

Gap between Residents' Voices and Government Program on Infrastructure Restoration

WHO WANTS IT!? - Huge Infrastructure Development Projects-

Rikuzen-Takata is surrounded by the sea and mountains. The pine woods on the seashore was a proud of the citizens, selected as one of the three bests in Japan. With the rich nature, primary industries especially fishery has been flourished, and people have kept strong tie with the sea. However the tsunami took more than 20,000 (including unfound) lives and swept away the city center, located along the coast. Three years have passed since the earthquake, and two gigantic infrastructure development projects are being proceeded by the local and national government.



Land rezorning plan

No Consideration on Project Economy

The land readjustment project cost is estimated to be 860 million Euro, and the value of the prepared land would be so much lower than that. The project cares nothing for economic balance, because it is totally depended upon subsidy.

	Takata district	Imaizumi district	Total
Project area	189.8 [ha]	113.0 [ha]	302.8 [ha]
The total number of project houses	about 1560	about 560	about 2120
Population of plan	about 4300	about 1600	about 5900
Rate of land decrease	36.30%	57.90%	
Construction costs	467 million [€]	395 million [€]	862 million [€]
The value of land before the project	126.50 [€]	47.35 [€]	173.85 [€]
The value of land after the project	199.30 [€]	113.79 [€]	313.09 [€]
Profit	72.8 million [€]	66.44 million [€]	214 million [€]
Completion date	2020		

source: Project the land readjustment plan (Takata · Imaizumi district) document

Beautiful Landscape and View to The Sea Will Be Lost

If such huge structure was built along the coast, the beautiful landscape will be so damaged and lost. Also there are voices "Such high seawall would block our view to the sea, so we would not notice a change of sea and may fail to escape."The project is questioned from various points.



Seawall



Landfill area



Belt conveyor

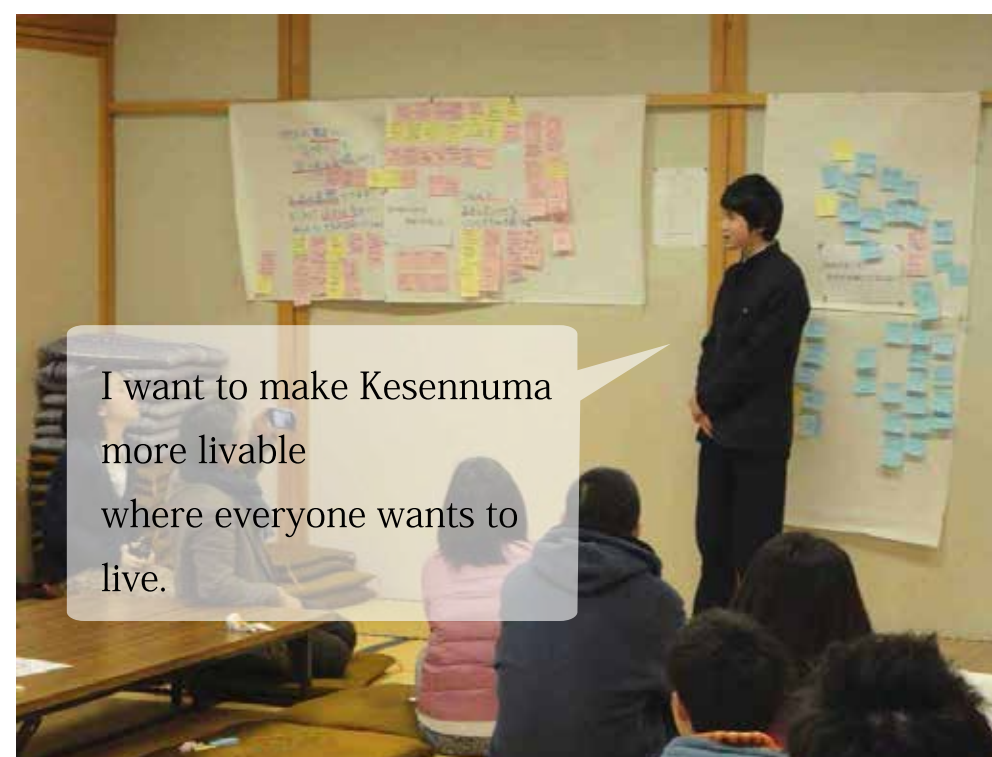
The land readjustment plan is to cut down a hill of 120 meter high to 40 meter, and using the soil, the lowland level will be raised up to 12 meter high. The housing relocation plan is to rebuild the same number of housing on the hill, as had existed on the damaged lowland. The land readjustment plan is based on an assumption of population increase, but actually many people have moved out or may do so, which make the project too big. The problems with the outscaled plan are accumulated, not just finance. The gigantic seawall plan is also questioned, for it will cut off the connection between sea and land, and natural resources or respect for nature may largely be damaged. Are these project really what the residents ask for?

Residents stood up, for What They Really Want !

High school students want to know about the area better, and have ideas for the future. They are the ones to live in the area. But the reality is there is little opportunities for the students to speak up, or adults to hear their voices. To make Kesennuma more livable where everyone wants to live, local students are asking for more of such opportunities.



World's cafe style workshop



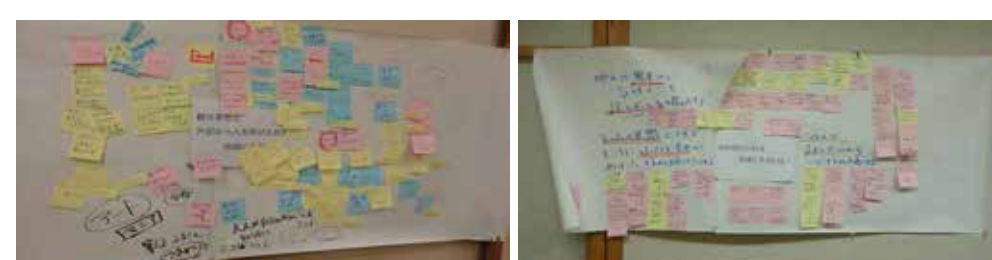
I want to make Kesennuma more livable where everyone wants to live.

High school students who participated in the WS



Taking advantage of the disaster, we want to make the area as an "advanced countryside"

High school students who participated in the WS



The opinions raised by the WS

The attitudes of the students, thinking seriously about the future of the area was quite impressive. What local residents really want is development of the region. Will the government projects really support the residents, of today and future? Reconstruction for the future is required.