

Study for planning the use of Yoriihama area on the Niigata seacoast (west coast area)

[Abstract]

This study aimed at developing plans for using the Yoriihama area on the Niigata seacoast (west coast area) prior to facilities improvement as new administrative measures are now being taken on seacoasts, and beaches are being developed in suburban areas. In the process, a consensus of more local residents will be sought to develop beaches in suburban areas. This study was conducted based on the results of the "basic study for planning the use of Yoriihama area on the Niigata seacoast (west coast area) conducted in fiscal 2004.

In this study, a "draft Yoriihama seacoast use plan" was first developed based on the "draft Yoriihama use plan (provisional policy)" (Figure 2) prepared as a result of a fiscal 2004 study while building a consensus with local residents. Then, for developing and implementing plans for facilities improvement in the Yoriihama area, sessions were held for exchanging views and questionnaire surveys were conducted. The goal was to build residents' organizations based on the consensus built through public involvement.



Figure 1 Present conditions of study area

(Yoriihama coast use plan (provisional policy))

Theme: Beautiful "seacoast for relaxation" with cultural flavor

Goal: Stretches of white sand beaches with nothing in sight (beautiful beaches with white sand and green pine trees close to a primitive image)

- Temporary teahouses used to be reservedly located on the beach during the summer bathing season.
- An image like the "sunset on the Yoriihama beach", one of the eight beauty spots selected in the late 1920s.

Goal: Coast where people can stay calm and feel relaxed

- Groins or other structures fit into the landscape.
- "Sea" and "sunset" themselves form the landscape.
- People can enjoy reading on a deck chair on the beach.

Goal: Space for tour incorporating the Nishikaigan Park with pine trees that developed a culture

- The beach blends into attractive cities on the Niigatajima Island.

Figure 2 Provisional policies for using the Yoriihama coast (developed as a result of a fiscal 2004 study)

1 Study details

< 1 > Identification of site conditions

< 2 > Holding of Yoriihama coast use plan review meetings and plan review

< 3 > Consensus building through public involvement and the building of a residents' organization

2 Study method

< 1 > Literature search

In order to grasp the present conditions of the study area, literature was searched and local residents and other stakeholders were interviewed to identify the topographic features of the Yoriihama area and the relationship of the area with the hinterland, to analyze the results of evaluation of the landscape of the Yoriihama coast made when the beach was selected as one of the eight beauty spots of Niigata, and to understand the present use of the beach as compared with other beaches in the vicinity. Then, considerations were identified for improving the facilities later.

< 2 > Holding of Yoriihama coast use plan review meetings

Review meetings were held to discuss the direction of use of the Yoriihama coast based on its history, climate, and relationship with local residents. The meetings were attended by the representatives of the local community, experts and administrators. In the first and second meetings held in fiscal 2004, a Yoriihama coast use plan (provisional policy) was developed. Based on the policy, the third meeting was held on Wednesday, August 3, 2005 to review a draft Yoriihama coast use plan.

< 3 > Open house

An open house was held at the Yorii Community House on Tuesday, August 2, 2005 for the residents living in and around the Yoriihama coast in order to build a consensus with the residents concerning the hinterland coastal improvement. On exhibit were the history, nature, culture and improvement plans for the Yoriihama and adjacent coasts. Visitors were requested to respond to a questionnaire and were interviewed. The questions were related to the present use of the coast and the desirable coast.

< 4 > Sessions for exchanging views

Views were exchanged at a multi-purpose hall of the Yorii Community House three times. In the first session on Tuesday, August 2, 2005 views were invited from local residents on the draft Yoriihama coast use plan to be discussed at the third review meeting. The second session was held on Friday, November 18 under the theme, "Thinking about the future of Yoriihama". Associate Professor Atsuyuki Okazaki of the Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Niigata University gave a lecture. Then, Mr. Okazaki, Mr. Akira Ito, Director-General, Niigata Port and Airport Construction Office, Mr. Noboru Toishi, Chairperson, Association for the Promotion of the Niigata School Zone and Ms. Ayako Yoshida, Chairperson, Association for the Women of Niigata School Zone had talks and exchanged views with the participants. These efforts were made to increase public awareness of the Yoriihama coast, and an organizational setup was established for active public involvement in future facilities improvement and plan development.

< 5 > Interviews

Local residents and experts were interviewed concerning the history and environment of the Yoriihama coast.

3 Study results

3-1 Identification of site conditions

The characteristics of the Yoriihama coast and surrounding space were organized and considerations during future facilities improvement were listed in Table 1. The table shows that the Yoriihama coast has no sand beaches and little waterfront space at present although sufficient resources are available in the vicinity and in the hinterland and the evening landscape has been appreciated over a long period of time, and that the dense forest of pine trees in the hinterland obstructs view although the forest is not necessarily unacceptable. These points should be taken into consideration at the time of facilities improvement in the future.

