Types of Main Brock of The Provincial Authority

Asq Gihei

Kokufu (provincial capital) was set up as the central body of more than 60 provinces as the upper regional units of administration in the Ritsuryo (Statutory) era (7th to the beginning of 10th century). A group of offices located in the central part of provincial capital is the provincial authority. The result of a recent excavating research has revealed the arrangement of buildings of the provincial authority. The general conclusion views that in the middle of offices, a strictly enclosed area of less than 100 meter square was marked out where the main building was situated surrounding a courtyard in the core and there the administrative, ceremonial and judicial affairs were conducted. The arrangement of buildings shows a characteristic style particularly seen in the provincial authority. This is considered to be a miniature of Chôdôin, the most important executive section in the Imperial Palace of metropolis, the axis of ancient statutory state of Japan. The function of the authority is also considered to be a local example and similar to that of Chôdôin. This thesis clarifies that, despite the acknowledgement of common factors existed in the means of arrangement of buildings of the provincial authority, a uniform mode throughout the country had not been applied, i.e. in the northern tip of Japan, the provinces of Mutsu and Dewa, they applied a common constructive style with the government house, known as the central facility of castles and fences in the provinces other than in provincial capitals, taking the model of Taga Castle, which had a provincial capital as well as Chinjufu (a military station) set up as its annex. At the western tip of Japan, at Saikaido, which consists of 9 provinces and several little islands, a similar factor of arrangement and influence to the office of Dazaifu, the upper administrative institute controlling Saikaido, is observed from the example of the province of Hizen. Moreover, most of styles of other provincial authority buildings were arranged after the model of a single office called Dajôkan, which had the systematic control over every institute of the central government and all of the facilities of the local government. The thesis denied the theory of the miniaturalized Chôdôin of the Imperial Palace as had been believed in the past. Accordingly, it is considered to be clarifying the actual situation of provincial capitals not in the form of the highest national executive facility being diffused to the regions but in the form of the government offices administering centralised politics situated in each region. Further to this, it had been maintained as the result of historical geography, that provincial capitals had a city planning of their own as local towns, but the outcome of excavation shows doubt on the original
city planning theory. The fact that the provincial authority took their model on Dajōkan may as well propose an answer to this doubt.