

Organization and Activities of Neighborhood Association in Contemporary Japan : A Case Study of Kamishiojiri Jichikai, Ueda City

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Introduction

Major books on the neighborhood association called *chonaikai* or *jichikai* in Japan had been published around 1990: Iwasaki (1989), Kurasawa and Akimoto (1990), Nakata (1993), and Torigoe (1994). The studies included the controversy on the origin of *chonaikai* between Nakamura Hachiro and Akimoto Ritsuro, which is whether *chonaikai* in town has natural resource or official one, and those did not give us any resolutions in those days. As Tsukiyama (2008) summarized the controversy afterward, the characteristics and origin of the *chonaikai* depend on local historical conditions, and those are consequently different in each type divided according to urbanized degree. We should therefore study *chonaikai* or *jichikai* in local historical conditions based on the types divided according to urbanized degree.

In contemporary Japan, community has been taken noticed in many spheres. One of reasons is to need to create new local autonomous system and another is to expect community as a bearer of responsibility to build social welfare society. But the neighborhood association¹ called *chonaikai* or *jichikai* has been divided in the function of the activities through urbanization. How do we expect new functions to *chonaikai* or *jichikai*?

To seek for solutions of this problem we need to describe organization and activities of *chonaikai* or *jichikai* in detail in a case study and to verify how a neighborhood association has separated its functions. I then describe changes in the function of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai² in Ueda City, Nagano prefecture. As the Kamishiojiri District was located near a big city of Ueda, it has consistently urbanized and longtime residents have coexisted with newcomers. The relations of neighbors can be found in the coexisted site of newcomers and longtime residents, but not in new towns where civilians live (Ishida 2015). The Kamishiojiri Jichikai is an adequate place to research the community,

because we can find the relations of both newcomers and longtime residents in it and chronologically follow its change because it has held lots of historical documents.

As important books on studies of the jichikai had been published around 1990, we do not have major studies on the jichikai after the late 1990s, although the autonomy of the jichikai in relation with local autonomy after the Heisei merger has been discussed. In addition, scholars took notice of the jichikai from the perspective of civil society formation in political sphere (Tsujioka, Pekkanen and Yamamoto 2009). However, the studies from this perspective are on the way and we need more concrete details.

In this paper I describe the organization and activities of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai from 1989 to 2018 when the rule was firstly made and clarify their characteristics. I cannot help confining to the Kamishiojiri Jichikai due to limitations of space; it does not refer to extend to those in the Shiojiri Elementary School Area. Finally, I account for them from the point of view of functional differentiation³ of the community organization based on the perspective that modernization is functional differentiation, as Niklas Luhmann talked (Luhmann 1971, 1982).

1. Organization of the Kamishiojiri Neighborhood Association

First of all, I must refer to states of organization of the Kamishiojiri Neighborhood Association before 1989 when the rule was newly made. In 1965, many members of the Kamishiojiri Neighborhood Association did not participate in the meeting consisting of all members of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai (*kumin-sokai*). The meeting of board members had therefore been changed to be an execution body, and a decision-making body had been changed to the representatives committee called *daigiin-kai*. This was decided in *kukai* (abbreviation of *kumin-sokai*) in 1965. Since many members did not come to attend *kukai*, it was abolished to reorganize the above two bodies.

In 1979, since the number of the member composing five neighborhood associations did not be in balance, the neighborhood associations had been reorganized, although except fifth one. The subordinate neighborhood

associations were called *kosei-kumiai* before 1945 and *seisan-kumiai*, or productive cooperation, after 1946 and it is now called *bu* since 1989.

From 1989, upon the term of the Kamishiojiri Neighborhood Association been renewal, the name of *jichikai* was used in place of that of *kukai*. Further, the terms of positions of a head of the *jichikai* and others had been changed two years. I show main modifications of the rule in Document 1.

The terms were revised when it was reorganized as a neighborhood association in 1989. Changes in organization of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai after the reorganization are here explored. First, operations of the *jichikai* are executed by the board consisting of a head, a vice head, and nine councilors. The vice head is appointed by the head of the *jichikai*. A treasurer and a general secretary are elected from the *jichikai* councilors by the head. There are thus four directors in the *jichikai*: a head, a vice head, a treasurer and a general secretary, who receive compensation. Also, there are two supervisors. And the term of each of these positions is two years.

Although the terms of the neighborhood association stated that the head shall be elected from candidate, in fact its selection committee has selected current and past heads. The selection committee consists of 77 members including ex-heads of the neighborhood association, representatives of relevant organizations, prefectural assembly members and city councilmen (really about 60 members excluding duplications). While one of the former directors assumed a position for 10 years before the rulemaking of 1989, the revised terms specify the term as two years and a head customarily assumes the position for two times (four years as a result).

The Kamishiojiri Neighborhood Association consists of five subordinate neighborhood associations (*bu*), under which there are the smallest neighborhood associations (*han*), each managed by a head of the smallest neighborhood associations. The *han* does not have original budget and activities, and does not make members of the *han* have an identity of *han* community.

Distribution of administrative documents is one of the operations the neighborhood association is consigned from the administration. In the

Kamishiojiri, the operation has been consigned to one particular household. Expenses provided by Ueda City are all passed to a relevant person of the household. The person delivers documents to heads of smallest neighborhood associations, under each subordinate neighborhood association (*bu*), who then delivers the administrative documents to the members.

The councilors of the *jichikai* called *jichi-giin* are elected from members of each subordinate neighborhood association. They mostly rotate the posts in order of age. One councilor is elected as the fifth *bu* is a subordinate neighborhood association and two councilors are elected in each of the other four *bu*: the total number of councilors is nine. The board of directors calls a meeting on a monthly basis. The *jichikai*'s membership fees are collected by the councilors in every neighborhood association between late April and end of May.

Based on their characteristics, households of current and past heads of the Kamishiojiri Neighborhood Association after 1989 can be classified into two groups: those up to 2010 and those after 2010. Those before 2010 are traditional houses running back to the Edo era. Even after the Great Merger of the Showa era, which made the Kamishiojiri District as part of Ueda City, the neighborhood association has elected persons from households having been resident in the Kamishiojiri since the old days. Since 2011, on the other hand, second-generation persons of households that immigrated to the Kamishiojiri in their parents' days have assumed the head position. The head of the neighborhood association have been elected from retired persons. The above reflects the fact that the second-generation persons have reached retiring age, regardless of which, however, only socially-reputed persons in stable professions, e.g. local government officials and teachers, were elected as a head of the *jichikai*.

