

Configuration of Draft Scenario for Systematic Urban Shrinkage of Urban Areas in Depopulating Cities

KIUCHI Nozomu (Dr. Eng.), Head
 Urban Disaster Mitigation Division, Urban Planning Department
 FUJIOKA Keitaro (Dr. Eng.), Head
 Urban Facilities Division, Urban Planning Department
 KATSUMATA Wataru (Dr. Eng.), Senior Researcher
 Urban Development Division, Urban Planning Department

(Key words) *Depopulation, Urban Area Restructuring, Systematic Shrinking*

1. Introduction

Taking into account the predicted population decrease in local cities and rigorous fiscal and environmental restrictions in the future, introduction of “systematic shrinkage of urban areas” seems inevitable in restructuring urban areas and realizing a “compact city type urban structure”. Thus the Urban Planning Department has been deliberating expected urban feature, enforcement requirements, effective steps to carry out and so forth, when implementing such measures. Based on deliberations, of last fiscal year, for examples of relocations of residents, we examined its implementing scenarios.

2. Implementing Process and Elements of Systematic Urban Shrinkage of Urban Areas

First of all, by reference to the process of relocation of depopulated settlements and implementation of urban planning projects, we compiled practical procedures of systematic shrinkage centering on the relocation of residents and arranged them in the following four phases (see Figure).

- (1) Consensus formation: Discriminate the urban area into consolidated and shrinking zones in upper level planning process etc. and obtain an agreement in the latter.
- (2) Preparation of relocation base: While the preparation of relocation to accept residents is carried out in the consolidated zone, new public investment is cancelled in shrinking zones.
- (3) Relocation: After the completion of the relocation base, relocation of residents from the shrinking zone progresses, and in parallel, maintenance management of infrastructure in the degenerating zone is cancelled serially.
- (4) Disposition of vacant lots: Along with finishing relocation from the shrinking zone, initiate improvement as a vacant lot and

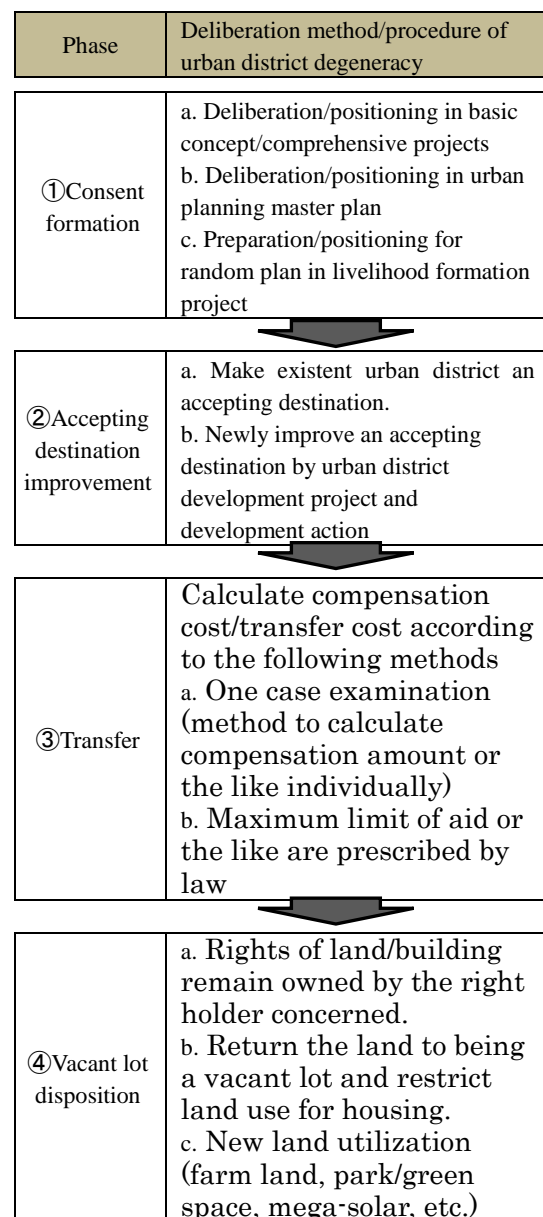


Figure: Implementing process for systematic shrinkage of urban district degeneracy

utilization of the site.

Furthermore, on the premise of the above process, we have arranged composition elements necessary for the formation of the scenario's draft in the following four items.

a) Residents' relocation method and their destinations: The two cases of relocation accompanied by coercive force and voluntary relocation incentives by inhabitants and provision of housing to be an accepting destination by government and securement of destinations by their own exertions are considered. It can be presumed that initially inducing voluntary relocation, and subsequently, transfer to a method to be accompanied by coercive force or the like to a phased combination.

b) Program for phased abolition of facilities and so on: Based on the concept of strategic infrastructure improvement and management, on the premise of differentiation and concentration for service levels on a zone-by-zone basis, from the dual viewpoints of renewal/reduction and repletion/maintenance/abolition, consideration can be carried out on four types: renewal/repletion, renewal/maintenance, reduction/maintenance and reduction/abolition.

c) Program for phased abolition or the like of administrative services: In the process of degeneration, it is difficult to abolish

administrative services for elderly people with low incomes, so a decrease in provision levels and substitution of services with more inexpensive costs becomes the premise. In addition, livelihood assistance services for the elderly in the consolidated zone can be presumed.

d) Content of improvement for transferred vacant lots: Other than the utilization morphology of an open space utilization type, a case to make it a green space also is presumed unless it can be positively utilized.

3. Deliberations based on a scenario draft for systematic shrinkage

The specification of abovementioned processes and the composition elements had been considered in the case study districts and we have established draft scenarios. In the future, based on this draft scenario, the effects of systematic shrinkage of urban areas are scheduled to be calculated and arranged from both aspects of quantitative and qualitative analyses.

[Reference]

1) NILIM Report 2013 "Research on how the systematic shrinking of urban areas in depopulating cities should be"
<http://www.nilim.go.jp/english/annual/annual2013/44.pdf>