Wooden House Production System in Recent Okinawa Prefecture

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In Okinawa, new wooden house construction starts is very small compared with in the whole Japan. Wooden house builders in Okinawa have many difficulties in wooden house construction, such as shortage of lumbers or skillful carpenters. However, recently there is increase of wooden house construction in Okinawa: in particular post and beam houses in addition to wood frame houses. From the interviews with 16 builders, 4 architects and 4 pre-cut lumber mills, this research shows the reason why post and beam houses increased and characteristics of post and beam construction in Okinawa.

From the latter half of the 1990s, pre-cut lumber shipped from Miyazaki and Kagoshima prefecture started to be used widely. Thus, with this new construction method, several builders which have no experience of wooden construction moved onto wooden house construction.

There are several characteristics in Okinawan builders: many wooden builders are small and doing another business other than wooden house construction. Pre-cut factories support these small builders by carpenter education or sending building parts in addition to pre-cut lumbers.

As for wooden house details, recent post and beam houses in Okinawa are influenced by limited distribution channel. For example, Japanese cedar from southern Kyushu area is widely used.

図: 新設戸建住宅着工数（2007年度、建築統計年報より、単位は%、括弧内は木造率の順位）
図1 沖縄県の木造家建住宅構法別着工数の推移（建築統計年報より）

写真（左）: 南九州から沖縄に流出されるプレカット材（上部段ボールが金物など木材以外の部材）
写真（右）: 宮崎県産のスギを使った沖縄県の木造軸組構法住宅施工現場