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Regional Revitalization through Collaboration in Different-Field Researchers

A Case Study of “Amane Project”

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This case study is backed by the advent of “filed subdivision” and “delayed regional community”, which is investigated and proposed by applying the historical documents of a region for regional revitalization. The case is the “Amane Project” that has been active at JAIST, Kanazawa University, Kanazawa Seiryō University as one of practices in the utilization of historical documents.

The major research question is “If “collaboration in different-field researchers” works well for regional revitalization ?” and subsidiary questions are 1) how do the different-field researchers of Amane Project conduct the joint work, 2) how does “collaboration in different-field researchers” invent the new sense of values, 3) what roles do “collaboration in different-field researchers” play for regional revitalization?

“Amane Project” is a regional project through applying Umeda diary. The author of this diary is Jinsaku Umeda, who was a town-people lived in Kanazawa about 140 years ago. Umeda diary was written from June 15, 1864 to January 1867. Jinsaku Umeda had been worked as a lower grade public employee of Notoguchi county agricultural administration. In Japan they usually get the material of history tourism from the upper classes such as samurai and noble, the great men such as priests, what is called “prince tourism”. In contrast, Jinsaku Umeda was a very ordinary people, so it is expected that the modern people will understand his life, the era he lived, and feel empathy with him through Umeda diary.

“Amane Project” is a scientific collaborative project led by historians, information engineers, tourist and other fields researchers who affiliate JAIST , Kanazawa University , Kanazawa Seiryō University and other institutions respectively. “Amane Project” aims to build up the people's historical views of the world, and contribute to regional revitalization through the collaboration of information technology, history, and tourism. “Amane Project” started up from December 2006, and the elements of “Amane Project” going to start are the subjective elements: Utilize information technology and historian documents effectively, the objective elements: 1). Information technology has not yet been used for history enough, 2). Suggest to use information technology to history, 3). Ishikawa Prefecture's historical streets and documents are in a good state of preservation, 4). There are history experts as joint researchers , 5). Acquired Umeda diary's using right. “Amane Project” considers the historical documents rather as a precious resource for building up the people's historical views of the world than only as scientific documents. “Amane Project” members concentrate on creating the regional brand, tourism promotion, and regional revitalization. Until now, “Amane Project” members have been conducted many activities for realizing Umeda diary again, such as digital contents creation through using “Umeda diary” as a subject (Kanazawa branch of Hokuriku Bank Financial History Museum) , the web content of “Umeda diary” which used the semantic web technology, forums, reproducible cooking tasting party, and tours.

The followings are the conclusions.

- Information science expert, assistant professor of JAIST school of Knowledge Science Hiroshi Horii and history expert Misato Horii(Kanazawa University graduate school) have been started “Amane Project” for the thinking of information technology and historical documents’ effective utilization and contribution to the society. And then from the thinking that applying the historical documents to tourism field, they added tourist expert Ayako Sawada (Kanazawa Seiryō University) as a project member. The activities of “Amane Project” have been led by this three people.
- Information science researchers and historian researchers created “Umeda-nikki blog” .It is a cooperative effort result of them using the historian knowledge and information technologies through stimulating each others, and integrating and supplementing the knowledge of them(History + Information = “Umeda-nikki blog”). Then, above the information and history researchers, “Amane Project” took the researchers of tourist area and cooking area, and the regionally tourism volunteers as project members. And then they created the new tourism styles- “Amane Tour” and “Amane Night” through using the

techniques of collaboration in different-field researchers (History +Tourism+ Food="Amane Night"). It can be say that these activities of "Amane Project" are worthwhile for promoting the people's historical views of the world.

- It can be said that "Amane Project" has been made contribution to the human nature's recovery , the culture's succession and creation, the economical base's establishment , the social problem's solution of this area. Especially for the social problem's solution, "Amane Project" is not offer the services that reflect the needs, they aimed at grasping the problem' s essentials through the different-fields interchange and opening exchange with the outside in the project's activities' infancy. Then through the activities what "Amane Project" has done, the popularity of "Umeda diary" has been improved, the expectations of the value added by it, lead to the creation of new needs. And it is worthwhile that the utilization of researchers' research results has offered a solution of Japan society's "post-doctor" problem.

About the theoretical implications of this research, this paper presents " the utilization of historical documents' model" and "the utilization flow of historical documents for regional vitalization through using techniques of collaboration in different-field researchers model" .About the future problems of this research, it discusses the necessity of the objective analysis about the concept of people's new sense of values ,and the necessity of continuing to research and assessment "Amane Project", and "collaboration in different-field researchers" techniques should be developed organized.