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[実践報告]

# 文化財を題材とした本学と地域との 連携による実践的な学習活動

—歴史的風致維持向上計画重点地区である  
松江市美保関町美保関を事例として—

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[PRACTICAL REPORT]

**Utilizing Cultural Properties within Practical Academic Activities in  
Cooperation between our Junior College and a Residential Area  
-A Case Study of the Priority Areas in the Plan for the Maintenance and  
Improvement of Historic Landscape in Mihonoseki, Matsue City-**

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キーワード

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[PRACTICAL REPORT]

## Utilizing Cultural Properties within Practical Academic Activities in Cooperation between our Junior College and a Residential Area -A Case Study of the Priority Areas in the Plan for the Maintenance and Improvement of Historic Landscape in Mihonoseki, Matsue City-

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## 1 Introduction

Within the Course of Study Guidelines established for junior high school Technology and Home Economics classes established by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), among the clearly stated goals for fostering a “zest for life” are that the students are, “through practical and experiential academic activities such as making things by hand, to acquire the fundamental and basic knowledge and skills related to materials and processing, energy conversion, nurturing living things and information.” They should also “deepen their understanding of the relationships between technology, society, and the environment, as well as cultivate the attitude and ability to appropriately evaluate and put technology to use.” In other words, there is great importance being attached to practical and experiential academic activities which meet the requirements of both the acquisition of knowledge and skills, as well as educating about the relationships between society and the environment.

Within this junior college’s curriculum, when considering the preparation of an academic environment necessary for realizing the goals established by these Course of Study Guidelines, we first applied cooperation with residential areas to the part regarding the relationship between society and the environment. As such, our faculty is required to set up opportunities for practical academic activities in the field off-campus. There are four types of relationships that can be considered cooperative efforts between the junior college and residential areas: residential areas and classes; residential areas and faculty; residential areas and students; and residential areas, the junior college, and the off-

campus sector. Instead of looking at these in connection with various areas, we aimed for synergy through carrying out practical academic activities in one single area.

Also, within the Course of Study Guidelines mentioned above, four areas are indicated: materials and processing, energy conversion, nurturing living things, and information. As factors that fulfill these areas, we considered that using cultural properties as subject matter would be effective. This is because those things which have been designated as tangible cultural properties are made from high-quality materials and processing techniques, and as such have been recognized as having academic worth. Also, many cultural properties were made during times when the current energy resources were unavailable, and many of them reflect the efforts of people that went into making them. In areas of cultural scenery recognized by the national government, plans to preserve the natural environment are based on the relation to people's occupations, and nurturing living things is an important factor. It is necessary for our students to not only understand the value of cultural properties, but also to gain the ability to communicate this information to others.

Based on the Act Concerning the Maintenance and Improvement of Historic Scenery announced and put into effect in 2008, as of March 2016, there are 53 regional areas that have had plans for the maintenance and improvement of historic scenery authorized. In Shimane Prefecture, Matsue City's plan was authorized in February of 2011, and Tsuwano Town's plan was in April of 2013. The goal of this act is to "attempt to maintain and improve the historic landscape of town areas formed through the integration of the unique history and traditions reflected within the activities

of local residents, as well as the buildings with great historical value and the areas around them where said activities are carried out." There are five important areas within Matsue City that have had plans established for maintaining and improving historic scenery, and within those five areas, the Mihonoseki area of Mihonoseki Town was selected as the area to be focused upon due to the fact that various types of cultural properties are gathered within that one single area. This report will describe the cooperation with the residential area of Mihonoseki and the usage of cultural properties there as the subject matter of practical academic activities.

## 2 Residential Areas and Classes

### 1) Miho Shrine

The items which are designated as national treasures are those things of particular importance selected from items already designated as national important cultural properties. In Matsue City, the Main Hall of Kamosu Shrine and the Matsue Castle keep have been designated as national treasures. There are also five historic buildings which have been designated as important cultural properties: the Kowata Family Residence, the Main Hall of Sada Shrine, the subordinate shrines of Kamosu Shrine, the Kanden-an Tea House, and the Main Hall of Miho Shrine.

Miho Shrine is a very large shrine on the eastern end of the Shimane Peninsula. The main hall of Miho Shrine is an important cultural property. The main enshrined gods are Mihotsuhime-no-mikoto and Kotoshironushi-no-kami, who is also known as Ebisu. Miho Shrine is actually the grand head shrine of all Ebisu shrines throughout Japan.

