

Application of GeoDesign to Ease Conflicts in Planning & Policymaking Processes

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Summary

1) (Concept) GeoDesign, which combines spatial analysis methodology and design processes in the planning stage to resolve spatial problems (urban, landscape, and environment) based on the concept of sustainability, is an access methodology designed to raise the synergy effect of cooperative work and negotiations.

2) (Framework)

GeoDesign seeks the best alternative and is a series of processes to help decision making by developing and iterating six models (representation, process, assessment, change, impact and decision) for understanding the study area, grasping the issues, specifying the methodology, suggesting alternatives, assessing the impact and designating alternatives.

3) (Method of use) Application of the six models must be differentiated based on the geographical contexts, scale and size of a study area. The key to success is the iteration of the GeoDesign framework. In addition, open geospatial data and the application of ICT such as web-based spatial analysis and visualization tools can help raise understanding of a Geodesign project and also help collaboration among GeoDesign team members by minimizing spatial-temporal restrictions and accelerating decision making in the planning process.

4) (Case studies) The U.S. and Europe have been at the center of using the GeoDesign framework and web platform, formulating plans to gradually raise the number of successful case studies through boosting the satisfaction levels of both specialists and interest groups (via minimizing conflict).

Policy Implications

① Considering the conflict of interests and peculiar nature involved in the spatial planning and policymaking process, an interdisciplinary and holistic method of planning should be adopted that incorporates the suggested GeoDesign framework.

② To minimize conflict, shorten planning time and raise satisfaction levels, the system needs to be improved to boost the number of specialists and people concerned in the entire process of assessing status, identifying problems, proposing alternatives, assessing impact and deciding on alternatives.

③ The objective is not just to use information technologies that help scientific analysis, collaboration and negotiations among participants under the existing planning system, but rather foster attempts and efforts toward decisive change to form an institutional base by using information technologies.