

A Case of Utilizing Results

Provision of Support for Municipalities' Initiatives to Plan and Develop Historic Districts

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1. Foreword

With the Act on Maintenance and Improvement of Traditional Scenery in Certain Districts (Historic Districts Planning and Development Act) put into effect in 2008, many municipalities across the nation have actively undertaken initiatives to plan and develop historic districts by taking advantage of their unique heritage and culture. Certified municipalities under the Historic Districts Planning and Development Act have been making strenuous efforts to maintain and improve traditional scenery in their own districts with the support of the national government. Forty-nine municipalities have been certified over six years since the enforcement of this Act and they have been making various efforts to plan and develop their own historic districts. There is an increasing need for these municipalities to share the ideas and expertise that they have built up over the years concerning the planning and development of historic districts. Under these circumstances, NILIM has been engaged in the development of database that collectively summarizes information concerning the certified municipalities' initiatives to plan and develop their historic districts.

2. Opening of Information Website on Planning and Development of Historic Districts

NILIM publishes and makes publicly available the database information on its information website, which was opened in July 2015, in order to help the municipalities improve the operation of the Historic Districts Planning and Development Act and to promote their efforts to plan and develop their historic districts. Information, including basic information, a brief description of traditional scenery, and the status of operation of various systems under the Historic Districts Planning and Development Act for each of these municipalities, is summarized and posted on the *Certified Municipalities* pages. In addition, an information search page is provided on the website so that visitors can search cross-sectionally information on restoration and maintenance projects undertaken by the certified municipalities and historic building and structures whose preservation they have been working on.



Figure 1. Main Menu of the Website



Figure 2. Certified Municipalities Page (e.g. Gifu City)



Figure 3. Information Search Page (e.g. Project search)

3. Next Steps

In order to promote the use of this website, we have been providing technical support to certified municipalities and other municipalities which are planning to apply for certification, including providing explanation thereof. We hope that municipalities will be able to further enhance the attractiveness of their regions to help promote tourism through the use of this website. Going forward, we plan to study the development of a district planning and development scheme through the preservation and utilization of traditional civil engineering construction methods, etc., and evaluate the effectiveness of efforts made by municipalities to plan and develop historic districts, including considering the possibility of introducing the plan-do-check-act (PDCA) cycle.

[Information Website on Planning and Development of Historic Districts]

<http://www.nilim.go.jp/lab/ddg/rekimachidb/>

[Reference]

Akihiko Nishimura: "Opening of Information Website on Planning and Development of Historic Districts, Studies on Effective Civil Engineering Construction Methods for Maintenance and Improvement of Traditional Scenery", *New Cities*, Vol. 69, No. 12, pp. 61-66, 2015