

Research on Urban Functions and Public Spaces Based on New Lifestyles

(Research period: FY2021 to FY2023)

SAKAI Yuri, Senior Researcher, SHINGAI Hiroyasu, Head,
MASHIKO Shintaro, Guest Research Engineer,
Urban Planning Department, Urban Facilities Division,

Key words: new lifestyle, urban function, public space, Interaction effects of public spaces

1. Background and purpose of research

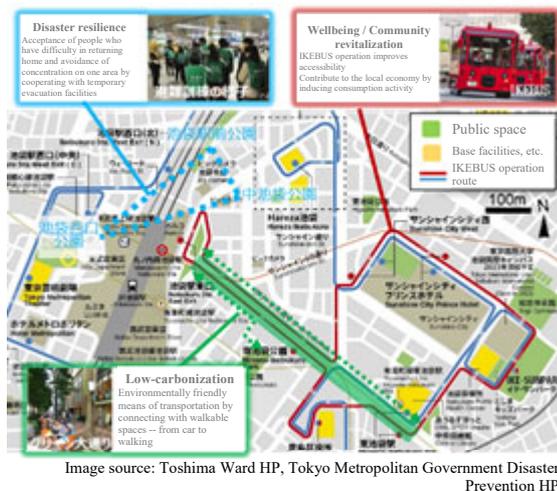


Fig. 1: Image of PS interactions (Ikebukuro Subcenter area)

In keeping with diversification of lifestyles, functions required of cities are also diversifying, and it is now important that urban policies reflect these changes. In response, there are urban functional open spaces in various regions that implement various initiatives such as walkable space formation. However, in order to increase the effectiveness of these initiatives, mutual synergy between multiple open spaces is required. Thus, we have organized the functions required of cities based on new lifestyles, etc., and focus on public spaces ("PS") that serve as hubs for people's activities, aiming to establish a method to grasp the effect of their interaction.

2. Organization of functions required of cities

Through the organization of existing literature, etc., we have organized the basic urban functions, the functions required of cities based on new lifestyles, etc., and the functions to be performed by PS. Among these, we categorized them into several types based on the expected effects of PS interactions ("Interaction effects of PS"). It is categorized into four categories: well-being, community revitalization, disaster resilience, and low carbon emissions (Fig. 1). We decided to investigate the manifestation of these effects.

3. Get an understanding of the effect of PS interactions through interview surveys, etc.

From the aforementioned perspective, in order to verify the existence of PS interaction effect and their factors, etc., we conducted on-site interviews with approximately 200 people in each city, including weekdays and holidays, in the central areas of Yokohama, Kanazawa, and Okazaki. As a result, it became clear that for city dwellers, the presence of multiple PSs is expected to have an impact on wellbeing and community revitalization, such as improvement in the living environment and life satisfaction and expansion of the scope of behaviors and content of activities, and that behavior and consciousness that vary are different depending on the urban spatial characteristics (Fig. 2).

4. Conclusion

In the future, we plan to continue the aforementioned analysis, clarify evaluation items and indicators, etc. to grasp the effect of interaction, and compile the results as a Technical Note of NILIM.

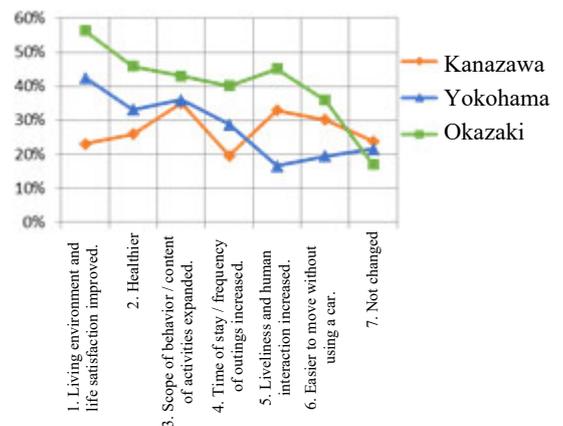


Fig. 2: Changes in behavior and awareness perceived as a result of the connection of the entire survey areas (answers by city dwellers)