

## Making “Composting” useful---Visit to a recycling site

On 29 May, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) conducted a visit to Ichinomiya City, Aichi Prefecture as part of its 37<sup>th</sup> International Training Course in Regional Development. Government officials and foreign students from eleven developing countries, including India, learned about the food recycling business launched by JA Aichi Economic Federation and a major supermarket company, Uny.

This training aimed at allowing the participants to understand the proper treatment of waste such as the composting of food waste so that it can be applied in each of their countries.

The food recycling business visited by the participants was begun in 2003. The JA Aichi Economic Federation, Uny supermarket, and compost producers of Aichi Prefecture worked in cooperation in composting leftover food collected from the stores. Farmers in Aichi Prefecture then use it to produce agricultural products, and also sell it in retail shops.

The participants confirmed how kitchen garbage is separated and what is involved in the collection process at the supermarket. They then listened to a short lecture by D.I.D. Co., Ltd., a compost producer, on how it is produced. They also studied the effects of using compost at the field of Mr. Teiichi Sato, a farmer who uses the compost.

Mr. Shizuo Sawada, who is in charge of food recycling at JA Aichi Economic Federation, said, “I hope they will utilize the circulation mechanism overseas in their countries.”

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**「堆肥化」役立てて  
リサイクル現場視察**  
UNCRD 国際研修

国際連合地域開発センター(UNCRD)は29日、愛知県一宮市などで「地域開発国際研修」を行った。インドなど発展途上の11カ国の行政官や留学生らが、JAあいち経済連とスーパーのエニシが取り組む食品リサイクル事業を学んだ。

研修は、生ごみの堆肥(たひひ)化など、畜産で適正処理を学び、各国で生かしてもらう担い。今回視察した豊原リサイクル事業は、2003年から開始。あいち経済連とスーパーのエニシ、県内の堆肥製造業者が連携し、店から出る生ごみを堆肥にし、県内農家が使って農産物を生産、店舗で売っている。

参加者はスーパーでの食品残さの分別、回収作業などを確認。その後、一宮市にある堆肥製造業者、㈱D.I.Dで堆肥の製造過程の説明を受けた。堆肥を使う愛西市の農家・佐藤吉一さん(62)の畑で、堆肥の効果などを学んだ。

食品リサイクルを推進する、同経済連の澤田孝

雄さんは「循環の仕組みを海外でも役立ててもらいたい」と語った。

リサイクル堆肥を使った畑で、佐藤さんの話を聞く参加者 (29日、愛知県愛西市で)

The Japan Agricultural News  
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## Ten Developing Countries Learn about “tourism” from Obuse Town

<Nagano> Though being the smallest of towns in Nagano Pref., Obuse-cho became a world-famous tourist site by taking advantage of its historical heritage. On 9 May, thirteen government officials from developing countries participating in the International Training Course in Regional Development being conducted by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), visited the town, where they learned about its unique *machizukuri* method with the hope of applying it to be the development of their countries.

Obuse-cho, a tiny town with a population of 11,100, and land area of 190,000 km<sup>2</sup>, is so small that you can just take a walk to see the sights. Despite it being a tiny town, it has established itself as a famous tourist site with more than 1 million visitors every year.

One of the main reasons that this tiny town in the Shinshu Area became famous even overseas is its unique way of *machizukuri*. The town promoted *machizukuri* based on three keywords; “Hokusai Katsushika,” an Ukiyo-e artist of the Edo Period who spent his late years in this town; local product of “chestnuts,” and “flowers”.

On this day, government officials from ten countries, including Bangladesh, Colombia, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Myanmar, visited the town. During their stay in Japan of one-and-a-half months, they are studying about topics such as “environment” and “sustainable development” to utilize those aspects towards the development of their respective countries.

At the Town Office, Town Mayor Mr. Ryoza Ichimura explained the town’s history saying, “When Japan entered the period of rapid economic growth, most towns focused on attracting companies, but Obuse chose to become *a town focused on agriculture*.” He added, “If you walk a little farther from the centre of town, you will find yourself surrounded by rustic scenery. Smallness has been a merit for us.”

Following the briefing, the participants visited an area that has retained its historical townscape, and a *machizukuri* company that operates a guesthouse, etc., which is being operated by the townspeople. Truong Quang Hoang from Viet Nam (36) shared his impression of the town saying, “What strikes me is that the townspeople took note of the good aspects of the town and acted on their own initiative. In Viet Nam, even though we have quite a lot of regional assets, they are hardly being utilized. I’d like to make use of what I learned from this town.”

# 途上10カ国 「観光」小布施町に学べ

△長野▽県内で最も小さな町ながら、歴史的資産を活かし、世界に知られる観光地となった小布施町。国際連合地域開発センターの「地域開発国際研修コース」に参加する開発途上国の行政官ら13人が9日、同町を訪問、そのユニークな町づくりの手法を自国の発展に活かそうと熱心に視察した。

小布施町は人口約1万1000人、面積約19平方キロ。徒歩で観光できるほど小さな自治体だが、年間100万人以上が訪れる有数の観光地でもある。信州の小さな町が海外でも知られるようになってきた理由の一つに独特の町づくりがある。この町で晩年を過ごした江戸時代の浮世絵師「葛飾北斎」、名産の「栗」「花」の3つをキーワードに町おこしを展開し

てきた。この日訪れたのは、パングラデシュやコロンビア、エチオピア、ウガンダ、ミャンマーなど10カ国の行政官ら。約1カ月半、日本に滞在し、環境や持続可能な開発などを自国の発展に活かすため学んでいる。町役場で市村長三町長から「日本が高度経済成長期に入ったときに多くの町が企業誘致を目指す中、小布施は『農業立町』を選択した」と町の成り立ちについて紹介され、「町の中心部から少し歩けば農村風景に変わる。町が小さいことが逆にメリットになる」と説明を受けた。



その後、町内に残された古い町並みや、ゲストハウスなどを運営する町民がおこなった町作り会社などを見学した。写真。ベトナム人のチュン・クワン・ホアンさん(36)は「町民が町の良さに気付き、自ら行動を起こしている点が印象深かった。ベトナムでは地域資産を持ちながらそれを活かせていないケースがほとんど。参考にしたいですね」と話していた。

## Kozoji New Town Visit to Learn about *Machizukuri*

Thirteen government officials and foreign university students, who are studying *machizukuri* at UNCRD, visited Kozoji New Town in Kasugai City on 17 May.

The inspection team included government officials from 10 countries including India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Ethiopia, and two foreign students from Viet Nam. They are learning about development, environmental policy, and disaster mitigation and others from 14 May to 24 June.

On 17 May, they received a lecture on Kozoji New Town at the Urban Renaissance Agency, Chubu Branch and later took a bus to visit the town. The tour included Sun Marche shopping mall at Kasugai City Chuodai, East Community Center, and Takamoriyama Park.

From the rooftop of Sun Marche South Building, they looked at the apartment buildings. The participants actively asked questions such as “How much is the rent?” “Who owns the land?”

A student from Viet Nam currently studying at Okayama University on environmental issues, Nguyen Phuc Thanh (29) said, “The apartments seem to have been built in a carefully planned way, and they look pleasant to live in. We also need such facilities in Viet Nam in the future.”

Chunichi Shinbun, 18 June 2009

