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Thinking of Better Lifestyle in Snowy Area : a proposal for the establishment of Wide-Area voluntary program of snow removal activity for support heavy snowfall communities

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Introduction

Background

Nature
Decline of strength
Risks of snow removal



Society
Aging /
Depopulating
Lack of hands

In Hokkaido, in particularly aging and depopulating areas, many elderly people are forced to engage in dangerous snow removal tasks.

How they tackle this problem?
What is the solution for this problem?

Purpose

To describe how they can overcome snow damage, and indicate what psychological mechanism -reciprocity- is relating to these behaviors.

The key anthropological word - Reciprocity

Relationships between individual and others, which rule Gift-Giving (Itoh : 1995)

Method

The intensive participant-observation

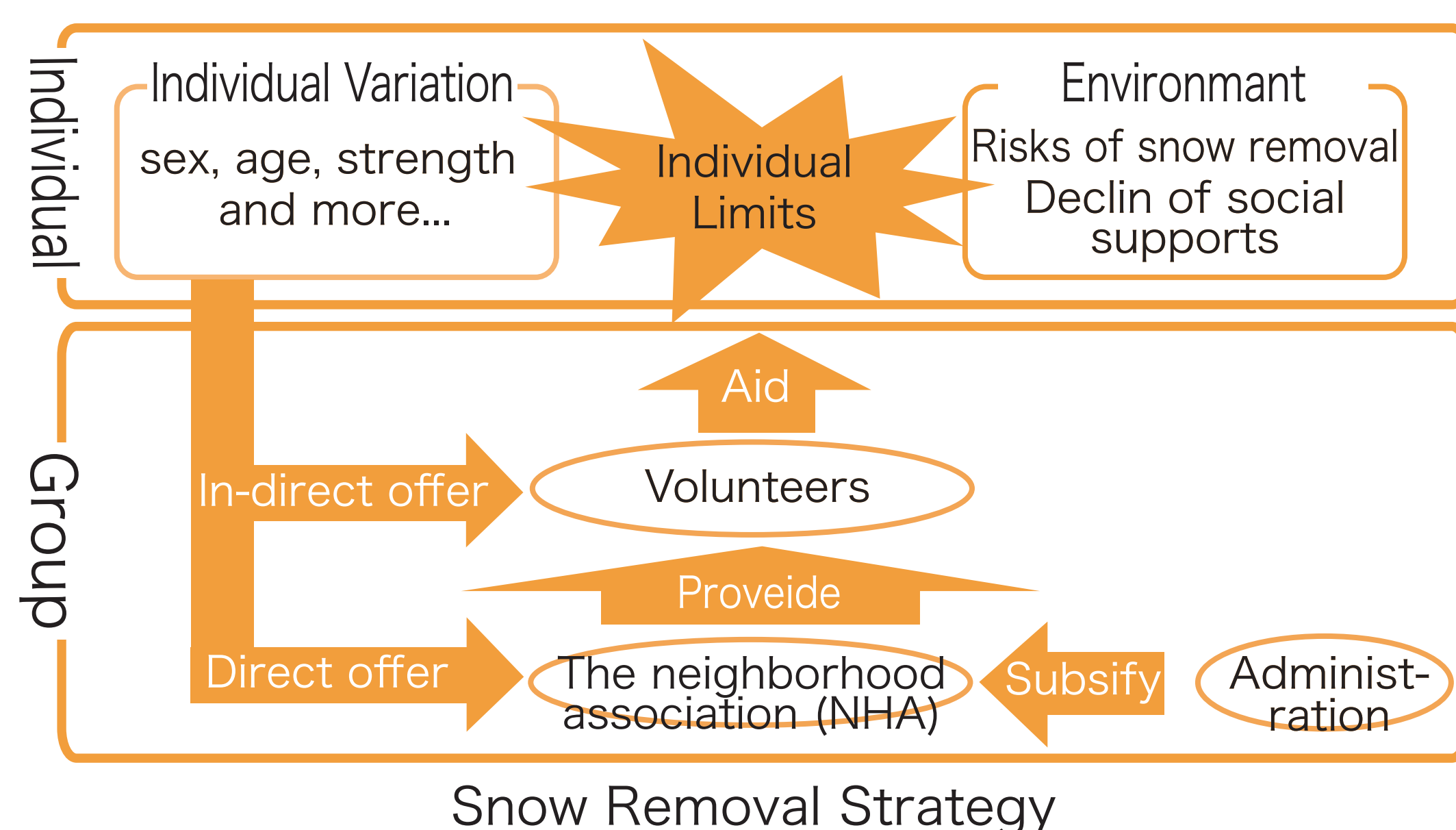
The observer accompanied the subjects and observed their snow removal and their usage of time, space and tool (s) etc. in Miruto area in Iwamizawa city.

