

Toward Humanism of the City: A Better City, Happier Citizens

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Summary

With the recent increase in the interest in humanities, there are movements to integrate the various elements of humanities into city construction. Generally, Human Urbanism refers to 'encompassing humanism in urban spaces and creating cities for people with humans as the core focus.' The economic growth of can be explained by the compressive economic growth. On the other hand, the rapid economic growth also produced adverse effects. In order to resolve these issues, many cities have already turned their focus from facilities to people. Thus, there has been an emergence of alternative growth cities, and these cities are pursuing the growth method of prioritizing qualitative regeneration and repair instead of quantitative development and expansion. The future tendencies of Human Urbanism are as follows: (1) Towards user-friendly cities are the introduction of barrier-free certification system based on the concept of universal design, construction of women-friendly cities focusing on child care, and the concept of social-mix, which refers to the mixing of people of various income classes. (2) We have started to take into account civil minimum that is appropriate for the city's characteristics. (3) The role of eco-friendly technologies will be extended even further in future cities. Pre-emptive development of technologies that consider users, suit the unique characteristics of the city and takes the environmental changes into account and their application in the urban settings will be of great importance in our pursuit of human urbanism.

Keywords: Human Urbanism, Good City, User-friendly City, Civil Minimum, Eco-friendly City

1. Introduction

With the recent increase in the interest in humanities, many books on this subject have become best sellers and a variety of lectures on humanities are receiving wide attention. The field of technology is no exception, and there are movements to integrate the various elements of humanities into technology. C.P. Snow referred to humanities and science as 'two cultures' and emphasized on the convergence of these two disciplines at the lecture given at the University of Cambridge in 1959 title, 'Two Cultures and Scientific Revolution.' Steve Jobs who developed iPhone, which has brought upon a revolutionary change into our daily life, once stated, "The creative products of Apple are owed to the merging of technology and humanities," and emphasized the employees' knowledge of humanities.

There is an increase of interest in humanistic cities in the field of urban construction. For instance, Florence is considered one of the iconic cities of humanism, and with the support given to cultured individuals and artists by the Medici family, it became the 'city of geniuses,' 'city of flower where culture was in full bloom' and is now regarded as a 'human-centered city.'