

# PROCESS OF REVITALIZATION SUPPORTING FORMATION FROM NATURAL DISASTER

CASE STUDY AT REVITALIZING PROCESS FROM THE NIIGATAKEN CHUETSU-OKI EARTHQUAKE IN 2007

**TARO TAGUCHI Ph.D**

*Department of Architecture and Building Engineering, Niigata Institute of Technology  
1719, Fujihashi, Kashiwazaki, Niigata, 945-1195, Japan*

**Abstract:** In our country, natural disaster has a chance to occur everywhere. In this situation, we need to prepare for not only vitalization but also supporting formation of vitalization. And also in this scores, a lot of institutions have established nationwide various places in our country. This means there are various professionals are located as a human infrastructure.

In 2007, The Niigataken Chuetsu-oki Earthquake occurred and a week later the disaster, supporting formation was formed by 4 institutions near by.

At the first period of revitalization –from July to September-, supporting formation was formed by institutions which locates in same prefecture, and made first interview project for revitalization. At the second period –from October to March 2008-, formation have changed to new from by local institution and made revitalization vision. And at the third period –from April to now on-, formation have changed to new form by network by local institution and advanced professionals.

From the review of this process, we could learn how the supporting formation must formed in each situation of revitalization process. And from this study, we could simulate the formation at natural disaster which will occur from now on.

**Keywords:** supporting formation, institutional process design, citizen's participation, Japan

## 1. Introduction

In Japan, many kind of disaster have been occurred and we cannot avoid those disasters. So what all we can do, is to prepare and simulate the revitalizing process. Revitalizing process have been researched by many workers before but most of them was focused on the planning process. But the revitalizing process will be change in many conditions in each disaster area. In this paper, I focused on the formation of professionals and its institutional process.

One the other hand, in our country, institutions locates everywhere, and there is at least some academic professional who seems to have network with other professionals all over the country. And also those institutions are facing management problem because of the declining birth rate. But we can understand this situation not only that there are excess institution but also that there is knowledge infrastructure network. And those institutions can work as HUB in revitalization process from the disaster.

## 2. Revitalization Support

I understood supporting formation of revitalizing process and look into the result and problem. And understood that it could be ordered in 3 steps of revitalization process. First step is the *STARTING UP PERIOD* which to understand the inhabitant's rehabilitation image and make the outline of revitalization. Second step is the *VISION PLANNING PERIOD* which inhabitants created the revitalization vision which shows the master plan of revitalization. The third step is the *EMBODYING PERIOD* which embody the revitalization vision to concrete planning.

**2-1. Supporting Formation at the first period after the disaster –STARTING UP PERIOD-**

At the first period after the disaster, institution which locates at the devastated area –in this case, it was Niigata Institute of Technology which the author belongs- and neighborhood area, started to share information and discussed how to support the revitalization. And formed supporting group by 4 institutions which have urban planning section and which locate near by –Niigata Institute of Technology, Nagaoka Institute of Design, Nagaoka University of Technology, Niigata University-. In this first supporting formation, we could commute every day to devastated area so that we could interview all the victims about their future vision.