Subjects (5 of 18 activities)

	Subject	Age / Sex	Time	Space	Tool (s)
	Mrs. K	88 / 84 female	11:30-12:00 Jan. 11.	over / under roof	snow cutter snow brower
	Mr. and Mrs. K	79 male / female	7:30-8:00 Jan. 12.	over / under the roof the garbage place	shovel snow browe
	Mr. T.H	78 female	15:10-16:00 Feb. 6.	the surroundings around the dwelling roof	none (stepping on snow)
	Mr. Y.H	74 female	11:00-11:30 Feb. 6.	under the windows or under the roof	shovel
	Mr. I.S	75 female	7:00-10:00 Feb. 8.	5 neighbor's under roof the garbage place	snow brower

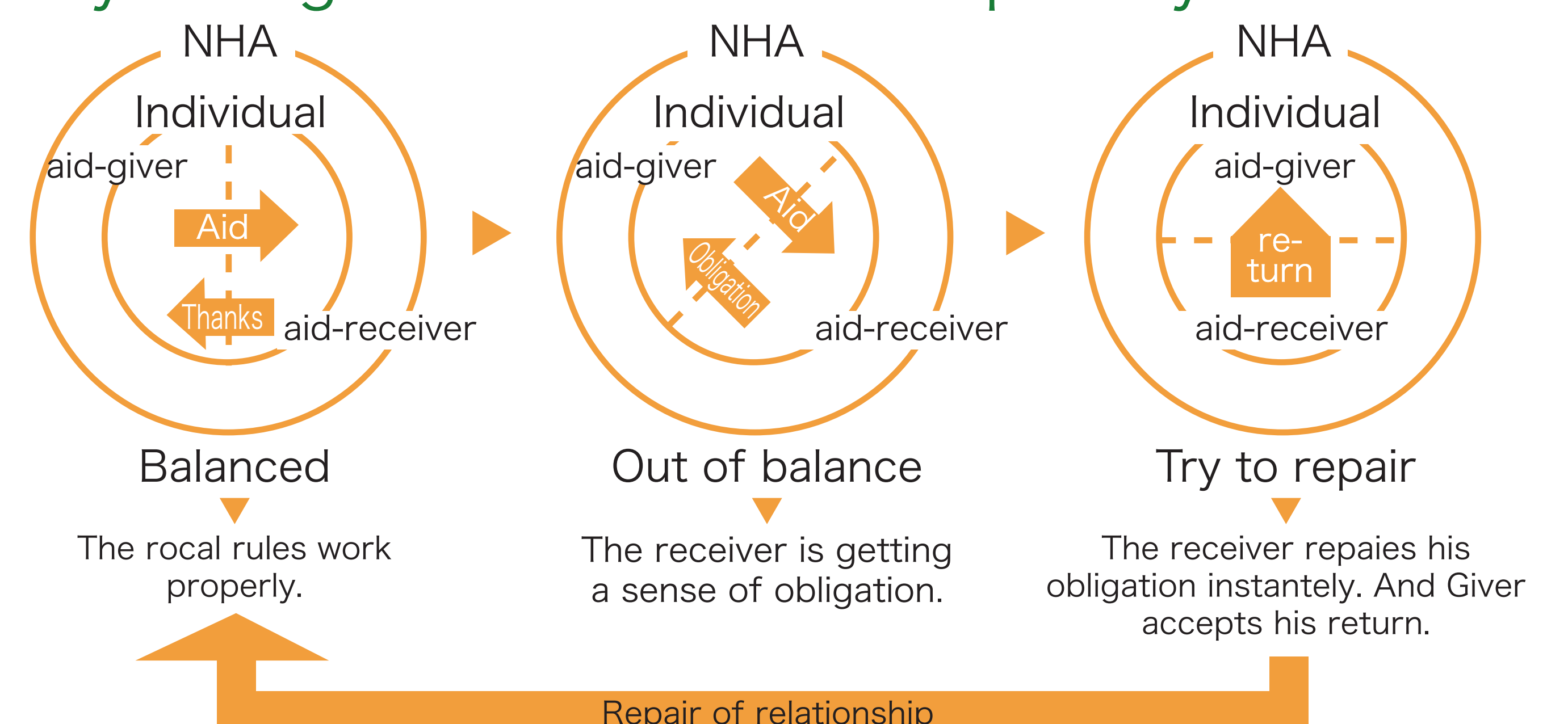
Results & Conclusion

Snow Removal Strategy (SRS)



Individuals do snow removal as possible as they can. On the other hand, to cover Individual Limits, NHA makes rules and coordinates the volunteer-activities in order to work them smoothly.

