

【Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (S)】
Humanities and Social Sciences (Humanities)



Title of Project Establishment of Local History Materials Science:
Forming Disaster Subculture in the Post-3·11 World

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Research Area : Japanese History

Keyword : Local History Materials

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

Rapid population decline and resettlement in Japan place a vast number of history materials in the local communities at risk for loss or damage: perpetual great earthquakes and floods accelerate this trend. Utilizing the data heaped in time of disasters since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake(Kobe Earthquake), we embarked on our former project “Establishment of Local History Materials Science: Focusing on Materials Preservation after Great Disasters (Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (S))” to promote the establishment of local history materials science aiming at transmitting the valuable materials to posterity as well as enriching local residents’ historical understanding. The March 11th Disaster urged us to form a new historical informatics that can cope with disasters, tsunami, and radiation effectively; besides, it is a pressing issue to ferment “disaster subculture” in Japanese local societies menaced incessant calamities. The studies will be developed concerning this situation.

Local history materials are quite valuable not only for humanities but also for natural sciences like seismology and they are the basis of the local culture; but they are in danger of disappearance now as a result of rapid population decrease and transfer, as well as continuous disasters. The activities of Historical Materials Network after the Kobe Earthquake and the studies based on them laid the ground work of this project.

Most of the project members had to implement the interim achievements into practice after the March 11th Disaster. Our focus was shifted to practical aspects since the second half of that year and it posed two problems: 1) Systematization of practical methods for coping with radiation, wide-area disasters, and tsunami; 2) Establishment of local history materials science as the basis of disaster subculture formation. The project leader and members are on the same page: our object is to expand our preceding project with relevant researchers for tackling these issues.

【Research Methods】

As mentioned above, we focus on the two themes:
1) Development of pragmatic measures against

nuclear accidents, great disasters, and tsunami: this poser is raised by the subduction-zone earthquake whose character is different from conventional inland earthquakes. We will establish concrete methods of material rescue activities after such earthquakes in accordance with the data accumulated during the activities after the March 11th Disaster. Wide-area information sharing and cooperation are essential to salvage history materials of local communities during/after catastrophes. 2) Forming the disaster subculture: the culture plays a vital role in Japanese societies threatened by everlasting natural disasters. We will explore a new scientific field to establish local history materials science that contribute to leaven the culture.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

1) The local history materials science will maintain the fundamental conditions of humanities and social sciences whose approaches are based on such materials: our achievements will underpin these academic fields in the modern society with incremental risk. 2) Development of the practical measures against the catastrophe after a subduction-zone earthquake will enhance the ongoing rescue activities of history materials after the 3·11 and provide researchers and local societies with feasible methods against the same sort of calamities.3) A guideline for the transmission of memory of the great disasters from 1995 to 2011 will be given by our project. This will enable future generations to inherit the memory and be conducive to forming disaster subculture. Publication of the pioneering study will also contribute to salvage valuable history materials all over the world from disappearance.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】 Okumura Hiroshi. *Rekishibunka o Daisaigai kara Mamoru [Protecting Historical Culture against Great Disasters]*. Tokyodaigakushuppankai, 2014.

【Term of Project】 FY2014-2018

【Budget Allocation】 86,800 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact

Information】 <http://www.lit.kobe-u.ac.jp/~chiiki/>