Table 1 Identification of site conditions

Item	Characteristics of space	Considerations in facilities improvement
Topographic relationship between the Yoriihama coast and hinterland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Yoriihama coast with the Nishikaigan (west coast) park in the hinterland has the densest forest of pine trees among the coasts along the Sea of Japan. -The difference in elevation between the coast and hinterland is greatest here among the coasts along the Sea of Japan. -The line of sight is nearly intercepted between the hinterland and the coastal area. -The passage between the urban area and the seacoast is not aligned with the approach to the coast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -An adequate plan is required for ensuring the visual link and passage between the coast and hinterland.
Landscapes on the Yoriihama coast selected as one of the eight beauty spots of Niigata	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -"Yoriihama" was first mentioned in the late 1920s in relation to the landscapes on the coast as one of the eight most beautiful spots of Niigata. -It is not some time ago that the coastal area was regarded as a place for living. -The sun setting in Sado seen from the Yoriihama coast has long been appreciated as an outstanding landscape on Yoriihama. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The evening landscape at Yoriihama has been appreciated by people throughout the ages. It should be protected as one of the landscapes envisaged in the coastal use plan. -New landscapes should be found and developed that incorporate the hinterland.
Use of the Yoriihama coast as compared with other coasts in the vicinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Yoriihama coast is not used at present because no space is available to encourage use unlike other coasts in the vicinity owing to the lack of beaches. -On the Niigata-nishi coast (Hiyoriyamahama), the <i>Yumekaigan</i> (dream coast) festival and other events including beach sports are held. On the Kin-eicho coast (Sekiyahama), people enjoy bathing and clean the beach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -On the Yoriihama coast, planning should be developed not only for improvement but also for use by using the historic resources with a view to securing the passage between the coast and hinterland and using viewing facilities.

3-2 Review of draft Yoriihama coast use plan

(1) Draft Yoriihama coast use plan and an image of use

The draft Yoriihama coast use plan was discussed at the third Yoriihama coast use plan review meeting based on the provisional policy for using the Yoriihama coast developed as a result of a fiscal 2004 study.

In the draft use plan, static use of Yoriihama for such purposes as viewing and obtaining experience was recommended. The relationship between the draft plan and an image of use is given in Figure 3.

(2) Image of space on the Yoriihama coast

A draft landscape development policy was developed from a viewpoint of topography, passage and visibility based on the conditions of the site, draft Yoriihama coast use plan and an image of use. A draft image of space on the Yoriihama coast based on the landscape development policy is shown in Figure 4.

The third Yoriihama coast use plan review meeting provided suggestions about the transition from the sand beach to revetment and the formation of the pine forest in the space. As a result, a more specific image of space was created.

