Historical Transition of Preservation and Utilization of “Space” Mainly in the Cultural Landscape in Modern Japan: Focusing on Cultural Properties Protection System

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The historical transition of the cultural properties protection system in modern Japan shows the gradual expansion of the range of cultural properties to be protected. The types of cultural properties were increased year by year also in the postwar the Act for the Protection of Cultural Properties (1950). As of the year 2008, intangible cultural properties, tangible/intangible folk cultural properties, groups of traditional buildings, and cultural landscapes were newly designated as cultural properties to be protected in addition to tangible cultural properties and monuments designated as cultural properties to be protected in the prewar the Act for the Preservation of National Treasures (1929) and the Act for the Preservation of Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty and Natural Monuments (1919). The expansion of the range of cultural properties to this degree suggests that all connected to the past may be considered as cultural properties in principle assuming the aspect as if “all are cultural properties”.

Aside from such change of the range of cultural properties to be protected, various changes can be observed also in the protection methods when tracing the history of the cultural properties protection system. Among those changes, this article focuses on and studies the historical transition from the preservation of each cultural property, or the preservation as a “point”, to the movement aiming to protect a certain place surrounding cultural properties as a whole, or the preservation and conservation as a “space”. It is also the study of the movement progressing rapidly in recent years from the preservation as cultural properties to the utilization or the development as cultural resources.

Key words: Cultural Properties Protection System, historical environment, conservation as a space, all are cultural properties, cultural resources