

Raise the Movement of Regional Revitalization From Wakayama : Local ⇔ Global

~ We are not the on-lookers but the creators of our world! ~

Wakayama Cluster JAPAN



Wakayama Prefecture, facing the Pacific Ocean, lies in the southern-central region of Japan's main island, *Honshu*. We have beautiful green mountains, rivers and seas. We also have historical treasures. The three grand shrines called Kumano Sanzan and Mount Koya have awed people for ages and were registered as World Heritage Sites in 2004. People in Wakayama are kind, graceful and cheerful. The mild climate and richness of nature provides gifts from the mountains, rivers and seas. It is true that Wakayama is a wonderful prefecture, but we are facing many problems. Let's solve these problems together!



2015	Wakayama	Tokyo	Japan
Area (km ²)	4,725	2,191	377,971
Population (thousand)	971	13,390	127,110
Population Density (/ km ²)	204	6,168	341
Income per Person (thousand yen / year)	2,798	4,512	3,057
Rate of Aging	30.5	22.5	26.7
Ratio of Vacant House	16.5	10.9	13.5

【Wakayama Data source: government and local government】

Problems:

- ① Depopulation
 - Declining Birthrate
 - Moving to Osaka, Kobe, Kyoto, Tokyo
 - Aging Society
- ② De - Industrialization
- ③ Losing Local Traditions & Cultures
- ④ Losing Public Transportation Systems
- ⑤ How to Live with
Increasing Numbers of Foreign People
- ⑥ How to Internationalize
Local Tourism
etc.



3 STEPs: Wider and Deeper PBL through The Wakayama Cluster Synergy

1. Viewing Wakayama from the World ⇒ Searching for solutions for declining birthrate and aging population, revitalizing local industries from global viewpoints
2. Viewing the World from Wakayama ⇒ Searching for solutions of coexistence with foreign people on migration issues by mingling with foreign people living in Wakayama from local viewpoints
3. Research and Practice of 21st Style Learning ⇒ Developing active learning and its evaluation

STEP 1

Original Theme of Each School

• The five high schools of the Wakayama Cluster find out their own regional problems and seek out resolutions.

- * **Naga high school**: Our JR (Japan Railway) Wakayama Local Line Project ~The Local Project to Involve Our Hometown~
- * **Seirin high school**: Regional Revitalization by Making Good Use of Tourist Attractions like “Wakanoura”
- * **Kainan high school**: Learning about the Value of the Local Industries ~We Are Proud of Promoting Them to the World.~
- * **Hidaka high school**: Developing Sustainable Local Society ~What Can High School Students Do?~
- * **Tanabe high school**: Viewing the World from “Kumano”, Our Hometown

STEP 2

Common Theme of Wakayama Cluster

• The Wakayama Cluster find out its own prefectural problems in common, based on the five high schools' problems and seek out solutions

Let's take foreign people living in Wakayama into our community!

There are nearly 5,000 foreign people living in Wakayama Prefecture now and it is expected to increase. However, since we have few opportunities to keep in touch with them, few of us know why they are here and how they live. We, therefore, had fieldworks around us and contact with them. On June 18th 2017, under the leadership of Tanabe students, we held “the T-Café” (exchange meeting with foreign people living in Japan) in Tanabe city. We cooked our local dishes, introduced our activities, exchanged opinions and enjoyed events! It was our first step to take foreign people living in Wakayama into our community. We will develop such an event and seek out solutions by keeping in touch with them.

STEP 3

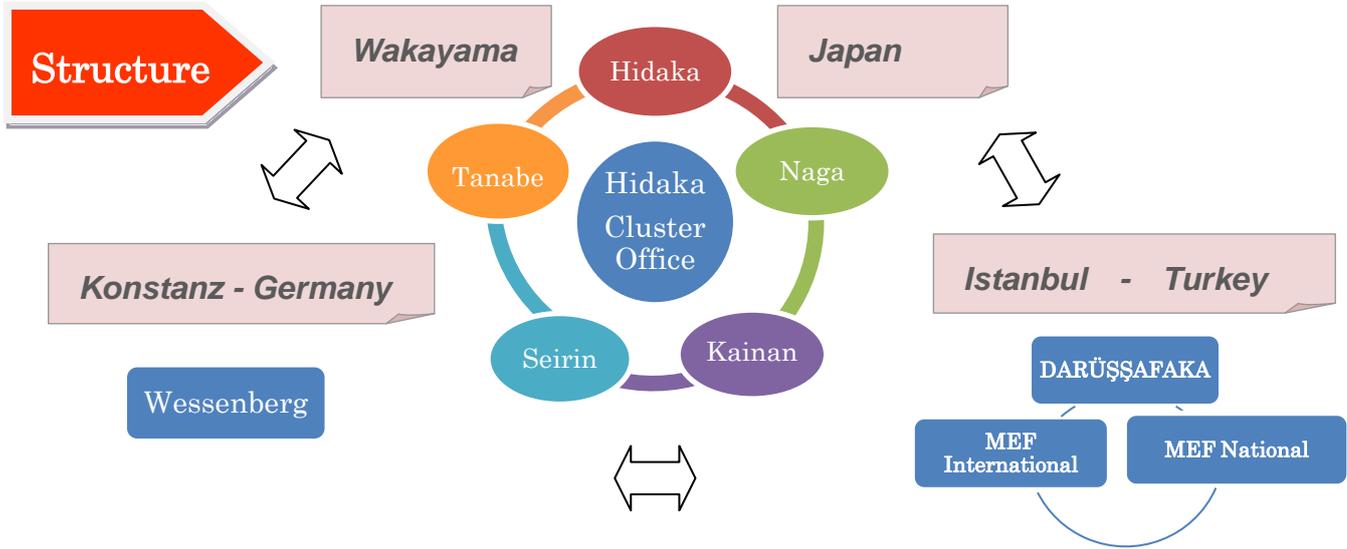
Common Theme of the Wakayama, Konstanz and Istanbul Clusters

