

Practice of Japan-Russia Interregional Cooperation: A Report from Niigata

Hirofumi Arai

Economic Research Institute for Northeast Asia
(Niigata, Japan)

Contents

- Regional Cooperation between Niigata and Russian Far East
- Topic 1: Business and Regional Cooperation
- Topic 2: Central Government and Regional Cooperation
- After “COVID-19” Regional Cooperation

Regional Cooperation between Niigata and RFE

- Niigata city has a long history of sister city relation with Khabarovsk.
- The two cities had the only local flight between Japan and USSR.
- They have played a key role in the Mayors Meeting since 1970.

Provincial Level Exchanges		from
Niigata	Khabarovsk	1990
Niigata	Primorye	1990
Niigata	Irkutsk	1994
Sister City Relations		from
Niigata	Khabarovsk	1965
Niigata	Vladivostok	1991
Niigata	Birobidzhan	1992
Kamo	Komsomol'sk-na-Amure	1991

Meeting of Mayors of West Coast of Japan and Siberia and Far East of Russia

- Since 1970
- 11 cities from JPN, 20 cities from RUS
- General meeting in every 2 years
- Niigata and Khabarovsk are co-chairs

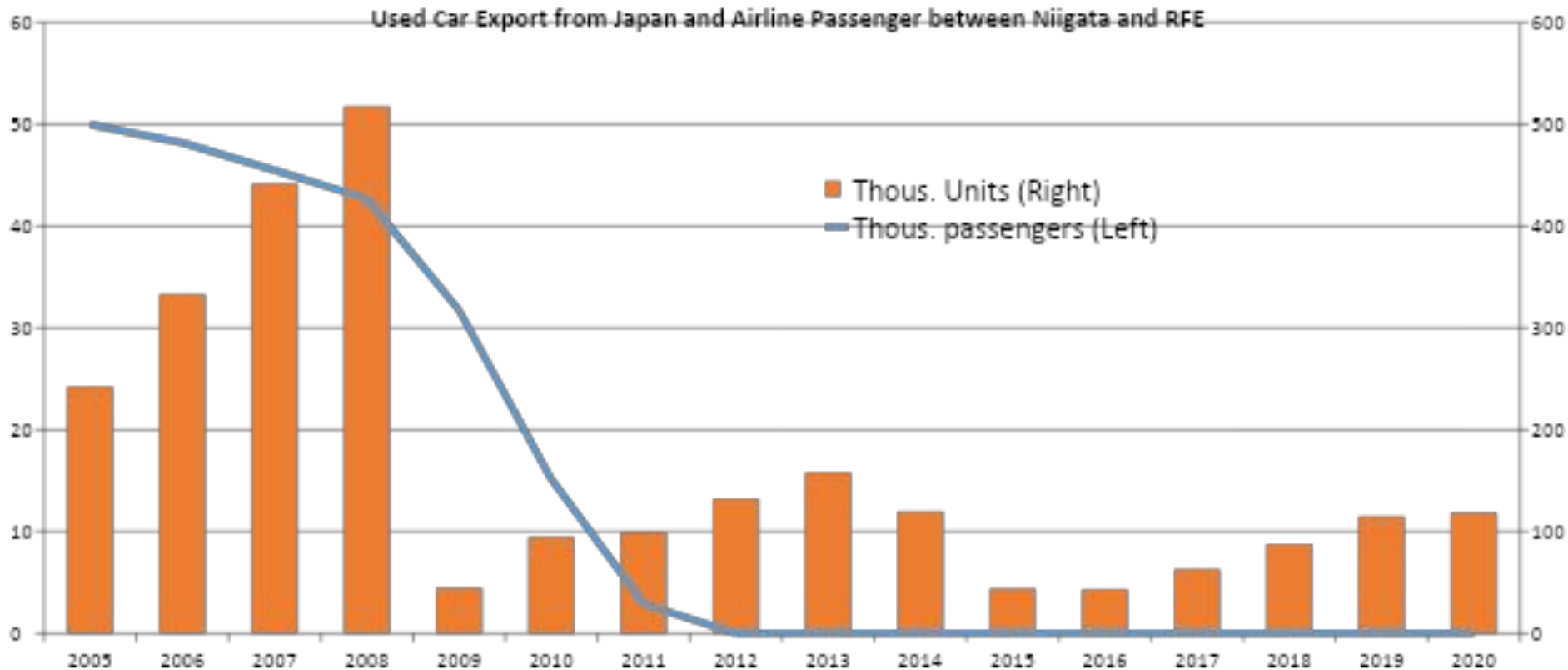


