

Network Community for Refugees Dispersed in a Wide Area

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Project Goals

Problems to be solved

- Namie-machi, a disaster stricken municipality of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident
 - Most of the townspeople have been forced to disperse and have lived apart from one another in many areas of the country around Fukushima Prefecture, such as in temporary housing.
 - It is hard to sustain the former community, because there are issues related to living in evacuation places and rebuilding their lives.

R&D Target

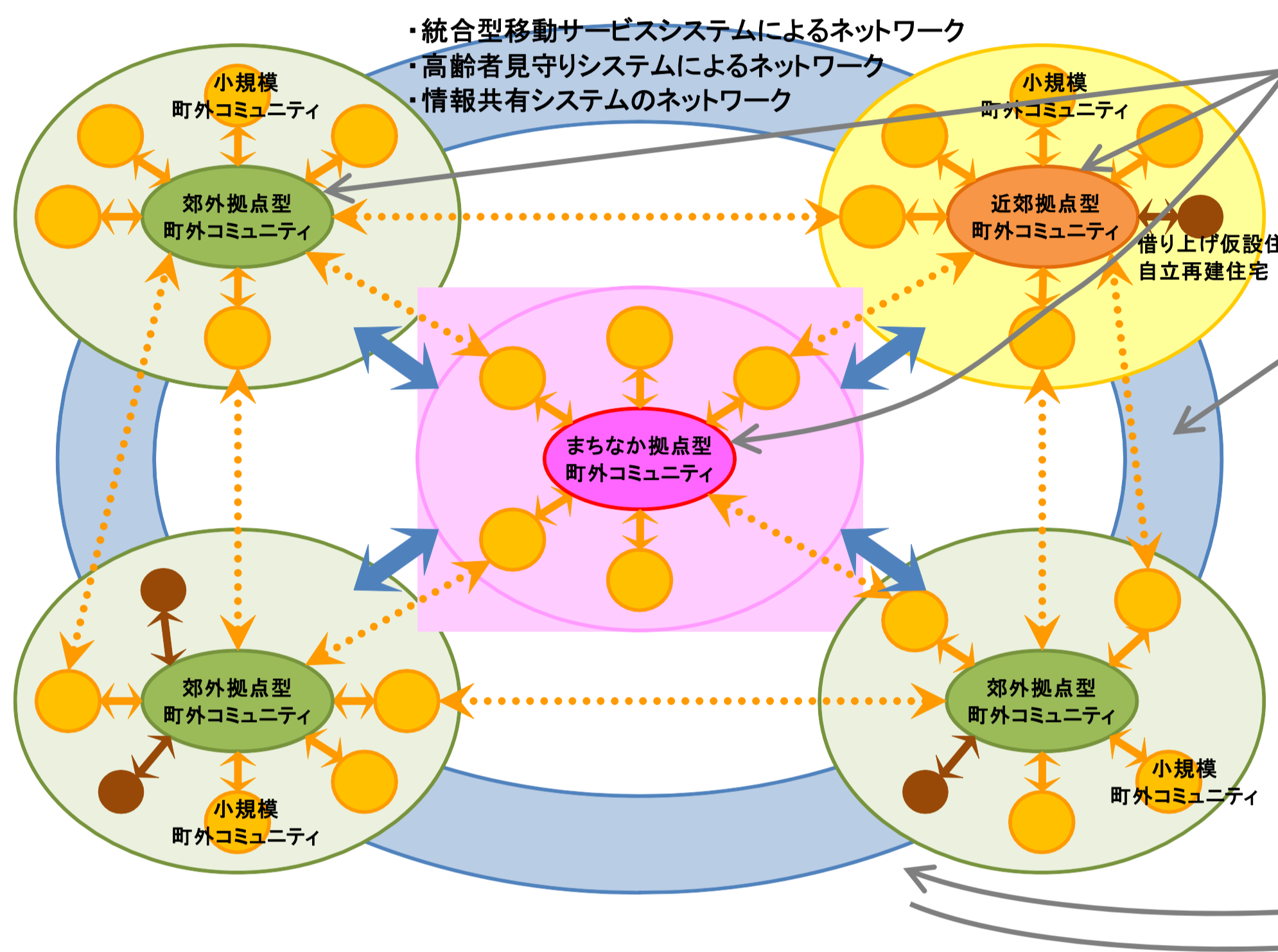
- To construct a "Network Community" which organically links the "town-external community" of dispersed residence clusters centered around temporary housing facilities, etc with dispersed public facilities.
 - By sustaining the community, with the aim of supporting the lives of residents in prolonged evacuation, to create a vibrant regional community.