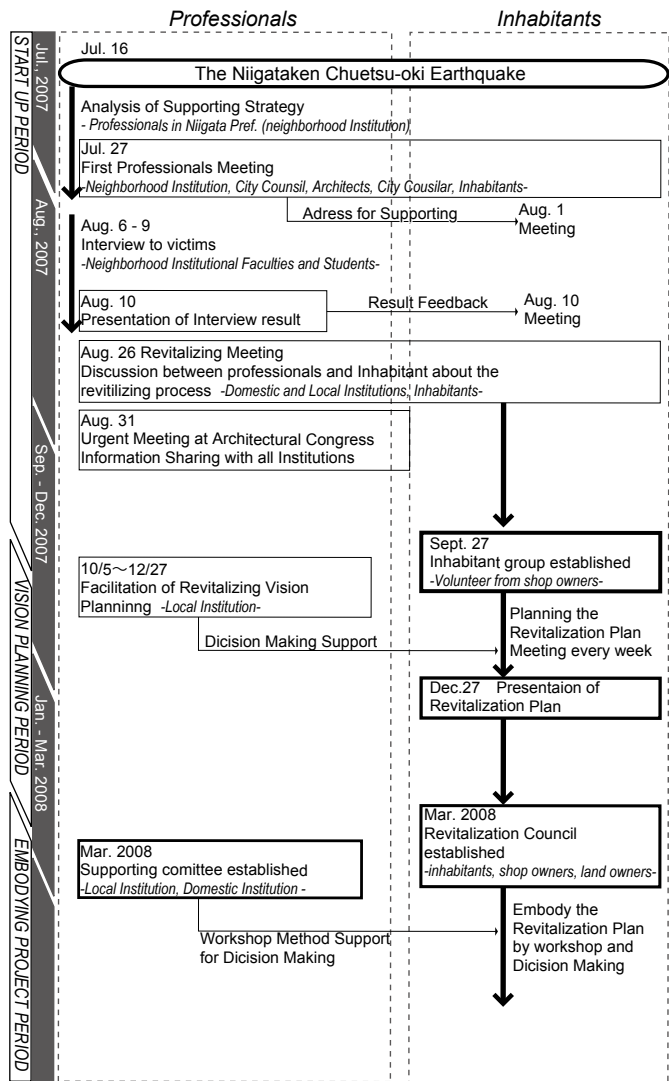
**2-2.Supporting formation at the Second period after the disaster –VISION PLANNING PERIOD-**

After understanding inhabitant’s rehabilitation vision, they needed to plan the community’s revitalization plan. In this case, if the plan goes directly to the detail of design, it will be easy to understand but might collapse by individual matter. So, it is important to share the general planning which can be a master plan for revitalization. And in this period, professionals need to care not only big meeting or workshop but also small meeting and town walking to make relationship between the inhabitants. So, local institution’s professional –who was myself- join all the meeting and town walking which they did more than every week from October 2007. And the professional facilitate the meeting to make the general vision which called “Enma Street Revitalization Vision”. This vision emphasized the “Keywords” of revitalization, not the drawing.

**2-3.Supporting formation at the third period after the disaster –EMBODYING PROJECT PERIOD-**

After making the general vision of revitalization, it is needed to embody the vision to concrete planning. But in this case, the professional might not have the direct method to embody the vision. But in other hand, it is important that one professional to care all the process of revitalization to manage all the process. In this case, I create professional network with country-wide institutions which have methods to embody the vision.

In the other hand, local institution did not only the embodying but also cheering events which is like SHOFUKU-ICHI -a revitalization event held on every 16th at the street- and OTO-ICHIBA -a jazz event held at 16 stores at the inner city Kashiwazaki-. This support will cheer inhabitants not only by planning support



**Fig1. Supporting Process**



**Fig2. SHOFUKU-ICHI**

but also community encouraging support.

### 3. Review of supporting formation process

#### 3-1. Starting Up Period

At the first period of revitalization process, most of the victims are hard to think about the whole town management and are tend to think about their own rebuilding of their living condition. But in local town in suburban or rural area, not only consumption of landscape and identity, but also commercial decline has been serious problem. To revitalize from this condition, revitalization need to be not only rebuild of their lives but also rebuild of their identities. In this situation, it is important to collect each individual image of their town to make general image of their future.

So, the institution which locates in Niigata prefecture – Niigata Univ., Nagaoka Univ. of Technology, Nagaoka Institute of Design, Niigata Institute of Technology- formed project team and interviewed all the victims to collect individual view of their future was important to start discussion for revitalization of their town. After the interview, we knew that there is various image of future and it is needed to share the general image of revitalization and the town need to have a new image, which can be new identity of this town.

It can review that the interview project by institutions near by was worthwhile but there was some problems, which need to be clear by next disaster. Traffic cost to commute, personnel costs of students who join the project, and so on.

After the interview project, we showed revitalization process of Kobe, by invited one professor who did the revitalization support and review at Kobe to know and share the process and time. But by reviewing the process, I knew that it was too early for victims by the word “I thought that it was wasting time to attend the presentation at that time” by one victims.



