

# Abstract of Main Thesis

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## A Study on Historical Diffusion of Old Road, Old Riverbed Alignment and their Utilization

This thesis presents (1) the investigation results of old road and the old river alignment, and (2) the land utilization of old road and old river alignment. This thesis includes also the aspects of such cultural sciences as ancient megalithic belief and place name, which have been investigated by author.

As for the old road, the historical diffusion of road alignment in the hilly and mountainous terrain has been investigated. As a consequence of the investigation, it was found that the older road passed through the higher route in general. The old road had passed through the mountainside route since the Edo period of a no-war time. Then, the old road had passed through the gentle riverside route since the Meiji period due to the trafficability of vehicles.

As for the alignment of old riverbed, the old riverbed is used to become the alluvial lowland. This alluvial lowland and back marsh area (= hinter - low - land) has the sandy ground or soft ground in general and they are suffered easily from inundation and earthquake. It is observed nowadays the following trend that the population in mountainous region has decreased; on the other hand, the population in plain has increased. New coming inhabitants into the plain region tend to live on the alluvial lowland and back marsh area, because the good and safe residential land has been saturated with the former inhabitants.

The old ridge road can be used for the road of evacuation, access, relief and retrieval, when the modern riverside road is impassable due to calamity.

The old ridge road has also nice surroundings of rich nature. Therefore, people can use the old ridge road for the healthy walk.

The study on the old riverbed can reveal a danger zone of alluvial lowland and back marsh and can be utilized for the disaster prevention plan.