

The Relevance Between Miyazawa Kenji Museum and Urban Construction in Japan

Yi-ching Tsai
Zhaoqing University
Zhaoqing, China

Abstract—This paper not only collates the data of the Japanese literature memorial halls but also discusses the relationship between the urban construction and Miyazawa Kenji Museum located in Hanamaki. With regard to how the Kenji City Development Division affiliated to the municipal government coordinates with local organizations in the planning of various activities, this paper briefly investigates how Hanamaki City combines the experiences and works of the local writer Miyazawa Kenji with the local natural, cultural and historical elements, and how Hanamaki City publicizes them to the Japanese people through series of activities to make tourism in remote local city more active. This paper would give a reference for exploring local writers' experiences used in planning urban construction in other countries.

Keywords—literature memorial halls; Miyazawa Kenji Museum; urban construction; Japan

I. INTRODUCTION

"Urban construction" is generally defined as "the process of seeking improvement in both hardware and software in order to enable local residents to live a better life". In most cases, the residents are the main body, or the administration and residents cooperate together to protect the arts, relics and other cultural buildings which determine the landscape such as the cultural region of the residential areas in order to seek the "sustainable possibility" of stabilizing the region in the future and achieve the regeneration or revitalization of the region in a sense. This paper takes Japan as an example to sort out the data of the implementation of the literature memorial halls and takes Miyazawa Kenji Museum as an example to explore its tourism activity effects for urban construction.

II. COMPOSITION OF THE EXISTING JAPANESE LITERATURE MUSEUMS OR MEMORIAL HALLS

This chapter mainly focuses on the *National Literature Museums Guide* (Shogakukan Inc) edited and published by National Literature Museum Hall Council in 2013 to make clear the composition of the existing Japanese literature museums or memorial halls.

A. Classification by Regions

After consulting the list of the book, it could be confirmed that the editorial office arranged all literature

museums or memorial halls into eight regions by Japan's geography from north to south and sorted out all the 53 provinces and counties under the eight regions. The order of the eight regions is as following: Hokkaido region, Tohoku region, Kangtou region, Chubu region, Kinki region, Chukoku region, Shikoku region and Kyushu region. In proportion, the top five provinces or counties having most literature facilities in Japan are as following: Tokyo City (71 facilities), Hokkaido (68 facilities), Nagano County (38 facilities), Shizuoka County (24 facilities), Hyogo County (21 facilities). And the last five counties having least literature facilities in Japan are as following: Saga County (1 facility), Tokushima County (4 facilities), Kagawa County (5 facilities), Kagoshima County (6 facilities), Hukuyama County (6 facilities). However, the book does not examine Okinawa County.

In addition, despite the scales of literature facilities, the data of literature facilities numbers listed in eight regions are sorted out as follows:

- There are 62 facilities in Hokkaido and 6 of them are named after literary writers.
- There are 88 facilities in Tohoku Region and 11 of them are named after literary writers.
- There are 141 facilities in Kangtou Region and 23 of them are named after literary writers.
- There are 149 facilities in Chubu Region and 18 of them are named after literary writers.
- There are 68 facilities in Kinki Region and 8 of them are named after literary writers.
- There are 59 facilities in, Chukoku Region and 5 of them are named after literary writers.
- There are 31 facilities in Shikoku Region and 9 of them are named after literary writers.
- There are 51 facilities in Kyushu Region and 9 of them are named after literary writers.

That is to say, there are a total of 649 literature facilities in Japan, and 89 of them are named after literary writers, accounted to about 13%.

B. Characteristics of Literature Facilities in Japan

The planning features or characteristics of literature facilities in Japan can be roughly divided into two aspects: using the reconstruction of original buildings, and adopting the new designs of buildings. And the former could be divided into two aspects and the latter could be divided into three aspects.

