Development of Area Informatics -In Focusing on Southeast Asian Region-

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Outline of survey

Progress in information and communications technology (ICT) has brought increasing use of information technology in all the academic disciplines in the fields of humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, and has contributed to a great deal of research success. The application of information technology to these disciplines is now developing into a single field named informatics that has a broad coverage at an interdisciplinary level, spanning humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. Area studies also encompasses all academic disciplines in the fields of humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, including natural ecology and environment, human ecology, society, history, culture and politics. As can be seen from the utilization of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) in such studies, informatics is already being actively incorporated into advanced research. However, the case studies, experience, and research results that are currently available are insufficient. Since these circumstances are important for both area studies and informatics, the subject for this research are working on creating and building up a new discipline-- Area Informatics. The research has the objective of producing fusion and collaboration between area studies and informatics in order to take discussion regarding systematization of this new discipline to a new level.

Expected results

The following outcome will be expected from this research.

1. Developing and nurturing Area Informatics based on systematization of this new discipline.

2. New researches for building the digital archives and museum for cultural heritage in Southeast Asian region will be carried out and can be implemented. And, 3D visualization and more effective application of satellite images can be performed.

4. Collaboration and cooperation for geoinformatics have been promoted in the developing countries.

5. An improvement of information infrastructure such as the video conference, resource sharing for research materials can be expected.

References by the principal researcher

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(2) Xian Feng Song, Yasuyuki Kono, Koji Tanaka, and Mamoru Shibayama : Integrating Geographic Collection Database Repositories with Z39.50-Compliant Gateway, Asian Journal of Geoinformatics, Vol.4, No.2, pp.31-36, December 2003

Term of project	FY 2005 - 2009	Budget allocation	90,300,000 yen

Homepage address	http://gissv.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~sibayama