

Japanese Geography

— Tradition and Innovation in the 20th Century —

NOMA Haruo

日本の地理学

— 20世紀における伝統と革新 —

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本稿は2006年9月29日にベトナム国家大学ハノイ校地理学部で開催された同学部創立40周年記念大会（ベトナム地理学会共催）での招待講演「20世紀日本の地理学の伝統と革新」の発表原稿を、写真等を除いてほぼそのまま掲載したものである。その目的とするところは、ベトナムの地理学研究者に日本の地理学界の基本的な情報を提供することと、現在の課題をベトナム地理学の動向と比較しつつ考察することである。前半では、20世紀におけるアカデミック地理学の伝統を主要な4つのスクール（東京大学、京都大学、東京高等師範学校／東京文理科大学／東京教育大学／筑波大学、広島高等師範学校／広島大学）の創立者やの後継者たちの研究テーマの特色から概観した。後半では、第二次世界大戦後における日本の地理学の変化を、応用地理学、第四紀への関心、いわゆる「地理学の革命」といわれたアングロサクソン系地理学の影響の深化、地理学教室の新規設立や学術雑誌の刊行、マルクス地理学の影響、GISの普及などから展望した。

Abstract

This short paper is the print of my keynote speech I made at the 40th anniversary commemoration academic conference held at the Faculty of Geography, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, in September 29, 2006. The aim is to present an outline and basic

information on the history of Japanese modern geography to Vietnamese geographers from various universities, and to examine the contemporary issues comparing with the trend of Vietnamese geography. In the first half of the paper, I present the history of Japanese academic geography in the 20th century from the time of founders and their successors in four major schools: the University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, the Higher Normal School of Tokyo / Tokyo Bunrika University / Tokyo University of Education / Tsukuba University, the Higher Normal School of Hiroshima/Hiroshima University. In the latter half, I review the changes in Japanese geography since the World War II with special reference to applied geography, to the interest in the Quaternary, deeping influence of the Anglo-Saxon geography and “revolution of geography”, Marxist geography, postmodern geography, then the establishment of new geography departments and new academic journals in Japan, and diffusion of GIS.

1. Establishment of Four Main Academic Schools and their Founders and Successors

Modern academic geography in Japan started in 1907 with the establishment of an independent chair in geography. The first professor of geography in Japan was Ogawa Takuji (1870–1941), Kyoto Imperial University (now Kyoto University). The chair of geography was founded in the Department of History, Liberal Arts College, Kyoto Imperial University. This department was composed of Japanese History, Archaeology, Oriental History, Western History and Geography. The status of geography was not high in compared with other disciplines, because the chair was made of only one professor and associate professor.

Ogawa was born in the family of high class *samurai* (warrior) and was familiar with Chinese classics. He graduated from geology, the Tokyo Imperial University in 1896, and then, got a position as an engineer at the Geological Research Institute. He studied abroad in Vienna and later brought back the German tradition of geography; climatic geomorphology specialized in glacier and landscape science (*Landschaft* in German terminology) to Japan. Ogawa's own writing included *Regional Geography of Formosa* (1896), *Study of Human Geography* (1928), *Studies of the Historical Geography of China* (1938), *Geography of War* (1934), *Japan Archipelago* (1944). He named agglomerated settlement in Nara Basin “*kaïto*” in which were impressed ancient rural grid pattern plan system *jori*. Then, he

studied on the dispersed settlements in Tonami Plain, Toyama Prefecture, in central Japan. Since dispersed settlement pattern is exceptional phenomena in traditional Japanese settlement, its origin, the development process and the function gathered more attention among many geographers and historians (Okada 2000).

Another distinguished pioneer geographer was Yamazaki Naomasa (1870–1929). He graduated from the Department of Geology, College of Science, Tokyo Imperial University (now the University of Tokyo). He studied geology and geomorphology under the supervision of J.J. Rein at Bonn and A. Penk at Vienna. He, same as Ogawa, studied the glacial forms of high mountains in Japan, earthquake and fault movement, tectonic movement and volcanic landforms. After coming back to Japan, he was appointed to teach at the Higher Normal School (in 1873 renamed “The Higher Normal School of Tokyo”). Its predecessor was the first established primary school teacher’s collage of Japan in 1872. This college started the secondary education teacher’s school in 1890s. Teacher’s collages before the World War II were strongly influenced under the nationalism in Japan. History and geography were important subjects at secondary education as well as primary education, to make as the nation better. Yamazaki played an important role in the development of geography of the Higher Normal School of Tokyo. He, with the co-author Sato Denzo, published *The Regional Geography of Great Japan*, 10 volumes (1903–1915). These volumes were the first written scientific regional geography on Japan. Yamazaki also became the first professor of geography at Collage of Science, Tokyo Imperial University in 1911 It was one year after Ogawa’s appointment in Kyoto.