1) *Using the reconstruction of original buildings:* The reconstruction of existing historical buildings can be summarized as the following two kinds: renovation of historic buildings or renovation of a dwelling or former residence of the writer.

a) *Renovation of historic buildings:* For example, Kamakura Literature Museum used Kaga Maeda Marquis's villa built in 1936 in Kamakura and repaired the western pavilion to reopen. Fukuoka Literature Museum is operated by two buildings in the city. The old one called Red Tile Literature Facility is a Western-styled building designed by the architect Tatsuno Kingo (辰野金吾, 1854 – 1919). It celebrates its 100th anniversary of the building in 2009. These two take advantage of the ways to reuse historical buildings to highlight local characteristics.

b) *Renovation of a dwelling or former residence of the writer*: For example, the writer Yoshikawa Eiji (吉川英治, 1892-1962) lived in his old home in Oume City for 10 years in his later years. And in his dwelling, Yoshikawa Eiji Memorial was opened in 1977. The writer Mushanokoji Saneatsu (武者小路实笃, 1885-1976) lived in Chohu for 20 years in his later years, and in his residence opened the Chohu City Mushanokoji Saneatsu Shidu Memorial Hall in 1985. Hara Asao Memorial is the original ancestral building of Hara family as a quasi-western style building built in the mid-Meiji period in the 1880s. It was opened in 1990 to reveal the materials about Hara Asao (原阿佐绪, 1888 -1969). The writer Yamamoto Yuzo (山本有三, 1887-1974) lived in Mitaka City for 10 years and in his residence, Mitaka City Yamamoto Yuzo Memorial Hall was opened in 1996.

There are many such facilities in Japan. Beside of the author's birthplace or former residence, the city government especially tends to plan to renovate, expand or reopen a literature memorial hall on the occasion of the writer's birth or death anniversary. For example, Iwaki City Kusano Shinpei Memorial Literature Museum was opened in 1998 to commemorate ten years after the death date of Kusano Shinpei (草野心平, 1903-1988). In order to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the birth of Inoue Yasushi (井上靖, 1907-1991) the Inoue Yasushi Memorial was opened in 1993. In order to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mori Ogai (森鷗外, 1862-1922), Bunkyo District Mori Ogai Memorial Hall was built in 2012 at the site of his former residence (Kanchoro) where he lived between the ages of 30 and 60. And in order to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the poet Saito Mokichi's death (斎藤茂吉, 1882-1953) in 2003, the residential room in his later years was rebuilt and gradually expanded after many renovations.

2) *Adopting the new designs of buildings:* The newly designed architectures of the Literature Museums can be roughly summarized as three functions by their thinking and planning viewpoints as following: planning for displaying the special divisions and categories of literature, promoting facilities for plural writers associated with the region, and facilities in the regions where the stage of the literary works set up in.

a) *Planning for displaying the special divisions and categories of literature:* For example, Modern Japanese Literature Museum (opened in 1967), Haiku Literature Museum (opened in 1976), Modern Japanese Poetry and Literature Museum (opened in 1990) and so on, as the names of the facilities showing, they respectively plan and collect information on modern Japanese literature, haiku (Japanese poetic form), modern Japanese poetry and other fields.

b) *Promoting facilities for plural writers associated with the region:* For example, Kanagawa Modern Literature Museum (opened in 1984), Sendai Literature Museum (opened in 1990), Literature Museum of Maebashi City for Water, Green and Poetry (opened in 1993), Aomori County Modern Literature Museum (opened in 1994), Setagaya Literature Museum (opened in 1995), Saitama Literature Museum (opened in 1997), Koriyama Literature and Forest Reference Museum (opened in 2000), etc., whether the facilities are small or large, as indicated by the names of the local region, the purpose of all the literature museums are to promote the area and collect information about all writers who had lived, traveled or worked in the area. Such kind of facilities was mostly set up around the 1990s.

c) *Facilities in the regions where the stage of the literary works set up in:* Although the following facilities were named after writers, the facilities are all located in the areas where the stages set up inside writers' works. For example, the Osaragi Jiro Memorial Literature Museum (1978) was located in Yokohama after the background settings of his works *Fog Flute* and *Homecoming*. And the Miura Ayako Memorial Literature Museum (1998) was located in Hokkaido after the background setting in her work *Ice Point*. And Nagasaki City Endo Syusaku Literature Museum (2000) was a newly built building in Kurosaki area in Nagasaki after the scene set in his representative work *Silence*.

