

**Information design for understanding of regional environment
as a base of disaster awareness
-A case study of booklet design for wetland environment-**

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Abstract

It is possible to consider flood as a natural phenomenon, while flood disaster appears to be a social phenomenon to cope with. Besides the social and natural aspects, the damage of biosystem and landscape should also be considered as the result of disasters. Therefore discussion involving various stakeholders is expected regarding the complexity of the nature of disasters. However, as most effort mainly focus on the issue when the disaster happens, a viewpoint from every day experience is needed. While landscape is one of the most common cognitive images of the environment, it is hard to understand the relations in environmental elements and/or their transitions both in short and long term. Therefore the media to promote the understanding is needed. In this paper, a visual media design is made, in order to help the intuitive understanding of the relations among the environmental elements and human activities. The site Fukushima-gata is a wetland located in Niigata prefecture, Japan. The region has a history of continuous reclamation, and simultaneously the largest reservoir serving as a habitat of diverse creatures. Since the establishment of the core activity center in 1997, the facility has been acting as the place for citizens to get close to the natural environment. Meanwhile, as Fukushima-gata is expected to work as a pondage, flood control facilities are constructed, and some rice field have been turned back to wetland. However, these flood control facilities are not visible for the recreational users. For example, a large floodgate under construction might be considered as a visually offensive structure, meanwhile it may also be regarded as a mark of the flood control system. Thus the evaluation of the floodgates depends not only on the design, but also on the understanding of the regional environment. Therefore a booklet is designed in order to help people to understand the landscape deeper both in spatial and time scale. It contains various graphics: map showing spatial transition based on HLC (Historical Landscape Characterization) analysis, cross sections to express the water circulation as well as the relation between human activities and water, map of historical marking sites such as shrines and stone monuments, and a bird-eye illustration studded with related elements. A character as a storyteller guides each page. Though the data showing the effect of this booklet has not yet been acquired, we can demonstrate the importance of information design for describing the region.