

Citizens Learning Together

— Some cases of “Citizen’s University” and nonformal learning in Japan

International Learning City-Region Talks :“[Learning Cities Learning from Each Other](#)”

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INTRODUCTION

(My Career)

1988-1994 Overseas Research Specialist of the Ministry of Education (MEXT)

1994-2005 Senior Researcher of Lifelong Learning Policy Research Department, National Institute of Educational Policy Research of Japan (NIER)

2005- Associate Professor at University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo

2007- Professor at University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo

* Field of Research: Comparative Education and Lifelong Learning Policies (Russia and former socialist countries, Nordic countries and European Union)



INTRODUCTION

Social Contribution (Selected)

- ◆2010- Overseas Research Advisor, MEXT
- ◆2012- Council Member, Equine Museum of Japan
- ◆2016- Chair, Community Partnership Committee, Hoyonomori Compulsory School, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan
- ◆2019- Provisional Member, Lifelong Learning Section, Central Council of Educational Reform, MEXT
- ◆2020-21 Lifelong Learning Council Member, Hamura City, Tokyo
- ◆2021- Co-coordinator, Research Network 6: Learning Cities/Regions, ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub

ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub, Research Network of Learning Cities and Learning Regions



Contents of my presentation

- Outline of LLL Policies in Japan
- Networking of LLL Municipalities in Japan
How they are learning from each other
- New Type of Learning Communities in Japan
Learning globally and acting locally

Components of LLL Policy in Japan



National Policy

Basic Law on Education (2006) <Vision>

Article 3 (Idea of Lifelong Learning)

“Society shall be made to allow all citizens to continue to learn throughout their lives, on all occasions and in all places, and apply the outcomes of lifelong learning appropriately to refine themselves and lead a fulfilling life. .”

LLL Promotion Law (1990) <Administrative system>

Comprehensive Plan on Education Promotion <Strategies>

Programmes & Measures ← National Budget

Local Policy

Long-term comprehensive plan

Local Education Promotion Plan

Lifelong Learning Promotion Plan

Lifelong Learning Policy Development in Japan

(I) INTRODUCTION OF LLL CONCEPT:

→ Late 1960's to the middle of 1980's with the influence of UNESCO and OECD

(High Economic Growth)

(II) LAUNCH OF NATIONAL POLICY ON LLL:

“Development of Mechanisms and Measures for the Promotion of LLL” → Late 1980's to the beginning of 1990's

(Bubble Economy)

(III) IMPLEMENTATION OF LLL POLICY MEASURES:

→ From the middle of 1990's till 2010 (The Lost Two Decades)

In accordance with decentralization and “Structural Reform “

<Neo-liberal approach of reform in education and LLL caused by economic recession >

*Severe budget cut; municipal merger; deregulation, etc.

*Progress in decline of birth rate and aging of population

(IV) REALIZATION OF LIFELONG LEARNING SOCIETY

→ From 2011 till 2019

Restoration of Japan from Great East Japan Earthquake, 3.11, 2011

(V) COPING WITH PANDEMIC AND OTHER GLOBAL ISSUES

→ From 2020 on

Social Inclusion of Diverse People, Digital & Green Transformation, Save Lives, Well-being, Community Development