The terms of a head, a vice head, and a treasure of the *jichikai* are two years, one term in the rule. But they have really held the roles for four years, two terms. However, the term of a head was substantially changed into two years, one term from 2015. What the term of a head is two years, one term, has been kept in most all of *jichikais* in Ueda City, according to 2012 and 2017 survey results that The Association of Ueda City Neighborhood Associations compiled.

While the meeting of board members serves as an execution body, the decision-making body is the representatives committee called *daigiin-kai*. The term of representatives called *daigiin* is one year and the number of representatives from each *bu* depends on the number of members, but at least five from each: five from *bu* consisting of less than 70 households; six from *bu* with more than 70 but less than 100 households; seven from *bu* with more than 100 but less than 130 households; and so on. The ordinary general meeting of the representatives is to be held in February of each year. Matters to be settled in the meeting include amendments /abolishment of Terms, business planning, budget, business reporting, approval of final settlement, property disposition and other important affairs.

There is memorandums which a head of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai took job transfer at 2010, where he noted 'the duty and role of the neighborhood association'. The same content is found in many memorandums. The content of the memorandum is shown in Documents 2 and 3.

First of all, as heads of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai noted in notes of job transfer, there are 'neighborhood association as an outpost administrative body' and 'a neighborhood association as an independent body.' Items appearing in this document are mostly not stated in official documents. Such contents are very important matters associated with practical attitude and responses of the head of the neighborhood association. The operations of 'a neighborhood association as an outpost administrative body' are pointed out. In the document, communication of residents' requests to the city administration is specified as part of such operations. Next, representative nature of the neighborhood associations, local community development, problem solving and response to residents' requests are listed as roles of 'a neighborhood association as an independent body.' Finally, the section titled 'Operations of a neighborhood association' clearly states the essential attitude of neighborhood association operators.

It is also notable that activities of the shrine consultative committee and Tofuku Temple Preservation Committee are not separated from the Kamishiojiri jichikai. Donations to shrines and temples are formally voluntary,

but are compulsory in reality. In 2005, there was damaged the roof of Zama Shrine, causing severe leaks, and members of the Kamishiojiri jichikai decided to repair the roof in the general assembly. On this occasion, all households were asked to donate the cost for reroofing. Donations were also collected in half-compelled matters from the members of the jichikai and they took such donations as a matter of course, because they are also financial supporters of the Tofuku Temple (*Shinto-kai*). In 1985, the roof of Kamishiojiri Shrine's main hall was replaced with copper roof in the same way.

In the Kamishiojiri, there are an assembly of normal members of Tofuku Temple (*danto-kai*), and an organization of financial supporters of the Tofuku Temple (*Shinto-kai*): their unit is a household. The number of Tofuku Temple normal member's households is 110, which is relatively low in comparison with the supporter's households, which is 250 (*Kamishiojiri no Konjaku Vol. 43, 2013*). Its fund has been built based on 2000 JPY annual donation from each supporter's household. After a loss of temple buildings in 1978, for instance, donations were collected from not only the 110 members' households but also supporters' households and eventually the building was rebuilt in 1982. In 2016, Tofuku Temple's *Kannon-do*, a temple building dedicated to Kannon goddess, burnt down in 1978, was restored for several million JPY. The lay Buddhists scraped up the cost from the reserved fund, and the temple's normal members' households and its supporters' households contributed respectively different money (based on interviews). The donation for the fund is collected by the representatives of the Tofuku Temple preservation committee member.

There are a high number of move-in's in the Kamishiojiri District for several advantages of the district for families with young children: proximity to the primary school; accessibility to the Second Junior High School (located in central region, Ueda City) by train from areas west of the Kamishiojiri (otherwise commuting on bus is necessary to access there if people live in Akiwa District); and proximity to Nishi-Ueda Station. These advantages are the reason of larger and growing population and number of households in the Kamishiojiri District in comparison with Akiwa and Shimoshiojiri Districts.

The number of households comprising the Kamishiojiri jichikai is not necessarily consistent with the number of households in the district because

the jichikai includes those living in detached houses but does not include apartment houses. One reason of this limitation is, allegedly, that the residents of apartment houses are more prone to move in/out and they do not put up a nameplate. Yet, the residents of apartment houses may also participate in local festivals. Nonetheless, they can be a member of the jichikai, if they want. That means they must receive a burden of committee member and thus they do not want to be a member, although they pay a fee of the jichikai.

Characteristics of the Kamishiojiri jichikai are as follows. One is that each subordinate neighborhood association (*bu*) elects and sends members to the jichikai, and each has independent budget and activities. The Kamishiojiri jichikai therefore consists of a collection of five *bus*. It is also notable that petitions are coordinated by *bu*, organizations of which are described below.

The subordinate neighborhood association was called *kosei-ku* before WWII, which name is derived from that the government made people organize the productive and cooperative groups within the neighborhood association, and then *seisan-kumiai*, and they have been referred to as *bu* since 1989. As these designations suggest, the neighborhood association in the Kamishiojiri has been building cooperative relationships in the past. However, as the distribution of resident households among groups of productive cooperation (*seisan-kumiai*) became significantly disproportionate in 1979, the groups of productive cooperation numbered 1 through 6 were grouped into the Akiwa Jichikai, those 7 through 15 into the Kamishiojiri Jichikai, and those from 16 through 20 into the Shimoshiojiri Jichikai.

The five subordinate neighborhood associations have their own head, budget and activities. The Kamishiojiri Neighborhood Association provides each *bu* with subsidies of 500 JPY per household. Each *bu* calls a general assembly meeting in the Kamishiojiri Annex on Sunday before or after the Labor Thanksgiving Day in November for activity reporting and appointment of head. Typical activities of *bu* include cherry-blossom viewing party (*hanami*), an inter-*bu* athletic festival and mowing. As for membership fees, the *bu* 1 raised it but the *bu* 2 reduced it in 2016. The membership fee varies depending on *bu*. Activities are mostly the same among *bus* but their scale may also vary.

The Kamishiojiri district originally comprises of three subdistricts (hamlets in old times): Omura, Motojuku, and Araya. There are Zama Shrine (god for sericulturists), Kamishiojiri Shrine (god for the district), and the house where the statue of Buddhist image called *Kokuzo* has been placed (*Kokuzo-do*) in Tofuku Temple site in the Kamishiojiri district. Once a year the residents in Omura have a duty to clean site of Zama Shrine, the residents in Motojuku do to clean site of the Kamishiojiri Shrine, and the residents in Araya do to clean the site of *Kokuzo-do*, which is a promise in the Kamishiojiri Jichikai.

