

Recent Regional Changes in the Urban and Neighboring Rural Areas of Wuxi City

DOI, Haruhiro^{1*}

¹Oita University

A remarkable economic growth has been accomplished in Wuxi City located on the lower basin of Changjiang Plain since 1990s from its industrialization. The author made field surveys on land use changes of the city, and had interviews with planning officials, local government staff and local farmers in 2008 and 2009. There have been numerous kinds of urban development in and around built-up areas such as large-scale newtowns containing several urban functions, industrial development and residential houses for villagers in rural areas. Driving forces of such changes were the advancement of urban functions as a strategy of a local development under the global economy and the improvement of the residential environment using profits from industrial development in rural villages.

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