Creating a *Furusato* (Hometown) Connected by Residents

Takamatsu, Seno, and Higashi Community Centers
1) **Introduction**

In each community, the residents have interacted with each other at local events (e.g. labor, festivals).

The local history and culture have been passed down.

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*Rice-cake pounding in the traditional style*

*Having tea ceremony at a culture festival in a community center*
2) In Japan

High economic growth (in the 1960s)
→ changed social convention, lifestyles, and people's way of thinking

Community networks have been diluted, which has resulted in a threat to the succession of history and culture.
Examples

- Family lifestyles
  - Large families
  - Small families

- Children’s play
  - Group playing
  - Individual playing
The Image of History/Culture Succession:
For Succession of Local History and Culture

Approaches by Adults:

Affection and pride of the community → Desire to pass them down to the next generation!!

Talking about the community at an elementary school  
Cutting grass to make reed boats
3) Community Center Activities in Okayama City

- Succession of food culture
  - Funa-meshi
  - bara-zushi

- Succession of natural environment
  - Preservation of ayumodoki-fish
  - Survey of creatures

- Succession of historic sites, legends, and more
  - Water Well Mapping

- Succession of traditional crafts
  - Ujo pongee
  - Natsukawa fan
4 Activities at Takamatsu Community Center

Population Area
17,800 24.02 km²

Tsukuriyama Ancient Tomb
500 A.D.

Kibitsu Shrine
1400 A.D.

Ruins of Takamatsu Castle
1600 A.D.
1) Tsukuriyama Tomb Rivitalization Group

Mr. Yoshikazu Sadahiro

Tsukuriyama Ancient Tomb
A volunteer guide is talking to school children
2) As for the Children...

- What do they think about their communities?
- Do they share adults’ thoughts and feelings?

The children are dressed in an ancient-style clothing at a local festival

The Talks of Times Now Past – a gathering for Jr. high students and the elderly
3) Ehna, Sughen, Dehrena (ESD) Survey
4) Information Transmission from Communities
- A Promotional Film for Takamatsu Tourism

- Tsukuriyama Tomb Revitalization Group
- Kibitsu Shrine
- Miyauchi-Odori Preservation Group
- Shamisen-Mochitsuki Preservation Group
- Takamatsu Castle-Ruin Preservation Group
- Junior TKM
- Takamatsu Jr. High
- College students in the community
- Takamatsu PC Club
- Takamatsu Agrivultureal High School
Now, enjoy the promotional film for tourism in Takamatsu!
5) Learning through Presentation Meeting of Community Study that Connects Schools and Community

Intergenerational Dialogue and Interaction
5) Okayama City Community Centers’ Activities

i) Water Well Mapping Project
   (at Seno Community Center)

Mr. Hidetaro Mitsuyoshi

Tour around the wells in the community
ii) Ryuso Community Development Project (at Higashi Community Center)

Mr. Toshiharu Ishii and Mr. Teruaki Matsumoto

Nature observation at the Hyakkengawa River
6) The Roles of Community Centers in Okayama City

1) A place for connection
2) A place for intergenerational interaction
3) A place for discovering the community's historic and cultural resources
4) A place for preservation, utilization, and succession
7) Conclusion
The Image of History/Culture Succession
8) Issues To Be Solved

1) Succession that fits with the times

2) Activities involving the working generation

3) The necessity of the place for children’s independent and continuous activities

*Somen-nagashi* (flowing noodles)  
Harvesting rice traditionally
9) Closing Remarks

Our *furusato* (hometown) is:

- The place where we were born and brought up
- The place where we feel at peace
- The place we want to keep and preserve
- The spiritual home

Visiting ancient tombs

Examining the rice paddy after planting
Thank you very much!