<<Details of Activities>>

1. Workshops, etc to create and design the community spaces and way of life for the "town-external communities" through collaboration.
2. To develop a comprehensive support system for residents with support for transportation and monitoring of elderly people as core services.
3. To continue monitoring activities targeting the residents of Namie-machi using a scientific evaluation scale.

Project implementation

Project overview



PJ1: Promote cooperative design of images of space and living of "Town-External Communities" through workshops and to start symbolic projects.

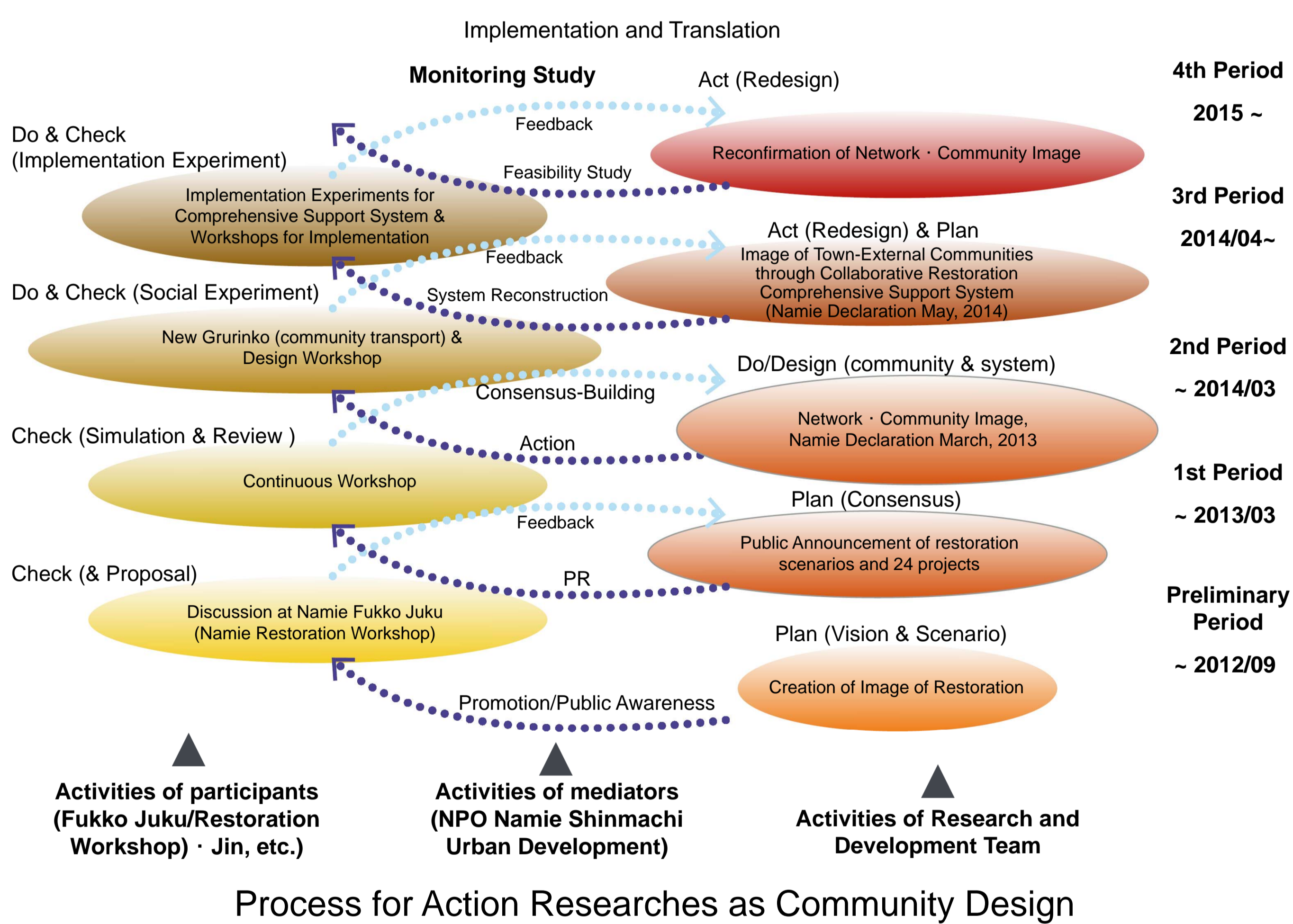
PJ2: Develop a "comprehensive support system for residents" which boasts a smooth transportation system, support for nursing care, welfare, and education, and information exchanges, etc. between displaced elderly residents, and carry out implementation experiments of this system in order to sustain the network community.

