Preface

In creating urban space, there is always an exchange of dialogue as to what the space currently *is* and how it ought to exist, by those who live in that place, those who have a stake in its future, and those who sense the need for improvement in its harsh reality. Some of their thoughts materialize in the form of a physical change to the current environment – and urban regeneration is one such form.

This process in which people redefine their living environment and socially reconstruct the meaning and value of a place is all too important in deciding what, if any, change should be introduced in the form of a physical project. Some might argue that this communicative process is indeed the very core or even the definition of urban regeneration rather than a mere condition for instigation. However, it has also been observed that such a communicative process is often difficult to manage, if it happens at all. Social exclusion, power imbalance, conflict, indifference, and lack of communicative social capital are the usual suspects in collective inaction, but it is also true that they are familiar constituents of any urban life.

In some social contexts, little attention has been paid to such complexity. Indeed, even without any communicative process it is possible to implement a physical project with the help of professional planners/designers and policy makers. From the perspective of efficiency and cultural backgrounds, such a traditional approach might be justified, but even many of the historically developmentalist societies are starting to see a change.

As an increasing number of urban regeneration projects have come into view over the last decade in Asian megacities and elsewhere, the diversity in the process of project formation, policy making and implementation has also become apparent. In Japan, for example, recent institutional reforms and the more extensive participation of nonprofit organizations have paved the way for a deliberate approach to planning processes that include less traditional

stakeholders such as non-networked members of local communities from the early stages of projects.

Many attempts have been made to establish new public venues for effective and democratic dialogues that collect wide-ranging views about a particular policy or project both from their proponents, and more importantly, from their opponents. Some examples appear to be more successful than others, but it is yet to be seen what separates success from failure, given the global or regional perspective.

This book is an attempt to establish a collective knowledge base as to how those prior experiences could be contextualized with a geographic focus primarily on the Asian region, where the speed of urbanization is among the most notable in the contemporary world. Cases presented in this book are chosen partly because of their significance and also because of the authors' own involvement in the corresponding projects. Their accounts are, as will be shown in the subsequent chapters, not only inclusive of details known only to those who actually participated in the process, but also sufficiently critical and independent in their reflection.

Because the backgrounds of all the projects differ substantially, there needs to be a conceptual and theoretical framework that provides a contextual link for those cases. The former part of this book is dedicated to providing that framework. It first attempts to set out common questions including what the meaning of and conditions for collaboration are, who would collaborate, why, and when. Then it proposes some answers based on the current planning literature, introducing a navigation map around the related theories and concepts. In the latter part of the book, each chapter reports on a case study while providing answers to the common questions, some with their own theorization. It is left to the readers' judgment whether this collection of answers has settled the questions that were posed, but it is surely the objective of the book to provide more depth to the debate on empirical grounds.

In structuring the whole debate, three domains are introduced in this book: conceptualization and theory; techniques and technologies; and practice, social process, and institutions.

In the first part, on conceptualization and theories related to urban regeneration, the constitutional and normative definition of a well-built environment is discussed as is that of a well-organized process.

Koizumi first discusses the relationship between publicness, urban planning, and regeneration in a Japanese context. He provides a thought-provoking forecast for structural changes in Japanese planning in the near future. Murayama then reviews the development of plan-making methodologies by showing the big picture of planning practices in Asian cities. One of the

implications derived from these practices was that regeneration in matured urban spaces should be accompanied by the intensive participation of various actors. In the subsequent chapter, Harata proposes a newly emerging concept of transportation-oriented urban planning. He also discusses the necessity of consensus building in vision making and the importance of forming a circular process of vision making, implementation, and evaluation.

In the second part, on techniques and technologies, the maturity of civil society is named as one of the necessary conditions for the successful use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and other participatory tools in policy making.

Horita et al. report on the current situation and the problems with the use of ICTs and other participation methods such as workshops on policy making for urban regeneration. That is followed by Horita's further examination of the possibilities and challenges of the use of Web-based participation systems on making urban policies, using the case of Mitaka City, Tokyo. He sets out conditions for e-democracy to contribute to a more deliberative urban policy-making process. Oomori turns to the transportation sector, examining whether individual behavior might change with access to information on traffic conditions through the Web-based GIS (geographic information systems) activity–travel simulator.

The third part, focusing on practice, social process, and institutions in urban regeneration mainly of Asian cities, through various case studies of the systems of governance in Asian cities, confirms the dynamic transformation of top-down systems to more democratic and collaborative ones.

Oaña reports on a community-based urban regeneration project in Manila, in the Philippines. An important finding is the positive impact of using the planned unit-development approach on the engagement of communities and stakeholders, and its further refinement.

Tanaka then carries out a case study on the city of Komae, which is one of the earliest examples of participatory master planning in Japan. She indicates how voices from civil society were limited in the process of making the master plan, and the necessity of bringing in citizens' groups in the long term.

This is followed by Park's argument that city-making in Korea changed after the declaration of democratization in 1987. City-making in Korea had become more oriented toward residents and focused on improving the living environment with a bottom-up approach. The author calls this approach "making livable cities."

Suzuki then introduces another regional perspective by describing how a small sports-based partnership project called the Urban Fox Programme in Scotland could contribute to social inclusion, especially of youth, in the process of urban regeneration. Sports-based partnership projects may be

necessary for Asian cities where social involvement of younger generations becomes a major social issue.

Finally, Furumai et al. examine the development and use of the water environment quality index in Japan. They argue that the water environment quality index can be a tool for promoting partnerships between nonprofit organizations and governments, generating activities to improve the water environment.

It is easy to see from this range of cases that there is an inherent heterogeneity in their attempts to enhance participation and deliberation in creating better urban space. Yet many of these experiences can also be shared among the common cultural or generational contexts, with some distinct clusters clearly elicited around the geographical regions and sectors. It is the authors' collective hope that this showcase not only informs contemporary practitioners facing similar needs and issues, but also contributes to our global understanding of collaborative urban regeneration – how and when collaboration occurs, how each case differs from the other, why we face the same issues, and what we could do. While appreciating that many comparable efforts are now being made in other parts of the world, this book strives to fill in the missing pieces – even large ones – of the entire puzzle shaping the theoretical and practical frontiers of this discipline.

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