In addition, the Siba Ryotaro Memorial Hall (opened in 2001), designed by famous architect Ando Tadao (1941-), is connected with the Siba Ryotaro's (1923-1996) house. On the other hand, the three-story building in eleven meters height with 20,000 volumes of books collection is planned and designed with three elements of "seeing", "feeling", "thinking". Ando Tadao also designed the *Saka no Ue no Kumo* Museum (2007) in Matsuyama City inspired by the novel *Saka no Ue no Kumo* which described three Matuya protagonists and Meiji Era by Siba Ryotaro. Matsuyama City leads urban plan and community development mainly with this museum. In particular, Ando Tadao has already planned and designed the Himeji City Museum of Literature (1991)

to commemorate the centennial of the city. Ando Tadao's idea was based on the design concept of touring around Himeji City and with the main idea of having a view of seeing the world heritage Himeji Castel inside the museum, which makes this museum quite different from other Literary Museums mentioned above.

Generally speaking, the above facilities are almost organized with the assistance of public and municipal institutions or operations, which combined the local natural, cultural and historical elements with local literary writers to promote a series of related activities.

III. MIYAZAWA KENJI MUSEUM AND URBAN CONSTRUCTION

Miyazawa Kenji (宮沢賢治, 1896 – 1933) was a Japanese poet and author of children's literature from Hanamaki, Iwate, in the late Taisho and early Showa periods. He was also known as an agricultural science teacher, a vegetarian, cellist, devout Buddhist, and utopian social activist. Almost totally unknown as a poet in his lifetime, Kenji's work gained its reputation posthumously and enjoyed a boom by the mid-1990s on his centenary. Some of his major children's stories include *Night on the Galactic Railroad*, *Kaze no Matasaburo*, and *Gauche the Cellist* have been adapted as anime. Many of his tanka and free verse poetry, translated into many languages, are still popular today.

Referring to the book *National Literature Museum Guide*, there are a total of 27 literature facilities in Iwate County. And there are 11 facilities related to Miyazawa Kenji, and that is to say for more than one-third of the total amounts in Iwate County are about one single author. All these together reveal information about Kenji's creations and display the relevant materials of his life included different periods residences. The eight smaller facilities are as following: Morioka Takuboku and Kenji Memorial Hall, the Agricultural Education Library of Iwate University, the Kogen Inc., the Rasuchizin's Association, Kenji's Plaza, the Sakurachizin's Hall, the Showcase Hall of Hayaikemine and Kenji, the Stone and Kenji Museum. Besides the smaller ones, Miyazawa Kenji Museum, Miyazawa Ihatobu Hall and Miyazawa Kenji Dowa Mura are the main ones closed to each other. And Hanamaki City operates all these three facilities under Kenji City Development Division to hold a series of activities to make local tourism more actively. This chapter would like to make clear how the City government operates these facilities and cooperate with the local institutions for Urban Construction.

A. *The Functions of Three Main Literature Facilities About Miyazawa Kenji*

Miyazawa Kenji Museum dedicated to his life and works was opened in 1982 in Hanamaki. It commemorates Kenji's favorite goods, manuscripts, and other materials including video, slides, and books. It is also a facility for Kenji's poetry, fairy tale, education, agriculture, science, and various activities. It is a facility for who wants to meet various world genres at once, and the screen image and related materials inside the museum are classified into five fields introducing

the creation process and the latest research results information. Moreover, there is the Minamisha flower bed and the sunflower clock flower bed designed by Kenji in the "Poran Plaza" located in the south side of Miyazawa Kenji Museum. It was reproduced based on the design book that Kenji left.

Being apart from the Miyazawa Kenji museum are the other 2 facilities. Miyazawa Ihatobu Hall is a place for civic cultural activities. It is also a literary hall that collected many artworks and research papers of various genres about Kenji announced by those who love the work. And, it is the headquarters of "Miyazawa Kenji Ihatobu center" which is a group of enthusiasts of Kenji's researchers. In addition, a series of lectures, and research presentations are held here. And a concert is held at the Kenji Festival on the birthday of Kenji.

Miyazawa Kenji Dowa Mura is sort like a learning base planned with the theme of his creations. It is also the "Rakushuu" Facilities Giovanni and Matasaburo learn happily in the world of the Kenji children's story. "Galaxy station", "square in the sky", "Kenji's classroom", "sprite's path", "path of an owl", "Yamano Kusazono" and "Kenji's school" are the mail facilities inside. The entrance is designed as the "Galaxy Station" of *Night on the Galactic Railroad* for four-dimensional virtue experience. Visitors in the Kenji's school split up into a zone of 5, "FANTAJIKKUHORU", "the universe", "the sky", and "the earth" and "water" related learning and educational facilities. Then log house display facilities of "Kenji's classroom" exhibits the themes about "plant", "animal", "star" which appear in his children's stories.

