

Visual Problem Appraisal 'Lake Hamana, short-neck clam fisheries'

A visual approach to participatory and deliberative governance of short-neck clam fisheries in Hamamatsu, Japan

Fact Sheet

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Decreasing a short-neck clam in Lake Hamana

Hamana brackish-water lake (Lake Hamana) is located in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka prefecture of Japan and connects to the Pacific Ocean. In recent years, the commercial catches of the short-neck clam *Ruditapes pholippinarum* have decreased. It made an impact on commercial fisheries. Furthermore, the cancelation of short-neck clam gathering called *Shiohigari* affected the life living in and near Lake Hamana because *Shiohigari* is also part of the cultural identity and the related tourist sector.

VPA Lake Hamana: A role of VPA

The Lake Hamana issues are considered as a 'wicked multi-stakeholder problems'. The visual approach could make a 'space for explain' from the various perspectives in related to the stakeholders conflicting with the wicked problems. In the line of visual approaches, Visual Problem Appraisal (VPA) as media would be used to enhance the analysis of complex issues and facilitate public participation in the domain of the interactive participation and a plan of action by concerned stakeholders.

VPA Lake Hamana: Goals

This research project aims to support the participatory ambitions and search for future scenarios for Lake Hamana. In this research we aim to gain insight on the production process of visual approaches such as VPA together with the multi-disciplinary teams and how this visual approach, based on stakeholder narratives in reference to problems in Lake Hamana, has the potential to contribute to social dialogue, participatory and deliberative governance.

VPA Lake Hamana: Deliverables

The VPA Lake Hamana will consist of a series of interviews with stakeholders in and near Lake Hamana, concerning their life, work, perception of the current situation, assumption of future of Lake Hamana and other interesting stories in reference to the lake and the short-neck clams. The films are not freely accesible but will be used in facilitated workshops with concerned stakeholders in cooperation with civil services such as Agricultural and Fishery division of Hamamatsu city hall. The workshops search to establish a focused exploration of the issue at stake and conversations on future governance scenarios.

VPA Lake Hamana: Team

The research team is an interdisciplinary group combining fields of research, community media and film qualities. Mariko Kihira; the lead researcher and media designer, Yang Takae Kwihae; a filmmaker, Toshiki Nojima; a visual designer, Ryuichi Amasaki; a community music composer.

The research is a collaboration between:

- Dr. Yuji Kato, Faculty of Cultural Policy and Management at Shizuoka University of Art and Culture is local cooperation, Hamamatsu, Japan
- Prof. Katsuro Isomura, Faculty of Design at Shizuoka University of Art and Culture is local cooperation, Hamamatsu, Japan
- Research group Communication, Participation and Social Ecological Learning group at Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences is international cooperation, Velp, the Netherlands represented by Dr. Loes Witteveen

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