

Integrated Coastal Management as a Tool for Enhancement of Local Community Coastal Resources: A Case Study of Munakata Coastal Zone

Haruyuki Kojima*

Toshiya Kubo

Akira Kinoshita

Hideo Saito

Kyushu Kyoritsu University
1-8 Jiyugaoka, Yahatanishi-ku, Kitakyushu City
Fukuoka, Japan
E-mail Address: kojima@kyukyo-u.ac.jp

Japan is now at a starting stage for an integrated coastal management practice. In April 2007, the Basic Act on Ocean Policy was enacted and Article 25 stipulates the integrated coastal zone management (ICZM). It is the first time that the stipulation with cross-sectoral comprehensive ocean management has appeared in Japanese statute act. Before enactment of this act, the National Land Agency issued the guidelines for comprehensive management of coastal zones in 2000. It is well-written guidelines based on international standard. Moreover, it is written as the complementing document to the "National Comprehensive Development Plan" which was endorsed by the Cabinet in 1998, so it was anticipated of its effectiveness or any compelling force. However no programs or plans, which meet the guidelines, have been developed, except for case studies in which several local governments have formulated comprehensive management plans with full financial support and human resources from the Ministry of Land, Transport and Tourism (MLIT). One of the main reasons for this lies in highly utilization of Japanese coastal zones such as human settlement, agriculture, industry, trade, fishery, and recreation, which results in involvement of many sectors and stakeholders. Another reason is long-established practices of segmentalized management by sectors and different administrative organizations. To overcome these obstacles, MLIT has launched a case study program to help local government to develop a local framework for ICM and identify local issues in coastal zone.



23-27 November • Manila, Philippines

“Integrated Management Plan of the Munakata Coastal Zone” is one of such case studies. Munakata city is located in between two mega cities, Fukuoka and Kitakyushu, both of which are government ordinance cities. The Munakata coastal zone is designated as Genkai Quasi-National Park and faces the Sea of Genkai. About 60 km offshore from the coast, there are Munakata Oshima island, the biggest island in the prefecture, and Jinoshima island. Because there are four fishing ports, this area is blessed with an abundance of fresh seafood. Especially, Kanezaki fishing port with more than 6,000 tons of fish is one of the largest fishery grounds in Fukuoka Prefecture. These fishing ports and islands in the Genkai Sea are the important industrial bases as well as a healing place for many visitors seeking for fresh seafood and scenic beauty of the coast.

This paper first reviews the history of integrated coastal management practices in Japan and recent movement toward Japanese government decision to develop an ICM program. Next, the paper reports on initiative of local government to develop the ICM plan, “Integrated Management Plan of the Munakata Coastal Zone,” one of the case studies mentioned above. The plan consists of two initiatives:

1. Enhancement of coastal tourism that leads to development of tour programs in which people enjoy actual marine activities and stay longer at Munakat city.
2. Coordination among recreational users that leads to formulation of common rules to prevent conflicts and accidents that might occur on using recreational resources in the coastal zone.

The paper also discusses results of a survey to find out what various users like bathers, surfers, fishermen and marine sport vehicle drivers think about the rules and their effectiveness.