As shown in Table 1, the number of households in the Kamishiojiri District decreased from 1981 to 1992, but the downward trend was reversed to increase from 1993 up to now. Population is increasing from 1998 to now, although it decreased 1973 to 1997. Many apartments have been built and most of increasing number is thus residents living in apartments.

Table 2 is change in the number of households in each subordinate neighborhood association (*bu*) in the Kamishiojiri Jichikai. Residents of apartment houses have not taken part in the jichikai, because they must play part of committee member if they become members of the jichikai. But residents of detached houses of newcomers have taken part of the jichikai, because they have responsibility of play part of committee members. The population and number of households are thus different in between the jichikai and the Kamishiojiri District.

Each *bu* has different number of households, and above all fifth *bu* has the smallest number of households. In 2008, reorganization of *bu* was resolved in order to adjust the disproportion of household distribution among *bu*, because the number of households in each *bu* had remarkably become lack of balance. And it took effect in 2010 after a transitional period of one year, 2009. With this reorganization, the number of households of two *bu* organizations was adjusted, but not of the other five. As indicated in Table 2, the number of households of each *bu* as of 2009 is a figure that was already adjusted: 112 for *bu* 1, 48 for *bu* 2, 66 for *bu* 3, 162 for *bu* 4, and 59 for *bu*5. However, the *bu* 5 refused the reorganization and its figure consists of its longtime members. Among the *bu* organizations, only fifth *bu* is a single hamlet and has its own assembly hall.

2. Budget of the Kamishiojiri Neighborhood Association

In this research, revenues and expenses in the Kamishiojiri Jichikai's general account statement were analyzed to grasp a picture of its activities.

As shown in Table 3, the Kamishiojiri Neighborhood Association membership fees were collected based on a combination of equality fee for every household, income-based fee, fee based on agricultural land, owned-house fee and *wariyama* allotments. Such a membership fee system based on combination of asset-based and household-based allotments is derived from an old-fashioned system originating in the pre-WWII period. The income-based allotments on which the Kamishiojiri jichikai membership fees are based are basically determined by self-reported revenues disclosed to councilors who visit relevant member houses. For agricultural land allotments, only households owning portions of cultivating field are charged per year. The membership fee system is based on income-based allotments and the size of agricultural land allotments.

From corporate members and apartment owners, the head and vice head of the jichikai visit them in person to collect the fees. Corporate membership fees vary depending on company size. Apartment houses are collected from each owner or operating company. The total number of apartment compartments as of FY2016 was 224.

In addition, there are incomes as expenses of entrust business affairs to the jichikai, subsidy of community center annex's activity, subsidy for electricity of security lighting, subsidy for new building of security lighting, and expenses for governance commission of the community center annex, all of which come from Ueda City.

The *wariyama*, allotment of exclusive right of use in parts of Mt. Kokuzo, is an important element in understanding characteristics of the jichikai. *Wariyama* fee refers to the charge for use of mountain forest land splitting into 200 households in 1860 (i.e. old *wariyama*) and that into about 237 households in 1909 (i.e. new *wariyama*). Upon the merger with Ueda City in 1952, the

ownership of the mountain land called *wariyama* was transferred to Ueda City.⁴ However, after the merger the users of *wariyama* continue to pay 100 JPY as *wariyama* fee to the jichikai. It is said that any troubles have not arisen as the membership fee is so cheap. The number of households paying membership fee is decreasing from 245 in 1987 to 212 in 2007, to 206 in 2011, and to 197 in 2015. There have been increasing the number of the members not paying the *wariyama* fee since almost all members do not actually use the *wariyama* forest since 1980s.

On the other hand, the items of expenditure stated in 'Management fees' in Table 3 include the general affairs commission allowance for the neighborhood association from Ueda City, community activity subsidies, outdoor security light utility grants, outdoor security light construction grants and the community center annex management commission allowance, which are compensations for fulfillment of the administrative roles of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai.

There are also payments for the maintenance costs of the communal mountain forest and *satoyama* mountain road. The forest committee members and board members have to clean the boundary site between Kamishiojiri District and Nanjo District, based on the contact between both districts. The large area of land cannot be split into members, being called the communal forest (*kyoyurin*) in the Kamishiojiri.⁵

The jichikai made the rule on the *wariyama* and the communal forest in '*Kamishiojiri Jichikai Wariyama/ Kyoyurin Kitei* (Rule on *Wariyama* and the Communal Forest in Kamishiojiri Jichikai)' in 1989. The members using the *wariyama* or the communal forest must pay the fee to the jichikai on the basis of this rule. The rules are reflection of public interests developed based on the Kamishiojiri Jichikai as a community, although it is not old village-like cooperativity.

'Maintenance cost of *satoyama* mountain road' recorded in the item 'Payment for mountain forest' might have fell under expenses for village-like cooperativity expenses in the past. Today, as tourists visit to see the landscape of the district and mountain hikers climb the mountains, the expenses are for maintenance of routes for such visitors. This is a service activity of the jichikai to preserve natural and social circumstances.

For the association's special account, an operation fund of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai, fund from Chubu Electric Power Company, funds for Kakeguchi Irrigation Water Group and pumping vehicle replacement are recorded. For the operation fund, Chubu Electric Power Company pays a ground rent for its utility poles located inside the communal land of mountain once in every three years. The amount of the Kakeguchi Irrigation Water Association accounts for proceeds from sale of land owned by the Kakeguchi Irrigation Water Association. The amount of pumping vehicle replacement represents the amount provided by the 8th squad of the fire brigade in Ueda Large Regional Association (*Ueda Chiiki Koiki Rengo*), financially supported by five municipalities: Ueda City, Togyo City, Nagawa Town, Sakaki Town, Aoki Village. The association supports purchase of a pumping vehicle needed by the squad. The association, being set up in 1998 (succeeding organization originally organized in 1971), managed also garbage in five areas.

Ueda City listed 'main activities of a neighborhood association' shown in Document 4. The Kamishiojiri Jichikai is engaged in all of the activities. The majority of expense items of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai spent for its administrative roles is recorded as 'administrative expenses,' for management and maintenance of the community center annex, assembly halls and outdoor security lights. Other expenses including 'copy machine lease payment' and 'city water and sewage fees' are cost for shared use of facilities. 'Pumping station management expenses' and 'management and commission of *Miroku-do*' are a kind of management and maintenance of cooperativity derived from former Kamishiojiri village in the Edo era.

