Challenges

Global aging

Vulnerability of elders at the time of natural disasters
What are “we” afraid of?

- Social isolation
- Losing dignity and respect
- Not having positive social role
Shifting our perception

Elders are vulnerable populations who need to be cared

Aging society = Elders as burden to our society

Elders are the valuable asset of our communities.

Life experiences and wisdom benefit younger generations, and help strengthen the resiliency of their communities.
What is Ibasho?

Ibasho (居場所) is a Japanese term which means “a place where all people feel they belong and are accepted.”
Goal

Create a society where aging is not something to fear
Global challenges from local solutions
Challenging social perception regarding aging
Reducing level of dependency
Approach

- Elders are empowered and included as a part of solution
- Place making: create their own place
- Create a community owned place where elders have opportunities to be useful to others
- Multi-generational learning opportunities initiated by elders
Older people are a valuable asset to the community: Elder wisdom
Creating informal gathering places: Normalcy
Community members drive development and implementation: community ownership
All generations are involved in the community: multi-generational
All residents participate in normal community life: de-marginalization
Local culture and traditions are respected: culturally appropriate
Communities are environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable: resilience.
Growth of the community is organic and embraces imperfection gracefully: embracing imperfection
Each community is different and unique

Does the Japanese case work in other country?

Yes and No....

Process not the outcomes
Ibasho project in Philippines

Phase 1

Phase 2

Phase 3

Phase 4

School

Ibasho cafeteria
Ibasho development
Peer to Peer knowledge exchange program

- Knowledge exchange
- Shared learning from different culture
- Meaningful relationship with others
Creating resilient community

- Challenging social perception about aging
- Changing mindset of care

Empowering elders
- Elders as resource
- Reverse role of care
- Community ownership
- Transfer of knowledge

Ibasho cafe
- Multi-generational interactions
- Various levels of relationships: thin and thick
- Informal support

Community bridging

Social capital
- Network
- Belonging
- Efficacy
- Trust
- Reciprocity

Community Resilience
- Natural disaster
- Global aging
Community is something that we have to negotiate and create with others, not something that we can passively receive.