Tanaka Keiji (1885–1975), graduated from the Higher Normal School of Tokyo, and then succeeded the chair of Yamazaki in 1923. When Tokyo Bunrika University (University of Humanity and Science, Tokyo) was founded upon the Higher Normal School of Tokyo in 1929, Tanaka was transferred there. He became a leading professor of human geography, especially regional geography. A number of lectures on methodology of regional geography and local monographs were compiled and published. At the same time he and his school had edited various school textbooks and atlases, which contributed to form a style of geography education. His academic backbone owes the American school as well as the German school. W.M. Davis is known as the “cycle of erosion”, or more properly, the “geomorphic cycle” His theory explained the creation of mountain and landforms, from the youth, maturity and old

age, and finally become a flat, level plain called by the “peneplain”. Then, rejuvenation occurs and there is another uplift mountain, and then cycle continues.

Tanaka’s theory is apparently influenced by Darwinism, which was in full flourish at that time. Tanaka applied the theory of evolution to a set of human landscape layer; *Shosho* (initial landscape), *Kensho* (climax landscape) and *Zansho* (remnant landscape). On the top of that, he invented regional concepts such as *Nanboku-sei* (north-south regionality), *Kokyo-sei* (altitude regionality). He also encouraged students to conduct fieldwork at small- or medium-scale. These scales are individually manageable. His student became geography teachers in secondary education level at high school or girls’ high school, or respective teacher’s college (normal school or college of advanced education) in each prefecture or region. Nationalistic policies in 1930s promoted to love for one’s home in education. Such a reproductive structure disseminated idiographic regional geography on a small/medium scale with human and physical interaction. On the other hand, law- or deduction-oriented studies to explain pattern, location or distribution had been neglected. Additionally, I dare to add the disadvantage that simplified formalism in regional geography had deprived of vigor and academic imagination in geography and global/large scale interest.

Another second higher normal school was established in Hiroshima City, western part of Japan in 1902. Nakanome Akira (1874–1959), who also studied at A. Penk in Vienna, joined the Higher Normal Collage of Hiroshima (Ishida 2000). Nakanome’s interest was broad from educational administration to area studies, cross-cultural studies. However, he had been forgotten or ignored for a long time in the geographical association. Ishida Hiroshi, Professor emirates of Hiroshima University, highlighted him on his geographical achievement and other fields (2002a, 2002b).

Tsujimura Taro (1890–1983) was appointed the chair of College of Science, the University of Tokyo after Yamazaki’s death in 1929. He was a prominent student of Yamazaki, and had a good command at several foreign languages. He also received strong influence from Davis’s theory and he contributed to establish the Geographical Association of Japan in 1925. The geographical association issued monthly academic journals named “The *Geographical Review of Japan*”. He himself contributed huge amount of academic articles and western book reviews of various fields to *the Geographical Review of Japan*. This year was a memorial year that completed to cover whole Japan by 1/50,000 scale topographical

maps. Tsujimura's main field is geomorphologic fault and landscape geography. He also wrote many text books on geomorphology (1922; 1929; 1933). These textbooks contributed to the institutionalization of academic physical geography in Japanese academic society. Thus, the Tokyo Imperial University was ranked as the top of higher education of geography. Speaking in similitude, Faculty of Geography, Hanoi University is Department of Geography, the University of Tokyo. Both played the pioneer's role for establishing academic geography, and for their disciplines, strong connection with geology and separated from there afterward.

Nevertheless, curiously enough, these textbooks were mainly used for preparing national secondary school teacher's verification examination. Tsujimura, as well as Yamazaki, had held the position of the Normal School of Tokyo and implicitly influenced in the field of secondary education level. He, also, emphasized the significance of the morphology of cultural landscape inferred from a Berkeley geographical school scholar, Carl O. Sauer and German *Landschaft* concept. His contribution to human geography was cultural landscape analysis by using topographical maps and quantitative studies called "area measuring". Though Tsujimura (1933) and his followers (Watanuki Isahiko, Matsui Isamu et. al) published many articles and some books on cultural landscape, they were strongly criticized for the physical-biased attitude, its inorganic or mechanical nature (Okada 1992).

Human geography, on the other hand, of Kyoto school flourished in 1930s. In 1932 the department memoir *Chiri-ronso (Papers in Geography)* started. Ishibashi Goro (1876-1946) after the chair of Ogawa, graduated from the department of western history, Tokyo Imperial University, was appointed as the chairman of Kyoto Imperial University after Ogawa's transfer to Department of Geology, Collage of Science, Kyoto Imperial University. Ishibashi was famous for "Ratzelian" and his main field was historical geography. However, unfortunately his health was not good enough to stay at the chair of geography, Kyoto Imperial University.

