A Study on the Role of Ethnic Community Organization for Multicultural Coexistence in Local Community

- focusing on Shin-Okubo area of Shinjuku in Tokyo, Japan -

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Abstract

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This study will discuss about the roles of Ethnic-Community-Organization (ECO). As the world is becoming more integrated due to globalization, we can often see that various ethnic groups with various cultural backgrounds present in the same area. Therefore there has been an increasing interest in the impact of Ethnic-Community to the local community and their co-existence. Existing studies show that there are the positive views and the negative views for Ethnic-Communities which Includes conflicts in communities and increasing concerns for public security etc. Often the conflicts in this kind of communities are over the scale of what the Individuals can deal with, since it is scale of matter of a local society. In this reason, the main stream of studies in this area has always been something to do with the policies and the role of administrations. However, it is difficult to deal this problem only with regulations and policies hence; there should be some sort of links between those cultural ethic groups and the local society which can encourage the host group to adopt those new ethnic groups as a part of their community.

Therefore this study will focus on the roles of ECO from the two main points. First, the research will show the effect of new ethnic groups to Host-Local-Society. Second, it will examine how the ECO copes with the influence from Ethnic-Community by case study. The purpose of this study is to find out characteristic features of ECO and to suggest the roles of ECO for better harmonization.

주제어: 다문화공생, 에스닉 커뮤니티 조직, 지역사회, 영향요인, 코리안 타운

Keywords: Multicultural Coexistence, Ethnic Community Organization, Influencing Factor, Local Community, Korean Town.

I. Introduction

In a world of globalization, there is an increase in multicultural coexistence in local societies and the influence of ethnic community¹⁾ on them. Ethnic communities can develop positive indicators such as vitalization of regional marketing, creation of local culture and playing a role in tourism. However, negative indicators can be found in that it can isolate the local-community, generate anxiety, cultural shock and deterioration of local community (e.g. Lee, 2011; Chan, 2007; Kim, 2003; Amin, 2002). The existing research focused mainly on the role and importance of administrative policy and effective management of ethnic community led by a host community concentrating on the mechanisms for managing and controlling the negative aspect (e.g. Kim, 2010; Kitai et al. 2007; Kitai & Akimoto, 2006). For the societies to be symbiotic, there needs to be pro-active perception of local communities rather than passive controlling of administrations and host community. This research, accordingly, has been conducted to deal with the role and possibility of Ethnic Community Organization (ECO) which can work in parallel with the host community.

In this light, this paper contemplated the following questions. Firstly, what is the influence of ethnic community on local society? Secondly, how the Korean community affects Shin-Okubo and how the ECO cope with it? Thirdly, what function and possibility does ECO have on the regions in which there are ethnic communities?

This paper has been conducted focusing on Shin-Okubo of Shinjuku in Tokyo, Japan.²⁾ The area is the Korean ethnic enclave in Tokyo, for which

¹⁾ Ethnic refers to the culture of a group of which own ethnic tradition and culture are not normal or casual in the existing society (amanita, 2008:13-14). Accordingly an ethnic community is a group of those who did not adapt to the main society which is a social/economic community formed by minor group of people living through their own survival strategy focused on unofficial and small sized self-employed business. (Lee, H.S. 2011). In this research, such group has been defined as an economic/social community which maintains its own tradition and culture attempting to harmonize the main society rather than simply as the cluster of group of minor people.

²⁾ Mainly Hakunincho 1chome~4chome, Okubo 1chome~3chome according to administrative district.

Shin-Okubo is mainly known. The area developed after World War II when immigrants from Korea started moving into Japan. Especially, Korean ethnic community is growing quickly led by the Korea-Japan world cup and Korean wave since 2002. The rapid development of ethic culture led to changes in the local society and the activities of ECO in respond to the change. The study has been carried out between 2009, in which the activities of ECO in the region has become active in to work, and April of 2013. The reason is to compare the activities of each organization on the same time-basis.

The paper is organized as follows. Firstly, deducting the influences of ethnic community on the regions based on literature review. Secondly, the study area ha been analyzed based on field survey, statistic data and questionnaire results from previous studies. Thirdly, the role of ECO and its problem have been investigated through the homepage of each ECO and interviews with staff and finally put forward a proposed implementation of an ECO.