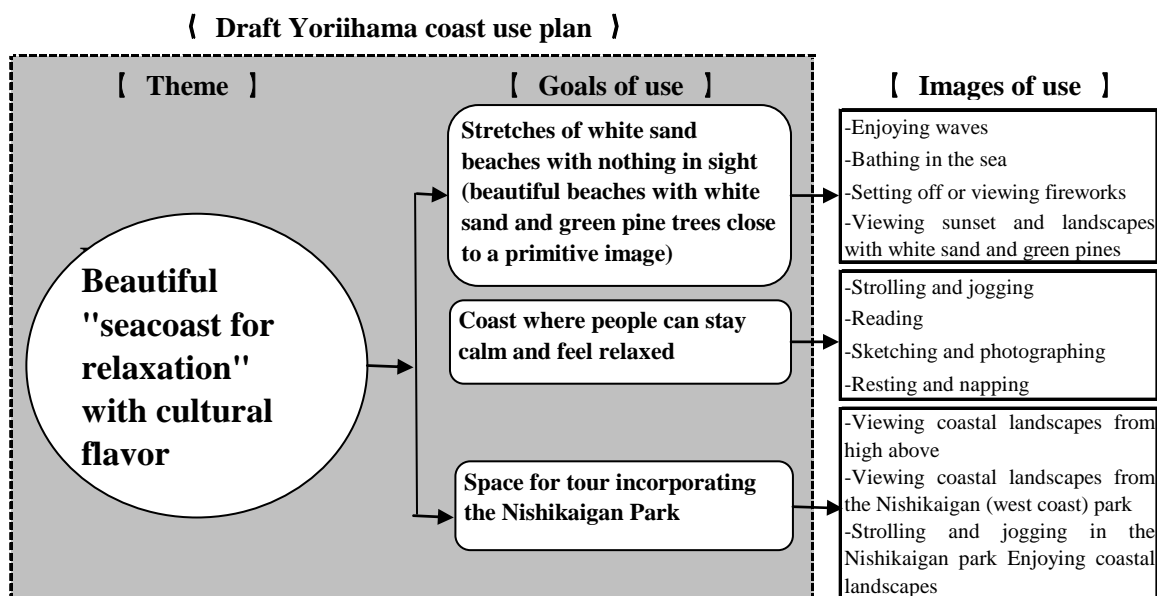
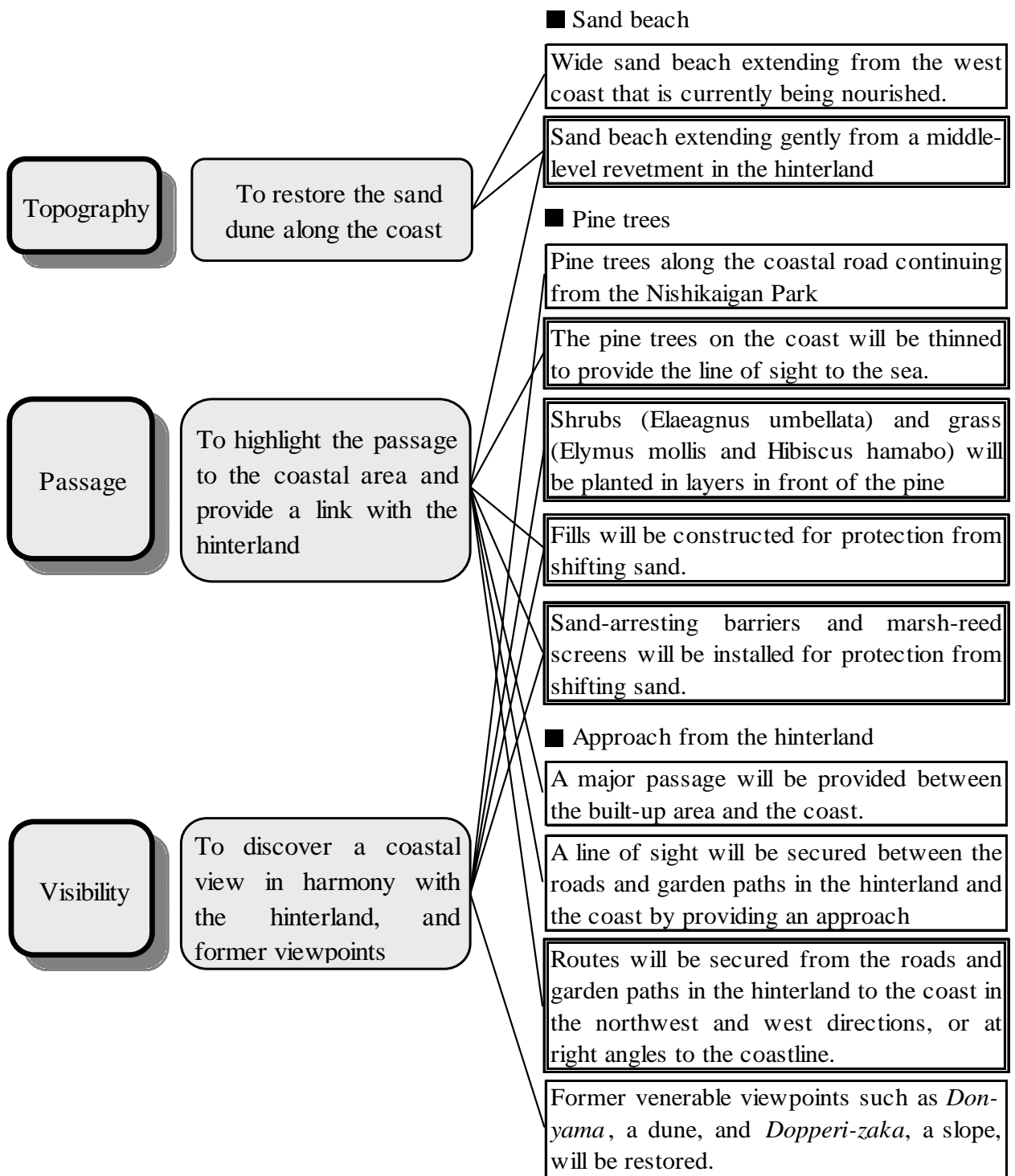


Figure 3 Draft Yoriihama seacoast use plan and an image of use

[Viewpoint] [Objectives of landscape development (plan)]

[Image of space (plan)]



The images encircled by double lines have been listed anew as a result of discussions at the review meeting.

