

KAMOGAWA STUDY TOUR

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Introduction

Again, VRF was given a valuable opportunity by IDE-JETRO Institute to carry out study tour in Kamagome areas on September 12, 2006. This study to observe The beauty Ohyama Senmaida, Kamogawa Ecological Kingdom, Tanjoji Temple, etc. The most interesting impression for writer is: (1) the trend among city dweller tries to live to be farmers; and (2) Tai fish not allowed to be eaten by local people. This paper focuses on discussion about two things mentioned above from many perspectives.

1. The Trend of City Dwellers

Nowadays, city dwellers tend to live in harmony and peace with nature because some reasons. Firstly, life in big city such as Tokyo, Chiba, Osaka, etc., which cover materialistic and hedonic as symbol of “luxurious” day by day felt bored and mechanic. Usually the city dwellers who brilliantly thought wish to combine material life and harmony with nature wish to be refreshed with some activities such as farming, fishing, climbing mountain, etc. The activity which introduces by “Oyama Senmaida Preservation Association” in 1997 that emphasize to preserve the beautiful terraced paddy field is identified one of activities. The mission of this activity to invite and cooperate together city dwellers and rural community to exchange ideas (information, skill, networks, etc.) for economic and farming improvement. This mission based on Fujimoto’s (1944-2002) idea that “using your own hand for cultivating paddy rice and produce foods for human being, is the most

happiness for human being". Secondly, the trendy of city dwellers to eat 'organic farm' is very familiar currently. The consequence of this style, among city dwellers wishes to produce 'organic farm' production for paddy rice and other vegetables, with their own work. They would like to fell as farmers. They try by own their hands from seeds planting, mowing weeds, use organic fertilizer, harvesting and finally bring rice to their home. So why paddy field ownership system which introduced by Mituji Ishida and Fujimoto Toshio in Kamogawa Sizen Ohkoku subsequently obtained positive response from outside. The indication of this response by showing current membership which reach 136 people from city dwellers, particularly from Tokyo and Chiba. Thirdly, the accommodation and housing rent also available in the village. The process of making 'agricultural farm' during 6 months for city dwellers are necessary to provide 'shelter' namely by rent home in the village. These village lives which cover harmony, peace, quiet, and secure are really the most fantastic and impression among city dwellers.

2. Tai Fish

A Voyage by ship around the port of Tai no Ura is the most impressive one. We can see the beauty surrounding this area by watching beach, fishermen ships, fish market, mountain, sea-eagle birds and Tai fish, etc. The local people believe that "Tai" fish is very sacred and not to be allowed to be eaten. This story based on mythology, while occurred earth quake in twelve century in Chiba, especially in Komagome area, while taken large victims, but Tai fish defense a huge wave. According to informant, fishermen finally burned the corpse of the Tai fish, which eventually buried her ashes in the Tanjoji Temple that we could witness until today.

In contrast, another informant also told us that in fact, “Tai fish is very valuable price in Japan and most Japanese utilized and eaten in wedding ceremony”. The informant further commented, another Japanese people like eating Tai fish because it’s delicious and the meat is very white. Then based on writer’s point of view, the mythology of “Tai” fish currently related to eco-tourism, where a fascinating Tanjoji Temple is located. From this view, economics benefit and cash flow of money for local people from the tourism sector is really accelerated especially in summer time among Japanese and overseas tourist.