

# Citizen Participation in the Formulation of Comprehensive Plans

Odawara City,  
Kanagawa Prefecture



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## Situation

Odawara City utilized a new citizen participation method such as uncovering the opinions of the silent majority and formulation of separate local plan in order to formulate a new comprehensive plan. Furthermore, discussions were held in an open setting in which many city officials could actively participate in the formulation of the city's plans.

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## Action

- Odawara TRY Forum (citizen discussion forum)
  - Holding discussion forums for randomly selected citizens.
  - Citizens, civic activity organizations, and the government participated in the discussion forum and discussed about administrative issues from their positions and roles.
  - The city reflected and implemented citizens' opinions in the plan as much as possible.
- Formulation of separate local plans
  - Study groups were set up for 25 districts' neighborhood council associations in order to analyze the current state of the area.
  - They formulated separate local plan summarizing their visions of the future for the area and activities that they were engaged in themselves
- The active participation of officials
  - Many city officials engaged in discussions to draft stories for every potential process of the city.
  - Discussions were held in an open setting in which those officials could participate outside of their areas of responsibility and express their thoughts regarding Odawara's future.

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## Impact

- Odawara City could reflect many citizens' opinions including the silent majority in the comprehensive plan, the "Odawara TRY Plan"
  - They were able to change officials' way of thinking and build relationships between citizens and officials
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