Third post of Kyoto Imperial University was historical geographer Komaki Saneshige (1898-1990). Since he was born in family of *Shinto*, he was anxious about Japan's future affected by Allied Force in the late 1930s. He gradually inclined from academic community to war footing or agitation. He wrote *Declaration of Japanese Geopolitics* (1940) and the Association of Geopolitics of Japan was established by his initiative and his followers graduated from Kyoto Imperial University (Takeuchi 1976; Takeuchi 2000; Shibata 2005).

They made a secret intelligence group supported by the military named “Yoshida no Kai” (Yoshida Association). Yoshida is local name located in Kyoto Imperial University. This secret association group advocated Japanese geopolitics under the name of Komaki. But the geopolitics had bared actually no fruitful results nor contributed strategic guidelines. In short, it might be said a mere void agitation for ignorant public. His geopolitics had strong influence of German geopolitics aspired by Karl Haushofer, Rudolf Kjellen and Otto Maull.

After the World War II, as the Kyoto school, *Geopolitik* (*geopolitics* in American terminology) became taboo. Komaki and his followers were excluded all civil service by GHQ. As a result, all department members of the Kyoto school were forcedly replaced. However, strong research tradition on historical geography, history of map, atlas and geographic thought had been maintained by the successors, such as Oda Takeo (1907–2006), Fujioka Kenjiro (1914–1985), Suizu Ichiro (1923–1996), Ukita Tsuneyoshi (1928–2005), Yamori Kazuhiko (1927–1992), Ashikaga Kenryo (1938–1998), Kobayashi Kentaro (1938–1997, Shiga University), Kinda Akihiro (1946–), Senda Minoru (1942– , International Research Center for Japanese Studies) and Takahashi Seiichi (1945– , Kansai University).

On the other hand, many professional geographers graduated from Tokyo Imperial University, who had rich knowledge and technique on geodesy, surveying and mineral probe, General Staff Office, the Military Academy and military preparatory schools. They also surveyed as research teams in the Japanese colonies and occupied territories such as Taiwan, Korea, Manchuria and Netherlands Indies (Takeuchi 2000). Table 1, the 7th column shows the first generation of four major Japanese schools in geography.

2. Postwar Trends and Innovation

After the World War II to 1950s, new works began under the direction of American geographers in the General Headquarters (GHQ), Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (Martin 2005). Since daily food acquisition was the most urgent matters for the public, applied geographical surveys in the followings fields became the central theme: land use and its classification to present rational agricultural product allocation and resource management; water resource conservation and development in remote mountainous areas; population geography and demographic analysis and calculation in the post 1945. Natural

Table 1. Outline of Four Major Japanese Schools in Geography

		A. The University of Tokyo	B. Kyoto University	C. University of Tsukuba	D. Hiroshima University
Year of Establishment		1911	1907	1927 (Tokyo Bunkika Daigaku)	1911
Faculties (Undergraduate Level)		1) Science 2) Liberal Arts	1) Letters 2) Integrated Science	1) Collage of Natural Science 2) Collage of Humanities 3) Collage of Comparative Culture	1) Letters 2) Education 3) Integrated Science
Location		Tokyo/ Matsudo, Chiba	Kyoto city, Kyoto	Tsukuba city, Ibaraki	Higashi-hiroshima city, Hiroshima
Specified Subjects		Geomorphology Economic Geography Culture Geography Political Geography Urban Geography Geographical Thought GIS	Historical Geography Geographical Thought and History of Map Urban Geography Agricultural Geogr.	Geomorphology Agriculture/Rural Geogr. Quantitative Geography and GIS Climatology Hydrology Regional Geography Urban Geography Historical Geography Tourism Geography Geography Education	Rural Geography Economic Geography Historical Geography Geomorphology Geography Education Regional Geography GIS
Specified Study Areas conducted by Faculty Members		The Andes Arid area The Antarctic	China	Brazil United States France	India
Main Professors	1st Generation	YAMAZAKI Naomasa TSUJIMURA Taro	OGAWA Takuji ISHIBASHI Goro KOMAKI Sanesige	TANAKA Keiji MINO (ISHIKAWA) Yokichi UCHIDA Kan'ichi FUKUI Eiichiro	NAKANOME Satoru
	2nd Generation	TADA Fumio YOSHIKAWA Torao KIUCHI Shinzo IIZUKA Koji SATO Hisashi	ODA Takeo FUJIOKA Kenjiro NISHIMURA Mutsuo	MACHIDA Tei AONO Hisao YOSHINO Masatoshi BIRUKAWA Shohei YAMAMOTO Soki ASAKA Yukio KODA Seiki KIKUCHI Toshio CHIBA Tokuji	YONEKURA Jiro ISHIDA Hiroshi NISHIMURA Kasuke
	3rd Generation	SAKAGUCHI Yutaka SUZUKI Hideo NISHIKAWA Osamu KOBORI Iwao TANABE Hiroshi	SUIZU Ichiro OJI Toshiaki UKITA Tsuneyoshi ASHIKAGA Kenryo NARITA Kozo ISHIHARA Hiroshi	YAMAMOTO Shozo KAWAMURA Takashi SAITO Isao TAKAHASHI Nobuo KAYANE Isamu OKUNO Takashi	FUJIWARA Kenzo NAKAYAMA Shuichi MURAKAMI Makoto MORIKAWA Hiroshi KITAGAWA Kenji
	4th Generation	TANIUCHI Toru MATSUMOTO Jun OMORI Hiroo IKEDA Yasutaka OKABE Atsuyuki	KINDA Akihiro YAMADA Makoto KANASAKA Kiyonori	MATSUKURA Kiminori MURAYAMA Yuji TABAYASHI Akira TEZUKA Akira YAMASHITA Kiyomi ISHII Hideya	OKAHASHI Hidenori NAKATA Takashi

