

Ten Years of the Obuse Machizukuri Institute: A Collaboration between the Town of Obuse and the Tokyo University of Science

The philosophy and techniques of machizukuri in collaboration with a university as pursued at the Obuse Machizukuri Institute, an organization with standing staff and facilities, between 2005 and 2015, a decade of investigative research, policy proposals grounded in research findings (such as the Mori no Chushajo Parking Lot, the Satomichi Project, and the National Route 403 Improvement Plan), and activities conducted together with local residents, the local administration, and students (such as Next Generation Workshops, the Machizukuri Study Group, and the Obuse Machizukuri University lecture series).

Obuse is a small town in northern Nagano prefecture with a population of just over 10,000 and a land area of about four kilometers square that is visited by more than a million tourists every year. The philosophy and techniques developed through the unique collaboration between the town and the university have generated significant real-world results and contributed to national policy related to regional revitalization.