Relation of Jōsaku with Kokufu/Gūke
(Case of Kooriyama Site in Sendai City)

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In an attempt to compare such buildings and enclosing facilities of "josaku" and local governments as "Kokufu/Gūke" within a general framework of investigation and studies on the kokufu in the Ritsuryo period (7th to 10th c.), it shall be proved, first of all, that the material examples of "ki" (castle with wooden fence) in the 7th century correspond to the earlier stage at the Kooriyama site.

The earlier stage of the Kooriyama site (mid 7th c. to the end of 7th c.) presents large pillars densely, externally implanted just as that defined as "ki". These types of millitary installations were placed around the external borders of the "Gun" of that time. It was a function of local government. It is assumed that local officials called "kino-miyatsuko" were dispatched there. Similarly the later stage presents such "ki", but they have been constructed on the whole in a direction running due north to due south. In addition to an administrative function as the most northerly Castle of the state including the function of "Mutsu" kokufu, it was prepared for defence. Further it took on quite a new aspect, having temples constructed theraround.

These remains of later construction (end of 7th c. to the beginning of 8th c.) then developed into the Tagajo" ("Taga Castle) in around 720 AD. Taking over the outer enclosure, central installations and temples (nearly all the important remains of the Kooriyama site), this Tagajo was constructed on one end of a hill (approximately 10 km, east to west) with cerain techniques and ides applied. About 20 groups of "Jōsaku" developed in the Tohoku region may be considered simplified or transformed "Tagajo", sharing, as they did, its main functions. The arrangement of "Jōsaku" being different from those in other Kokufu. It should further be noticed that the facilities of "Gūke" and their central installations ("Guncho") developed in parallel with the Kooriyama site and were quite different in their arrangement from any "Josaku".

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The government office, Kokufu ("Kokucho"), first appearing at the same time as the Kooriyama site presents an arrangement quite different from that of "Gun" and "Jōsaku". Though these three present, in their respective central installations, different power constitutions and roles, some common functions, none the less, exist within the same.