The cost associated with 'pumping vehicle replacement' stated as part of the burden charge and money drawn for the fire brigade in the fire safety and security expenses is a part of expenses for its administrative roles. 'Senior citizen gathering, medicine, and exchange opportunities' classified as welfare and health expenses are expenses spent for the elderly and the elderly living alone, etc.

'Kamishiojiri Annex's activity subsidy, youth development society subsidy, Elderly Group (*Fukuju-kai*) subsidy, landscape conservation activity expense,

athletic festival expense, Study Group on Kamishiojiri District History (*Kamishiojiri Konjaku no Kai*) subsidy, and Shiojiri Elementary School PTA subsidy' as part of cultural expenses are mostly subsidies for cultural activities by local groups and they should also be considered as part of administration. Only landscape conservation activity committee got a subsidy from the jichikai only during the period financially supported by Ueda City. The jichikai did not pay a subsidy for long time, and the committee stops its activities.

The neighborhood association collaboration burden charge, the subordinate neighborhood association (*bu*) subsidies, Ueda City social welfare fees, human rights and social integration promotion burden charges, Green Fund/Red Cross/Probation Association burden charges classified as burden charges are also expenses for activities of sort of administration.

Items not indicated in Table 4 include contribution for a Shinto ritual (*sairei-sinsen-ryo*) and Kamishiojiri memorial service burden charges. The former is an expense for the head of the neighborhood association to participate in a Shinto's ritual held in an external shrine and the latter is a burden charge for a memorial service for war dead from the Shiojiri region (Akiwa, Kamishiojiri and Shimoshiojiri Districts).

At the end of this section, an outline of the Study Group on Kamishiojiri District History should be provided as activities of this group are worth exploring. In Fall 1993, the Kamishiojiri Annex started to engage in a life improvement project and members of a new selection committee for promoting historical discoveries were appointed. In 1994, they planned to conduct a five-year research on four topics: historic places, Shinto and Buddhist temples, roadways, and legend/folklore. The Study Group on the Kamishiojiri District History was thus organized as a team for promotion of the historic research in the Kamishiojiri. The first issue of *the Kamishiojiri no Konjaku* was published on July 1, 2000. The latest issue of the publication is Vol. 57, May 1 2018. In the paper the members noted folk ceremonies, historical matters, natural circumstance, and members' memories in the Kamishiojiri District. The Study Group on the Kamishiojiri District History (*Konjaku no kai*) receives a certain fund from the Kamishiojiri Jichikai as a subsidy for its activities, although it is not the same amount every year. The number of its members including

advisors was 19 at the time of the first issue in 2000.

The group's activities to research on history of the local community and distribute research findings in a form of newsletter to all member households of the jichikai provide opportunities to deepen understanding of the Kamishiojiri identity as a community. Having said that, I can indicate that old residents strongly felt new comers needed to have an interest in the Kamishiojiri district, as the number of new comers was increasing around 1994 when the *Konjaku no kai* was set up.

3. Land Task Force in the Kamishiojiri Jichikai

In response to construction of a bypass and a Nagano Shinkansen, the Kamishiojiri Jichikai established a land task force to develop standards for land pricing and negotiation with relevant developers. This section describes how this task force worked.

In response to the road expansion and Shinkansen project, the Kamishiojiri Jichikai organized the Land Task Force within the jichikai, besides the Land Owners' Association, in order to ensure trading of land at fair prices among land owners and mediate between parties for land replotting. First of all, responses of the neighborhood association to construction of the Ueda Bypass, starting in 1970's are as described below. As the first-phase construction of the Ueda Bypass was to affect an area between Ueda City and an intersection in the Kamishiojiri, the Kamishiojiri Neighborhood Association organized the Kamishiojiri Bypass Task Force after the construction project was approved in 1972. Objectives of the task force were stated as '1. defending land owners' interests and requests to the maximum extent and 2. giving focused consideration on crossing with daily service roads, construction of byways, rainwater measures inside the bypass site, and environmental care, etc. Agreement was made through 7-year consultation and the construction was commenced by the Ministry of Construction in 1980' (*Kamishiojiri no Konjaku*, Vol. 21, 2006). Land acquisition for the Ueda Bypass construction was started in 1979 and completed in 1988. Land replotting was conducted in the phase of

foundation development.

The Ueda Bypass construction of the section between the Kamishiojiri intersection and the Ueda Ohashi Bridge was resolved in 1999 and completed in 2009. At this time, many land owners preferred to have a replacement land and the task force made appropriate land arrangement accordingly. Land replotting was conducted by means of land rearrangement.

Subsequently, the Kamishiojiri Neighborhood Association conducted land negotiations in relation to the Shinkansen construction. For the Takasaki-Nagano section of the Hokuriku Shinkansen, a land task force was organized in the previous year of 1989's commencement of the construction to address impacts of the Shinkansen construction. The task force conducted a wide-scale survey to collect opinions from stakeholders. The task force's operations were generally conducted in view of the raised land prices and securing fairness. Land negotiations were not directly conducted by the task force but the land owner group within the task force. The Shinkansen task force was dismissed in Spring 2013.

As I mentioned before, ownership of the *wariyama* forest land was transferred to Ueda City in 1954, but the land surface rights (*Chijoken*) were maintained by the *wariyama* users and such rights were sold for the Shinkansen construction project.

Then, for the extension of Gotanda-Araya line south of the national road route 18, a land task force was organized in 2007. In this case, a land owner association was organized besides the task force, and individual land owners consulted with Ueda City. Although the price of agricultural land was decreased to one third of the price at the time of the Nagano Shinkansen project, many owners of agricultural land intended to sell and there were no owners who voluntarily request substitute agricultural land. The task force was formally organized but the land owner association negotiated with the Ueda City substantially.

4. Form of Request of the Jichikai to Local Government

Since the Showa merger in 1952 until 2011 after the Heisei merger at 2008, the

Kamishiojiri Jichikai filed a number of petitions to Ueda City. For example, the Kamishiojiri jichikai submitted a petition document to a major of Ueda City in 1979. Since 2011 petition reception windows were consolidated into the Citizen Participation & Cooperation Promotion Division, Ueda City. As a rule, petitions had been grouped into those to the jichikai and the others. Since 2011, the Citizen Participation & Cooperation Promotion Division has received all petitions and distributed documents to relevant groups; now there is no need for segregating petitions for neighborhood association and the others. As for the timeline, petitions are introduced in July of each year and an initial response is provided in early September. Then details of submission by each subordinate neighborhood association are investigated by relevant groups and the final response is provided in April or May. During the investigation period, feasibilities must be examined carefully in consideration of budgetary constraints.

