

Public Facilities Planning, edited by Lily Kiminami, Kenneth Button, and Peter Nijkamp ; Cheltenham, UK : Edward Elgar Publishing, 2006

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This volume is one of seven titles in the series *Classics in Planning* edited by three prominent scholars. This book gathers famous papers on public facilities planning, from basic theory to case studies in urban economics. The contribution of location theories is great and important in the development of regional science and urban economics. Particularly, the location of public facilities is a problem for which many people have shown interest and waited for such a book, that makes it easy to understand the flow of a series of location theories from basic theories to applied approaches to be published. Since the location of public facilities is closely related to the provision of public goods, the problems should be prudently considered more than the location of private firms. This volume refers to the relationship between the location problems and the provision of public goods based on a theoretical economic analysis.

The editors identify seven parts, namely, (1) early contributions, (2) theories of public facility planning, (3) institutional issues, (4) role of the private sector, (5) assessment techniques, (6) new approaches, and (7) case studies on applications. Part 1 takes up two pioneering papers on the early contributions. Particularly, the contribution by Tiebout (1956), father in the fields of public facilities, migration among regions, public goods provision, etc., is an important paper. Teitz (1968) is also important as related to public facilities location problems. His studies give us a new viewpoint of location problems that is not seized with conventional traditions like Weber or von Thunen. Part 2 takes up the papers about the location of public facilities as analyzed by the theoretical economics model. Although the editors cover most of the papers in this category, they should add Thisse and Wildasin (1992), "Public Facility Location and Urban Spatial Structure: Equilibrium and Welfare Analysis," in *Journal of Public Economics* to this chapter. This paper is one of the most appropriate papers in this category. Part 3 introduces papers on institutional issues. Since the location problem of public facilities should be considered as one of the provisions of public goods, we cannot ignore problems, such as taxation, local finance and others. For example, Oates (1981) studied the Tiebout model in terms of fiscal problems and maintains the necessity to discuss the fiscal efficiency system. In part 4, the editors introduce papers that analyze the role of the private sector in public goods. Although I understand the relationship between the private sector and the provision of public goods or the public facility problems, I do not understand why the editors take up these papers in independent chapters and do not put them together in other chapters. The editors collect papers showing the methods needed to analyze these problems and papers about assessment techniques in part 5. Knowledge of how to analyze the theoretical model is required because we must often exemplify models to bureaucrats at a public meetings. Therefore, I feel the intention of editors in this book. One reason this book is an excellent book is it pays more attention to new study trends in this field that just a survey of a conventional studies. Editors

refer to new approaches for this category in Part 6 and to case studies of application in Part 7.

Arguments about public facility locations collected in this book have significance to show possibilities for applications of the basic theories to real economic analyses. Moreover, this book is useful for practitioners engaged in administration and enforcement of not only researchers, but also city planning because this book is policy intention-like excellently.