

JAPAN WORKSHOP 2008

PROBLEM ADDRESSED



During the Building Communities workshop in the KitaShiba area of Osaka, participants experienced a city where public housing has been formalised. They were given opportunities to understand the after-effects of slum eradication and an effective community upgrading programme.

Working within one of Japan's social minority communities (the Buraku), participants explored the housing solutions provided by the Minoh government and those solutions the community developed in order to cope with their change in social status and living conditions.

GOAL ACHIEVED

At the conclusion of the two weeks participants had achieved:

- *An insight into the complexities of working as a professional with communities in long term development projects,
- *Understanding of the methods and techniques a local architecture practice employs when working with communities (CASE, Japan),
- *Developed a tool for community engagement that was shared and enhanced by the local community on the Community Spring Festival day.



Date: March & April 2008
Location: Osaka, Japan
ASF Team: J. Burnell & A. Grafweg
Partners: CASE, Japan
Donors: The Diawi Anglo-Japanese Foundation & GBSF
Project Type: International workshop

METHODOLOGY OF WORK

The programme included a series of lectures and interactive exercises, which focused on four main issues affecting the social realm including public housing, public spaces, homelessness in the land of housing and issues of social interactions.

Participant expectations included (quotes):

- *Engage with the local community,
- *To find out what an architect can specifically do in this project with her/his skills,
- *Bring theory and information learnt into practice,
- *Explore the unknown side of Japan,
- *Learn about the current social housing strategy in Japan,
- *Learn more about the architect's role in international development.



FUTURE PERSPECTIVE



Findings from the workshop have been integrated into the ongoing work that CASE, Japan are carrying out in the KitaShiba community.