II. Influence of Ethnic Community on Local Society

There is a mutual relationship between ethnic communities and the local society that they affect each other to large extent. For them, there needs to be mechanisms which can minimize the drawbacks and maximize positive aspects (Kim, 2003). This ultimate goal of this research, as earlier mentioned, is to maximize the positive influence of ethnic communicates on the local society and to minimize the drawbacks. This research, therefore, tried to investigate the influence of ethnic communities on local society in detail. In doing so, the related studies which have been conducted recently have been used to deduct the implication of ethnic communities on local societies.³⁾

As Existing studies (table 1) deal with changes in various areas including

³⁾ Content analysis is a methodology in the social sciences for studying the content of communication.

local environment, culture, economy and community which are led by ethnic communities. They are shown to consensus with the fact that ethnic community appeared to affect both host and ethnic communities positively as well as negatively. Further, the studies argue that the extent to which ethnic community affect local society differ according to characteristics of nation, region, social system and the ethnic community.

Each existing study, however, is very limited in its scope in investigating the influence of ethnic community according to each one's characteristics. Definitely, the influence of ethnic community on local community can differ according to the characteristic of the community and its social system. However, there have been needs of verifying ethnic community on entire local community.

This main object of this is to contemplate the extent to which positive influence of activities of ethic community can be maximized as well as minimising negative ones. Therefore, investigating how the ethnic-communities affect local community as a whole. Existing studies have been utilized to deduct the influence of ethnic community on local society.

Table 1. Influences of ethnic community on local society (Existing studies)

Researc	Research	The main target	Research	Influencing Factors			
hers	Subject	Research	earch Place Factors Positive		Positive	Negative	
		Field		1 actors	No Mention of P	ositive and Negative	
Lee (2011)	The changes in local com munity	Host C. Ethnic C.	bo	Identity, Tou rism, Econom y, Image, Rel ationship, Cu lture, Inform ation	-Improvement in loc al image -Exchange of inform ation	-Decline of living Environment -Expansion of business a ctivity focusing on tourists -Conflict with host community -Over-heated competition -Severance from the main social group	
Park &Choi (2010)	Residential environment support plan for the forei gn residents	ctor	Shin-Oku bo (Tokyo, J apan)	Information, Relationship, Living Enviro nment and S pace	al intercourse	-Conflict with host com munity -Decline of living Enviro nment	
Kim (2010)	Multicultura 1 Policy	Host C.		nment and S pace, Econom y, Culture,	-Improvement in loc al economy -Maintaining ethnic identity -Development of eth		

			L.A.(US A)	rism	nic culture -Improvement of fore igners' right -New local environme	ent
Sato (2008)	Housing con ditions in th e ethnic com munity	Host C. Ethnic C. character, influence	Shin-Oku bo (Tokyo, J apan)	Culture, Iden tity, Benefit Relationship, Living Enviro nment and S pace	igners' convenience -Developed as a tour ism site	-Conflict with host community -Increase in resident's anxiety -Aggravation of the locarelationship -Foreign criminal -Decline of living Environment
Kitai et	Ethnic com	Host C.	Brixton, Peckham	Tourism, Livi	-Developed as a tour	-Severance from the local society -Expansion of business a
al (2007)	mercial area	Research	(London, UK)	ent and Spac	-Improvement of fore igners' convenience	ctivity focusing on touris
Kitai & Akimoto	Life and Beh avioral Activ ities of Ethn		Around of Kanagawa	Living Enviro nment and S pace, Relatio	-	
(2006)	ic C.	Research Host C.	(Japan)	nship	-Diversification of eth -Improvement of loc	nnic commercial facility
Kim (2003)	Influence of Koreans and their busine ss	Ethnic C. Influence	Shin-Oku bo (Tokyo, Japan)	ent and Spac e, Culture, O rder and Safe ty, Relations	al adaptability in foreigners -Increased employme nt opportunities -Understanding of di fferent cultures -Local economy vital	-Social discrimination -Conflict with host community -Foreign criminal -Change of living Environment -Decline of Environment -Decrease the number or residents of Host C.
	Multicultura l society	Host C.	Ansan (Gyeongg i) Guro & Se ocho (seoul) Incheon (all Kore a)	Culture, Ben efit and Righ t, Tourism, Rel ationship	-Interested in differe nt culture -Administrative inte rest in Ethnic C. -Providing support f or foreigners -Tourism site -Social integration	-Conflict with host community -Regional bipolarization -Decline of living Environment -Regional isolation
Kataoka (2005)		Ethnic C. (Host C.)	Hamamat	Culture, Eco	-Maintaining ethnic identity -Improvement of fore igners' convenience -Exchange of inform ation	-Identity confusion (Ethnic C.)
Kataoka (2004)	Role of ethni c business	Influence Role			-Establishing networ k -Culture diffusion & Maintaining culture -Stability	-Severance from the local society ber of ethnic business of foreigners
Tajima (2006)	Development of ethnic co mmunity	Host C. (Ethnic C.)	Around o f Tokyo (Japan)	nomy, Enviro nment and S pace, Inform	-Exchange of inform ation -Improvement of fore igners' business	-Conflict with host community -Social discrimination -Decline of regional Env
	of ethnic co	(Ethnic	f Tokyo	nomy, Enviro nment and S pace, Inform ation, Living	ation -Improvement of fore	munity -Social dis