B. *Kenji City Development Division*

The main business of Kenji City Development Division could be divided into two parts. The former one is named as Kenji Machidukurikagari Department which is in charge of the comprehensive coordination of Kenji community developments, the coordination with Kenji related organizations, the development of land related to Kenji, Miyazawa Kenji Dowa Mura managements, etc. The later one is named as Kenji Event Planning Department which is in charge of the plan and implementation of the events, comprehensive coordination of events related to Kenji. And Miyazawa Kenji award and Ihatobu Award are also held by Kenji Event Planning Department.

Kenji City Development Division also organizes a Committee every year. The members are composed of a group of 29 organizations, intellectuals, art, and culture education organizations, agricultural commerce and industry associations, tourism organizations, etc. Besides "The whole conference", the committee's meeting consists four subcommittees such as "Kenji exchange subcommittee", "Kenji event subcommittee", "Kenji landscape subcommittee", and "Information dispatch and product development committee". And each of the organization above will propose yearly plans and projects. That is to say, in addition to the establishment of Kenji City Development Division of Hanamaki Government, there are also related

private associations cooperating with public construction to unify the promotion and activities to make tourism glossy with using local resources in urban construction. For example, the Community Development Promotion Council of "Kenji Stars Touring" promote an event to build Kenji Miyazawa art street which is an exhibition of the paintings of Kenji Miyazawa, recruited from JR Shin Hanamaki station to Miyazawa Kenji Museum by the citizens and tourists. There were at least 16 events and 19 proposals for last years from the data of Hanamaki City Homepage.

IV. CONCLUSION

By referring to the bibliographies of National Literature Museum Guide, it could be confirmed that there are 649 literature facilities in Japan and 13% of them are named after literary writers. And it might be able to infer that the proportion of literature institutes in Japan is much higher than other Asia counties. In the future, I would like to make further relevant scientific research about China or South Korea. Besides, the planning characteristics of literature facilities in Japan can be arranged into using the reconstruction of original buildings, and adopting the new designs of buildings. And the former one includes two ways as renovations of historic buildings or renovations of a dwelling or former residence of the writer. While adopting the new designs of buildings can be roughly summarized as three functions as by planning for displaying the special divisions and categories of literature, promoting facilities for plural writers associated with the region, and facilities in the regions where the stage of the literary works set up in.

In the last half part of the paper, it is clear that 11 literary facilities related to Miyazawa Kenji account for more than one-third of the local literary museums in Iwate County. And some of them were renovated from the writer's former residences where lived. And it is clear that Miyazawa Kenji Museum, Miyazawa Ihatobu Hall and Miyazawa Kenji Dowa Mura are the main facilities play an important role in the tourism of Hanamaki. This part can be seen in the design and layout of the city web page of Hanamaki City. In addition, besides the above three key facilities, the website is also attached with the information about "Kenji City Development Division" subordinated to the city government. It could be confirmed that all the activities above-mentioned organized in collaboration with local groups, such as shopping streets, hot spring organization, tourism promotion associations, Iwate University, local high schools, theatre troupes, agricultural synergies and so on are combined with local humanities and elements. And through all-round supports in Hanamaki's public and private organizations related to series of activities, propaganda is promoted to the whole country. Then, Japanese people to activate local tourism. As a unique feature of urban construction planning, the Japanese Literary facilities, which activates local tourism is clear. I would like to conduct a more in-depth comparative study about the similarities and differences with other countries in urban construction planning in the future.

REFERENCES

- [1] Yamauchi Shu, Chronological Writer Miyazawa Kenji, Kawaide Shobo Shinsha Inc., Japan,1989.
- [2] Horii Seishi, Chronological history of Miyazawa Kenji, Chuo Koron Sha Inc., Japan,1991.
- [3] National Literature Memorial Hall Council, National Literature Museum Guide Shogakukan Inc., Japan,2013.
- [4] Hidaka Yoshiki Nishikawa Atuko, Modern Literature Journal of Architecture, Bensei Inc. Japan,2018.
- [5] Hanamaki City Homepage:
<https://www.city.hanamaki.iwate.jp/miyazawakenji/index.html>
- [6] Miyazawa Kenji Museum Homepage:
<https://www.city.hanamaki.iwate.jp/miyazawakenji/kinenkan/index.html>