

# New Dimension of Public Consultation in Japan – Background and Activities of PI Forum

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# Background

- Government
  - Project: PI, Public acceptance
  - Policy: Public notice and comment
    - Policy platform by RIETI (METI)
- Various Initiatives
  - Kuwako- Association for Consensus Building
  - Hori- Association for Facilitators
- Cases
  - Harashina at Nagano, Environmental Guideline at JBIC and JACA
  - Asanoumi at Setagaya

# Status

- Incorporated Non-profit Organization
- Under the Non-profit Organization Act of 1998
- Registered in a rural town in Kochi Prefecture (1.5hr. flight from Tokyo)
- Approved in 2002.
- Now the second year

# Origin

- A high-rank bureaucrat of the ministry of construction who had worked on the introduction of PI came back from the UK, after learning about public consultation.
- He exchanged the idea of a non-profit organization with people who had worked with him on similar issues – academics, consultants and private sector, students.

# Missions

- 3 PIs
  - Public Involvement – conventional government-led actions
  - Public Initiative – citizen-led actions to perform policy-making functions
  - Partnership Incubation – facilitating collaborations among diverse actors

# Activites

- Workshop meetings – Cross sectoral  
Civil Engineering  
Urban Planning  
STS  
Business  
Policy making
- Seminars on cases
- Joint research with local government
- Web site

# Data Base Project

- Creating a comprehensive database on public participation/involvement etc.
- Case studies, Documents (guidelines), and Contacts
- Compiling a list of “Items to be mentioned in a case study”

# Joint Research Project

- Gifu Prefectural Government  
Experiment of Conflict Assessment  
Case study  
Meeting at local places  
Production of Joint Report
- Seminar on Cases  
Fukuoka Airport case  
Redesigning of siting PI process