

# Co-Management system of Common-Pool Resources on Kudaka Island

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*Key Words: Commons, Common-Pool Resources (CPRs), autonomy, Charter of Land Use on Kudaka Island, communal land ownership, Design Principles for successful commons, duality of property,*

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

On Kudaka Island, which is a little island (1.38km<sup>2</sup>) located in South of Main Okinawa Island, all the land area on the island is belong to the island community, including housing land and farming land from hundreds years ago. Therefore, the using revenue right of those lands, even commercial use of land recently, is semi-permanently distributed to the member with no compensation. It can be seen in very few cases in Japan. This study focuses on the co-management system from a perspective of commons theory and the reason why the system has continued up to the present using the design principles for successful commons proposed by Ostrom.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

This study is mainly based on a hearing investigation and a literature review. The interviewees are as follows: City Hall staff in Nanjo city, Mr. Nishime who were use to work at the City Hall and also put all his effort into establishing charter of land use on Kudaka Island, staff of NPO in the island, and residents in the island. It was conducted from August to December in 2011. Discussion and findings are based on these data and comparison to logics leading from earlier studies.

## 3. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

### (1) Logics for communal land ownership

1. The type of land ownership on Kudaka Island is communal land ownership. Under such condition, the using revenue of right belongs to members and the power of disposition is divided to the community. However, On Kudaka Island, The using revenue of right belongs to members but the power of disposition for all the land area of the island belongs to the island community completely. Therefore, the island community can manage all the land of the island.

2. In communal land, there are two logics with duality of property in common land (Figure-1) (Torigoe, 1997)<sup>i)</sup>. In the case of Kudaka Island, distribution of the common land is based on 2 different logics. One is that all the members have the equal user. The other one is to keep the CPRs and the community itself healthy.

### (2) Successful commons conditions leading from the case study of Kudaka island

From a comparative review of the design principles (Ostrom, 2005)<sup>ii)</sup> and findings from the case study, the results identified the 2 points.

1. Opening CPRs to outside, they need “the standard” to decide the balance open and close.
2. To complement the 8<sup>th</sup> design principal, communities need 2 kinds of autonomy. One is a power to govern the community. The other one is a power to negotiate with outsiders at an equal level.

### References

- i) Torigoe H. (1997) 「The one enjoying common land profit」 『Environment Sociology』 (in Japanese) 3, 5-14
- ii) Ostrom E. (2005). *Understanding Institutional Diversity*. Princeton University Press.

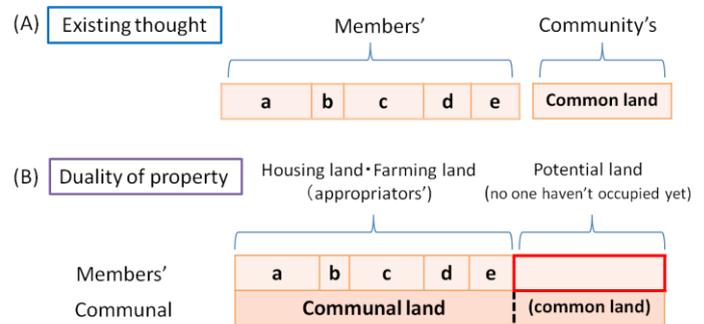


Figure-1 Land ownership