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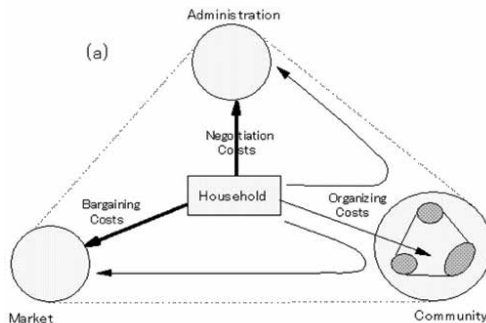
Natural resource management in Asian countries

The commons are the cultural and natural resources accessible to all members of a community, which are not often managed by the "invisible hand" under a market system. It is the local community that uses the commons sustainably, and endogenous self-organization plays a crucial role in forming norms for sustainable resource exploitation. In this context, my research interests focus on rural communities in exploiting natural resources, with study areas including Japan, Korea, China, and Vietnam.



Terraced paddy fields in Sapa, Vietnam
(photo on July 2011)

Roles of endogenous self-organization in rural communities



Development is a process that involves not only money and agencies but also people. The framework for organizations in a rural community can provide a clue to identifying who should be the real actors for sustainable rural development in either developed or less developed countries.