Resource Research Association was founded in 1947, and several geographers graduated from the University of Tokyo (renamed from Imperial Tokyo University) such as Tada Fumio (1907–1978) and Ishi Motosuke (1924–).

Onward after, American influence became gradually stronger than German or French influence in Japanese geography community. Postwar university reform introduced American Liberal Arts, and made much of English writing and reading in not only a cram course also university curriculum.

New geographical departments of public (both national and local) or private university were born in the latter half of 1940s to 1960s. As for national/local public universities, Tohoku University, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Nagoya University, Osaka City University, Okayama University, Kyushu University played important roles and trained not a few geographers (Figure 1, Table 2). Two traditional national women's universities, Ochanomizu University in Tokyo and Nara Women's University in Nara, both rooted in women's higher normal school, expanded. In these newly or renewal university, departments of geography were founded in the faculty of letters in spite of covering both physical and human geography. Exceptional cases were Tohoku University and Tokyo Metropolitan University. Their departments belong to faculty of science.

Some private universities were also newly established or shifted from part-time course to full-time course. The latter cases are Meiji Univ., Nihon Univ. Rissho Univ. Hosei Univ. Komazawa Univ. in Tokyo and Ritsumeikan Univ. in Kyoto. They started in 1920s to 1930s to supplement secondary level teachers in geography. Normal course to be secondary school teachers were higher normal schools, but increase of going higher education did not cover with four national higher normal schools. Students studied in such private universities mainly became primary school teachers to career up. These self-educated, active students sustained the rapid economic growth in 1960s. Geography in universities brightened most in 1970s to 1980s. But this prosperity was partly sustained by compulsory subject system of geography in high school.

The former case, all the newly established departments of geography in private universities were almost in faculty of letters. Good examples are Senshu Univ., Kokugakuin Univ., Kokushikan Univ., Aichi Univ., Kansai Univ., Kawansei Gakuin Univ. and Nara Univ. However, large numbers of students majored in geography do not engaged in jobs related in

