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### **“Environmental humanities: a long-term local history approach to living spaces to be sustained”**

#### **Abstract**

Japanese rice fields have a long tradition of more than thousands of years. They have been constructed based on a logic of local organic economies, which have also become a foundation of early modern Japanese economy, but not a market economy in a strict sense, because the rice fields had two different spheres: one of them is a taxation system, and the other is a subsistence economy, a self-sufficient or fulfillment economy for local inhabitants. The latter function could be realized in small scale land holdings less than 0.5 ha, and then, they could survive in Japan until recent days.



Organic economies in early modern times have found their position between self-sufficiency and market economies. More self-sufficiency in Japan, and more in market economies in Europe.

Organic economies in early modern Japan have had a prolonged existence of more than 400 years everywhere in Japan. Such an ecological system has tended to disappear in recent years because of the de-population process and due to agricultural and environmental policies in Japan. However, a longterm local history approach can find some local efforts to sustain the organic economies. They show us a couple of evidence which could be a future possibility for a gradual departure from an “Anthropocene epoch” in the “short” twentieth century, which is dependent on “fossil fuel energies” in the world.

#### **CV**

Dr. Satoshi Murayama is Professor Emeritus at Kagawa University. His research field is environmental economic history with a particular interest in human, social and environmental capital management in medieval and early modern Europe and Japan. He comparatively investigates regional diversity, especially in the differences of all local Living Spaces. He acquired his Ph.D. degree from Justus Liebig University Gießen in 1990. He was a professor of socio-economic and environmental history at Kagawa University, Japan, served two years as President of the Association for East Asian Environmental History from 2013 to 2015, and organizes several research projects on Living Spaces.