

PROJECT_ Strategies for Small Coastal Villages

110913sk

Field Research: Disaster-Resilient Planning, Design & Reconstruction
Fall 2011@Minamisanriku

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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 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