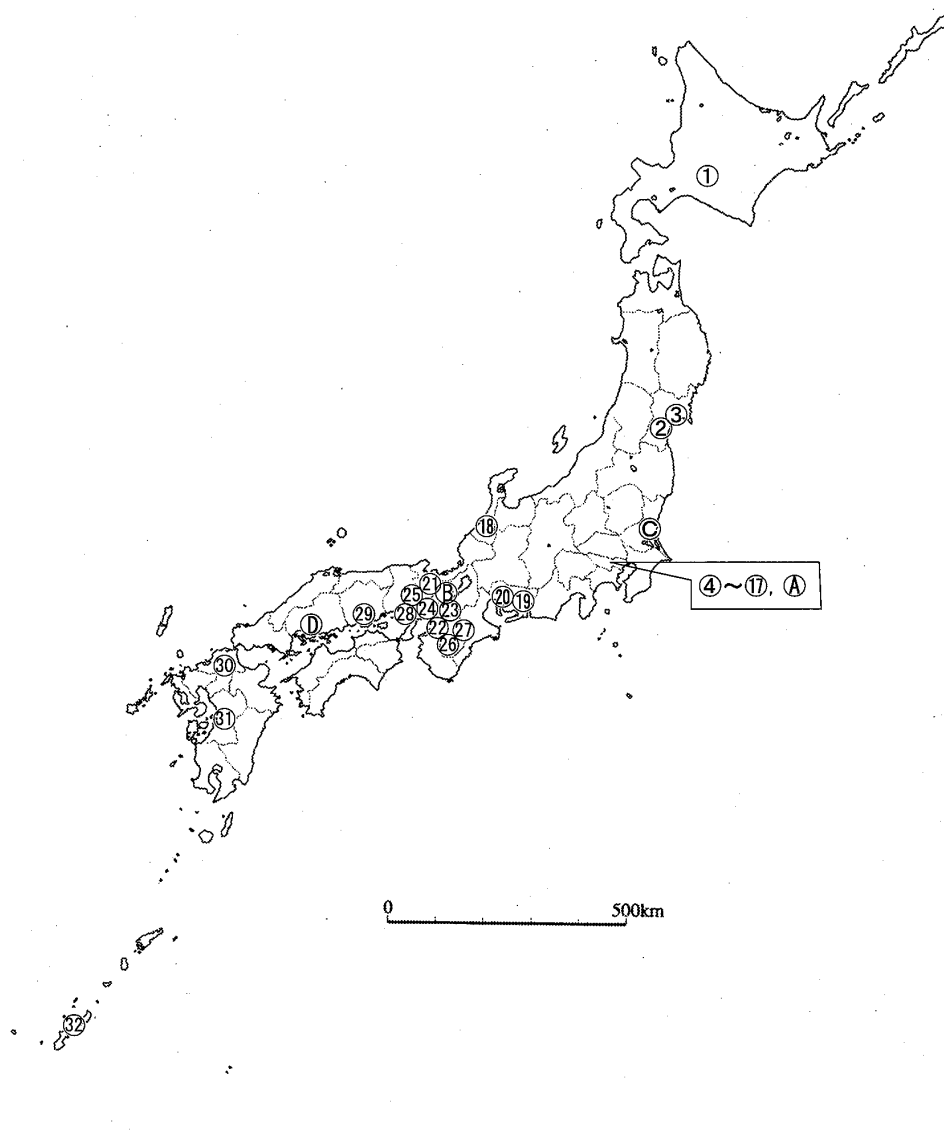


Fig. 1. Location of Geography Department

this area, worked at tourism business, consultant, survey and aero-photograph survey companies. Exception is primary /secondary geography teacher's case. National universities of each prefecture have faculty of education or teacher's collage, and there geography was taught as social studies.

This is a critical weak point of Japanese geography in university education. This situation is different from Vietnam National University, Hanoi. In Vietnam geograpyh is applied to policy making or lamd administration.

Geographical Survey Institute (hereafter GSI) was established in 1945. However, GSI

Table 2. Departments of Geography in Contemporary Universities

	Name of University	Type	Faculty	Established Year
1	Hokkaido Univ.	N	B	1950s
2	Tohoku Univ.	N	A	1940s
3	Tohoku Gakuin Univ.	Pr	B	1960s
4	Ochanomizu Univ.	G	B	1940s
5	Kokushikan Univ.	Pr	B	1970s
6	Kokugakuin Univ.	Pr	B	1970s
7	Komazawa Univ.	Pr	B	1930s
8	Tokyo Gakugei Univ.	Pr	D	1940s
9	Tokyo Metropolitan Univ.	Pu	A	1960s
10	Nihon Univ.	Pr	B	1930s
11	Hitotsubashi Univ.	N	F	1940s
12	Housei Univ.	Pr	B	1930s
13	Meiji Univ.	Pr	B	1930s
14	Rikkyo Univ.	Pr	B	1950s
15	Rissho Univ.	Pr	F	1920s
16	Waseda Univ.	Pr	D	1940s
17	Senshu Univ.	Pr	B	1960s
18	Kanazawa Univ.	G	B / D	1960s
19	Aichi Univ.	Pr	B	1960s
20	Nagoya Univ.	N	B / F	1940s
21	Ritsumeikan Univ.	Pr	B	1930s
22	Osaka City Univ.	Pu	B	1940s
23	Kansai Univ.	Pr	B	1960s
24	Osaka Univ.	G	B	1990s
25	Kwansei Gakuin Univ.	Pr	B	1960s
26	Nara Univ.	Pr	B	1970s
27	Nara Women's Univ.	N	B	1940s
28	Kobe Univ.	N	B / F	1990s
29	Okayama Univ.	N	B / D / F	1950s
30	Kyushu Univ.	N	B / F	1980s
31	Kumamoto Univ.	N	B / D	1980s
32	Univ. of the Ryukyus	N	B / D	1940s
A	The Univ. of Tokyo	N	B / C	1950s
B	Kyoto Univ.	N	B	1940s
C	Univ. of Tsukuba	N	B / A / F	1970s
D	Hiroshima Univ.	N	B / D / F	1940s

Faculty

A: Faculty of Science
 B: Faculty of Letters, Humanities
 C: Faculty of Liberal Arts / Integrate Science
 D: Faculty of Education
 F: Other Faculties