			Benefit, Rela tionship	-Diversification of local language
GDI (2008)	Community Participatio n of foreigne rs	Around of gyeongna m (Korea)	Culture, Ben	-Multiple cultures -Improvement of sys tem for foreigners
Zhou (2007)	Present situ ation of eth nic communi ty	Edokawa (Japan)	Information, Image, Cult ure, Relation ship, Benefit and Right Li ving Environ ment and Sp ace	ation -Improvement of Eth nic network -Cultural activity -Improvement in edu cational activity of f

Note: Host C(Host Community), Ethnic C(Ethnic Community)

To investigate the influential factors, the characteristics in the influential factor mentioned by existing ethnic communities as well as the real ones have been classified. The resulting the factors in influence by ethnic communities on the local society have been deducted (Table 2). These factors are an indication of sustainable ethnic community in the local society. Therefore the table is an importance that there is balance in each factor for a sustainable ethnic community.

Table 2. Ten factors of influences by ethnic community on local society

Influencing Factors	Explanation
Living Environment and Space	Change the physical and built environment (Residential and Commercial environment)
Culture	Change of local culture, generation of new culture and culture diffusion
Relationship	Social conflict with the host community, solidarity with the ethnic community
Local Economy	Local economic vitalization, weakened competitiveness of host community's economic
Local Tourism	Developed as a Tourism site
Social Order and Safety	Increase in residents' anxiety
Local Image	Changes in local image, decline of the local image
Benefit and Right	Improvement of immigrants' right
Information Interchange	Lack of communication between new migrants and local residents
Identity	Changes and formation in local identity

III. Influence of Ethnic Community on Shin-Okubo

The Korean business district has started to densify in Shin-Okubo after mid-1980. At that point, there have been thousands of Koreans working for adult entertainment establishments in Kabukicho. After that period, more students and sojourning employee have come to there and the Korean commercial activity has been given an official status. They have stayed in the region since, as there have been Korean schools and Shinjuku station, which is the secondary central business district near the area (Park & Choi, 2010).

Shin-Okubo has received attention from the Japanese society led by Korea-Japan world cup in 2002 and Korean wave in the area. The main stores in the region were mainly Korean but this focus has slowly moved on Japanese after 2000. These changes have been reported by various media organisations and the image of 'Korean Town' has been formed as time went by. Figure 1 and Figure 2 indicates the changes in Shin-Okubo through estimation of the number of foreigners staying in the region, visitors in Shin-Okubo station and changes in the shape of Korean commercial site.

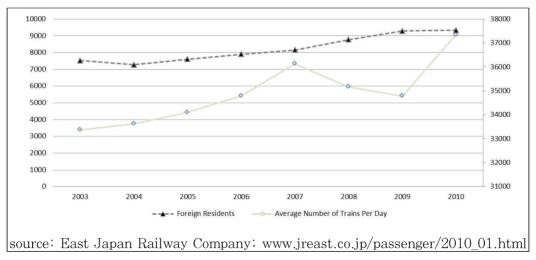


Figure 1. Estimation on the number of foreigners staying in the Shin-Okubo and visitors in Shin-Okubo station

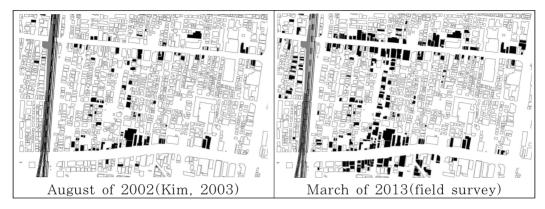


Figure 2. Changes in the shape of Korean commercial site

According to a recent report,⁴⁾ 77% of the visitors came to the region for purpose related to the Korean wave (e.g. visiting restaurant, purchasing cosmetics and groceries) and 51.5% of them have appeared to be positive as to the place's sustainability.