The reason why the form of request had been changed, as described above, is that Ueda City encouraged people to participate the process of the policy-making. It set the ordinance of the autonomy of the citizens in 2011 which the city and citizens cooperates to govern local area by themselves. Before that, it had set Ueda Area Council (*Ueda Chiiki Kyogikai*) such as Ueda Seibu Area Council (included the Kamishiojiri District) and so on all over the city in 2006. This is a council where representatives of the residents discuss each local development, adding to the jichikai system. I can find that the change in the form of the request was based on the change in the basic policy idea of Ueda City.

To compare contents and the form of requests of 2016, let's take a look at contents of petitions submitted by a head of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai in 1979. It is shown in Document 5. A head of the jichikai noted the follows: 'we do give our thanks to Ueda City for that you have endeavored to usually conduct administrative all matters' in 1979. This express is the form of petition and is not that of request.

The correspondence of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai for members' requests is as follows. First of all, the paper of request comes from Ueda City. And then the

head of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai delivers that message to all the members. First, the members having requests bring it to a head of the subordinate neighborhood association (*bu*) that they belong to, and then each head bring it to the head of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai. The head of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai and board members discuss every issue together and directly go to investigate all spots requested. After that investigation, board members make a decision to classify all issues into several parts: issues need to be submitted for Ueda City, issues board members deal with by themselves, issues that the Kamishiojiri Jichikai gives documents to the petitioner, ones need to continue to make an observance, and issues is personal as it is personal goods. At last board members selected only issues need to be requested and the head of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai submit it to Ueda City until the end of July every year.

Document 6 is the requests that the Kamishiojiri Jichikai submitted to the Ueda City in 2016. The Jichikai received fifty one issues from the residents at first. And then the executive leaders of the Jichikai discussed to end up eight issues. Finally, they brought four requests to Ueda City among those listed in Document 6 : No. 1, 2, 4 and 7. Responses of Ueda City to the petitions are as follows. If the jichikai and land owners could recognize how to repair that Ueda City responses, it conducts to repair partly. Ueda City submits public safety commission (police). Ueda City finished conducting.

In the form of a written request from the Kamishiojiri Neighborhood Association, the term 'petition' was not used and it was replaced with the term 'request.' People submit requests to Ueda City, grouped into categories of civil services, outdoor security lighting, community center annex facility construction/anti-seismic reinforcement, fire cistern /hydrant, supportive operations for fire-fighting, and others, and then submitted to relevant groups. For example, the priority, request year, operation description, request description, any need for land acquisition, agreement of neighboring residents, and agreement with local land improvement project burden charge are required to be filled in a request form. The civil collaboration section receives requests from the Kamishiojiri Neighborhood Association and is capable of promptly proceeding with urgent requests.

In contract with the current requests, the core concepts of petitions before

the Heisei merger of Ueda City on March 2006 were 'petition' and 'appreciation'. After the merger, however, the word 'petition' changed to 'request.' This change is derived from the policy that the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications that has promoted the political participation and self-governance of residents through collaborations between local municipal government and residents of the jichikai.

The members of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai were dissatisfied with a response from Ueda City on some aspects. The largest old hamlet called Omura in the Kamishiojiri District is located in close proximity of Mt. Kokuzo, and slope land in the area, being exposed with the risk of landslip, are designated as Sediment Disaster Prone Areas. Between 2011 and 2016, erosion control works were conducted as a Nagano Prefecture's project in the stream called Udotsusawa in the Kamishiojiri. However, the board members were stated by Ueda City that there are some other areas with high risk of rockfalls but construction of guard fence to prevent rockfalls cannot be started.

Furthermore, trees of Mt. Kokuzo had fallen down by intense wind and rain in autumn 2017. A head of the jichikai asked the officials of Ueda City to clean fallen trees, but they replied him 'we cannot clean them because the trees were private assets'. In the end of negotiation Ueda City only paid the cost of cleaning fallen trees and did not pay anything except it. However, what Ueda City paid only the cost of cleaning fallen trees shows that Ueda City hopes to be in good relationship with the jichikai.

The organization of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai is almost the same of the organization of autonomous disaster prevention (*jishu-bosai-soshiki*) which had been organized in the 1960s at first. Further, the local municipal government has asked every jichikai to care elderly people living alone in the district when disasters occurred. As mentioned above, the jichikai takes a role as the smallest part of the local governmental administration. For that reason, the local governmental administration is supposed to respond requests from every jichikai.

5. Conclusions

The Kamishiojiri Neighborhood Association (Jichikai) has newly made rule: purpose, name, membership, board members, member's right and duty, number of board members such as a head, a vice head, and *jichikai-giin*, how to elect a head or so, and other items. Before 1989 the Kamishiojiri Jichikai did not have the written rule, although it implicitly has the unwritten rule.

The main characteristics are to decide on terms of service of a head, *jichikai-giin* and others. The age of a voter is over 20 and that of persons who have eligibility for election is over 25. Further, the roles of the meetings of *giin-kai* and *daigiin-kai* are separated definitely. I could indicate the above mentioned contents are the same as before 1989.

The Kamishiojiri Neighborhood Association is composed of two institutions: *yakuin-kai* as a meeting of board members and *daigiin-kai* as a decision-making body. The former is composed of the *jichikai-giin*, 9 people, and the latter is the *daigiin*, 31 people, both being apart from the head, the vice head, and the treasurer of the jichikai.

The Kamishiojiri Jichikai has original budget and decision-making to use it. Besides, it has an original flag, which shows it has function of unity as a community. The fact can be found in many jichikais in Ueda City, although being very rare compared to other jichikais in the whole country.

The jichikai comprises of dual layered structure of the jichikai and the *bu*. The subordinate neighborhood association (*bu*) sends the representatives of each committee of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai, being board members. The *bu* has original budget and original flag, which means the residents of the *bu* have an identity of *bu* community.

Above all, I can indicate main characteristics of the jichikai. As it is much the same in every jichikai, the local government provides a fee to the jichikai, although it is formally to provide it to a head of the jichikai. The local government and the jichikai thus have the relationship of mutual help. Further, the unit to enter into the jichikai is a household, and there is not given weight to individuality in the jichikai. These aspects have been indicated by scholars.

