

Panel Discussion on the Temporal Urban Design Toward the New Kirishima City to be Operated in Coming November, 2005

Professor Emeritus **Thomas L Bosworth**
University of Washington (USA)

Thank you all for the privilege and honor to share with you this afternoon a few thoughts which I hope will be useful to you.

First, regarding Professor Ando's address, I wholeheartedly support his analysis. Time is life, not money, and life does have three stages of which the third life contains the activity of the individual which is most important to both the individual and to society.

Second, I would add to Professor Ando's thoughtful recommendations to you one of my own which has to do with process. I recommend that a competition be held which will help identify the characteristics which unify the city and the six towns, and which also identify the characteristics of the city and the six towns which make each unique and different one from another.

Several possible unifying factors come to my mind: 1) The Joman heritage could be celebrated with museums, developed archeological sites to aide education and awareness, and staged recreations as a part of civic festivals. 2) The original configuration of the Amori River and its four tributaries could be celebrated by identifying its original shoreline with landscape features, bridges, paths, explanatory storyboards and maps, to encourage citizens to seek its ancient location and experience their common river cultural history. 3) Build a museum of a full scale replica of the great 17th Century tunnel which made the Amori River diversion and the subsequent taming of the valley possible.

The characteristics of the city and each of the six towns which make each of them different and special I cannot comment on, because I have no knowledge about them at this time.

The competition I am proposing should be local and regional. The people living in the area should be exclusively permitted to enter and participate. And they will, of course, use and enjoy their individual creativity. Children as well as adults, citizens at large as well as artists, architects and planners should be welcomed.

The reviewing judges and facilitators should also be local and regional, from the Amori River Valley, and they too will be able to use their individual creativity as part of their third life.

The emphasis on local participation at all levels of the competition which I am encouraging will help, I sincerely hope, to counteract the current and prevalent drive toward globalization, and will help to encourage the specialness and the distinctions of the Amori River Valley

The competition should be festive and should have several stages, with a maximum of participation from all facets and ages of society. The competition should help establish a tradition of a yearly festival which celebrates the unifying characteristics of the valley and which also identifies the uniqueness of each of the six towns and the city.

Thank you for your attention. Are there questions or suggestions?

Professor **Roberto Pompoli**
Department of Engineering, University of Ferrara (Italy)

The Prospectus of Kirishima Renaissance Conference, analyzing the modern society, makes evidence of some fundamental and relevant points such as:

- the arrogant and oppressive power of economy ("time is money");
- the misuse and abuse of technology supported and produced by the economy's laws;
- the threat for the mankind and for the environment due to such an abuse.

The Prospectus proposes some solutions for these threats which can be synthesized in creating a favorable environment where the third stage of the life, the individual life, may express its creativity and reveal the "mysteries solvable only by each person's individuality, which will never be generated again".

I agree with this analysis and with the proposals.

"Time is money"

The idea that the development and progress of a nation and of a society depend on its economy is true only in part. The use

of only economical indicators to establish the development of a society is misleading and produces dangerous and irreversible effects on the society as it protracts and amplifies, endlessly, many negative aspects.

Rightly, some International Organizations for the Cooperation are going to propose new indices, where other aspects of the human development are taken into account: the attention is shifted from the economic indices toward the single individual conditions.

The concepts of development and wellbeing must overcome the simple possession of goods and availability of services but consider what they permit to do for each individuals. Goods and services are just "means" to obtain wellbeing. It is important to look at what each single person may "do" and may "be" with the means and the abilities he has at disposal.

Therefore it is the single person who must be at the center of criteria which want to evaluate the development of a society or a community.

The misuse and abuse of technology

Technology, as Science, is a beautiful and fantastic product of the activity and intelligence of mankind. Technology makes available goods for individuals and for the society; it makes the life easy and comfortable. Technology has to be on duty for mankind.

However, the idea that the progress of a community depends mainly from its economics has pushed the use of technology to unacceptable levels: and now technology is seen as a threat. The hegemony of technology in the modern world has produced irreversible effects and environmental destruction and it is now threatening the life on the earth.