The expansion of ethnic culture in the local society affects host community, ethnic community and visitors in the region both directly and indirectly. In the second section of this research has deducted the influential elements of ethnic community on local society. Therefore, the third section attempts to analysis influence of Korean ethnic community in Shin-Okubo, which is the sample of this research, on local community based on the influential factors deducted by the second section. The reason is that the analyzed influential factors of ethnic community based on the ones mentioned by the second section, validity of the influential factor can be verified. Further, this method has been perceive to analyze the influence of Korean community on local society of Shin-Okubo as a whole as the ten elements used before represents the influences on local society in general.

The method for analyzing influence of Korean society are as follows. We have investigated research conducted on Shin-Okubo, visitors' interview,

⁴⁾ The research has been carried out at commercial center promotion association of Shin-Okubo between the 1st and 15th of November in 2011. The objective of this research is to investigate and analysis the current state of market places in Okubo of Shinjuku to support continuous development of the local market places and its vitalization. The report consists of investigation on traffic around Okubo, visitors' questionnaire and analyzing the results of research.

interview with merchants in Shin-Okubo and ECO members to investigate the influence of Korean community on Shin-Okubo and its follow-up changes.⁵⁾ The results of investigation have been classified according to the influential factors mentioned earlier then they have been itemized as positive and negative factors according to appropriate characters. Finally, we have distinguished host community, ethnic community and visitors to find out on which class Korean community affect. Through this, the influence on local society of Shin-Okubo in general has been deducted and the validity of influential facts suggested in the second section has been verified.

The table 3 is the result of analysis on the influence of ethnic community on Shin-Okubo based on the analysis form of table 2. Korean community has appeared to affect influential facts in general. Especially, such community has been found to affect host community, ethnic community and local visitors regarding living environment and configuration. In regard to relationship, both host and ethnic communities have appeared to see Korean community negatively. Further, visitors have presented high interests in local culture. Moreover, Korean society has appeared to affect local economy very positively and to affect social order and safety to relatively large extent. Especially, ethnic community has been found to largely contribute to convenient living and rights.

Table 3. Influence of ethnic community on Shin-Okubo

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Influencing	Host Community		Ethnic ommunity		Local	Visitor
factor	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Living Environment and Space	-change in cha racteristics of the commercia l site (resort a ccommodation → public com mercial facilit y)	g Environment (inconvenient p ass, street nois	ethnic commer	-competition f or residential area with low- income group -degeneration of residential and street env ironment		-inconvenient pass -degeneration of street envir onment
Culture	~	-generation of disparate local culture -culture clash		-cultural shoc k	f experiencing foreign food a nd culture	-providing lim ited informati on -absence of in formation-pro

⁵⁾ The interview has been carried out at Shin-Okubo area between the 1st and 14th of February in 2013. sample interview questions: What are the positive and negative effects of Korean town in terms of Living Environment and Space?

					f purchasing l ow-priced pro duct	
Relationship	-diversificatio n of organizati on	-conflict with e thnic communit y -separation of c ommunity -increase in res idents'anxiety due to decrease d boundary	-improvement of relationship between ethni c communities	-occurrence of		
Local Economy	vitalization -expanding bu siness	-weakened com petitiveness of commercial faci lity related to host communit y	-expansion of possibility of b usiness establi			
Local Tourism	-developed as a tourism site	-increase in th e number of visit ors	_	-expansion of business activi ty focusing on tourists		-lack of conve nient facility f or tourist(toil et, reception, etc)
Social Order and Safety	-establishing s afe street envi ronment for tr ansferring to p ublic commerci al facility	-increase in cri me in the socie ty -increase in res idents'anxiety	ife safely and sustainably th	-occurrence of crime related t o ethnicity (illeg al residency, f raud etc.)		-anxiety over crime -occurrence of distrust and r esistance to e thnic group
Local Image	-improvement in local image	-decline of the local image	-improvement in the Korea's image -generation of Korean-town's image	-occurrence of misunderstand ing in ethnic c ommunity and Korean culture		
Benefit and Right	-diversificatio n of commerci al facility	-decrease in th e number of conv enient facilities related to host community	-improvement of residents' co nvenience -diversification of commercial facility -role as a coun seling facility for immigrants			
Information Interchange	-availability of Korea-related information	-difficulties in transferring of the local infor mation	-smooth infor mation interch ange	-limitation an d severance of information in terchange with existing comm unity		
Identity		-lose of local ra tionality of exis ting host comm unity	-generation of			