Type

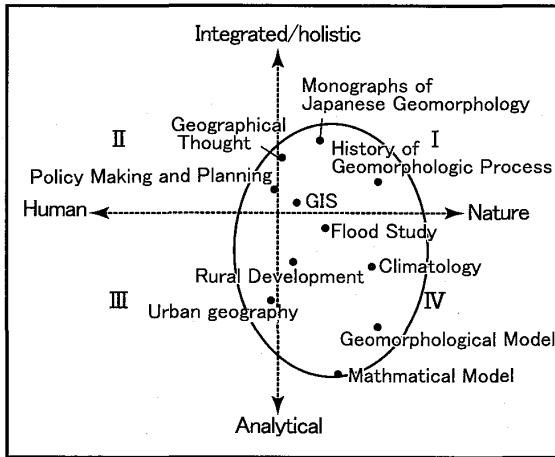
N: National University
 Pr: Private University
 Pu: Public University

historically dates back to 1869 when Cadastral Registration Map Section was established in the Office of Geography Department, Ministry of Civil Service. Later in 1888 it was reorganized as Japanese Imperial Land Survey. Many geographers graduated from Department of Geography, Faculty of Science, the University of Tokyo and Department of Geography, Hiroshima University (renamed the Hiroshima Bunrika University rooted from the Higher Normal Collage of Hiroshima). They were Nakano Takamasa, Watanabe Akira, Oya Masahiko, Kadomura Hiroshi, Takehisa Yoshihiko, Takasaki Masayoshi and so on. Memorial activity of GSI in 1950s to 1960s is Flood Protection Map, later renamed Land Condition Map. It is composed of three elements: 1) topographical classification; 2) level height; 3) various organizations and buildings related with flood protection, land reclamation and shelters. These series of thematic maps anticipated the inundated and flood affected area in the time of Ise Bay Typhoon occurred in 1959. Costal and deltaic areas of Ise Bay, Central Japan, were almost completely inundated according with the micro-topography of 1 m height. Such applied geographical studies contributed to squeeze the new horizon of study fields.

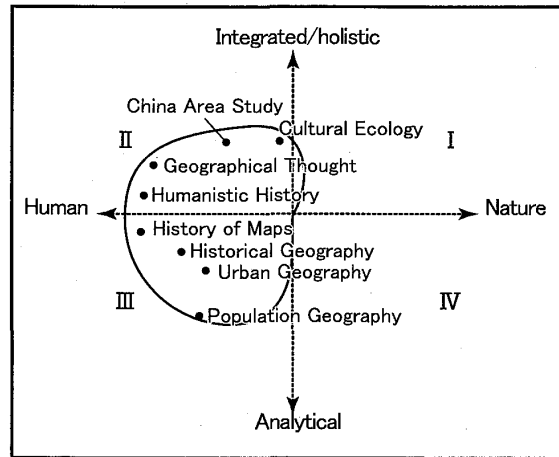
It was dominant feature that geographers' interest in the Quaternary came up after the World War II in the following fields; tephrochronology of glacial fluctuation and accumulation terracing; relationship between archeological sites and geomorphologic location; climatic change by using digging sample bowling and pollen analysis; active fault, earthquake and tectonic movement; historical development of geomorphology using various index such as coral reef development or terracing process.

The membership of *Geographical Review of Japan* had been limited within members graduated from the Tokyo University and some qualified scholars before 1945. But postwar fresh academic atmosphere opened the academic community to all members who belong to the society. Particularly authors on human geography as well as physical geography expanded in Tokyo metropolitan and *Tohoku* (northeast part of Honshu) and *Chubu* (central part of Honshu) area. Tsukuba University (successor of Tokyo Bunrika University and the Tokyo University of Education) was established in 1973 at New Science City, Tsukuba away from 60km north east of the central Tokyo.

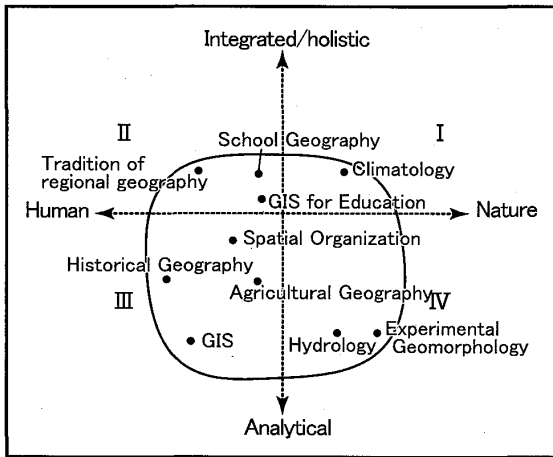
Now the Tsukuba University became the biggest university school and circle. It covers broad-wide sub-deciplines, such as geomorphology (Mino Yokichi, Machida Tei), climatology