Ebisu is famous for his love of music, and more than 800 musical instruments kept at the shrine are designated as important tangible folk-cultural properties. You can pray at this shrine for good luck in fishing and business, and for safety on the seas.

One defining characteristic of the Prayer Hall of Miho Shrine is that, according to the designs of Itō Chūta, it has no walls and has a beam-column structure.

Touring Miho Shrine is included as part of the curriculum of our college's Department of Arts and Science. In September of 2011, all of the first-year students enrolled as English majors toured Miho Shrine as part of the one-night, two-day Tourism Field Trip. This Tourism Field Trip is an intensive course offered to first-year English majors every year. The area visited each year is different, but the aim of the course is two-fold: students will have the opportunity to learn more about some tourism spots within Shimane Prefecture, and they will also have the opportunity to tour those locations with foreign residents of the prefecture and guide them around those locations using English.

In July of 2015, Cultural Resource majors enrolled in the design practice course involving historical buildings went on an observation tour of the exterior of Miho Shrine (Fig. 1). With a peaceful forest behind it and the sea in front of



Fig.1 Miho Shrine  
(Photo by Fujii, Y.)

it, the distinctive geographical conditions of the shrine's location have an abundance of natural scenery.

The traditions of Miho Shrine's rituals have been passed down through generations. In December of 2015, members of the Housing and Lifestyle Resources seminar observed the Morotabune Ceremony, one of Miho Shrine's two most important Shinto rituals. Students of the same seminar also attended two other unique ceremonies as well: the Mushiboshi Ceremony in August of 2015 and the Kamimukae Ceremony in May of 2016. As both are held in the middle of the night, students stayed at the Mihokan and observed the ceremonies. Banning flash photography at these midnight ceremonies helps to preserve their sanctity. The morning following the ceremonies, the students observed the daily morning offering of food to the deities of Miho Shrine, which is accompanied by ceremonial music and dances performed by miko, young women who assist with shrine ceremonies. In April of 2016, the two authors of this report also observed the Aofushigaki Ceremony. At each of these ceremonies, whenever local shrine parishioners saw students from the junior college, they kindly took the time to explain the details of the ceremonies. This point in particular illustrates the responsibility local residents feel for preserving and communicating their local culture to following generations.

## 2) Bukkoku-ji Temple

Bukkoku-ji Temple, a treasure trove of cultural resources, is a three-minute walk from Miho Shrine. In Matsue City, there are only eight sculptures that have been designated national important cultural properties. Of those eight, five of them are Buddhist statues

enshrined within Bukkoku-ji Temple (Table 1). Both second-year and first-year students enrolled at our college, as part of their curriculum, went on an observation tour of these sculptures in December of 2015.

Table 1 National Cultural Properties as of April, 2016  
(original table created from information on the Ministry of Culture homepage )

	Nation	Shimane Pref.	Matsue City	Mihonoseki
Important cultural properties (buildings)	2,445	24	7	1
Registered tangible cultural properties (buildings)	10,516	177	31	9
Important cultural properties (sculptures)	2,692	22	8	5
Important tangible folk cultural properties	217	10	3	3
Registered tangible folk cultural properties	217	2	0	0

The sculptures are enshrined within the Dainichido Hall, and any deterioration due to ultraviolet light is prevented by banning photography of the sculptures. There is other planning that has gone into the items on display here in this building as well. The entrance has a wire screen on it, which provides for ventilation. There is a curtain hanging just inside the entrance which acts as a shield against outdoor light. Lighting fixtures are fluorescent and are arranged in such a way as to provide light to the sculptures from many different directions, showing consideration for how light distribution should be balanced. There are no glass cases, and this allows people to observe the back side of the sculptures as well, making it a well-planned exhibition area. In addition, *Tsuwabuki-no-kai*, a local women's group, is responsible for assisting people wishing to observe the sculptures. The Japanese silverleaf (*tsuwabuki*) is a plant that has long grown in Mihonoseki.

The grave of Kichiza, who features in the

famous legend of Yaoya Oshichi, is located at Bukkoku-ji Temple. Also, both Emperors Godaigo and Gotoba stayed at Bukkoku-ji Temple before they were exiled to the Oki Islands. This is due to the fact that Mihonoseki was a port where ships would wait for favorable winds. Their stays are commemorated by an inscription that calls the street that passes in front of Bukkoku-ji Temple "*Miyuki-dōri*", a name commonly used for paths taken by an emperor. This is a temple well suited for study of cultural properties from which students can learn about the historical background of several different eras.