• The Wakayama Cluster find out global problems through cooperative study with the Germany and Turkey Clusters, and seek out solutions.

Recognizing problems on migration, seeking resolutions and taking actions

It is expected that the number of migrations will increase drastically all over the world. From tourists, business travelers, to workers, emigrants, immigrations and refugees, lots of people move to foreign countries. With an increase in the number of migrations, we could have more problems. “Can we make good relationship with them?” “Can we keep our own traditions?” “Will they take our jobs away?” These problems are so urgent and serious for us.

The students of the Wakayama Cluster seek solutions on these problems, relating to various local problems, through cooperative study with the Konstanz and the Istanbul Cluster from both local and global view points.



Activities



TV meeting with Tokyo, Paris



T-Café; Exchange Meeting with Foreign People Living in Wakayama (Tanabe City June.18. 2017)

Wakayama Cluster Workshop
(We have had 10 workshops.)



Lecture in the Learning Ministries of Ontario



Cooperative Study with Wessenberg in Germany
(Konstanz Germany Mar. 12-19. 2017)



The 40th Anniversary of the Foundation of
The East Canada Association of People from Wakayama

Canada Study Tour
(Ontario Canada Sep. 14-19. 2016)

Wakayama Hidaka High School

~Wakayama Craft~



We come from the Hidaka area in Wakayama, which is in the south of Honshu Island in Japan. Our hometown is blessed with nature. However, the number of young people who leave their hometown after graduation has noticeably increased recently. Therefore, we have carried out several projects to rediscover the good points of our hometown and to tell the local people about them.

Yura town is a town which we visited for research. We made a tourist brochure of the town in collaboration with the tourism association and a company in the town. Considering the viewpoints of high school students, we recommended four places of interest. This enabled us to realize the charm of our region again. Through the brochure, we hope visitors fully enjoy the town.

However, at the same time, we found some problems such as a decrease in the younger population and a lack in infrastructure. We think that through this activity we were able to see the reality of our community.



Promoting

We held study tour in Canada and Germany in order to learn about international issues and exchange cultures through face-to-face communication.

We also went abroad to learn world issues and culture and to interact with students from foreign high school Clusters.

We walked around our region to rediscover its attractions. During this time, we discovered one issue with our hometown. It was that the shopping street is less prosperous than before. In the past, it was full of shoppers. However, it is now called "shutter street" which means most stores there are closed.

So, we decided to think of a plan to revitalize the shopping street. We had meetings several times with shop owners. Finally, we decided to hold an event called "Machizemi". "Machizemi" is a kind of seminar, where shop owners will give interesting lectures to their customers about the shops' characteristics and the owners' personalities.

The aim of this event is to collaborate with the local people and to make young people who didn't often visit the shopping street get interested in and feel an attachment to the shops.

Problem Solving

Globalizing

Through the study tour in Canada, we learned about immigration, education, and tourism in Ontario. From Mihama town in the Hidaka district, a lot of people emigrated to Ontario in the past and their descendant are still there. So, we interviewed them about their lives in Canada and why they emigrated there. This was a very precious opportunity for us because we can't hear the stories of the people who emigrated to Canada while in our home town. We felt that we need to hand down their history to the young generation of our region. Also, we learned about the education system in Ontario.

Through the study tour in Germany, we carried out collaborative learning with students from the German Cluster. We discussed some international issues, refugees, environment, languages, culture etc. It was a great opportunity for us with different background to recognize the issues which are expected to happen by 2030.

From these two study tours abroad, we were able to broaden our horizons by learning about systems, cultures, and different values of different countries. We are sure to make use of these experiences in the future.

We met all kinds of people and learned a lot through these activities. We intend to continue such activities in the future. We want to act to revitalize our hometown and Wakayama even more in the future.



Please come to Wakayama!