source: the result is based on the existing research conducted on Shin-Okubo (Shin-Okubo commercial facility promotion association, 2012: Lee, 2011: Park&Choi, 2010: Sato, 2008: Kim, 2003) and interview with members of ECO

IV. Analysis on The Current State of ECO and Its Influences on Shin-Okubo

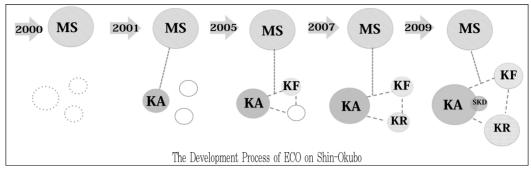
1. The Development Process of ECO its Current Activities

Currently, in 2013, there are five Korean ECOs which are based on Shin-Okubo. The Korean Residents Union in Japan, Shinjuku(MS), firstly, is an organization of which objective is to harmonize the old comers and improve their benefits. The organization is a local head quarter which has been established by Koreans in Japan those who started to live in the region since the end of the World War II. The Federation of Korean Associations, Japan (KA) has been established to enhance amity and cooperation between new comers and protect their rights. The organization was for enhancing amity between Koreans and has existed before and after 2000. The group is also the foundation of The Union of Korean Agro Food in Japan (KF) and Korean Restaurant Association in Japan (KR). KF has been founded to secure safety of Korean agricultural (Agro) food and to establish distribution system and the KR has been founded to protect the right of practice in restaurant business and disseminate Korean-food culture. Further, Shinjuku Korean Development Committee (SKD), which is affiliated to KA, has been established and the organization is formed by the Koreans in Shinjuku those who are in commerce.

Table 4 indicates developmental stage of organization. The table shows that organizations diversify as time goes by as well as activity range is expanded continuously. Especially, it shows that the activities of KF and KR are being professionalized. Further, SKD is an organization has been formed to improve relationship with merchants in Shin-Okubo and to react local-related issues in a more active manner. From the results, we can see that organizations are being professionalized and efforts are being put for closer relationship with the region.

Table 4. The five Korean ECOs witch are based on Shin-Okubo

	Name	Members (1)	Foundi ng Year	Objective	Activity Sphere (3)	Funding	Main Activity(3)
	The Federation of Korean Association (KA)	3000~	2001	-improving amity and cooperation of members of Koreans in Japan -protect the right of Koreans in Japan -harmonization of Korean society -distributing to exchange between Korea and Japan and the development of the local	Around Tokyo	Dues	-linking Korea-Japan administration, local autonomous entity, Koreans in Japan and the local residents -aligning life environment -holding culture-festival -counseling and education on Koreans in Japan (tax, law, etc)
1	Shinjuku Korean Developmen t Committee SKD(2)	4000 members	2009	-form of local organization in Japan -expanding exchanges between different communities(harmonizing culture and life style) -contributing to development of the local	Shinjuku- ku	Dues	-cleaning activity(cleaning the local area per month) -participating in local discussion -activity promotion and enlightenment activity for the Korean commercial stores -participating in patrol and campaign in Shin-Okubo
2	The Korean Residents Union MS	4000 (500) members	1949	-non-profit organization formed by Koreans in Japan of which purpose is to protect right of Koreans in Japan to promote development and amity of them	Shinjuku- ku	Subsidy , Dues, Own capital	-welfare-related issue of Koreans in Japan (sorting out pension-related problem of disabled person and aged people) -promotion and publication for the image of local and organization
3	The Union of Korean Agro Food KF (4)	32 organization	2005	-promoting amity and benefit of the members -stabilizing quality and price of Korean agro food -promotion of Korean agro food -smoothing distribution of Korean agro food	Tokyo Focused	Dues	-planning food-related event and participating in it -cooperating with Korean local governments -participating in the local festival -agro food promotion event -sharing food-related information
4	Korean Restaurant Association (KR)	500 organization	2007	-improving benefit of members -holding joint business -disseminating Korean food culture	Tokyo Focused	Dues	-publicizing pictorial -holding event related to Korean food -propagating knowledge(education and providing information) -promoting amity and welfare service of members



source:

