

To Higher Ground

A fast decision on collective relocation for disaster prevention

Resident-initiated Relocation to Higher Ground

高台移転 住民主導で

宮城・南三陸 歌津地区



津波で壊滅的な被害を受けた宮城・南三陸町歌津の海辺の集落を、町の高台に移す計画が住民主導で動き始めた。中心となるのは江戸中期から続く地元住民互助組織「伊里前契約会」。契約会は400〜500戸以上の住宅建設が可能で、20軒の共有地を供出することで、災害に強い新たなまちづくりにつなげたいと考えた。

集落ぐるみで建設
共有地は歌津の北側に広がる山林や田畑。津波被害を免れた同中より標高が高い。海岸から車で5〜10分と近く、漁師がこれまで通り漁業を続けることも可能という。

1693年の発足とされる契約会は現在、歌津・伊里前地区の77戸で構成する。うち74戸が津波で地図で共有地の所在地を確かめる伊里前契約会のメンバー15日、宮城県南三陸町の歌津中

互助組織が共有地供出

壊滅的被害を受け、全員世帯の13人が死亡・行方不明となった。会では被災当初から、共有地に集落で移住する構想が浮上。4月中旬に総会を開き、構想の実現に向け正式に動き出した。

5月5日には役員らが歌津中に集まり、これだけの宅地が造成できるかを地図上で確認。道路などに用地の2割を割いても、1戸当たり300平方メートルの宅地が約400〜500戸分確保できることが分かった。

会は今後、共有地付近に点在する個人所有の土地約40区画の地権者に構想を説明。これら地権者も海辺の自宅を津波で失った人が多いため、新たなまちと一緒に移り住むことを提案する。

前例ない支援期待
歌津・伊里前地区は貧乏以外も含めて約420世帯。大半が被災しており、会は地区全体の世帯を新たなまちで受け入れることも視野に入れる。

実現への課題は多額の費用が見込まれる造成費の調達。高低差が大きいため、ライフライン整備も難航が予想される。

会では共有地を無償で供出する代わりに、国などに造成費の工面を求め、既に県や町にも考えを伝えた。

会の千葉正海会長55は「前例のない災害には、前例のない発想のまちづくりが必要。国にも前例のない規模の支援を願いたい」と期待。二度と津波災害に遭わない安全なまちをつくるため、一先祖がまが残してくれた土地を生かしたい」と意気込む。

契約会は冠婚葬祭の相互協力や共有地の管理運営が主な事業。かつては雑木を燃料にしており、木材を共同で販売するなどしていた。

(大泉大介)

A mutual aid organization for Utatsu residents proposed moving to higher ground on commonly owned land offered by the organization.

▲Kahoku Shimpo, May 9, 2011.

Article courtesy of Kahoku Shimposha

Seeking to relocate their entire village to higher ground in order to be able to live with peace of mind, residents of Isatomae, Utatsu District, moved into action.

As they grappled with the devastation of a hometown reduced to rubble, Minamisanriku residents started to talk about how to rebuild their lives. Was it really a good idea to rebuild houses in an area where there would once again be a risk of a tsunami? This question was raised soon after March 11 by Isatomae Keiyaku Kai, a citizens' mutual support group located in the Utatsu district. On the request that members would provide the land themselves, the organization made a request to Minamisanriku local government to implement group relocation to high ground as soon as possible.

Mayor Jin Sato shared the sentiments of these Isatomae citizens. He felt strongly about the need to relocate the community to higher ground to ensure that everyone would be able to sleep easy each night. However, the cost of such an undertaking was too large to be borne by local government alone, so the mayor made a passionate request for cooperation from the national government. To protect the lives of the townspeople, there was no option but to relocate to higher ground. The sentiment was strongly felt.

In July 2011, an earthquake reconstruction town meeting was organized to discuss the idea of collective relocation to higher ground with the aim of disaster prevention and to quickly collect opinions from the townspeople.

Post-earthquake, the initial operating principle was to restore Minamisanriku to its original state in accordance with the national government's basic reconstruction policy. However, in response to the request made by local Minamisanriku government, the idea of relocation to higher ground was put on the table and came to be included in the basic policy in December that year.

In the interim before the policy decision was made, Minamisanriku had, in fact, already made a swift decision to rebuild the town, completely new, on high ground. Despite the existence of a wide range of problems, including that of the acquisition of land for residential use, the work of relocation kicked into gear with the assistance of temporary workers who came from all over Japan.