Fig3. Interview to the victims



Fig4. Result Presentation

#### 3-2. Vision Planning Period

After the first step the victims start to think about the town revitalization but there was no goal, which can share. So local professional –who is myself- started to make revitalization vision that can share. In this process, meeting has held on every Wednesday night for 3 months. And in case, another meeting was set on other day and did town walking. Finally, at the end of 2007, revitalization vision was completed and announced. This vision was mainly written by word not drawing. It is because to share the vision not the plan. It made one shared goal for this street.



Fig5. Vision Planning Workshop

<p>えんま通り商店街復興ビジョン 新生！えんま通りプロジェクト</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 はじめに</li> <li>2 復興ビジョンの概要</li> <li>3 趣意</li> <li>4 ノーニング</li> <li>5 結論</li> </ol> <p>2007年11月25日 えんま通り復興プロジェクト</p>	<p><b>2. 趣意</b></p> <p>1. 復興ビジョンの目的</p> <p>2. 復興ビジョンの意義</p> <p><b>3. 趣意</b></p> <p>1. 復興ビジョンの目的</p> <p>2. 復興ビジョンの意義</p> <p><b>4. ノーニング</b></p> <p>1. 復興ビジョンの目的</p> <p>2. 復興ビジョンの意義</p>	
--	--	--

Fig6. Revitalization Vision -excerpt-

The local professional kept in touch with other nation-wide professionals –who are in Tokyo, Kobe, etc.- and get advices or shared information what’s going on at the revitalization process.

In this period, local professional kept facilitate the workshop every week by volunteer. But this was practicable because the professional was young enough to do it. It is needed to systemize to do it.

### 3-3. Embodying Project Period

After the general vision, we need to embody the vision to real redevelopment project. In this period, method of development planning not only from the view of architecture, but also from the view of financial planning. So, in this period, various professional skills are needed and all of them need to share the process and collaborate. So in this period, various professionals –development planner, architect, and universities- made formation and took part in each specialized part.

And for now, re-building project and designing project are in progress. And the professionals made group to support the revitalization and also making contact with each level governments and embodying the vision. But in this period, information sharing is extremely important that local professional supports ordinary decision making and other professionals join only the turning point. So in this period information sharing media needs to be developed.



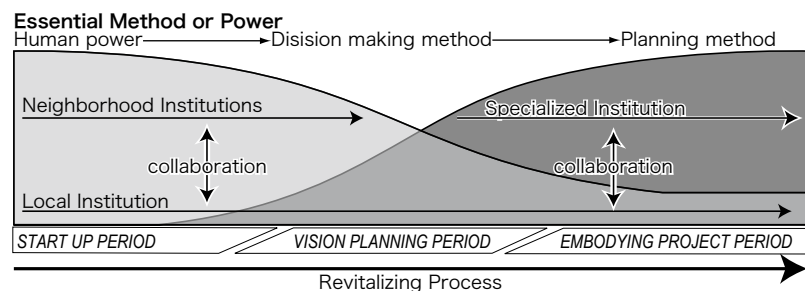
**Fig7. Embodying Workshop**



**Fig8. Revitalization Simulation**

## 4. Conclusion

From the review of this revitalization process, to make supporting formation by the local and nationwide institutions are worthwhile for the effective revitalization. At the beginning of revitalization, local network will work to collect fundamental information and clarified the point of issue. At the second turn, general vision have to be shared and local profession need to heavily support the victims to create general vision. And at last, local and nationwide professional's collaboration can support the revitalization effectively.



**Fig9. Supporting Formation's Transition**

## Reference

- 1) “Guidelines of Disaster Reduction Capability Assessment of Local Public Bodies”, Report, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan, October, 2003
- 2) “Disaster Reduction Capability Self-Assessments for Readiness of All Prefectural Governments”, Press Release, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan, June 21st, 2004
- 3) T. Furuta, ”Safety and Crisis Management (4) --Regional Disaster Prevention Planning and Capability Assessment”, Journal of Regional Development Studies, Toyo University, Vol.8, pp 189 – 204, (2005)

## Author:

**Taro TAGUCHI**

Associate Professor, Department of Architecture and Building Engineering, Niigata Institute of Technology, Niigata Prefecture, Japan. Graduated from Waseda University in 1999. Waseda University granted Ph.D. in 2006. Worked for Policy Research Institute of Odawara, Waseda University Department of Architecture, etc.