Then, I indicate unique characteristics of the jichikai. First, residents of

apartment cannot enter into the jichikai because they tend to move out easily. The figures of both the jichikai member's and residents' population are therefore different. This aspect can be found in some jichikais in the whole country.

Second, the ceremony of entrance into the Kamishiojiri Jichikai is that a newcomer greets with *sake* in the annual party of the *bu*. The *bu* is very important organization because the member has solidarity and it has original budget to do activity. In the case of Kamishiojiri jichikai the *bu* is not a subordinate organization of the jichikai but a relatively autonomous organization. In this sense it is correct that the Kamishiojiri jichikai composes of alliance of the autonomous *bu*. Every *bu* has original flag, which is very rare in the whole country. This fact implies that the *bu* is relatively autonomous.

Third, the term of a head has been substantially changed into two years, one term from 2015. It has been held regardless years before that. This fact, recently, is inclined to be rigidly kept in total Ueda City.

Fourth, as far as I analyze the revenues and expenses of the budget in the Kamishiojiri Jichikai, I indicate the characteristics as follows. It financially supports groups which members of the jichikai set up: an elderly group, sports groups, women's hobby groups, and others. In particular, it supports *Kamishiojiri Konjaku no Kai* seeking for the Kamishiojiri history to publish the original paper. The paper is not a regular paper of the jichikai, since it does not deal with the jichikai so much but histories of the Kamishiojiri district. It might be said this group's activities reproduce to make the residents in the Kamishiojiri have identity of a community.

Fifth, the activities of Shrine Consultative Committee and Tofuku Temple Preservation Committee are not separated from the Kamishiojiri Jichikai. This is rare case because it is usual in Japan that the jichikai is not today related to the matter of religion. The jichikai makes the organization of financial supporters for the Tofuku Temple, who are not regular member. I emphasize this group has been formed by the jichikai, which means that the donation to the temple is compulsory to the member of the jichikai.

Sixth, the communal work of the jichikai has remained at the present stage.

The Kamishiojiri Jichikai organized Land Task Forces to face bypass construction and Shinkansen construction to deal with everything occurred by the constructions. The Land Task Forces organized in the jichikai does communal works, although it is not village community in Edo era or Meiji era. The main reason could be realized to success was the activity of the committee was leaded by the head of the Kamishiojiri Neighborhood Association for ten years, as well as heads of local irrigation organizations, and a member of the municipal assembly for long times. These actions of the jichikai are able to be explained as autonomous function of the jichikai. However, The Kamishiojiri Jichikai organized Land Task Forces in Gotanda-Araya Line construction in 2005 but did not work well. The landowners build the committee of landowners and each landowner respectively negotiated with Ueda City.

On the other hand, the *wariyama* members continue to pay 100 JPY to the jichikai every year, although the ownerships of the *wariyama* had been handed over the Ueda City in the time of the Showa Merger of Shiojiri Village and Ueda City in 1952.⁴ However, the number of payers is decreasing because they do not use trees in the *wariyama*. There have been appearing some of members not paying *wariyama* fee to the jichikai.

Another case is that forest committee members and board members clean in the boundary area of the communal between the Kamishiojiri District (the present Kamishiojiri Jichikai) and the Nanjo Property District (the present Nanjo Productive Forest Association) every year, based on the agreement that both districts had each other in 1961 at last after the long dispute. The Kamishiojiri Jichikai pays labor charge to forest committee members and board members. This is one of the communal works of the jichikai. Here I just indicate the fact and I will explain it in details in another paper.

Seventh, the request form of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai for Ueda City was changed from a petition to a request. This change shows that the Kamishiojiri Jichikai becomes to be more autonomous than before. I found this change by the fact that the jichikai negotiated with stuffs of Ueda City on cleaning up mountainous trees fallen by strong rain and wind in 2017.

Furthermore, the way that the jichikai collects requests from residents to submit to Ueda City consists of two phases: firstly a representative of *bu*

collects requests from the residents living in the *bu*, and secondly the meeting of board members of the *jichikai* selects all requests to submit to Ueda City. This way is unique compared with other neighboring *jichikais*.

Finally, I consider organization and activities of the *jichikai* from the point of view of functional separation. The *jichikai* or the *chonaikai* has autonomous function as well as function of the smallest administrative part, as it has been already clarified (Kurasawa and Akimoto 1990). I account for change and continuity in function of autonomy of the Kamishiojiri *Jichikai* from 1989 to 2018, from the viewpoint of functional separation of the *jichikai*.

Almost all functions have not been changed in the *jichikai*. Above all others, major changes are the followings. The Kamishiojiri *Jichikai* organized Land Task Force committee for Ueda Bypass construction in 1972 and for the Shinkansen construction in 1988. I can explain that these committees are interpreted as functional separation of the *jichikai*, because the *jichikai* has whole functions, such as resource management of land or anything in district (Nakata 1993). Although the Kamishiojiri *Jichikai* did organize special committee for Gotanda-Araya line extension started from 2007, it did not work but land owners association or land owners did work substantially. Furthermore, this means that the role of the Kamishiojiri *Jichikai* in land management changed recently.

The *Kamishiojiri Konjaku no Kai*, organized in 1994, is a group to investigate a history of the Kamishiojiri. The group is not organized as a committee inside the *jichikai* but a group outside it. It might be said that the activity of the group encourages all members of the *jichikai* to have identity of a community of the Kamishiojiri because the paper that it issues describes histories of the Kamishiojiri; it is not the newsletter of the *jichikai*, although it has been financially supported by the *jichikai*.

As far as I recognize the reason why three *jichikais* (Kamishiojiri, Akiwa, and Shimoshiojiri) built Community Promotion Council in 1982, which was promoted by the present Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (the former Ministry of Home Affairs), one of major backgrounds was an increasing number of newcomers. As mentioned above, I realize that the members of the

Kamishiojiri Konjaku no Kai felt to strengthen an idea of unity in the Kamishiojiri district.

In any case, this activity is new function that we cannot find in the jichikai before. It means a creation of new function by the group outside the jichikai. The jichikai has allegedly inclusive function of resource management of the whole district. In that sense, the new function of investigation on histories of the Kamishiojiri district would be a function of the jichikai. It can be said that on behalf of the jichikai the group plays the role of a function of the jichikai.

Appendices

Document 1 Main Modifications in Rule of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai

Article 5 The jichikai consists of five subordinate neighborhood associations and set the smallest groups within them.

