

CONTENTS

Ralph LÜTZELER	7
Introduction: Rural Areas – Dying or Just Smelling Funny?	
(Re-)Assessing Rural Living Conditions	
Ralph LÜTZELER	
1 Living Conditions in Japanese Rural Areas: Stuck in a Downward Spiral?	15
Gerhard HOVORKA	
2 Structural Changes in Austrian Agriculture in Mountainous Areas	27
Wolfram MANZENREITER	
3 Rural Happiness in Japan: Contrasting Urban and Rural Well-Being in Kumamoto	43
Shinya UENO	
4 Impact of Structural Change in Rural Areas and Public Policies	65
Georg WIESINGER	
5 The Importance of Social Capital in Rural Development, Networking and Decision-Making in Rural Areas	79
Barbara HOLTHUS and Ralph LÜTZELER	
Project Report A	93
Regional Differences of Parental Well-Being in Japan	

Examples of Rural Community Revitalization

Naoto TANAKA		
6	Participatory Community Development Based on Local Identity in Yamato Town, Kumamoto Prefecture	101
Yoko KAWAMURA		
7	Health for Sustainable Community Development	113
Johannes WILHELM		
8	Disaster Resilience in Coastal Pacific Tōhoku: Restoring Livelihood after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami	131
Theresia OEDL-WIESER and Thomas DAX		
9	The Impact of LEADER Initiatives to Rural Revitalization in Austria	151
Signy SPLETZER		
	Project Report B	167
	Here to Stay – The Revitalization Initiative <i>Zen</i> of the Aso Region and its Impact on the Local Community	