Psychological mechanism -reciprocity



Based on reciprocity (to think that we should return for other's aid), their Gift-Giving on snow removal as SRS had carried out in this area. As a result, they can overcome snow damage.

A Proposal for the Establishment of Wide-Area Voluntary Program

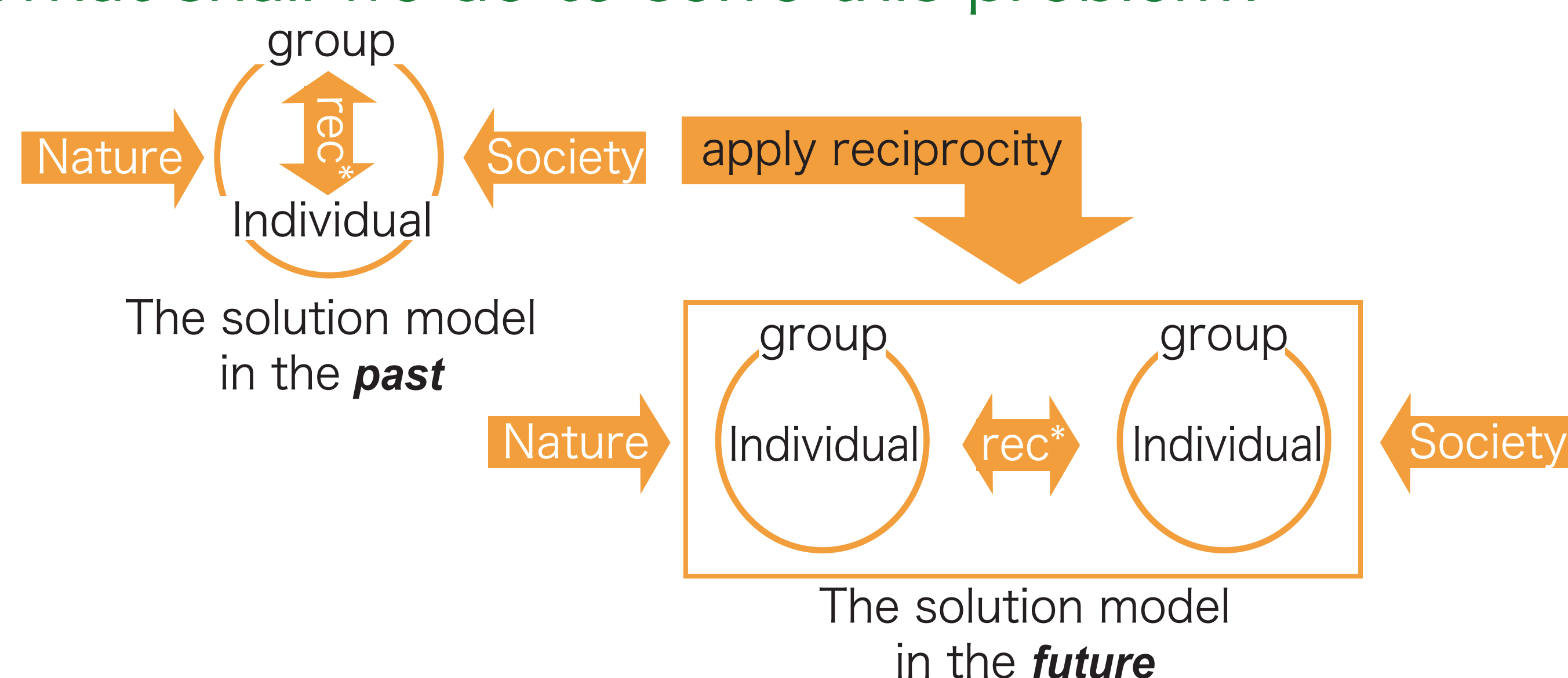
A decline of the SRS in 2012 winter



Because of tons of snow, it was difficult to work SRS in this area!



What shall we do to solve this problem?



Wide-Area Voluntary Program (WAVP)



The volunteers from urban supporting snow removal learning elderly's wisdom accomplishment	reciprocity	The elderly in rural to cooperate / receive younger's activities telling their own life gratitude
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I think that the reciprocal relationship makes the WAVP sustainable system to overcome differences of generation and geological disadvantage.