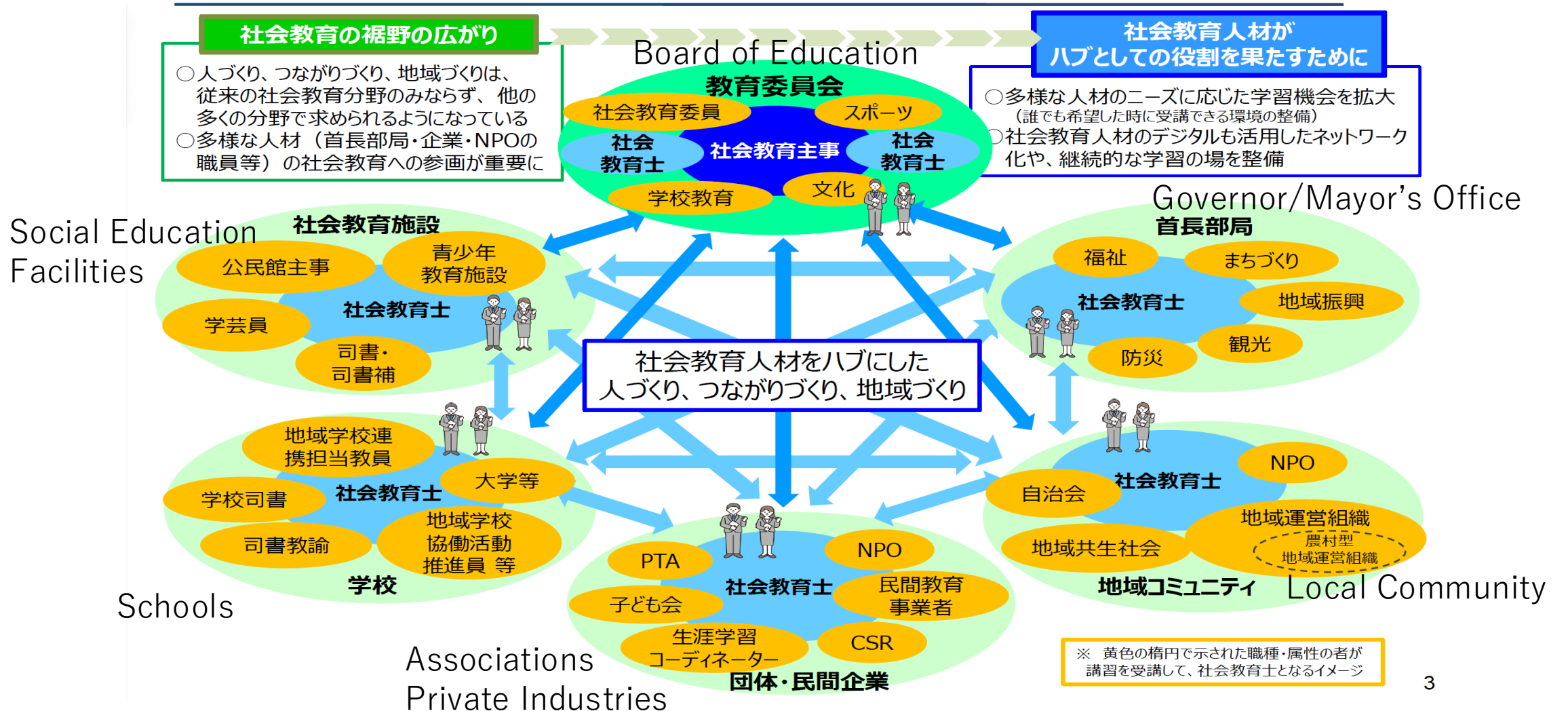


National Lifelong Learning Network Forum (former Lifelong Learning Festival) in Japan



LLL Festival
In Zama city,
Kanagawa-ken

Concept of Human-development, Link-development, Community-development at local communities; Making “Social Education Professionals” as the Hub



Networking of LLL municipalities in Japan

Nation-Wide Council of LLL Cities

(Established in Nov. 1999)

“We support your lifelong learning!”

～みなさまの生涯学習を応援します!～

<Purpose>

Organize meetings of mayors who consider LLL as a comprehensive policy in each municipality and promote community development through LLL where the citizens are the main actor.