### 3) The Townscape

In order to gain the necessary skills for communicating the features of Mihonoseki's townscape to others, a field survey was conducted here. There results of that survey were integrated into practical computer work classes in an attempt to help students master the usage of rendering software illustrations (Fig. 2).

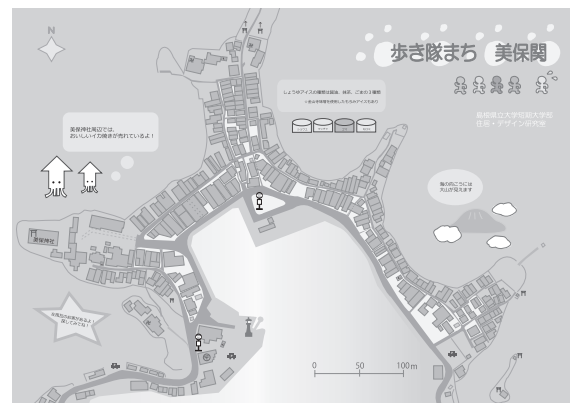


Fig. 2 Mihonoseki Walking Guide Map  
(Illustration by Nishimoto,A.)

As part of the process of producing concrete results from their academic activities, the students who researched this residential area put the techniques they learned in their classes to use and attempted to create a walking map guide of

Mihonoseki's townscape. Also, by having the data they put together printed out by a printing company, the students were able to create a piece of work which communicates cultural information and which can be utilized by people other than just our college's students.

### 3 Residential Areas and Faculty

#### 1) Mihokan

Much attention is being paid to the registration system for tangible cultural properties provided for by the Act on Protection of Cultural Properties under the jurisdiction of the Agency for Cultural Affairs. This system allows historical buildings that were built fifty or more years ago to be both preserved and used at the same time. In Mihonoseki, there are three buildings which are referred to collectively as Mihokan. Two of those three buildings have been designated as registered tangible cultural properties. In addition, the Okage-no-Ido well, which is a two-minute walk from Mihokan, and the Mihonoseki Lighthouse, a five-minute drive from Mihokan, are also registered tangible cultural properties.

As part of a collaborative effort with Mihokan to improve the accessibility of the buildings to English-speaking tourists and guests, Mr. Kidd met with the owner and operator of Mihokan, Mr. Yosuke Sadahide. After touring the Mihokan buildings with Mr. Sadahide and viewing many of the signs written in Japanese inside the building that explain the different historical areas of the hotel and their original roles they played, it was decided that Mr. Kidd would translate these signs into English. In addition, Mr. Kidd would also translate a set of information for any English-

speaking guests who might stay at Mihokan.

Special care was taken with these translations, due to the high-context nature of the Japanese language featured in some sections of the original Japanese text. As such, a literal translation of the text would either leave out some important information or would not be the most effective way of communicating the overall meaning of the text. In these cases, Mr. Kidd collaborated quite closely with Mr. Sadahide, often making several phone calls to confirm the spirit behind a piece of text.

One example of the translation work is of the explanation for the atrium and lobby of the Mihokan Main Building (Fig. 3):



Fig. 3 The atrium and lobby of the Mihokan Main Building (Photo by Fujii, Y.)

This is Mihokan's most impressive area. It used to be a courtyard that extended from the hotel entrance, but it took on its current appearance in 1930 when a glass ceiling and flooring were constructed. It is still a very popular photo spot. Concerts held here are popular as well.

## 4 Regional Cooperation and Students

Our academic activities did not stop with merely observing cultural properties. A presentation session was also arranged for our students to present the results of what they had learned to local residents of Mihonoseki. In January of 2016, the nine student members of the Housing and Lifestyle Resources seminar presented their findings to 19 local residents who gathered at the Mihonoseki Cultural Exchange Center.

On the day of the presentations, the second-year students presented not only what they had learned, but also the study contents of first-year classes. The students put together a slide presentation detailing the results of group study work in the Environment Resource Renovation class as they suggested ideas for storage products for Miho Shrine's good-luck charms. Making the most of the characteristics of the fiber materials, they worked out several product ideas. They also displayed video of the public viewing presentation of the West Japan Railway Company project, which will be described in detail later.

As part of their collective graduation research, the seminar students presented the results of "Research on Traditional Housing and Historic Environmental Resources in Matsue" (Fig. 4).

