

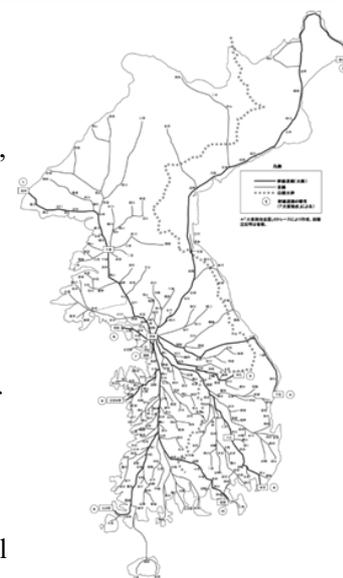
# Professor TODOROKI Hiroshi

## Restoration of Ancient Roads in Korea: Practical Uses for the Development of Tourism



I have devoted my life to conducting research on roads, particularly the roads in Korea. I have loved walking since I was a child. As a graduate student in Seoul, I briefly considered conducting research on the cultural geography of Korean festivals. However, I came to learn that as in Japan, ancient roads known as *Gokaido* also exist in Korea, and that there is limited research being done on these roads. Since then, I have decided to change my research focus to ancient roads. Barring North Korea, I have trekked through, what was known as the *10 main roads* in the Joseon Dynasty, in its entirety.

As part of my research, I have established a reconstruction approach for ancient roads from the perspective of historical geography through the reconstruction of the *10 main roads*. To explain my approach in simple terms, the points of transit are first established by referencing historical materials (i.e. reconstruction of points). After which, concrete paths are re-created using old maps and modern topographic maps (i.e. reconstruction of lines). Finally, the relationship between linearity, surrounding topography and urban planning is examined using cadastral maps, aerial photographs, local landscape observations, interviews/surveys, and archaeological materials (i.e. reconstruction of surfaces). In establishing connections between points, lines and surfaces (i.e. link between dimensions), connections between History, Geography, and Archaeology (i.e. link between different disciplines), and connections between macroscale, microscale and mesoscale models (i.e. link between scale models), this research adopts a multi-faceted approach in reconstructing each road. Furthermore, this research seeks to examine roads in Korea from an international perspective, as well as compare them with countries that have similarities and differences with Korea in their historical and geographical backgrounds, such as Japan and China.



Railway map of the Joseon Dynasty

In addition, my research also focuses on the ideological aspect of roads from the perspective of scholars in the Joseon period. The term *Sancheon-Dori* is often used in academic literature on the Joseon period. Topographic surveys and maps generally depict mountains, rivers, roads and cities. Mountains are representative of natural geography while roads are representative of human geography. In considering its use as a mode of transportation for human beings, rivers can represent both. These three elements are organically intertwined with one another and connect cities throughout the country, accurately representing the land of Korea as being territory ruled by the King.



Map and pictures of Hita, Oita Prefecture

After I started working at APU, I wanted to contribute using my research on roads by facilitating international exchange for students and developing local tourism. Together with university students from both Japan and Korea, I trekked through the path taken by Korean delegates from Seoul to the Edo Castle. In line with APU's efforts to develop Oita Prefecture, I have also been restoring old roads and redeveloping roads in Oita with students and local people while getting involved in related events. Even if each individual city lacks the ability to attract tourists, they can consider collaborations through the common historical and cultural identity of roads that connect them. Roads can therefore be a fascinating resource for boosting tourism. *Nakasendo* and *Kumano Kodo* are typical examples of that. Since areas without ancient roads do not exist, roads may serve as powerful reinforcements for regions that do not have any tourist attractions. In this sense, I find it rewarding to be able to draw on my research for practical purposes.

I am currently attempting to reconstruct the ancient road of Silla. Many Korean researchers have deemed this to be an impossible task due to the lack of available historical material. However, I believe the notion of this impossibility is the same reason why I will devote the rest of my life to working on this research.



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