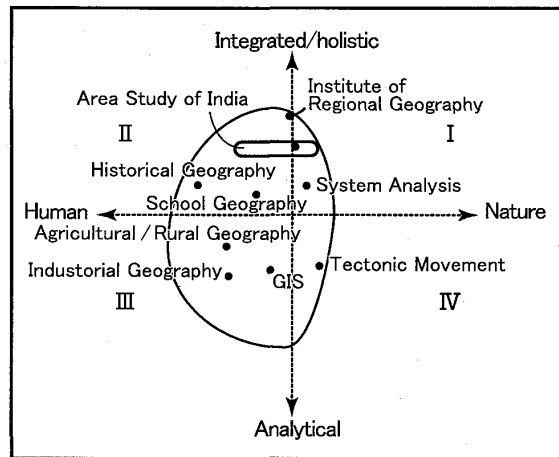
A. The University of Tokyo



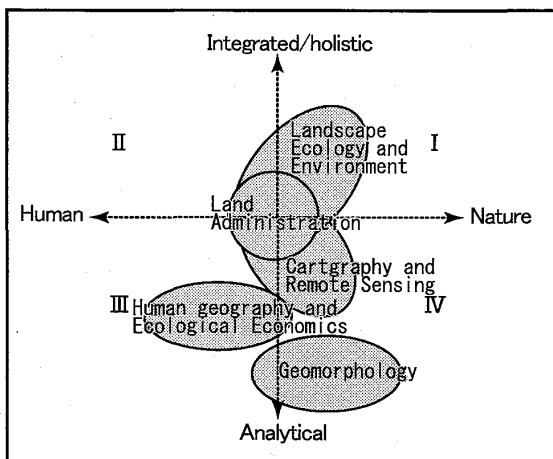
B. Kyoto University



C. University of Tsukuba



D. Hiroshima University



E. Faculty of Geography, Vietnam National University, Hanoi
(Noma 2004)

Fig. 2. Study Topic Allocations of Major Four Japanese Schools in Geography

(Fukui Eiichiro, Yoshino Masatoshi, Kawamura Takeshi), hydrology (Yamamoto Soki, Kayane Isamu) with comparatively strong trend of deductive methodology. Tradition of regional geography since Tanaka Keiji also flourished, getting the successive posts, in teacher's collage/university at respective prefecture. At the same time the gap between university geography and school geography had become wider and wider.

This regional geography school emphasized spatial differentiation or organization of medium-scale or narrow area (administrative city/town/village level). *Japanese Rural Space* by Yamamoto et al. (1987) is one of the most typical works dealt with regional-wise Japan.

On the other hand, teaching skills in secondary education were elaborated with the introduction of American/British innovation on geography teaching. However, total net leaning hours for students had been gradually reduced by the strong guidance by Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture. We call this "Yutori Kyoiku" policy, relaxed education policy, freeing students from pressure and curriculum. In my humble opinion, political influence or lobby activities to the Government by leading geographers were weak compared with history or other subjects.

New academic societies had come up after 1945. Major geographical journals and authors' contribution to them by major geographical schools are summarized in Table 3. *The Human Geography of Japan*, which is the leading and prestigious journal in the fields of human geography started at Kyoto in 1948. Though most of the initial main members were scholars and students who graduated from Kyoto University and Ritsumeikan University, contributors have become national wide year by year.

Other two academic journals, both national-wide general geographical journals, have stronger attachment to particular area and university. *Quarterly Journal of Geography* edited by Tohoku Geographic Association, which called *TOHOKU CHIRI* before 1991, centered Tohoku University and students graduated from there. The initial subscribers were also mainly Tohoku region.

Hiroshima school founded the Geographic Sciences Association and in 1961 published quaternary academic journal *Geographical Sciences*. This school opened up an integrated (included physical and human geography) area study on India by strong leadership of Yonekura Jiro, historical geographer, Ishida Hiroshi, rural/agricultural geographer, Fujiwara Kenzo, geomorphologist and their successors. Figure 2 shows the study topic/theme

Table 3. Matorix of Japanese Geographical Journals and Universitie's Contribution