The Federation of Korean Association, Japan(http://www.haninhe.com), The Union of Korea Agro Food in Japan (http://kopoja-hp.hpl.a6llinl.jp), Korean Restaurant Association in Japan(http://koreafood.info), Korean Residents Union in Japan, Tokyo(http://mindan-tokyo.org), article in Asahi newspaper(Koreans in Shinjuku/Shin-Okubo(Chyonaigai), 20/04/2011), interview(chief executive of KA, chairperson of SKD)

Notes:

- (1) The number of members has been reported according to the homepage and interview made on March n 2013. The total number of members of MS is estimated at 4000 but only 500 members (administrated members) can surely be confirmed, (interview with MS)
- (2) SKD is an organization affiliated to KA and share every activities but the own activity of SKD has been marked separately.
- (3) Activity sphere, funding state, main activity, activity characteristic analysis have been reported according to the period between 2009 and March in 2013.
- (4) 29 organization out of 32 KF affiliated ones base their activities on the center and and around Tokyo. (1 in Yamagata, 2 in Osaka)

2. The Role of ECO In the Light of Its Influence

We have suggested that Korean community affects Shin-Okubo in the third section. In addition, it has shown that how ECO reacts to the influential facts suggested by the third section in section IV-2. Table 5 indicates that to which influential facts the five organization's reactions based on activities of the organizations. The stages of activities have been analyzed based through the following activities of each organization presented on its web-site against the 10 influential factors suggested in the second section. This research has been conducted to investigate how local society reacts to the influences of ECO and to verify the possibility of ECO's activity, the 10 influential factors. The next step, 2-3 activities, of which frequency is high, has been selected as main activities (top 30% activities according to 10 areas have been selected.). The validity of main activities have been verified through interview with head members of each organization based on analysis of data collected from each organizations web-site. If the activity has been done, it has been classified as

sub-activity although its frequency is low. Sub activities have been modified and verified through interview with the members of each organization as well. Finally, the sub-activity, which is not being continued or being rarely carried out, has been classified as NO-activity.

The followings give explanations on ECO activities presented on Table 5 according to each influential factor.

- ① In terms of living environment and space, all the ECO in the region perform cleaning activity, crackdown on illegal parking and local campaign. Such activities are mainly led by SKD. The cleaning activity, especially, is performed once a month and is participated by five ECOs as well as the staff of the local shopping district.
- ② is no cultural event held by five ECOs has been found. The majority of such organizations participate in the event only and this is to promoting the amity with host communities.
- ③ The five ECOs mainly focus on promoting amity between the others as they have been established and are operated focusing on amity. The five ECOs have been trying to promote interchange between the members, Japanese residents, the governments of Japan and Korea continuously. These activities have been found to have affirmative influences on easing conflict and promoting relationship between the ethnic communities, with host communities.
- ④ KF and KR are the organization which have direct influences on the local economy. The communities' activity and information interchange are processed as sub-activities for promoting economic status of the related-businesses.
- ⑤ Each ECO promotes Shin-Okubo by utilizing media for vitalization of local tourism. However, there is lack of activates for maintaining tourists such as providing convenience facility compared to promotion activity.
- ⑥ The activities for social safety can be classified into two categories. One is campaigns (cracking down on illegal stayer, fair employment of foreigner) led by KA/SKD and food-safety management activity to provide safe Korean food to the region led by KF. These sorts of activities can foster safety and reliability of the region in which ethnic communities have been established.

- This movement is being processed briskly affected by the formation of local brand of Korean town and the support policy from Korean government (globalization of Korean food).
- ® The activities for protecting rights and benefit of Koreans in Japan are being performed mainly by MS and KR. MS especially is actively deploying such activity as requiring welfare reform to Shinjuku with detailed items.
- [®] Both host and ethnic communities are sensitive to identity. KR has tried to set Shin-Okubo as Korean town officially but the movement has failed due to denial from the host community.

