SYLLABUS _Field Research
110913sk

Field Research: Utatsu Fishing Villages, Miyagi
Disaster-Resilient Planning, Design & Reconstruction
Fall 2011@Minamisanriku

Members:
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Consultants:
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PREMISE
Minamisanriku is comprised of numerous villages which have been destroyed by
the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Many are micro-fishing
settlements harbored within characteristically beautiful bays along the Sanriku
coastline. These have been traditionally the home of a highly productive
scallop, urchin, oyster, konbu niche market. These communities, as long-
standing well-knit social groups are solidly committed to their post-disaster
recovery of their livelihood and the reconstruction of their environment. There is
great doubt however as to the central government’s part in meeting the needs of
these people relative to timeliness and appropriateness of support. A sense of
abandonment and a delayed roadmap for their future pervade at this point, half-
a-year now past 3/11.

PROJECT
On-site survey of selected fishing villages in Utatsu, Minamisanriku-cho utilizing
the Transect/Rapid Visual Site Analysis method. This method was introduced
by the MIT group in July 2011 with highly successful results for the central area
of Utatsu district. During this fall, the field research members will focus on
taking the Transect method further to identify specific disaster-resilient planning
recommendations, working closely with the people of these communities.
Through this study and by publicizing its results, our goal is to enable funding
support and realistic reconstruction visions for a sustainable future particularly at
these precious seacoast village scales.

END PRODUCT: Planning Strategies for the Villages
Report & Publication, Symposium Presentations

OUTLINE
SCHEDULE: October, November, December 2011

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Supporting References URL: http/mit.edu.japan3-11
Appendix Proposal: MIT Japan 3/11 Initiative