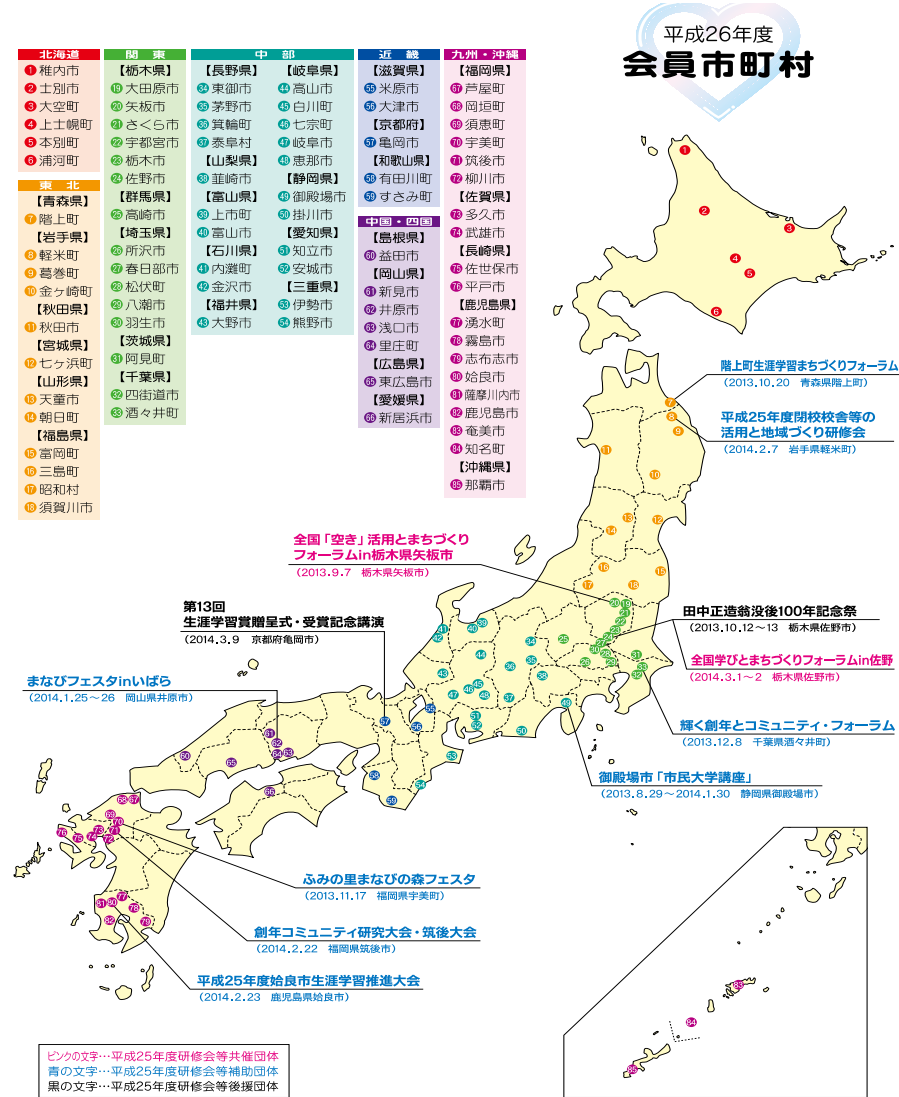
<Membership> 30,000 JPY per year

<Activities>

- Research on LLL policies and administration
- Making proposal on LLL policies at national, prefectural and municipal levels
- Exchange, support and partnership among members
- Offer subsidy to organize training and forum for LLL



Members of Nation-Wide Council of LLL 46 Municipalities (2024)



Map of member municipalities in 2014

Emergence of Lifelong Learning Municipalities, already from the first stage of LLL policy implementation

In 1979, City of Kakegawa in Shizuoka Prefecture declared itself to be the first “Lifelong Learning City” in Japan

The Key Person:

*Mr. Junichi Shinmura
(1934-2018) Former mayor of
Kakegawa –shi (7 periods
from 1977 till 2005)*



(Source) <http://shinmura.jimdo.com>

Takegawa approach of LLL City

(Population 58,851 in 2020)

- 1979 --Lifelong Learning Declaration
- 1980 -- Held Nation-Wide Symposium on Lifelong Education with a national institute (NIRA)
- 1983 --Constructed Lifelong Learning Centre
- 1989 --Established a Lifelong Learning Village in Oregon, U.S.A.
- 1991 --Local Land Act on Lifelong Learning Community Development
- 1992 – Participated in OECD Learning Cities Project
- 2001 --Opened new City Library made of wood,
Pavilion Opened Water Preservation
- 2003 --Establishment of “Eco-polis”



“Lifelong Learning City Declaration” (Kakegawa-shi 1979 & revised 2007)

1. *Citizens of Kakegawa will continue learning throughout life through various occupations, community activities, culture and sports, in order to feel more happiness and to live healthy life with self-fulfillment, by always asking yourself, “Who am I?” “What should we do each other?”*

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3. *Citizens of Kakegawa and Kakegawa City will preserve environment and manage finance and administration in accordance with plan in order to be responsible for next generations. We will all pursue Kakegawa Studies of ocean, mountain, road and moral, aiming at being persons with cultivated manner. Let us create relaxed and rich lifelong learning society.*

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Lifelong Learning City of Kameoka, Kyoto-fu

(Population 87,780 in 2021)

- 1988 -- Made declaration to become a Lifelong Learning City and published "A Concept of Kameoka-shi Lifelong Learning City"

→ Promoted creation of LLL City with the principle of "Respect of Human Beings"

- 1999 -- Opened Galeria Kameoka as a core base of lifelong learning

- Various activities are organized to preserve ecological environment involving citizens of all generation

- "Kameoka LLL Award" for good practice made by individuals and organizations all over Japan every year at "College de Kameoka"



Global Learning City of Okayama, Okayama-ken

(Population 719,134 in 2021)