Article 6 Civil engineering construction - mountain forest, health, community center annex activities, social welfare, promotion of life circumstance and culture, fire, disaster prevention, crime prevention, and others (committees consist of).

Article 7 Head is one person, vice head is one person, members of the committee are nine persons, the term of the services is two years and reappointment available.

Article 8 Head is elected by regular members, and vice head is assigned by the head. It is needed to agree by members of the Committee. Person eligible for election must be over 25 years old and person with a voting right must be over 20 years old.

Article 10 It is needed over half of members in the meeting called *daigiin-kai*. Regular meeting must be held over 6 times per a year, and the meeting must be held by request of one-third of the members.

Article 13 The member of *daigiin* is needed five at least in each subordinate neighborhood association, and it is needed to be added one person per 20 households.

Article 15 Auditing members, three persons, must be elected in the conference of representatives called *daigiin-kai*.

Additional Clause

This is enforced from the first of January, 1989.

Document 2 Tasks and Roles of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai: document that a head of the jichikai handed over next head to succeed in 2010

1 Esteem of the rule of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai

2 Jichikai as smallest unit of local administrative government

- 1) Due to the contract between the city and the coalition of jichikai, the jichikai conducts the affair of public information and delivering documents to each household.
 - 2) Affairs to need residents' agreement: decision of surveillance of boarder between the Kamishiojiri District and its neighboring Nanjo District, personnel affairs to recommend to kinds of bodies of the city, election, voting governance, surveillance, fund raising, participation and cooperation for kinds of events of the city.
 - 3) To deliver residents' requests to the city and others and strive for it.
 - 4) Plan disaster prevention and safety measures of community.
 - 5) To make sure of life circumstance of residents.
- 3 Jichikai as autonomous active body
- 1) To response requests of community.
 - 2) To have both affairs conduction and deliberation.
 - 3) To delegate character of each neighborhood.
 - 4) To make programs for development of community.
 - 5) Solution and treatment of problems of community.
-

Document 3 Management of The Kamishiojiri Jichikai:

- 1) To keep opening time, management of good efficiency, early ending time.
 - 2) To manage the meeting with a light heart to communicate each other.
 - 3) To conduct fast and steadily if we can do.
 - 4) To endeavor to solve difficult problems with all members.
 - 5) To promote programs to open regular meeting one time per a month.
 - 6) To inform regular meeting and others: mainly by paper but call in case: head-vice head, director in charge of general affair- first, second, third, fourth, fifth *bus*, director in charge of general affair-each jichi-giin member.
 - 7) All members clean up rooms when the meeting finished, keeping notice items of fire and closing doors, and note the usage report with rotation: note the name whom a writer really notes.
 - 8) When emergency (fire, flood, land slide) occurs, all persons come to the spot or fire guard room as soon as possible to prepare disaster prevention.
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Table 1 Change in Population and the Number of Households in the Kamishiojiri District

Year	Population	Household	Year	Population	Household
1972	1,539	410	1994	1,462	461

1973	1,574	425	1995	1,434	462
1974	1,568	419	1996	1,439	466
1975	1,555	429	1997	1,416	472
1976	1,542	431	1998	1,418	495
1977	1,550	433	1999	1,432	499
1978	1,549	436	2000	1,462	523
1979	1,562	445	2001	1,487	541
1980	1,586	449	2002	1,523	560
1981	1,576	454	2003	1,535	583
1982	1,552	441	2004	1,551	601
1983	1,549	440	2005	1,601	602
1984	1,547	446	2006	1,611	596
1985	1,549	439	2007	1,591	596
1986	1,569	441	2008	1,591	603
1987	1,580	434	2009	1,562	611
1988	1,587	437	2010	1,610	603
1989	1,574	437	2011	1,628	610
1990	1,506	424	2012	1,673	656
1991	1,497	428	2013	1,684	668
1992	1,481	423	2014	1,669	676
1993	1,483	448	2015	1,705	689

Source: The author made the data from 'Statistics of Ueda City, every year'.

Table 2 Change in the Number of Members in Each Subordinate Neighborhood Association in the Kamishiojiri Jichikai

	1980	1983	1994	1997	2010	2011	2016
1 <i>bu</i>	119	97	108	111	86	86	96
2 <i>bu</i>	64	57	54	52	106	105	101
3 <i>bu</i>	78	75	76	73	93	89	96
4 <i>bu</i>	116	119	126	125	102	105	109
5 <i>bu</i>	46	51	51	52	59	57	56
Total	423	399	415	413	446	442	458

Note: Unit is a household.

The source: the documents archived in the Kamishiojiri Jichikai documents storage called *bunko-kura*.

Table 3 Balance Sheet of Budget 2015

Items of Revenues	Details
Balance at the beginning of a period	Omission
Fee	Individual and legal person membership fees
Payout for Ueda City and Ueda council of social welfare	Expenses of entrust business affairs to the jichikai, Subsidy of community center annex's activity, Subsidy for electricity of security lighting, Subsidy for new building of security lighting, expenses for governance commission of the community center annex, all of which come from Ueda City
Midori-kai	Expenses of entrust business affaires from Midori-kai
Fee of land to rent	<i>Wariyama</i> fee
Charge for use	Charges for use of equipment
Miscellaneous revenue	Interest of Saving
Items of Expenditures	Details
Expenses for general affairs	Fixed property tax, a New Year's celebration ceremony, meeting of head and vice head of each, Insurance entry fee of the jichikai, jichi-giin's meeting, and others
Office expenses	Expenses for commission of Ueda City Document delivery, Payment for document copy for office goods
Reward	Allowance for a head, an assistant head and jichi-giin, Allowance for fee collecting, Allowance for surveillance members
Travelling expenses and daily wages	Travelling expenses and daily wage
Entertainment allowance	Entertainment allowance of the jichikai
Management fees	the general affairs commission allowance for the neighborhood association from Ueda City, community activity subsidies, outdoor security light utility grants,