PJ3: Study the scientific evaluation scale for network communities to develop a comprehensive evaluation system, and to carry out continued interview research.

Sketch Drawing of Network Community and Overview of Project



Project deployment



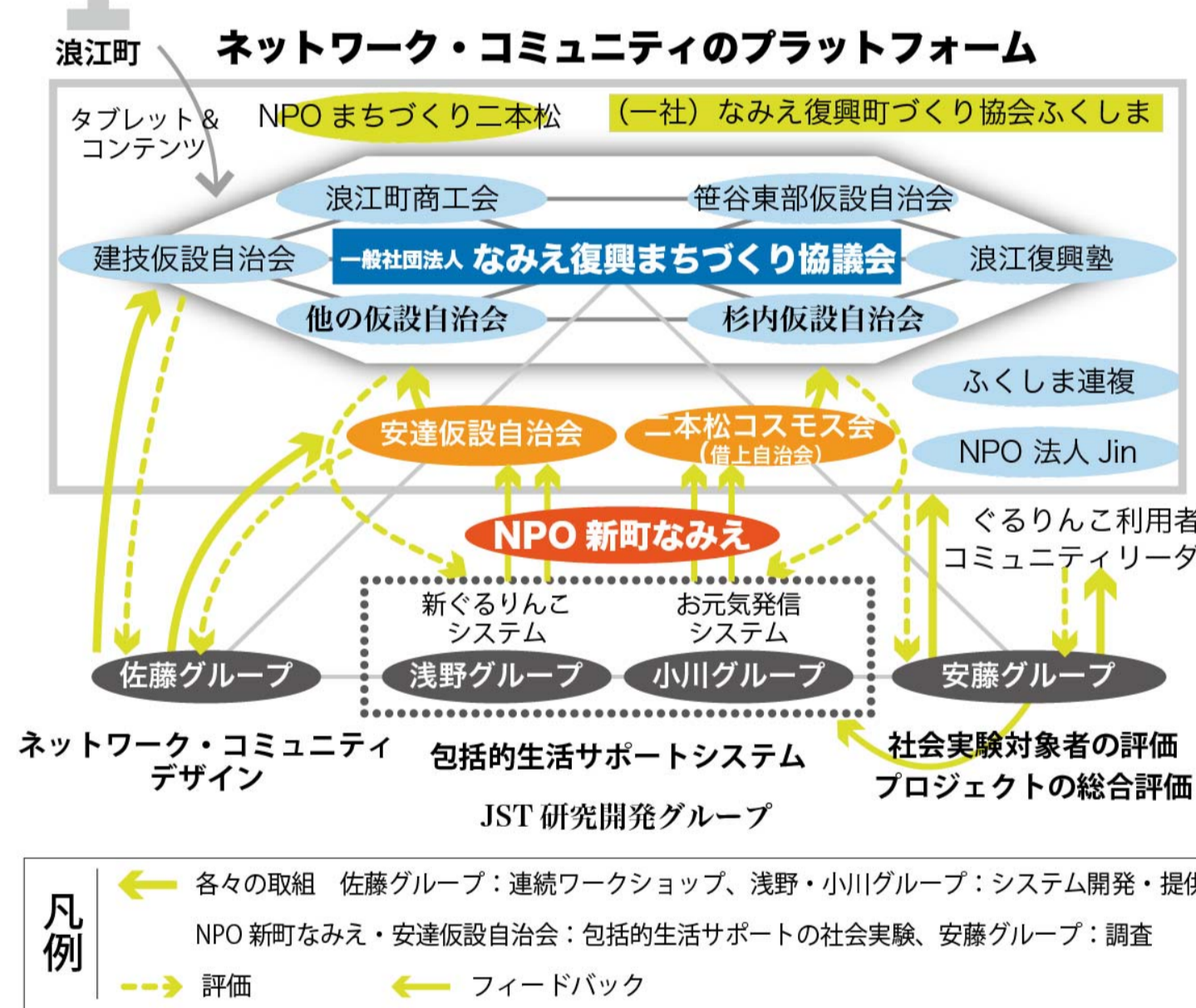
Target Communities/R&D Structure

[Target Communities]

Nuclear disaster stricken Namie-machi of Fukushima Prefecture, and major receiving places of Nihonmatsu City and Fukushima City

[Major Participants]

Waseda University, Toyo University, Iwate Prefectural University, NPO Namie Shinmachi Urban Development



Scene of A Workshop where Residents Independently Study Town-External Communities, and Proposed Draft Plan

Project achievements and future prospects

Project achievements

1. A community support system for displaced and dispersed elderly people
2. A system to review diversified processes of community design using a video archive
3. Design workshops to visualize a way of life for the community and for the creation of community spaces at evacuated places
4. Process to build up a system to promote community design through cooperation between NPOs and the neighborhood community organizations of displaced residents

1. Elderly people who are evacuated outside of the town of Namie-machi for a long time can participate in a rich, stable and active community life through network communities centered around dispersed town-external communities, etc.
2. "New Grurinko (community transportation)" system which supports transportation of elderly people will become the foundation of mutual support and interaction between elderly people, and will be gradually strengthened, and spread to many places, evolve to an interconnected system.
3. With the continuing dissolution of evacuation directives in the future, self-sufficient town-external communities made up of diverse generations will be created at many places within Fukushima Prefecture, and while maintaining a vital community for future generations, will provide continued support for restoration of the entire disaster-stricken region including maritime areas.

Future developments and prospects

1. A regional society will be created, where elderly people can live rich and satisfying lives provided by a developed comprehensive community support system and the interconnection of diversified regional cultures through cooperation between the above-mentioned network communities and municipalities receiving evacuees.
2. The system of Network Community will be used in such cases as housing developments which were constructed on the outskirts of big-cities during the high economic growth period where there are large numbers of aging residents, marginal villages in hilly and mountainous areas, and Continuing Care Retirement Communities (Japanese version of CCRC) which are planned in many places as reservoirs for those relocating from big-cities.
3. "Japanese Type Community Mutual Support System" which has "New Grurinko (community transportation system)" as a core feature will be also referenced by overseas disaster-stricken areas with the same conditions (e.g. L'Aquila, Italy) and foreign countries with a rapidly progressing aging of the population (e.g. China).