

Differences in and causes of Environmental Attitudes between Russia and Japan

Norimasa TAKAYAMA^{1*}, Elena PETROVA², Hajime MATSUSHIMA³, Hirofumi UEDA⁴, Katsunori FURUYA⁵, Yoji AOKI⁶

¹Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute in JAPAN, ²Moscow State University, ³Hokkaido University, ⁴Sapporo City University, ⁵Chiba University, ⁶Freelance

Attitudes toward the natural environment, such as perception of color and susceptibility to temperature, may be of genetic origin due to different physical characteristics. However, to adapt to the natural environment and establish a rich lifestyle, it is essential to gather people's views and values, analyze them, and identify the characteristics and constraints of the natural environment in which people live, since these strongly influence the environmental values and experience of each individual.

We conducted some experiments to investigate Japanese and Russian attitudes toward the natural environment. In this study to compare both countries, we did the following: 1) clarified the differences and common points in environmental attitude between the two countries and among research sites, and 2) discussed their causes.

First, we surveyed the attributes of respondents at each research site (4-site in Japan; 3-site in Russia). Subsequently, to examine the environmental attitudes between the two countries, the Thompson and Barton Scale Test (TBS) and New Environmental Paradigm (NEP) were used for the investigations.

The analysis clarified that 1) Russia is more ecocentric than Japan, 2) Russia is less anthropocentric than Japan, and 3) Russia has lower environmental apathy than Japan. These results suggest that Russian respondents are highly interested in the natural environment and take the ecosystem into consideration, and attempt to adjust their own lives to the natural environment more than Japanese respondents. Thus, Russians are more highly orientated toward human and environmental symbiosis than Japanese. The lack of any statistically significant difference in any indicator of environmental attitudes in a domestic comparison such as Moscow - Irkutsk and Hokkaido - Chiba was also interesting. In other words, certain common factors surrounding the respondents of each country led to this result, whereupon the reasons for the causes were discussed.

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