Abstract
It is becoming increasingly important to protect historic buildings and other related cultural properties for local identity, regional development, and tourism. This trend gave a rise to the revision of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties (enacted in 1950) and the enactment of the Landscape Law (2004). However, it is still difficult to take appropriate measures for protection of historic buildings and their surrounding environment. This study examines the nationwide implementation of the Landscape Law, with detailed case studies. We concluded that concerns of residents about the restriction of private land rights and possible decline of land prices due to regulations can be alleviated by implementation of these laws, but that quantitative evaluation of the effects of these policies and active involvement of experts are necessary.
(Hidetaka Kinami, Yumiko Ogawa, Emiko Kakiuchi)
Key words: Landscape Law, protection of historic buildings, surrounding environment, cultural values