



# Common-pool Resources in Japan and Worldwide from the Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

著者 (英)	Takeshi Murota
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報告 Report of the International Seminar

# Common-pool Resources in Japan and Worldwide from the Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

( コモンズ論から考える持続可能な資源管理 )

Edited by Takeshi Murota  
( 室 田 武 ・ 編 )

## Introduction

In the age of global and local environmental crises, the research interests in the resource management under rules of commons have been growing worldwide. Japan has rich experiences of the iriai system of forest management, which can be understood as of being equivalent to the institutional settings of commons in the western sense.

Professor Margaret McKean of Duke University is a worldly well known researcher of the Japanese iriai system from the viewpoint of common pool resources (CPRs). The Doshisha University Research Center for World Wide Business (RCWOB) invited her to its seminar, “Common-pool Resources in Japan and Worldwide in the Historical and Contemporary Perspectives” held in March 12, 2003. After the presentations of research notes by six graduate students of the Kansai area and early in the morning afternoon. Professor McKean from the eastern coast of United States gave us a laborious keynote lecture.

The number of audience was more than sixty, far beyond the organizers’ expectation. They were not only from the Kansai area but the Kanto area, and actively participated in the open discussion after the presentations. The core of the participants were the members of the Society for Commons Studies, a research group of mostly young professionals.

This report is the assemblage of the refined version of Professor McKean’s lecture first, followed by young Japanese researchers’ presentations in the seminar.

As a planner of this seminar and an editor of this report as well, I am very grateful to many people. Professor Morihiro Kato (the director of RCWOB) gave us an opening welcome address. Mrs. Yurika Shiotsu (Doshisha University), Mr. Sadao Harada (Doshisha University), and Ms. Miho Imada (Kyoto University) undertook the role of chairing the sessions of a full day. Professor Yoshihiko Wada (Sapporo University) skillfully managed to interpret the presentations and discussions freely

from English into Japanese and vice versa. Mrs. Chihiro Sumitani (Faculty of Economics Librarian, Doshisha University) and Ms. Yuka Kinugawa (RCWOB assistant) did fine office works in order for the seminar to become well organized and very fruitful.

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**Editorial remark :** Mr. Kazuya Masuda (Division of Cultural Anthropology, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University) presented the research note ; “Forest People and Forest Development : Transformation of Natural Resource Usage among Swiddening People in Riau, Indonesia.” He is now submitting its revised version to other journal for publication. He then declines to publish his note here.

**Profile of Professor Margaret A. McKean\* :** She is an Associate Professor of Political Science, Duke University, North Carolina, US. She received Ph. D. in Political Science from University of California at Berkeley in 1974 and now specializes in Japanese politics and environmental and resource politics. She is the author of *Environmental Protest and Citizen Politics in Japan* (1981), and has written several chapters and articles on citizen activism, environmental policy-making, energy policy, and economic distribution in Japan. More recently she has been working on the relationship between property rights and environmental outcomes, and on the management of common-pool resources in particular, in Japan and elsewhere. She was a member of the National Academy of Science’s panel on Common Property and Environmental Management, served as President of the International Association for the Study of Common Property, and serves now on the North American Sustainable Use Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Her current research is on electoral reform in Japan, collective choice and the management of scarce resources in

Japan, and on nationalization and subsequent devolution of property rights in common-pool resources around the globe.

(\*The profile based on <http://www.poli.duke.edu/people/faculty/makean.html>)



**Photo 1** : Professor McKean listening to the questions form the floor



**Photo 2** : A scene of the presentation by a young researcher during the seminar