

September 1, 2012

Announcement from IGU Commission  
“Sustainability of Rural Systems”

1. Title : 21th Annual Colloquium of the International Geographical Union Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems

2. Venue: Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Nagoya University, JAPAN  
<http://www.env.nagoya-u.ac.jp/en/index.html>

3. Date: 29 July-4 August 2013

4. Main theme: Globalization and New Challenges of Agricultural and Rural Systems

5. Contact : Please send initial queries to: [igu.csrs2013@gmail.com](mailto:igu.csrs2013@gmail.com)

6. Schedule

29th July: Arrive in Nagoya, Welcome Party

30th July: Paper session

31th July: Day Excursion to Atsumi Peninsula

1st August: Paper session, Banquet

2nd - 4th August: Fieldtrip

7. Registration fees (tentative):

Early Registration Fee (prior to June 1) 65,000 JPY

Late Registration Fee (after June 1) 73,000 JPY

Accompanying person Registration Fee 60,000 JPY

Participant who does not join to fieldtrip from 2nd to 4th Aug. : 25,000 JPY

Accompanying person who does not join to fieldtrip from 2nd to 4th Aug. : 20,000 JPY

\* All the fees not include accommodation for the night of 29th July to 1st Aug.

## 8. Organising Committee

Professor Doo-Chul Kim (Chair)

Professor Makoto Takahashi

Professor Takahiro Ito

Professor Katsuyuki Takenaka

Dr Takehiro Morimoto

Dr Satoshi Yokoyama

Dr Katsuki Umeda

Dr. Daichi Kohmoto

Dr Takuya Hayashi

Mr. Yasuo Ichikawa

## 9. Outline of fieldtrip

2nd August: (Departure from Nagoya) *Shirakawa-go* in Gifu Prefecture (remote mountainous area with highly influenced by tourism after designated as a UNESCO world heritage site, ( <http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e5950.html> ), a depopulated mountainous village for the comparison with Shirakawa-go, Tonami dispersed settlement in Toyama Prefecture, Night stay in Tonami City

3rd August: *Noto* Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture (Satoyama, Satoumi Project, world agricultural heritage...) Night stay near Sabae city in Fukui Prefecture

4th August: Biwa Lake in Shiga Prefecture (Environmental friendly agriculture, organic rice paddies...) stop at Kyoto International Conference Center (IGU Congress venue <http://www.icckyo.or.jp/en/index.html> ) (end of excursion)

### 31th July : Atsumi Peninsula (Day Excursion)

#### **Sustainable or Neo-productivist Agricultural Development?**

The Atsumi Peninsula, located in the southeast part of Aichi Prefecture, is a leading agricultural area for vegetable and flower production in Japan. During the rapid economic growth of Japan, the traditional agricultural activities of the Atsumi were dramatically changed from the upland field farming of sweet potato, wheat and barley to vegetable and flower horticulture as a result of the construction of Toyokawa irrigation canal. Farmers have continuously adopted new techniques on vegetable and flower cultivation to increase their farm productivity and to withstand the interregional competitions. The Atsumi has evolved a mega producing area of cabbage, melon, and Chrysanthemums since 1980's. The

agricultural cooperative of Atsumi has played an important role in the formation of mega producing area of their products by the construction of automatic distribution factories to encourage growers to expand their production and by marketing to Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya urban regions. The Atsumi has kept one of leading position of the Japanese productivist agriculture region. However, vegetable growers have obtained the certification on environmental-friendly farming by the agricultural ministry of Japan since 2000's. This eco-farming trends implicate the future of sustainable development of the Atsumi agriculture. The excursion will provide opportunities for discussing the issues with regard to the productivism and sustainable agricultural development of Japan.

2nd August: *Shirakawa-go* & Tonami dispersed settlement (**sankyo-son**)

#### **Rural tourism relives remote mountain villages?**

The central highland of Japan includes one of the most important rural landscapes on mountain villages. Gassho-zukuri village in Shirakawa-go is listed as a site of the World Heritage in 1995. Gassho-zukuri is a house built of wooden beams combined to form a steep thatched roof that resembles two hands together. It is the ideal style to slip snow on roof, as the cumulative amount of snowfall reaches 10m in winter. The houses stand in a certain direction to adjust the amount of sun in order to keep the room cool in the summer and warm in the winter. In the afternoon, we will visit the dispersed settlement (sankyo-son) on the Tonami plain, the reprehensive rice farming area in Japan. Farmers' house surrounded by residential trees (Yashiki-rin) are scattered among rice paddies. The unique farming and living style utilizing rich nature is still alive in the dispersed settlement.

3rd August : *Noto* Peninsula designated as a site of GIAHS

This peninsula was designated as a site of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) by FAO in June 2011, and this was the first case along with *Sado* Island in Japan. The focal points of Noto Peninsula are its "Satoyama" and "Satoumi". "Satoyama" is a Japanese term which means socio-ecological production landscapes that combine small scale agriculture and forest, and "Satoumi" means marine-coastal ecosystems. They have been shaped over the hundreds of years by the interaction between people with nature, but most of them are changing to abandoned landscapes. Although a few residents in Noto Peninsula know the GIAHS until this June, some sites such as *Shiroyone Senmaida* (Terraced Rice Fields), traditional events, and local food have been tourist-attractions. Moreover, many people, universities, and governments have tried to develop local governance and managers of "Satoyama" and "Satoumi" in the peninsula to realize a model of sustainable society.

4th August: The Lake of Biwa and its Watershed

**From water pollution to environmental friendly agriculture**

The Lake of Biwa is the largest freshwater lake in Japan, located in Shiga Prefecture close to the Kyoto and Osaka conurbation of the second largest in Japan, providing drinking water for approximately 15 million people of the conurbation. The people have developed the local ways of life in close relationship to the lake, including inland fisheries, dye and textile industries, paddy farming, and so on. Nowadays, for example, we can see the landscape of small lowland villages and towns in the canal networks that are connected to the lake, and which have been used for drinking, washing and transportation. In the period of the post-war economic growth, the region's proximity to the conurbation brought about the rapid housing and industrial developments of the region. Especially in the late 1960s, the region's growing population and the industrial relocations from the central conurbations caused severe environmental problems, including water pollution. To address such problems, in the early 1980s, the local people began to organize anti-pollution campaigns, and the local government enforced the legislation to prevent eutrophication regulating the household effluent and industrial waste. In 1993 the lake was designated as a Ramsar Wetland to protect its biodiversity. Recently, local governmental and non-governmental organizations, sometimes in collaboration with each other, take initiative in a variety of environmental practices at the grassroots level. For example, a Japan-wide environmental movement well known as "*Nanohana* (oil-seed rape) Eco Project" was originated from a local town named Aicho-cho in the region. This attempts to interconnect farming and living sectors through cultivation of oil-seed rape and collection of waste cooking oil. Also, they has developed some environmentally friendly agriculture, partly organized by the local farmers cooperatives, including organic farming, chemical-free cultivation, and so on. On the day 7 (4th August 2013), we will stop at several key places of such environmental practices in Shiga Prefecture before arriving the final destination, Kyoto International Conference Center. (\*Kyoto IGU Congress from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August.)