

Laboratory of Urban and Regional Planning

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Outline of research

Urban and regional planners must address the issues facing both cities and regions in Japan, such as globalization, declining and aging populations, and climate change. There are many important environmental issues affecting regional policy and planning; for example, how to control urbanization and preserve natural environments, how to improve living environments, how to develop low-carbon cities, and how to aid in the development of green economies. Balancing economic and social concerns is necessary in order to achieve sustainable cities and regions.

We conduct research related to urban and regional planning systems and the policies responsible for the implementation of spatial vision through the collaborative processes among governments, private industry, and the citizenry.

Research themes

- **Transformation of spatial policy and planning due to globalization and decentralization, particularly in European Countries**

Due to their integration into the European Union, cities and regions in European countries have had to tackle issues such as increased competitiveness, mitigation of and adaptation to prevent climate change, and ameliorate regional disparities. Urban and regional planners in Japan can learn from spatial planning in these nations.



- **Formulation of processes in regional governance of city-regions to improve regional competitiveness and maintain social services**

Decentralization increases the importance of regional governance in promoting sustainable regions.



- **Development of sustainable urban policies and activities (*Machidukuri*) in city centers to attract both locals and tourists**

We are focusing on the role of related bodies (local governments, local citizens, and private companies) in sustainable urban regeneration.

How can we implement regional governance for sustainable city-regions?