

Recreation research trends of MMV, 2002-2012

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MMV1

During my work at the National Institute for Environmental Studies, I had investigated the work of Wilfrid Kirchner to find recreation activities' studies in Europe. He had already left by 1996, and Marija Kirchner in Vienna told me that his work had already stopped. Through her I met Arne Arnberger of Bodenkultur University. After meeting him, I received the announcement of MMV (Management and Monitoring of Visitor) in Vienna in January 2002.

We participated in this meeting MMV1 with results about the over crowding of the Japanese Garden called "Koishikawa Korakuen". Our colleagues from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government introduced a survey of usage of 69 prefectural parks in Tokyo from 1982-1998.

At that workshop, there were 81 reports from many countries of Europe and from the United States. I was the only contributor from Asia.

Trends from MMV2 to MMV6

MMV2 was held in Rovaniemi City (60 000 inhabitants) in the Arctic Circle of North Finland, and the theme was "Policies, Methods and Tools for Visitor Management". The participating countries were from North America, the German linguistic sphere and Eastern Europe. Sixty presentations were reported in the proceedings with 20 participating countries.

MMV3 was held in Rapperswil (7500 inhabitants), in a suburb of Zurich, Switzerland. There were many presentations from Swiss researchers. Seven papers from Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Nepal, and Kazakhstan from Asia were presented. Due to the popularity of the tourism destination, Switzerland, the participants came from all over the world and the meeting was recognized as an important international research meeting. The theme was "Exploring the nature of Management". It had the second largest number of presentations (151) and 34 countries joined.

MMV4 was held at the hot spring resort of Montecatini Terme (20,000 inhabitants) near the big city of Florence, Italy. The subject was "Management for protection and sustainable development". Many presenters were from Italy and Austria, and the total number was 117. Notable are the presentations from Greece and Romania.

MMV5 was held at Wageningen (40,000 inhabitants) in the Netherlands, and there were many presentations from Western Europe, especially from the Netherlands. The subject of the meeting was "Recreation, tourism and nature in a changing world". The total presentation numbered 138, and 36 countries joined.

MMV6 was held in Stockholm, the capital, Sweden. The number of participating countries was the largest - 41. The participating countries ranged from South Africa and Latin America, indicating that MMV had been recognized around the world. The subject was "Outdoor Recreation in

Change- Current Knowledge and Future Challenges”. As well as nature conservation and user measurement, the research subjects touched widely upon the issues of resource protection and use by tourists . This manifested itself in an increased attention to the problems of landscape assessment.

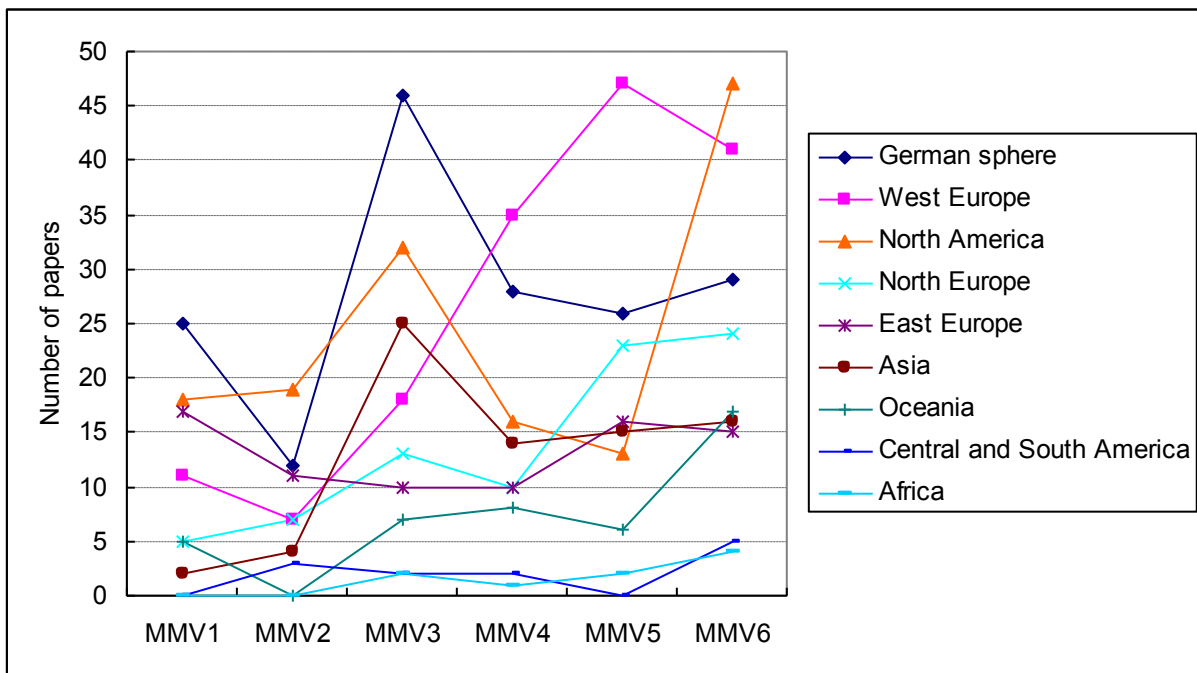


Fig.1 Trends in participating countries

Trend of research subjects in MMV

Counting of words used in the presentation title revealed following patterns. The subject of tourism increased in popularity to reach the top place at MMV6. The second popular subject was the impact of tourism. Children as visitors also increased. The type of area, National Park and Nature Conservation peaked at MMV3.

Measuring the number of users was the central theme at first, but topics diversified to include the problem of nature protection of the national parks, and the problem of facility development. In addition, this trend is ongoing and we are now dealing with complex problems in recreational activities, cross-cultural issues, such as conflict between activities in recent years.

Research first began from the measuring of the number of users, e. g. mountain walking in the mountain, jogging, wandering, and hiking, then gradually included also studies of recreational activities using equipment, e. g. skiing and biking, and canoeing.

Then the measurement included the relationships between facility development, the locals and the planning of a wide area. Biological protection, water pollution, garbage, conflict with surrounding communities, protection of world heritage, and nature of Antarctic tourism are now being discussed at MMV.

Trends of research methods in MMV

We reported the problems of over crowding of the urban parks studied in the 1970s using counting method at the entrances, but Tetsuya Aikoh and Arne Arnberger reported a new method of montage

to show the number of users, not only in the mountains but also in the urban parks. They investigated feeling of usage density in a place with the help of montage slides in the 2000s.

From MMV1 to MMV6, the use of questionnaires increased, as did the use of GPS recently. The counting method is still used.

At the MMV6 in 2012, the increase of complicated studies, e.g. with users of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, the increase of different uses in the same area, a different capacity calculation, the diversity in resources, the usage control of the concentration at the time, the social carrying capacity problem, and the impact on the landscape experience required new methods.

Conclusion

MMV contributes greatly to scholarly information exchange. To continue to do so, it should ideally be held in a wide range of countries around the world, including new geographic regions (e. g. Asia).

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