	outdoor security light construction grants, the community center annex management commission allowance, Payment for management and commission of pump place, Payment for management and commission of <i>Miroku-do</i> , lease cost of document copy, fare of water and sewage, and others
Payment for construction	Management costs of roads and water channel
Payment for mountain forest	Management cost of the communal forest, Maintenance cost of <i>satoyama</i> mountain road
Payment for fire and disaster prevention	Charge for Eighth Fire Group, Charge for Fire Second Unit, Payment for repair and buying fire equipment of fire and prevention disaster
Payment for social welfare and health	Payment for the elderly association, Payment for health, Payment of lunch together with the elderly (<i>fureai-kaishoku</i>)
Culture	Subsidy for activities of sub local public hall, Subsidy for scholarship association, Subsidy for <i>Fukuju-kai</i> , Payment for activities of landscape conservation, fee for holding a sports meeting (<i>undokai</i>), Subsidy for <i>Kamishiojiri Konjaku no Kai</i> , Subsidy for Parent Teacher Association (PTA) of <i>Shiojiri</i> Elementary School, and others
Charge	Charge for district alliance of the neighborhood association, Subsidy for activities of each group, Payment for Ueda City Council of Social Welfare, Charge for promotion project of social manner on human right, fund raising for green and red cross, Charge for Council of Probation, and others.
Money drawn	Special account of exchange of a fire engine equipped with a pump
Reserve fund	Reserve fund
Special account	Special account of managing fund of the jichikai
Special account	Special account of Chubu Electric Power Company
Special account	Special account of sale of land belonging to Kakeguchi Irrigation and the jichikai

Special account Special account of exchange of a fire engine equipped
with a pump in eighth fire group

Source: Balance Sheet of General Budget 2015, Kamishiojiri Jichikai.

Document 4 Main Activities of the Jicjikai, Ueda City

Setting and management of probation lighting
Cultural activities of community such as sports recreation
Clearing community and resources collecting
Support of lonely elderly persons and others in community
Setting and management of voluntary disaster probation organization
Delivery of city public relations papers, and others (activities of organization of local children, elderly club, sports club, and others)

Source: Jichikai no Omona Katsudo (Main Activities of the Jichikai), Ueda City.

Document 5 Contents of Petitions of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai in 1979

We do give our thanks to Ueda City for that you have endeavored to usually conduct administrative all matters. Traffic accidents occurred very often recently and increased to reach an abnormal level in our community. There were twelve during three months from June to August and two died people within it. Traffic accidents are twelve in three months, almost of which are death accidents.

In particular, traffic trend of cars has been changed from major road of national road route 18 to pathway that people walk in everyday life, and infants, students, the elderly people and women are affected by traffic accidents, which are worrying us. As you know, the major road cannot control the capacity of cars in number nowadays, as traffic accidents occurring usually, and people passing through the pathway as a bypass in the community are increasing in number day by day. In the meanwhile people of the community honestly discussed about traffic safety measures. Further, people discussed it with staffs of traffic department, construction department and Ueda police on another day, as we requested. To protect peoples' lives from danger of traffic accidents we all decided to request Ueda City to conduct the following from the standpoint of administration. We herewith implore Ueda City to conduct it immediately as the people of the community petitions in earnest.

1 Measures for Major Road

(1) We petition Ueda City to complete immediately the Ueda Bypass Road and Akiwa-

Uwabori road

(2) We petition you to set traffic light on the crossroad in national road of Sunahara line

(3) We petition you to set upper road as a side road from Sato Foodcenter to Shirasawa shop.

2 Measures for City Road

(1) We petition you to arrange it as a road for students to go to school when you repair Chinda mountain stream at the west side of Shiojiri primary school.

(2) We petition you to distinguish walking road and car road there and recognize introducing gate of Masuami irrigation as the road that Ueda City controls.

(3) We petition you to distinguish walking road and car road, setting safety signals, as a safety policy, while you construct and repair roads that people use in everyday life.

3 Safety Institutions

(1) We petition you to construct parks or play places for kids to play in safety.

(2) We petition you to promote constructing community center (Seibu Distinct Community Center, Kamishiojiri Annex) as places that the elderly or women frankly speak together.

4 Education for Traffic Safety

(1) We petition you to instruction or education on traffic safety.

The source: the documents archived in the Kamishiojiri Jichikai documents storage called *bunko-kura*.

Document 6 Contents of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai's Requests in 2016

1 We request you to reinforce embankment of Higashisawa mountain stream: as land slide in both sides, we request you to conduct it before damages in cemetery.

2 We request you to paint line of car stop, because accidents often occur as view is not good.

3 We request you to repair curb mirror: mirror is not useful as it is tilted.

4 We request you to repair guard fence: awry guard fence hinder people to walk or ride a bicycle at the water gate of irrigation.

5 We request you to paint lines of pedestrian crossing: as pedestrian crossing is not painted at the Cooperative Hospital called *Seikyo Shinryojyo*, it is dangerous for people to cross the road.

6 We request you to cut dead trees and investigate land slide: three dead trees in forest for disaster safety called *hoanrin* are concerning if they may make residents' houses collapse.

7 We request you to repair curb mirror: mirror is needed to arrange as angle of the

installation is not corrected.

8 We request you to repair curb mirror: mirror needs to exchange as they are very degradation. 8 is not the same place as 3 and 7.

The source: the documents archived in the Kamishiojiri Jichikai documents storage called *bunko-kura*.

Notes

1 The people's organization called *jichikai* in Japanese is expressed by the word 'neighborhood association' in English. The author expresses five subordinate groups called *bu* composing of the Kamishiojiri Jichikai by the word 'subordinate neighborhood association' and the smallest group called *han* in the Kamishiojiri Jichikai by the word 'smallest neighborhood association'. The unit, having right to vote and obligation to labor, is not an individual but a household in the neighborhood association.

2 Yasui (1982) wrote a survey paper about the jichikais in Ueda City.

3 I argued histories of jichikai researches and a village history or an jichikai history from this perspective in other papers (see Sato 2017, 2018).

4 In Kamishiojiri district, the owners of the *wariyama* did not organize a forest owner's association to transfer the ownership of mountainous land to the Ueda City at the Showa Merger. On the other hand, in case of Shimoshiojiri jichikai, since forest owners organized a forest owner's association, they pay the *wariyama* fee to the association every year.

5 The use of this forest land has been brought a suit between the Kaishiojiri and Nanjo, and then Nagano prefecture have conducted tree planting program there. Both districts clean together the boundary site every year.

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'Complex works and development of Market Economy in Villages, Edo Era '(2016-2019) 「16H03648」 . I give thanks to Prof. Hasebe Hiroshi and Prof. Yamauchi Futoshi. Further, I must particularly express my gratitude to Mr. Yamazaki Tadao, Mr. Takato Kazuaki, Mr. Shimizu Kou, Mr. Miura Hideo, Mr. Adachi Norio and other informants.

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