

CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY BUSINESSES ~TO REALIZE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES~

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1. PURPOSE

Industrial and urban growth caused by the dramatic economic growth after World War have caused various social problems, such as declining birth rate, unemployment, social disparity, environmental destruction and decline of local communities. This thesis considers the Ministry of Environment's projects intended to improve some of the above problems; 'Model Business for Cities to promote better Relationship between Environment and Economy'. It also examines the requirements to promote environmental community business to build sustainable communities.

2. CONTENTS OF CHAPTERS

(1) The present state of local societies and the theories of community regeneration.

This chapter reviews 'Regionalism Theory' and 'Indigenous Development Theory' in order to examine the problems of local communities.

(2) The requirements of sustainable communities.

This chapter defines 'sustainable community' and establishes a number of criteria concerning community restoration based on previous studies. Then it organizes the requirements of sustainable communities; voluntary citizens' participation, economic revitalization through utilization of community resources, industrial development, and dedication to protection of the environment.

(3) Model Business for Cities to promote better Relationship between Environment and Economy

This chapter evaluates the model business with author's original criteria based on the project reports, and fact-findings on the spot of the model cities. It then analyzes the project and suggests ways to improve them.

(4) The requirements to promote environmental community business for sustainable communities.

This paper considers the importance of citizens' initiated businesses to create sustainable communities. It then clarifies the requirements to promote environmental communities as a means to realize sustainable communities based on the reviews on steps taken.

3. CONCLUSION

'Model Business for Cities to promote better Relationship between Environment and Economy' is inadequate in terms of economy, continuity and citizens' participation. Therefore the paper suggests three modifications. First, the selection criteria should be more specific. Second, the schedule after selection should be modified. Third, the government should set up an information center on business model.

In conclusion, this paper proposes three requirements to promote Environmental Community Business which will enable sustainable communities. First, communities should have autonomous organizations, second working groups should be created to develop community businesses, and lastly community businesses should be expanded with the support of many participants from the community.