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TITLE: Is It Neo-Liberal Urbanization or “Reconstruction” Process? : Perspectives from Asian Migrants in Inner-City Area of Kobe after the Great Earthquake in 1995

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Urbanization process is said not to be able to avoid accumulating the capital and its neo-liberalized acceleration such as gentrification nowadays (Harvey 1985,2005 Smith 1996). But, what is brought or added to this situation after natural disasters hit on the urban area? To consider this question, I would focus on the drastic changes of urban space for these 20 years under the name of reconstruction (“fukkou” in Japanese) in Kobe-Nagata area, Japan after the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995, with reporting and listening to the marginalized experiences based on fieldwork approach to Asian migrants, as following process. First, it is briefly indicated as a historical background that the urbanization process of Kobe-city and its role as a modernized port city, crossing many people and things including migrants from abroad. Second, we will shed light on the master narratives on the earthquake about spatial reconstruction and reconsider the framework about it, especially from the some perspectives of Asian ethnic minorities living in Nagata area, an inner-city of Kobe. Finally, we are going to give a critical implication on the relationships between urbanization and the natural disaster under the recovery process, with the question“ reconstruction for whom?”