

(Research Report)

A Study on Safe and Secure Dwellings: Challenges and Prospects for Collective Housing

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Keywords: collective housing, community relations program, common space

The first “Public Collective Housing” (government-managed) in Japan was brought in Hyogo Prefecture, disaster area of Hanshin Great Earthquake. The housing which provides shared space such as dining hall, come to public attention as an advanced model of ideal “occupants’ mutually-supportive life”.

In Hyogo, 10 building (341 houses) had been built so far, and in 2008, we have conducted occupant questionnaire. As a result, 70 percent of occupants are satisfied with their present life. Meanwhile, over 30 percent are concerned about aging of occupants. Some of them are appealing; “Everyone got older.” “This situation burdens active occupants who help the elderly.”

The result also showed that the average age of all occupants is mid-70’s, and which causes community relations programs and interaction of occupants less and less, thus people expect the young to move in. However, there are some houses where occupants enjoy interactions and activities by the consecutive support of volunteers and themselves.

Housings, building in other prefectures such as Nagasaki and Osaka, are facing same kinds of problem. Also, not public but private-managed ones have different kinds of problem.

On the basis of these results, I made 4 recommendations: (1) inquest of method to adjust the balance of ages (2) aggressive support from outside by utilizing shared space as bases of NPO, for instance (3) more support and involvement by prefecture (local government) (4) make shared space and bring in the idea of “Collective Housing” in other complex housings.

Citation:

Tatsuya Kishimoto (2010), “A Study on Safe and Secure Dwellings: Challenges and Prospects for Collective Housing,” *Annals of Hyogo Earthquake Memorial 21st Century Research Institute*, vol. 14/15, pp.60-79.