Consensus Building Process among Multi-stakeholders in Intercity Cooperation: The Case of Collaboration between Kitakyushu and Davao.

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International cooperation is a challenging process involving many stakeholders with different interests, capacities and limitations, but also a fruitful opportunity to share technical knowledge, governance experience, and technologies to address environmental management issues. In this sense, the Japanese government has been funding activities to promote intercity collaboration, for the development of more sustainable societies.

This research inquired how is consensus built among the multi stakeholders involved in international intercity cooperation for the case of Kitakyushu and Davao, at the light of the three projects: JICA Grassroots Project for Enhancing Solid Waste Management in Davao City, C2C development of a Local Climate Change Action Plan, and C2C for implementation of LED streetlights. This research identified main activities conducted by each project, profile of involved stakeholders, and four major elements that can represent a driver or a challenge: communication, political and institutional, financial, and technical conditions.

Past literature provided few English research on intercity cooperation in Japan for environmental management issues, as well as little input for the application of models that aim to describe the process of consensus building. The objective of this research, while addressing these gaps, was describing and analyzing the consensus building process in the referred case study with development of Straus' 4-phased model for consensus building and collaborative planning processes.

The model allowed a broad understanding of consensus building as a process that develops along with collaborative planning, and it was a useful tool for single projects, parted from a broader context, or projects within a certain time frame. The model, however, was limited for the case of projects that are related or conducted with similar projects, as well as insufficient for ongoing projects. To address these two limitations, it was proposed: (I) to apply the model not only for projects individually, but also holistically for projects that interact, and, (II) to add a feedback feature at the model for the case of ongoing projects.