エコシステし

Ecosystem
Conservation
Society-Japan

1 1 1 4 8

November 2016

地方創生自然を再生して活かす

- | 新しいまちづくりの機会が到来
- | 地方が抱える課題
- | 自然の機能を活かしたグリーンインフラ
- | 地方にあるものを磨く
- | 資源をつむいで高める地方の魅力
- | 豊かな自然で地方創生を

人々のくらしを持続可能なものとしていくためには、中長期的な視点に立ったまちづくりのビジョンが必要となります。そのためには、その地域本来の自然を守り育てていくことが重要です。

To make people's daily lives more sustainable, it is necessary to have a new vision for community development based on a mid-to-long-term perspective. It is important to protect and nurture each region's original nature.

Regional Renewal

by Restoring and Utilizing Nature

ccording to an estimate by the Aministry of National Lands, Transport, and Tourism, about 60% of regions in Japan will have population less than half of its current population level by 2050. Additionally, about 20% of all regions will have no people living in them by then. Actually, within regions that have been experiencing population decline it is clear that abandoned farm lands, unattended forests and lands with no known owners have been rapidly increasing. Conversely, it can be said that this population decline should be considered to be a great opportunity to make Japanese communities more sustainable. As population decreases, there will be less pressure to develop by destroying nature and there will be more open-space. Those open lands can be converted back to natural environments that have been long lost. There will be an opportunity to create environments that can fulfil happiness in our daily lives.

locally unique natural environment that is considered to be the 'Personality of the Locality' is necessary to successfully revitalize a local community. Local cultures throughout Japan always have their roots in nature. That nature has been connected with people, and in turn, people connect with people. Daily lives of people have been supported by ecological services that are blessings from nature. Nature is the foundation of our daily lives. Nature is the foundation of social and economic systems and it is an indispensable element of our good life. Nature also comprises the resources necessary for tourism, health promotion, prevention and reduction of disasters, and many other industries. Nature can enhance local attractiveness and can play an important role in promoting exchanges and communication among different regions.

apan's national finances are currently in a dire situation. So-called grayinfrastructure is constructed by using resources extracted by mining, e.g. concrete. It costs huge amount of money when it is built and it costs even more money throughout its life cycle into the future to maintain, mange, and finally dismantle, and remove. On the other hand, so-called green infrastructure that utilizes diverse functions of natural ecosystems can reduce expenses and create spaces where people can safely lead their daily lives. We should choose infrastructure carefully in the future, because we now have a choice between a gray and a green one.

n other parts of the world, there are many good examples. One of them is a long nature trail that connects many separate natural and tourism resources across many regions. To promote this long trail, they have adopted a combined and unified advertisement campaign telling a series of interesting stories of each location. Another region uses its natural resources for tourism to revitalize its economy. In order to revitalize a region, it is important to build a beautiful community that coexists with nature, culture and history, and develop it sustainably. The first step to revitalize a regional economy is to recognize its own unique natural resources and think about how to present it as an attractive point of the region. It is possible that local nature can be used sustainably by future generations as long as it is used wisely. That is a key to sustainably community development. To understand population decline as a great opportunity to build sustainable communities, to protect existing nature, and to restore lost nature and use it wisely, these are necessary to rebuild regional communities.



Population decline is an opportunity for sustainable community development



It is necessary to use green infrastructure based on nature's diverse functions, instead of depending on grey infrastructure that becomes financial burdens



"Rarity' or 'Uniqueness' of a place or a special period will add values to local products and serv



Local economies will be revitalized by protecting its local nature and use it for tourism resources





