
Valuation of Local Forest Resources in Furniture Production Society in Japan

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Abstract

Our research has two important problematics in the economy of Capitalism, the societal relationships with nature on the one hand and the decline of local industry and economy on the other hand. We consider the relationships with nature in local society as a fundamental space to rebuild the relationships with nature in our global society. In this context, we therefore place the local economic society as territory of daily life on the heart of our analysis to rebuild the relationships between nature and human beings. In more detail, we pay attention on the role played by products of local industry utilizing local natural resources in order to reconstruct the local society in where nature, local industry(economy) and our daily life are complementary connected via local industry's product. In this general framework of our research problematic, we will more concretely study the local furniture industry and also the role of furniture products made by local forest trees. The object of this article is therefore to examine values of the utilization of local forest trees and its furniture products. We will introduce some cases of major production areas of furniture in Japan. Through these case studies, we will propose possibilities of local tree's furniture to recreate a local society of furniture production, which will permit to complementary connect forest, our living and local furniture industry. On the one hand, the utilization of local trees could connect different players of furniture manufacturing toward a collective community. On the other hand, the furniture of local trees could give an opportunity to concern the local forest to citizens thorough the relationships with consumers. Thus, while the utilization of local trees in the manufacturing of furnitures create the economic value on the trees, we would like to insisit more social values created by local forest trees to reconstruct our local society and also our global society. Values are not given, but could be created and recreated.

Keywords: Forest resources, Local trees, Local Furniture industry, Valuation, Watershed society

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