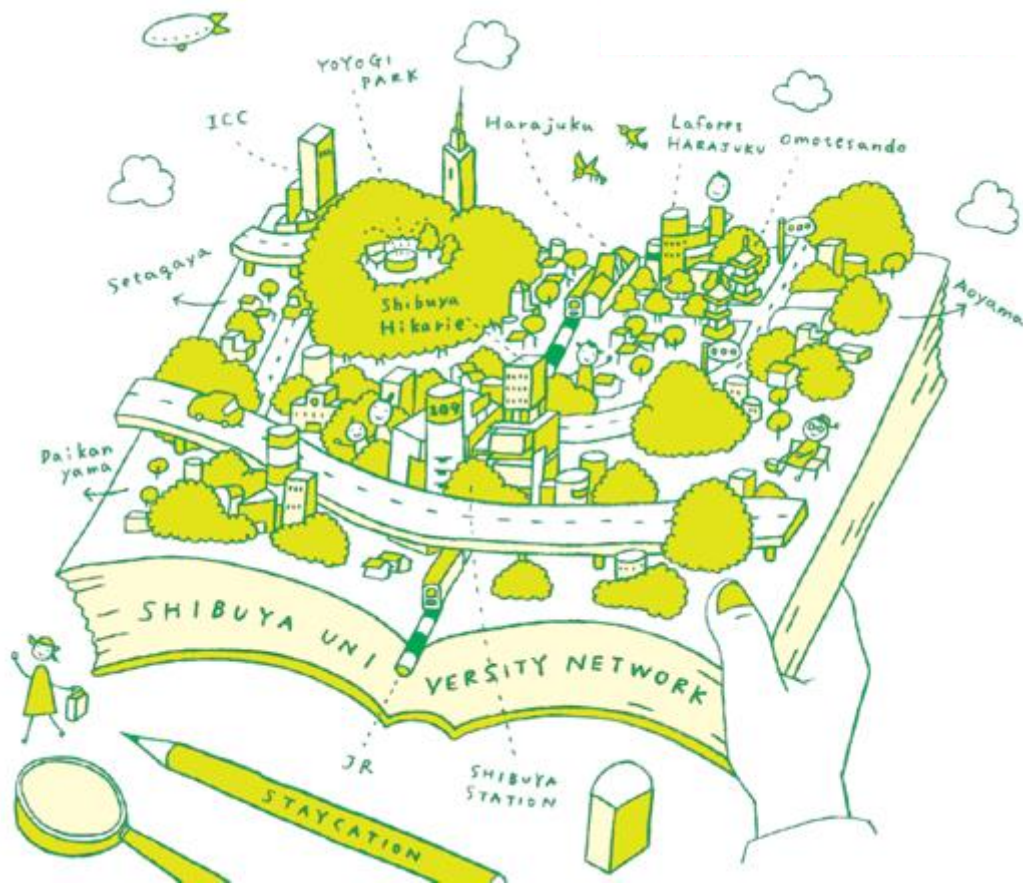
- 2013-2020 Okayama City Basic Plan for Promotion of Education
- 2015-2019 Education for Sustainable Development Project Master Plan
- October 2014, Hosted International Conference on Community-Based Learning and Education for Sustainable Development
- March 2016 Participated in UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities
- January 2017 Awarded GNLC Award
- January 2022 Awarded APLC Best of Best Cities



Well-known with Kominkan activities



The Whole Town of Shibuya is a Campus



(Source) Shibuya University Network



Shibuya-ku

Area: 15.11 km²

Population: 230,000 (2023)

“Shibuya University Network” and Its Sister Organizations in Japan

姉妹校

あなたの街がキャンパスになる。
シブヤ大学のネットワークが
各地の街に広がっています。



**GOOD
DESIGN**



Recent community development activity of Shibuya University Network: Place-making for people in needs



(Source) Y. Sakyō (2024) Presentation for ASEM GWLLL @ Cork

Sasazuka-Jugo no ie (the House of Jugo)

- Community welfare centers
- Various generations of users, not only the elderly, but also the disabled, children, etc.
- Flat relationship through free of charge (as a truly rich public space)
- Medical and welfare experts can find out minor problems, Intermediary function to provide necessary support through the establishment of trusting relationships with users.

(Source) Y. Sakyō (2024) Presentation for ASEM GWLLL @ Cork

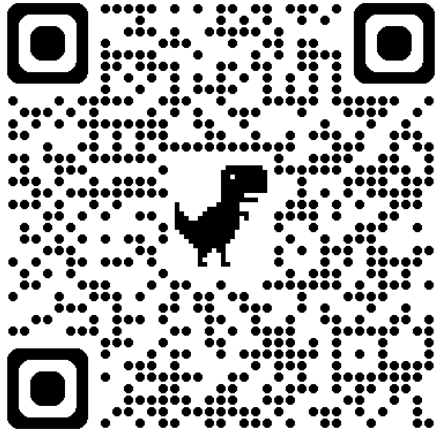




(Source) Y. Sakyō (2024) Presentation for ASEM GWLLL @ Cork



(Source) Y. Sakyō (2024) Presentation for ASEM GWLLL @ Cork



sasazuka10ie

following

message



36 posts

209 followers

Following 157 people

Sasazuka No. 10 House

We report on the daily life at Sasazuka Jugo No Ie, a park-like covered space in the middle of the Sasazuka Jugo Street shopping district.

Opening

hours:

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays

from 11:30 to 18:30

.

Everyone is welcome to stop by.

Follower: atelierfucca

POSTS

PEOPLE TAGGED



(Source) Y. Sakyō (2024) Presentation for ASEM GWLLL @ Cork

Learning from
the experience of
Community house
casa del quartier
in Italy



(Source) Y. Sakyō (2024) Presentation for
ASEM GWLLL @ Cork



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