The environment is seriously compromise and damaged; the energetic resources are dramatically reducing in the world; the quality of human life in many cases is degraded. Also the freedom of persons has been reduced.

There is no time for inter-relations in the family and in the society; there is no time for think about the fundamental questions for every human beings: who am I ? from where do I come? To where am I going? What the meaning is of my life? In the modern society it seems that there is no time to try to give answers to these basic questions.

I should like also to mention a lateral, but very dangerous, effect produced by the hegemony of technology at least in Italy and in Europe: young population shows the tendency to reduce his interest for all the Sciences in favor of just the Technology. This behavior is producing an impressive decrease of students who applied for scientific studies as

mathematics, physics and chemistry. The impression is that many countries are weakening or worse, loosing, the fundamental basis for doing research and for developing new knowledge.

What to do?

The Prospectus evokes the word Renaissance: the shining period of the human history which was preceded and characterized by Humanism, when the person was put at the center of every investigation.

It's time to return to this behavior and to look for a new-humanism to get a new-renaissance.

The development and progress of a society depend on the satisfaction of each of its members, of each of the persons who belong to this community. This satisfaction concerns the body and the mind of the individual. The progress should guarantee the different needs and demands of a person which concern the manifold dimensions of human life, or better, as the Prospectus proposes, of the "third life" or "the individual life".

The new-humanism, which is here wished, should put again the man and his needs and demands at the center of all the actions which a community undertakes for developing and progressing. Only in this way it will be possible to talk about a real progress where every person may express his potentialities and accomplish his aspirations.

In this context the role taken by education is essential. Because in this new-humanism the person, with his manifold interests, will be the reference point of the progress, the education system should emphasized the many faces of the culture: history; philosophy; natural, mathematical and physical sciences; the sciences of life; the humanistic and social disciplines; arts, music and theatre, and so on.

Let me conclude saying that I am convinced that a strong support to this new-humanism will be given by the cognitive sciences and by neuroscience which are investigating and discovering how the body and the mind of every person are relating with the external world.

As pointed out in the opening key lecture of this Conference, from the simple cell, to the most complex organism, as the human body, the life is controlled by the "homeodynamic" machine, the system which adjusts, instant by instant, all the vital processes in every living beings.

This control starts when a modification appears in the external or internal environment of an organism. These modifications may cause a threat for its integrity or an opportunity to better:

the organism, through its homeodynamic machine, estimates and reacts to reach the most convenient situation for its conservation and efficiency.

What is worthy to note is that this homeodynamic machine does not tend only to a neutral condition where the life is just possible, but it guides the processes towards “well-being” conditions. This homeodynamic machine is the result of the evolution contained in the genome of every living beings.

According to many findings, the homeodynamic system does not react only at biological level but also at psychological level: it is the mind that, thanks to the emotions and the feelings, guides the human life towards “well-being” conditions. Choices, actions, behaviours of every single person can be interpreted, in many cases, as the results of the homeodynamic machine’s activity which governs our personal and social life.

Understanding the homeodynamic machine will make it possible to better know how every person will be in relation with himself and with his external world to get welfare conditions of his own life.

The Prospectus concludes with the activities which are supporting the Kirishima Renaissance Conference: let me propose that the results of such activities will be formalise in a chart, the “Kirishima Chart”, where all the principle discussed during the conference will be stated.

Professor Wu Shuoxian

Department of Architecture, South China University of Technology (China)

It’s my honor to have the opportunity to be here to contribute a short comment on Kirishima urban designing and planning. Like a man, a city has its history, the process of becoming which is closely connected with the people who live in the city. The buildings and other physical environments will live vividly in the mind of people. Therefore, keeping and reserving the most important and valuable buildings and other built-environments, including landscapes and soundscapes, are important tasks for the local government. In this way, the special distribution of historic buildings, sites and other physical environments will show the temporal process of the city.

