

20. Study on Measures to Build Links Between Local Governments and Organizations/Groups Involved in Social Education

Leader: BABA Yujiro, Director, Practical Social Education Research Center

(1) Purpose and Aim of Study

In order to support lifelong learning by every citizen and enhance the educational functions of society as a whole, it is necessary to create mechanisms that link not only schools, households, and local residents, but also companies, NPOs, and other organizations. Based on that premise, this study surveys and analyses leading examples of such links to examine the nature of networks encompassing various organizations and groups within a community, and researches measures that can be taken to build such links, including methods for establishing and effectively operating cooperative relationships.

(2) Outline of Research Results

- We conducted interviews in eight locations where progressive efforts have been made to establish bases for networks of various community groups (lifelong learning platforms, etc.) and examined the measures taken to create links.
- We then compiled case studies of the eight locations and analyzed the results of their efforts to date and issues they have faced in respect of the following three points: i) the path to establishing a network base; ii) the composition of the network base (organization, office, specialist staff); and iii) the nature of their efforts (goals and objectives of the network base, details of specific initiatives).
- Based on the case studies, we clarified the status of networks linking local governments with other organizations and groups involved in social education, identified issues they face, and outlined the background and special features of each case.
- Considering links between local governments and other organizations and groups involved in social education in the light of two problems—limited time and autonomy—we pointed out some of the pitfalls in creating links.