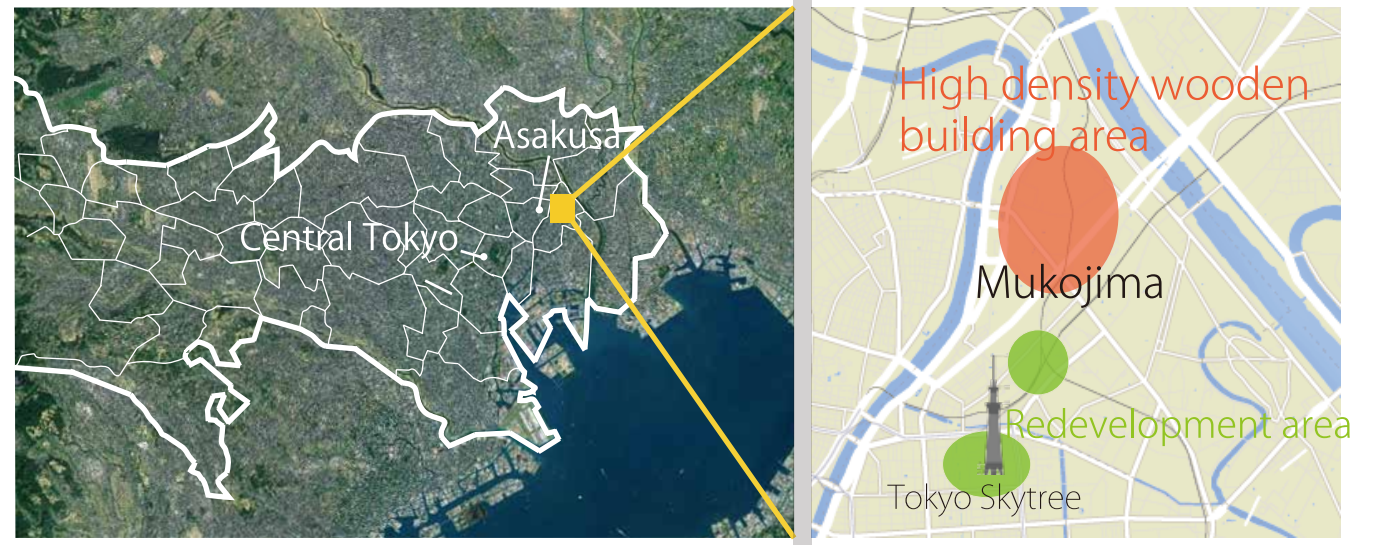


Mukojima in Tokyo

Mukojima Today

History of Mukojima

Mukojima is located in east of Sumida Ward, Tokyo. It is on a delta lowland shaped by Sumida river and Arakawa river. In the 17th century, second houses of rich merchants and Samurai (Japanese soldiers) houses were built in the farmland area. In late 19th century, Geisha Girls started to gather here, lead the area to become "Kagai" a society of Geisha and Ryotei (Japanese restaurants), and to develop its special culture. At the beginning of the 20th century, the area got stricken by flood, then modern industries took place over the ruins.



Formation of the High Density Wooden Houses Area



There are many narrow alleys and the dead ends

After the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, many wooden row houses were densely built for the refugees, escaped from the surrounding areas. The following rapid growth of population caused to form even denser and chaotic residential district, where narrow farmland paths simply became urban alleys and infrastructure undeveloped. This area was not burnt by air bombing in the WWII, and the unique townscape with alleys have remained up to today.

Awaiting solution

Though the stand up of Tokyo Skytree brings fresh energy to Sumida district, the traffic routes are improved and redevelopment of the Sumida area are conducted accompanied by constructure of high-rise condominiums.

High density wooden houses are facing the problem of crime and disaster prevention reflected by vacant houses and decrepit houses, antiseismic reinforcement. To solve these problems and then create a safe, comfortable society, various methods and techniques are carried out: strengthening community through Art events, and using the existing housing stock through renovation.

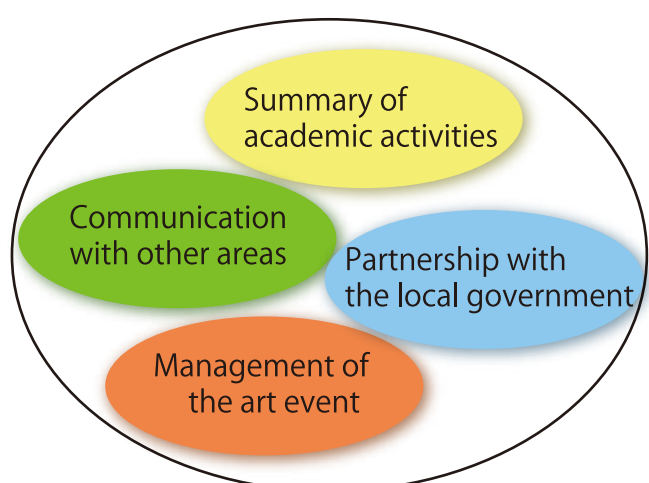


Large scale redevelopment taking over local community



Association Mukojima Studies supports the Community

What is Association Mukojima Studies?



Overview of activities

Recent activities of Association Mukojima Studies



AMS has kept communication with Hamburg over 25 years.



The art event "Bokuto Machimise" was operated by members of AMS until 2013.



At communication salons and events titled "Mukojima Studies", students do research presentations on Mukojima, or report on activities of AMS.



AMS supports the project to open the vacant shops and attract potential tenants, along the "Hatonomachi Shopping Street".



On website, AMS provide information on gallery, events and artists active in Sumida Ward.

Association of Mukojima Studies(=AMS) aims at review and utilization of local resources, and revitalization of the area. It is an NPO, carrying out activities rooted in the area, such as research and community development. It is also actively engaged in art events and communications with other areas.