Kirishima has beautiful scenery, geographic gems such as hot springs, historic heritages such as shrines and cultural traditions, such as music festival, which is regularly held here every year. The developing and planning of tourism and cultural properties are beneficial to the environment and to the

cultivation of a person’s individuality. In China, there is a proverb saying, “Writing articles is a permanent work”. Here the “articles” means all kinds of valuable scientific and creative works of humanities. These works will remain in history even after their authors have lost their lives. It is suggested that the local government put more attention to establishing education, science and culture facilities such as schools, universities, theatres, opera halls and gymnasiums, etc. The development of forestry, agriculture, fishing and livestock husbandry is another matter worth endeavoring.

The information, communication as well as the transportation systems connecting all municipalities are all lines of huge importance that resemble the blood vessels of the human body for a city or city cluster. When doing urban design, the future development of these systems has to be taken into accounts, for a well-organized information or transportation network will certainly accelerate the exchange of information and goods.

Therefore, we need to encourage other people to develop a new lifestyle which costs less energy and thus be beneficial to the surroundings. Let us appropriately adjust and slow down our lift and work rhythm physically and mentally so that it can fits much better into the natural time cycle of our bodies which was effectively adopted from our evolution. In this way, we will effectively reduce our stress and promote our health. Architects are appreciated for their efforts in preserving the environment and in reducing energy consumption throughout the sustainable design and construction process.

I wish this area, the city and the people a bright future. Thank you!

Professor Jin Yong Jeon

School of Architectural Engineering, Hanyang University (Korea)

Kokubu City will expand by incorporating 6 neighboring towns creating a new city in Kirishima province. These days there are many cases of this kind of expansion and consolidation in Japan. I believe that main purpose of this type of expansion is the decentralization of authority. I hope my comments based on the Prospectus are helpful in establishing an “Identity” for Kirishima’s newest city.

As a result of this expansion, you will need to address the following issues:

1. There must be a corresponding expansion of the public transportation system, shopping and commercial areas as well as medical treatment facilities for the inhabitants

of this new city. Moreover, there is a need for cooperation among Kokubu and the 6 neighboring towns in terms of the administration of this new city.

2. Promotion of the decentralization of authority. Each of the seven municipalities in this new city should decide their own policies and bear the responsibility for public services. The new city will require a sufficiently large population to ensure a large tax base for government and public services.
3. Care for an aging population in a time of a dwindling tax base due to a low birth rate. Centers for the aged must be funded and built throughout the new city. This will require the sharing of resources in order to fund centers in the rural areas. The problem of resource allocation is not just limited to the taking care of an aging population. The new city will need to decide how to effectively use their limited financial resources for the benefit of all inhabitants.

These three areas of concern are those faced by all cities undergoing expansion by consolidation. However, the 'naturalness' of Kirishima should be maintained while these areas of concern are addressed.

I read the 'Kirishima Renaissance Conference Prospectus' which originated from the Temporal Design concept developed by Professor Yoichi Ando. I admire Professor Ando's idea and I am sure that the concept of "the liberation of individuality" is a very important issue for all societies. The individual should be responsible to other individuals and the environment. Conversely, the environment, such as that envisioned for the new city should ensure the population's health, physical and spiritual well-being, and personal development.

In light of these concerns, I think the new city should be:

- i) Communicative, in other words, a dialogue should exist between the people and the environment. Development should consider the effect on the environment. Moreover, the inhabitants should watch how the environment responds to development and be prepared to take the appropriate measures.
- ii) Representational, especially for the integration of urban artifacts. Kirishima already has its own identity and therefore any new structures should reflect this identity in terms of form and function.

I believe the 'Soundscape' study can contribute to the New Kirishima's 'temporal design'. The purpose of the research is to find and preserve the natural sounds of Kirishima by controlling both internal and external sounds. The research outcome may include:

- i) Definition of Kirishima sounds

- ii) Sound control in Kirishima
- iii) Recommendations for land use in and around Kirishima as a result of 'Soundscape' study.

I do hope the above-mentioned is understandable and helpful in the design of New Kirishima City.