



## **Kazumi Inuma's Encounter with Regional Planning During His Visit to the US and Europe**

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The term "Regional Planning" was proposed by Patrick Abercrombie in Britain in 1918, introduced to the US by Thomas Adams in 1919, and was statutorily incorporated in city planning laws in the US and England in the 1920s. While Kazumi Inuma, planning officer of the Japanese Ministry of Interior, introduced the idea to Japan after his visit to the US and Europe in 1923, the City Planning Law of Japan has no regional planning section still now. The purpose of this paper is to clarify its reason by examining the introductory stage of regional planning in Japan.

Hiroshi Ikeda, planning director of the Ministry of Interior, former director of Road Division, drafted The Japanese Urban Planning Law in 1918, which was promulgated in 1919. Under the Law the Minister of Interior was to establish the Urban Planning Area as distinct from the jurisdictions of municipalities and was to adopt the Urban Planning Scheme, because Ikeda thought that national government should take the responsibility of urban planning since urban areas were expanding beyond the jurisdiction of cities. While Kazumi Inuma was not involved in the drafting process when he joined the Interior Ministry in 1917, he was assigned to the Planning Department in 1922 and found that the idea of urban planning did not take root in society. He began to study foreign urban planning systems and eventually visited the US and Europe in 1923.

In the US Inuma encountered the term Regional Planning at the National Conference on City Planning in Baltimore, where George B. Ford, president of the Conference, emphasized that the next logical step of city planning is to control and direct developments of a whole region. For American planners regional planning just meant applying city planning principles to whole regions. In England he met Raymond Unwin and others of the garden city movement and took together a boat trip to Sweden to join the Gothenburg conference of the International Garden Cities and Town Planning Federation, where he was heavily influenced by Ebenezer Howard's Garden City idea and C. B. Purdom's Satellite Town scheme. After returning home, Inuma wrote number of articles and books to introduce the idea of regional planning to Japan. He advocated the idea of garden cities and satellite towns and stressed that planners should establish regional plans for entire regions before preparing urban planning schemes. Moreover, Inuma became Deputy Chairman of the Tokyo Metropolitan Open Space Planning Council in 1932, which proposed a park system for the Tokyo Metropolitan Region in 1939. However, it was only advisory, because regional planning efforts had no legal basis since the Urban Planning Law lacked the regional planning section. When Inuma was planning director of the Interior Ministry, he dared to criticize "Urban Plan Area" of the City Planning Law. However, he could not go further to reshape the Law fundamentally. This is one of the reasons why Japanese Urban Planning Law covers only about twenty five percent area of the whole nation and still lacks regional planning section.

**KEY WORDS:** Regional planning, Kazumi Inuma, Garden City, Raymond Unwin.