

## Possibility of Regional Autonomy by Local Residents in South Korea

### ABSTRACT

This is a note aiming to pick up several characteristics on the regional autonomy in South Korea through comparative field research between Japan and South Korea. In the area of regional autonomy, we consider that South Korea has still not reached the stage of a “mature society” because of strong leadership by the national government, but our study showed that the country has reached the level just before that of a mature society. Especially, it is remarkable that South Korea has maintained strong regional communities, even in her city zones, which are one of the strongest regional organizations in all Asia. These rather traditional, highly organized regional communities function well in helping to develop the recent trend toward regional autonomy.

**Key Words** : mature society, regional autonomy, South Korea