Table 5. The Role of ECO In the Light of Its Influence

	Main activity	Sub activity	No activity
KA	Relationship, Information Interchange	Living environment and Space, Culture, Local Economy, Local Tourism, Social Order and Safety, Local Image, Benefit and Right, Identity	
SKD	Living environment and Space, Relationship	Culture, Local Economy, Local Tourism, Social Order and Safety, Local Image, Benefit and Right, Identity, Information Interchange	
MS	Relationship, Local Image, Benefit and Right	Living environment and Space, Culture, Social Order and Safety, Information Interchange	Identity, Local Economy, Local Tourism,
KF	Relationship, Local Economy, Social Order and Safety	Living environment and Space, Culture, Local Tourism, Local Image, Benefit and Right, Information Interchange	Identity
KR	Relationship, Local Economy, Information Interchange	Living environment and Space, Culture, Local Tourism, Local Image, Benefit and Right, Social Order and Safety	Identity

3. Problems of ECO Activity and The Modification Mechanism

The five ECOs are performing their activities in various fields but they have problems in each area which are as follows. ① SKD is taking lead in activities for improving living environment(space) but is not taking active action regarding problems including inconvenient pass and space reduction of commercial district. ② The local visitors requires opportunity for learning experiencing Korean culture but none of the ECOs takes lead in holding cultural festival and seminar. 3 The capability of ECO is very limited to vitalize tourism through such activities as providing convenient facility and improving street environment as there needs to be approval and cooperation from the local government. 4 The activities for fostering economic status of Koreans in Japan are being processed actively while there is lack of activities for economic symbiosis with Japanese people. 5 The increased number of Korean-related commercial facility can impede the benefits of Japanese people and the ones from the other nations. 6 For sustainable development of the local, the ECOs need to be concerned with rationality in which the cultures of both host community and ethnic community are harmonized. Imbalanced rationality can lead to conflict communities and badly influence the development of the local.

During the last decade, there have been various organizations established in Shin-Okubo. The activities of ECO have been expanded as various organizations have been established. However, there are some of structural problems. In a macro perspective, there is imbalance in the actions of ECO for each influential fact, the activities of ECO mainly focus on ethnic communities and the activity of each field is very limited in implementation. Accordingly, there needs to be balanced development of the 10 influential factors for sustainable development of ethnic community harmonized with the local society.

To do so, there needs to be more opportunities for various subjects can participate in the activities and mutual cooperation of host community, the administration and professionals of the region. Further, for the ethnic communities to be harmonized with the local community, expansion of the

existing organizations and, if needed, new organizations can be required. For example, SKD can generate amicable relationship with host community as the activities are based on the local society. Applying of the organizational structure of SKD to the other regions shall be recommendable as it can be practically utilized in the areas.

V. Conclusion

This research has deducted the influence of ethnic community on local society and analyzed ECO's movement reacting to each influential factor. The focus of existing studies was on reaction of host community for managing ethnic communities. The current research is differentiated from existing ones as it has how ethnic communities, which affects local society directly, reacts to local society regarding its activities and possibility on its own. Especially, to effectively figure out the relationship between influence and activities of ethnic communities, such communities' influences have been itemized and their validities have been verified through regional survey and interview. The deducted influential factors, therefore, are expected to be utilized as index for further research on ethnic community.

The activities of Korean communities formed around Shin-Okubo have been found to have problems and they are as follows. Firstly, as the organizations' activities are comprised focusing on Korean and its members, there has been lack of capabilities for reacting to influences on entire community. Secondly, there have been lots of overlap in organization-oriented activities hence expansion of organizations' activities have been required.

In contrast, this research has found the possibility in ECO's activities to be carried out in Shin-Okubo. The problems generated by Korean-community for Shin-Okubo have been found to be living environment, configuration, relationship, social safety and order. ECO has appeared to recognize such problem and to deploy activities focusing on the area. Further, the areas for reacting to such problem have been found to be

expanded according to separation and development process of organization. Therefore, this is shown the possibility for utilizing host community's administration policy and activities of ethnic community for establishing plans for places in which there are ethnic communities.

As this research has covered Eco's activities only, the actual influences of each activity have not been verified. In this light, further research will need to enhance validity of this research on the potentials of ethnic community through investigation of host and ethnic communities according to activities of ECO.

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