The fact that residents of Mihonoseki so kindly and warmly interacted with our students led to our students seriously undertaking their graduation research. By making presentations in a situation with a tension different from that of regular classroom presentations, students were able to make their final presentations go smoothly. Furthermore, another outcome of this kind of presentation session was that it gave



Fig. 4 Research presentations to local residents  
(Photo by Fujii, Y.)

our students the opportunity to express their thanks to the residents of Mihonoseki for their cooperation throughout the course of their study.

## 5 Regional Cooperation, Businesses and Students

In connection with the planned limited express sleeper train Mizukaze that is scheduled to travel along the San'in Main Line, the "San'in Mirai Draft Summit Conference" was held by the Yonago Branch of the West Japan Railway Company in November of 2015. It was a contest where students from four local universities competed against each other by designing plans for regional revitalization. Department of Arts and Science students from Ms. Fujii's tutorial seminar represented our college in the contest. The other participating universities were Tottori University, Tottori University of Environmental Studies, and Shimane University. Over the course of half a year, students were to carry out a survey of the region, turn in their suggestions in a report, and make a public presentation. While our students did not place in the top three groups, they were awarded a special prize for their work.

One special characteristic of this contest was that two staff members of the West Japan Railway Company were assigned to each group, and the students and staff worked together on the project. It was an invaluable opportunity for our students to interact with working members of society. Additionally, at the intermediate stage of the contest, there was an opportunity to receive a hearing and advice from Nippon Travel Agency, West Japan Railway Company's think tank. This provided a pacemaker for the students' progress, as well as objective advice for the students' suggestions.

The report which the students were expected to turn in played a role in the students' study portfolios. The report clearly illustrated what each student had researched, as well as what the entire team had been thinking, through the details of area surveys of the townscape of Otsu in Izumo City, the scenery in Mihonoseki, and the cultural properties owned by Yonago City, along with the contents of documents the students had studied.

Also, at the public presentation held at Matsue's Terra Hall, while the majority of the teams mainly focused their explanations on PowerPoint presentations, our students used PowerPoint slides as supplementary explanations in their presentation. Instead, their presentation consisted of a Q&A-style discussion, a product commercial for their suggestions, and a skit of tourists actually visiting specific areas and interacting with local residents (Fig. 5). Scenes of this unique presentation were included in news broadcasts and newspaper articles. Some days later, the person in charge on the business side communicated the impressiveness of our students' ingenuity in the method of their presentation.



Fig. 5 Presentations at the planetarium  
(Photo by Iida, M.)

In the 2016 academic year, Cultural Resource majors enrolled in the design practice course involving historical buildings are taking part in the West Japan Railway Company's project. They are currently conducting surveys of the Ministry of Culture's Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Historic Buildings. Also, in regards to the Otsu area of Izumo City where students conducted a survey in 2015, second-year students in Ms. Fujii's graduation project seminar are undertaking a continued study there as part of their research on tiled roof areas. In this way, it can be said that we have been able to find continued developability of projects through cooperation with businesses, instead of merely being involved in a single-year event.

## 6 Conclusion.....

Mihonoseki is located about an hour's drive from our college's campus in Matsue. Through several different types of cooperation with the Mihonoseki area, we have been able to carry out



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practical academic activities using numerous cultural properties as subject matter.

In activities connecting Mihonoseki and our curriculum, students have been able to learn through direct viewing of national important cultural properties, something which cannot be done in the traditional classroom environment.

In activities connecting Mihonoseki and our faculty, activities that have utilized our faculty members' fields of focus have worked as contributions to the community, and provided examples of how we can become involved with communicating cultural information useful to those who want to visit or view cultural properties.

In activities connecting Mihonoseki and our students, through student presentation sessions for local residents of area surveys, we were able to design a way for our students and local residents to be able to communicate with each

other.

In activities connecting Mihonoseki with the college and the off-campus sector, we found that through participation in a business project, reports of the results of regional surveys could become effective parts of an academic portfolio. Also, through creativity in how presentations were delivered, we found that we could gain a positive public response. Academic activities at Mihonoseki are continuing this academic year, and we hope to further develop their quality.

One concern for future practical academic activities that use cultural properties as subject matter is that there is a necessity for organizing an objective academic evaluation system. As a method for striving for better understanding of cultural properties, consideration of guidelines for evaluation of practical academic activities is necessary.

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## Acknowledgements

In the course of carrying out these practical academic activities, we would like to express our thanks to

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