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Ryukoku University  
Research Centre  
for Local Human Resources  
and Policy Development

## International Conference

# PROMOTING THE SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF INNER AREAS. WHAT CHANCES FOR EUROPE AND EAST ASIA?

11<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 | Torino (Italy)

**Venue:** Politecnico di Torino, Lingotto Campus (Via Nizza 230, Torino)

Info and registration: [innerareas2018@gmail.com](mailto:innerareas2018@gmail.com)

## Rationale for the event

The term 'inner areas' refers to territories often located substantially far from centers offering essential services and characterized by depopulation and socio-economic hardship. Both in Europe and East Asia, it may connote remote rural areas as well as islands, isolated border regions as well as sparsely populated mountain territories: progressively deprived of a growing number of services, such areas have gone through a steady period of abandonment in favor of urban areas. Interventions targeted to safeguard, rehabilitate and revitalize inner territorial areas have been thus deemed necessary to the promotion of territorial cohesion, as access to essential services such as education, mobility and healthcare is crucial to guarantee an adequate level of quality of life among inner areas' inhabitants. However, the promotion of smart, sustainable and inclusive development of inner areas presents a number of challenges, that may vary as a consequence of their intrinsic territorial characteristics as well as of the institutional framework in which their development shall be promoted.

In this light, this international conference aims at challenging scholars from both East Asian and European Union countries to address some of the following questions:

- What key features characterize inner areas in Europe and East Asia?
- Which territories are at risk of becoming inner areas? What processes may drive marginalization and how can these be reversed and/or overcome?
- How can inner areas explore and utilize their territorial potentials, support their competitiveness, create jobs and improve the quality of life for their citizens given their conditionality?
- What (European) national, regional and local strategies for inner areas, including more functional cooperation approaches and governance aspects, could be considered in order to improve their situation?

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## SCHEDULE (provisional)

- 09.00 – 10.00 Welcome coffee and participants' registration
- 10.00 – 11.00 Opening session - Chair: Magda Bolzoni (UNITO)
- Opening Speech | Katsutaka Shiraishi (LORC)
  - Greeting speech by Japan General Consul
  - Greeting speech by Urban Center Metropolitano Torino
  - Greeting speech by Francesca Verga (POLITO Vice-rector for International relations)
  - Greeting speech by Sergio Scamuzzi (UNITO Vice-rector for International relations)
- 11.00 – 12.30 Keynote speeches
- Nobutaka Matoba (LORC): Dealing with inner areas in Japan
  - Giancarlo Cotella (POLITO): The European Union approach to inner areas: a matter of cohesion
- 12.30 – 14.00 Lunch break
- 14.00 – 16.00 Parallel seminars
- **Seminar 1 – Social Innovation & local development**  
*Chair & Rapporteur: Giovanni Semi (UNITO)*  
Speaker 1: Seong Kook Young (LORC) – Endogenous development through community building in Korea. The case of Jin An County  
Speaker 2: Fumihiko Saito (LORC) – New prospects of social and solidarity economy in post-disaster affected areas of Tohoku, Japan  
Speaker 3: Filippo Barbera & Tania Parisi (UNITO) – Social innovation and social change in Italian inner areas  
Speaker 4: TBD

- **Seminar 2 – Territorial governance**

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*Chair & Rapporteur: Giancarlo Cotella (POLITO)*

Speaker 1: Tatsuro Niikawa (LORC) – Local autonomy and inter-local partnership in the mountain rural area: towards sustainable community formation in Japan

Speaker 2: Kazuyo Murata (LORC) – Kyoto Alliance for Local Public Human Resource Development: collaboration between communities and universities

Speaker 3: Egidio Dansero and Alessia Toldo (UNITO) – Local food systems (provisional)

Speaker 4: Elena Pedè (POLITO) – The Italian national strategy for inner areas: the case of Piemonte

- **Seminar 3 – Rural development/ urban-rural relations**

*Chair & Rapporteur: Daisuke Abe (LORC)*

Speaker 1: Shenglin Chang (Taiwan University)– Nurturing agricultural humanities at the inner area tea town via the x-turn youth and e-farmers in Pingling, Taiwan

Speaker 2: Naoko Oishi (LORC) – Social innovation led by venture farmers in Japan

Speaker 3: Claudia Cassatella (POLITO) – From remote wilderness to liveable place. Evolution of an alpine park in the framework of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism

Speaker 4: Bianca Maria Seardo (POLITO) – Rural “inner” landscapes of the Alpine region. Preserving the peculiarities of traditional vineyard landscapes through place-based and integrated landscape and territorial intervention in the Metropolitan City of Torino, Italy

16.00 – 16.30	Coffee break
16.30 – 17.30	Plenary Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapporteurs’ presentations</li> <li>• Open discussion</li> </ul>
17.30 – 18.00	Closing keynote speech – Kazuyo Murata (LORC)
18.00 – 18.15	Closing of the seminar – Hiroshi Yahagi (LORC)

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### **Scientific and Organizing Committee**

Daisuke Abe (Ryukoku University)

Magda Bolzoni (University of Turin)

Giancarlo Cotella (Politecnico di Torino)

Nobutaka Matoba (Ryukoku University)

Naoko Oishi (Ryukoku University)

Hiroshi Yahagi (Ryukoku University)

### **Organising Institutions**

Politecnico di Torino

Università degli Studi di Torino

LORC – Ryukoku University

### **Event organized under the patronage of**

Urban Center Metropolitano

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