Figure 4 Landscape development policies and an image of space

3-3 Building of residents' organizations based on a consensus

(1) Residents' consensus building measures

In order to build a consensus among the local residents on the Yoriihama coast concerning coastal improvement, open house, sessions for exchanging views and interviews were held. The measures are listed in Table 2.

(2) Future direction of coastal improvement and building of residents' organizations

The direction of coastal use that was identified based on the views of local residents obtained through the consensus building measures (A through H in Table 2) is shown in Table 3.

In the interviews with visitors to open house (A), memories of experience on Yoriihama or past use of the coast were described. Few comments were obtained on coastal improvement. The presentations by elementary and junior high school teachers (D) focused on the past and present use of the coast. They requested safety of children in relation to coastal improvement but did not refer to any specific improvement work. Open house and presentations are expected to enhance the awareness among local residents and teachers about the use and improvement of the Yoriihama coast.

In the sessions for exchanging views (C, E and F), numerous views were presented on the methods of coastal improvement. This is attributable to the enhancement of public awareness of Yoriihama through open house and questionnaire surveys.

As a result, suggestions were made that a residents' organization and the "Yoriihama restoration council" should be established toward the end of discussions at the second session. Then, the third session was held by the "Niigata School District Promotion Organization" and "Niigata School District Women's Association", both of which are residents' organizations.

(3) Future tasks

A Yoriihama coast use plan review meeting was held and a "draft Yoriihama coast use plan" was developed in the first half of this fiscal year. Then, various opinions were collected from the local residents. The first task in the future is to reflect the opinions in the draft Yoriihama coast use plan, and develop a Yoriihama coast use plan incorporating the opinions.

The second task is to form a residents' organization in relation to the use and improvement of the Yoriihama coast. Public opinions were collected in various ways in fiscal 2004 through 2005. Middle-aged community association's officials and school teachers were involved in the campaign. In the future, more residents at wider varieties of levels should be encouraged to participate in the movement. It is hoped that a residents' organization will be established as a

core of the movement and that the organization will work jointly with the administrators and experts to promote *satohama zukuri* (creation of a seacoast providing a link with people) and to enhance the Yoriihama coast.

The third task is to carry out various activities on the Yoriihama coast using the residents' organization as a core and have more people in the region participate in the activities to implement *satohama zukuri*.

Table 2 Measures for residents' consensus building

		Date	Measures taken
(1) Open house		Aug. 2, 2005	A. Interview with visitors B. Questionnaire survey
(2) Session for exchanging views	First session	Aug. 2, 2005	C. Exchange of views with residents
	Second session	Nov. 18, 2005	D. Presentations by elementary and junior high school teachers E. Exchange of views with residents
	Third session	Mar. 9, 2006	F. Exchange of views with residents G. Questionnaire survey
(3) Interview		Oct. 2005 through Mar. 2006	H. Interviews

Table 3 Future direction of coastal use identified based on public opinions

Item		Direction of coastal use	Methods of collecting opinions									
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H		
1) School education		The Yoriihama coast is important to education at elementary and junior high schools in the hinterland. It is hoped that it will be made possible for children to play freely on beaches with pine trees by restoring and maintaining the beaches and trees.										
2) Principle of coastal improvement		The fundamental goal should be to construct a "natural coast" with "beaches and pine trees" where people can watch the setting sun or enjoy walking calmly.										
3) Direction of improvement	Beaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide beaches should be restored • Goumi field should be restored. 										
	Pine trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pine trees should be maintained. 										
	Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking places, bus services and guideboards should be provided. 										
	Construction period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The residents understand that the improvement of the Yoriihama coast will take 15 to 20 years. 										
	Tourism-oriented development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coast should be designed to be used also for bathing and tourism, if possible. 										
	Environmental protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garbage treatment and other measures should be taken in the region for environmental protection. 										
	Coordination with the hinterland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement work should be carried out treating the cities in the hinterland and the coast as a unit. 										
	Access to the coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good access to the coast should be ensured through the construction of pedestrians' bridges or other facilities. 										
	Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is hoped that various events will be planned and implemented. 										
	Maps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is hope that a "Yoriihama map" will be prepared. 										
4) How to collect opinions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More attention should be paid to the opinions of younger generations and children. 										
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention should be paid to the opinions of people enjoying various hobbies including fishermen and surfers. 										
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field lectures should be held at elementary and junior high schools, workshops should be held and signature collection and public relations activities should be revitalized. 										

Methods of collecting opinions A through H correspond to A through H in Table 2.

The methods used to obtain specific opinions were marked with a circle.