Name of Journal and Started Year, Publication Frequency	Period	University of Tokyo	Kyoto University	University of Tsukuba	Tohoku University	Hiroshima University	Ritsumeikan University	Rissho University
The Geographical Review of Japan (<i>CHIRIGAKU HYORON</i>) 1925 12+2(English) / year	Pre-World War II	●	—	△	○	—	—	△
	3rd Quarter of 20th C.	◎	○	◎	○	○	△	△
	4th Quarter of 20th C.	○	○	◎	△	○	△	○
	21st Century	△	△	◎	△	△	△	△
The Human Geography of Japan (<i>JINBUN-CHIRI</i>) 1948 6 / year	Pre-World War II	—	—	—	—	—	△	△
	3rd Quarter of 20th C.	○	◎	△	△	△	△	—
	4th Quarter of 20th C.	△	◎	○	△	○	○	△
	21st Century	△	○	○	△	○	○	△
Quarterly Journal of Geography (<i>KIKAN CHIRIGAKU</i>)* 1948 4 / year	Pre-World War II	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3rd Quarter of 20th C.	△	△	△	◎	○	△	△
	4th Quarter of 20th C.	△	△	△	◎	△	△	△
	21st Century	△	△	△	◎	△	△	△
Geographical Sciences (<i>CHIRI KAGAKU</i>) 1961 4 / year	Pre-World War II	△	△	△	○	◎	△	△
	3rd Quarter of 20th C.	△	△	△	△	◎	△	△
	4th Quarter of 20th C.	△	○	△	△	◎	△	△
	21st Century	△	△	△	△	◎	△	△
Economic Geography (<i>KEIZAI CHIRIGAKU NENPO</i>) 1955 4 / year	Pre-World War II	—	—	—	△	△	○	△
	3rd Quarter of 20th C.	○	△	△	△	△	△	△
	4th Quarter of 20th C.	△	△	○	△	△	△	△
	21st Century	△	△	○	△	△	△	△
The Historical Geography (<i>REKISHI CHIRIGAKU</i>) 1980 5 / year	Pre-World War II	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3rd Quarter of 20th C.	△	○	○	△	△	△	△
	4th Quarter of 20th C.	△	△	○	△	△	○	△
	21st Century	△	○	○	△	△	○	△
The New Geography (<i>THE SHIN-CHIRI</i>) 1952 4 / year	Pre-World War II	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3rd Quarter of 20th C.	△	△	○	△	△	△	○
	4th Quarter of 20th C.	△	△	◎	△	△	△	△
	21st Century	△	△	○	△	△	△	△

* *TOHOKU CHIRI* beore 1991 ● exclusively ◎ frequently ○ sometimes △ rarely
 — not published

allocations of major four Japanese schools in geography. Horizontal axis is human and nature, whereas vertical axis is analytical and holistic/integrated. Eventually four quadrants are divided. Figure "E" shows the Vietnam's case (Noma 2004). The research teams settled in one village and they draw a detail village map and conducted all households' interview surveys by uniform questionnaires. Land use and household economy were highlighted. Japanese geographers, researching in all over the world, however, has continued field studies in foreign countries by geography department initiative are very rare.

Of course it is not neglected that geographers' individual endeavors as a member of academic research teams by Scientific Grant of Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (now almost functions have been transferred to JSPS (Japan Scientific Promotion Society) or academic expedition in the initial stage supported by Japan Government and private sectors. The majority of big research teams on foreign field studies are planned and conducted by physician, agronomists, anthropologists and archeologists. This situation was partly improved by geographer's endeavor, in the future, more challenge was necessary for the vitalization of geography.

Though postwar Kyoto school has been still renowned for historical geography or geographical thought, some outsiders had been kept fruitful works in Asia, Africa and Oceania with the affect from ethnological/anthropological approach, ecology or agronomy. Kawakita Jiro's series of works in Nepal or Sasaki Komei's study on shifting cultivation in Asia or cultural roots study on Japanese agriculture or rice culture. Though they once parted from geographical mainstream, they gradually have returned the sound geographical methodology in their later phase (Figure 2 and Table 1).

Unfortunately some contemporary trends in Japanese geography also make much of formalistic approach (dogmatic Marxist/critical geographical approach), historical discourse studies or cultural studies colored with post-colonialism and "GIS fetishism". Their attitude and approach are quite different together, but there are common tendencies to data neglect or "blackboxization" of data. Internet-based society enables to collect innumerable data, but the examination of data quality has declined. On the other hand, dogmatic Marxist/critical geography or discourse studies sometimes collect only convenient data for persuading readers.

Holistic or naturalist interests had been lost in every discipline, in geography as well as anthropology/ethnology, too. In the 21st century every major university in geography have no such academic imaginative powers or leadership than 1960 to 1970s. Graduate students tend to select topics that are easy accessible or prompt result expectation. Good example is the geography related courses in the University of Tokyo. Their present performance to geographical society of Japan is really decreasing and actually the department of Geography, Collage of Science was fallen into pieces although individual abilities are high and have potential ability.

Faculty of Geography, University of Science, Vietnam National University is compared with the University of Tokyo in Japan! *Nobles oblige* is very important in such traditional or prestigious universities. At the same time, incessant innovation and flexibility become also key factors not only within the faculties but also with trans-disciplinary or inter-university level.

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