

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Space Culture – Public Engagement in Space through Culture (9)

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LOCAL REVITALIZATION PROJECT TO TURN MY HOMETOWN, KOMONO TOWN, INTO
"SPACE TOWN"

Abstract

In Japan, the concentration of population in urban areas and the declining birthrate and aging population have led to the decline of rural areas. To solve this problem, I have planned and started to put into practice a space project to revitalize the region by turning my hometown, Komono Town, into "space town."

First, we have initiated activities to introduce space education programs to schools in order to get parents and children living in Komono Town interested in private space travel and the private space business. Specifically, we visit the mayor of the municipality and the board of education, and hold lectures by private astronauts at elementary and junior high schools to implement the program to give children a dream.

In addition to children, we also offer lectures on commercial space travel for elderly people living in Komono Town. Nearly half of the population of Komono Town is elderly. By having a goal of space travel, the elderly will find a purpose in life, which will enhance their vitality and revitalize the community.

Furthermore, we will make effective use of vacant houses and land owned by the elderly by converting them into places to practice private space education. We will also attract tourists from other regions by offering space tours to simulate space travel with private astronauts using a private spacecraft education and training simulator, which was created by converting a camping trailer.

In this paper, I report the results of my examination of the project to revitalize my hometown, Komono Town, as a rural area by turning it into "space town," as well as the issues involved in the implementation of the project.