Source: Association of Mayors of West Coast of Japan

Source: Niigata prefecture

Topic 1: Business and Regional Cooperation

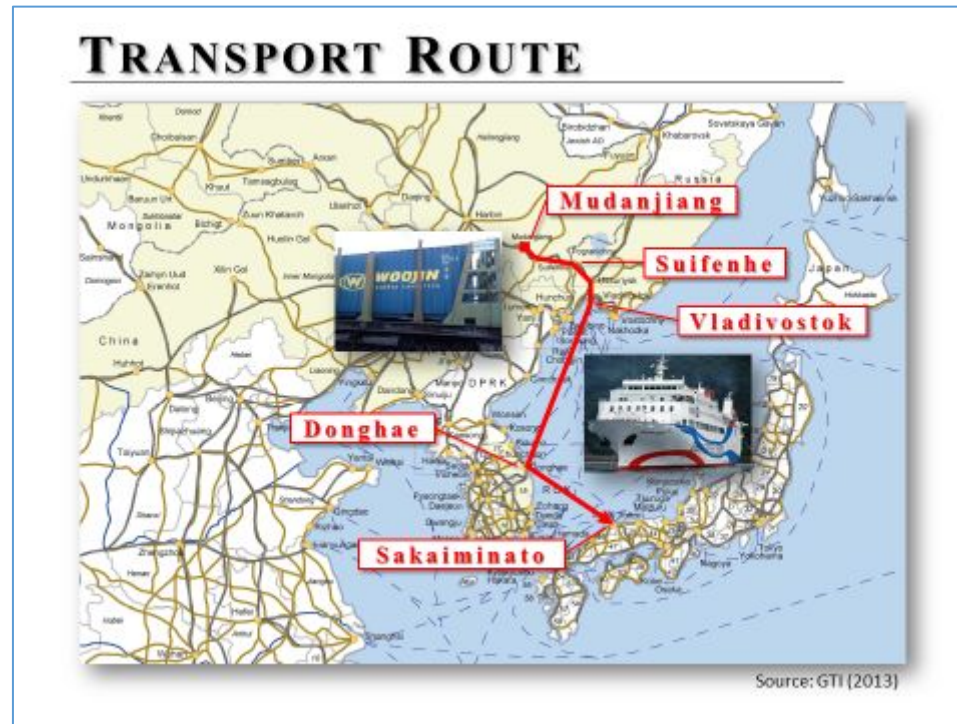
- Russia's "ban" of the used car import shrank the passenger flow.
- The flight loss diminished various opportunities of cooperation.
- The used car business was not so negative as perceived (?).



Source: Customs statistics of Japan and Niigata Prefecture

Topic 2: Central Govt. and Regional Cooperation

- Tottori prefecture got access to FCS of Russia, through an international organization (Greater Tumen Initiative: GTI), while promoting a new transport route between Japan and China through Russia's territory.



Source: Tottori prefecture

After “COVID-19” Regional Cooperation

- Online communications have become a standard in the “with Corona society.”
- There are many pros (time and cost saving etc.) and cons (lack of informal communications etc.).



The **virtual experience** is the spice that strengthen our longing **for the real experience!**



Photo: <https://junichi-m.com/camera/nagaoka-hanabi/>