stocks as Urban Regeneration Methods, (3) Developing Arts Management as Social Capital.

Third Unit: Social Inclusion (MIZUUCHI, Toshio/JEON, Hong-Gyu/TANI, Tomio/MIURA, Ken)

■ **Unit Theme:**

Conducting field surveys on 'needy persons' (in the broad sense of the housing poor, the elderly, minorities, the homeless in Japan and East Asia) and their support measures, or conducting empirical research towards their social inclusion, by focusing on housing support and community efforts in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

■ **Research Fields:**

Geography, Sociology, Housing Welfare Studies, Social Welfare Studies, Urban Planning, *Machizukuri*.

■ **Keywords:**

Minorities, Needy Persons, Housing Support, NGO's, *Machizukuri*

■ **Research Projects:**

- (1) Externally Funded Related Projects, (2) Geography of Creating Inclusive Cities Based on Homeless Support (in a Broad Sense) in East Asia, (3) Japanese Style Gentrification Turning Small Cheap Rental Apartments into Social Housing, (4) Survey on Existing Housing and Employment Support that Can Pioneer New Projects under the Self-Dependency Law for Needy Persons, (5) Research on Multicultural Community Models, (6) The Current Conditions and Issues of Prefecture-Registered Service Housing for the Elderly.

Fourth Unit: International Society Design (OKANO, Hiroshi/NAGAO, Kenkichi/KIMURA, Yoshinari/YAMAZAKI, Takafumi/UCHIDA, Takashi)

■ **Unit Theme:**

Developing human resources able to take the lead in evaluating / implementing / suggesting urban or regional designs that harmonize ecology, society and people, and that further develop urban and regional culture.

There is a particular focus on fostering people who can design, manage and direct models, technologies and tools for managing an interface between such actors as the policy makers, urban planners, engineers and residents.

■ **Research Fields:**

Economic Geography, Political Geography, Social Design Studies, Information Design Studies, Cultural Ecology, Strategic Management Accounting.

■ **Keywords:**

Urban Creativity, Inter-urban Networks, Community Revitalization, Social Design, Industrial Location, Political Geography, GIS, Transport Engineering, Integration of Humanities and Science.

■ **Research Projects:**

- (1) The Creation of Academic Space through Socio-cultural Collegia (2) Globalization and Changing Urban/ Regional Economies

- (3) GIS in Healthcare
- (4) Relation between Political Geography and Science Sociology
- (5) Transport Behavior Analysis and Social Design
- (6) Cultural Heritage and Urban Creativity
- (7) Interface of Goods and Services and Shared Services



◆ Development of Young People Human Resources Course (Global Course and Meister Course)

In the Global Course, researchers conduct surveys and participate at international conferences under the guidance of their supervisor. In the Meister Course, researchers continue their own research as part of their supervisor's research project.

◆ Research Promotion Framework

The URP was established in 2006 when the Urban Issues Documents Center and the Economics Research Center were merged. It has thereby become the university's base for urban research and has produced multiple results in urban-related research. In 2007 the URP was chosen as a "Global Center of Excellence" and, from this opportunity, established 7 local field plazas within Osaka City and 8 Overseas Centers and Offices across Asia. It is through these plazas and offices that URP has expanded its joint-research

◆ Platform for Leading-Edge Urban Studies

Our Base promotes joint research projects that develop leading-edge theories on cultural creation and social inclusion, especially in Asia. In this way it seeks to build conceptual and practical models for resilient cities in the 21st century.

network. The URP's "Platform for Leading-Edge Urban Studies" continues these activities. Its board is composed of the 'URP Steering Committee', the 'Lecturers' Group', and the 'URP / COE Association'. Its joint-usage framework with related researcher communities is already operating and is now joined by Doshisha University's Center for the Study of the Creative Economy and Nihon Fukushi University's Asian Research Center for Social Well-Being and Development.

Professors

ABE, Masaki

Director, URP
Prof., G.S. of Law



Keywords:

Empirical Research of Law Realization Processes,
Social Theory of Law

MIZUUCHI, Toshio

Vice Director, URP
Prof., G.S. of Literature and Human Sciences



Keywords:

Political / Social Geography, Current Urban Issues,
Homelessness, Urban History

OKANO, Hiroshi

Researcher, URP
Prof., G.S. of Business



Keywords:

Urban Business Science, Urban Branding Strategy,
Creative Products Development, Socio-cultural
Collegium, Strategy Accounting

JEON, Hong-Gyu

Planning Chief, URP / Prof.



Keywords:

Inclusive Asian Cities, Community Development,
Housing Welfare, Multicultural Community Work

MIYAMOTO, Katsuhiko

Researcher, URP
Prof., G.S. of Engineering



Keywords:

Architectural Design, "Do-ken" marriage,
Environment Noise Element, Voluntary communality

NAGAO, Kenkichi

Researcher, URP
Prof., G.S. of Economics



Keywords:

Urban Economy, Industrial Location, Industrial
Agglomeration, Economic Geography

NAKAGAWA, Shin

Researcher, URP
Prof., G.S. of Literature and Human Sciences
Director, Global Exchange Office



Keywords:

Asian Arts Management, Soundscape

UCHIDA, Takashi

Researcher, URP
Prof., G.S. of Engineering



Keywords:

Urban Activities / Travel Behavior Analysis,
Information-Communication Technology, Urban
Regeneration

FUJITA, Shinobu

Researcher, URP
Prof., G.S. of Human Life Science



Keywords:

Machizukuri, Community Design, Osaka-style
Nagaya, Community SNS

KANA, Koichi

Researcher, URP
Assoc. Prof., G.S. of Engineering



Keywords:

Urban Planning, Urban Design, Landscape Theory,
Planning Technology, Environmental Urban Planning
Development

Specially Appointed Professors

PAN, Shanhai

Researcher, URP
Specially Appointed
Associate Professor



Keywords:

Global Business Theory & Practice,
Intercultural Marketing, Multicultural
Communication

TAKAOKA, Shinichi

Researcher, URP
Specially Appointed Lecturer



Keywords:

Architectural Design, Utilization of modern
architecture

HAKODA, Tetz

Researcher, URP
Specially Appointed
Research Associate



Keywords:

History of social thought,
Philosophy of urbanism,
Contemporary sociology

KORNATOWSKI, Geerhardt

Researcher, URP
Specially Appointed
Research Associate



Keywords:

Human Geography, Urban Sociology,
Politics of Urban Regeneration,
Housing Poverty

TSUNASHIMA, Hiroyuki

Researcher, URP
Specially Appointed
Research Associate



Keywords:

Link between agriculture and welfare,
Participatory development,
Social inclusion

CHUNG, Youngjin

Researcher, URP
Specially Appointed
Research Associate



Keywords:

Ethnic Minority, Community,
Multiculturalism, Local History

Office

KABATA, Shinichi

Coordinators

HAKODA, Tetz KORNATOWSKI, Geerhardt TSUNASHIMA, Hiroyuki CHUNG, Youngjin

◆ Research Output

International Journal: *City, Culture and Society (CCS)*

published by Elsevier, edited by URP

Documents:

Official publication and record of research,
activities, surveys

Reports:

Tentative publication record of research,
activities, surveys

■ Contact:

Urban Research Plaza, Osaka City University (Sugimoto Campus)

<http://www.ur-plaza.osaka-cu.ac.jp>
office@ur-plaza.osaka-cu.ac.jp

3-3-138, Sugimoto, Sumiyoshi-ku, Osaka 558-8585
TEL: +81-6-6605-2071 FAX: +81-6-6605-2069

