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## Focus

### Political responsibilities that tie international tuna negotiations to the dinner table

I have been studying the international politics involved with fish resources. When it comes to the amount of tuna on our tables and just how much that costs, international politics is involved. This means that your dining room table and international politics share a connection through tuna, and while we imagine those politics as something removed from our daily lives, they are actually very close. As a specific research subject, I want to clarify why certain regulations created via international negotiations are adopted, and the conservation effectiveness of those adopted regulations. Additionally, I am also studying the scientific advice behind those regulations.

For this research, I engaged in participatory observation of the international negotiations that determine the regulations on tuna. A great deal occurs during international negotiations. For example, there was an incident involving the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission concerning a map posted to the committee's website. Stating that the display of the Kashmir region, which is a disputed region of India and Pakistan, was inappropriate, the representative from India requested an immediate correction. He also stated that his country would not participate in negotiations until the map was modified.

Additionally, while international negotiations typically arrive at a consensus to adopt regulations, there are rare cases where voting may occur. However, because these situations are rare, how a vote should be conducted might not be understood and can lead to confusion. Behind these negotiations, deals between countries, lobbying by fisheries organizations and environmental NGOs, and business negotiations are conducted.

It can be difficult to comprehend these international negotiations. Understanding remarks from the delegation of a country requires knowing about the life history of tuna, abundance, fisheries management science, fishing gear, fishing methods, regulations, ships, labor management and safety regulations, as well as about what kinds of fishers and various distributors are involved, what businesses are engaged in the retail trade, what kinds of intergovernmental trade exists...in other words, everything to do with commercial tuna. Grasping the overall picture is not just a matter of having a basic understanding of science and humanities, but also requires knowing everything related to the fishing industry.

Take, for instance, the case of the fish in the picture, an Atlantic bluefin tuna caught from a fish preserve floating in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Malta. This fish cannot actually be caught and sold without permission. Only through compliance with the management procedures put in place through international politics is it able to be sold as a product. Incidentally, these tuna were apparently exported to Japan.

Actually, some of the tuna imported to Japan is in violation of certain rules. It is not easy to monitor the process by which a tuna swimming in the ocean is fished and delivered to your dining table, including precisely where it comes from.

By purchasing tuna that violates regulations, a person is essentially voting in favor of illegal behavior. Consuming things is itself a political act that involves social responsibility.

Researchers conduct studies to enable sustainable fisheries, and fishery managers have established rules to allow for sustainable fisheries. If fishers make their catches while observing these rules, then everyday consumers can buy fish caught from sustainable fisheries and support them while also fulfilling their social responsibility. It takes everyone working together to make sustainable fisheries a working reality.

(Atsushi Ishii)



This fish tank is for tuna farming.

Tuna farming catches young bluefin tuna and uses various methods to fatten them up, which allows for a kind of aquaculture where human-made methods can be used for "high grading tuna."

## Recent Events

### The environment in Northeast Asia: Cultural perceptions and policy involvement, Session A

How do people perceive nature, and how can you try to change realities through intervention? Beginning with shamanism and hunting rituals, the ethnography of Northeast Asia has in this respect displayed a diversity of human ideas and behaviors. Perceiving the environment, and then finding and using resources there, is deeply embedded in cultural practices. The purpose of this session was to use clues from that ethnography to look at what cultural and social practices people have and think about what is important in contemporary society, particularly in the context of environmental and resource issues.

While keeping in mind the methodologies for scientific research, the attempt was to develop a real understanding of the environmental and resource issues and how to respond to them, as well as their characteristics from the perspective of the local community and residents. We also trying to formulate an approach from the perspective of the culture, environmental and resource in the regions of Northeast Asia governed by large nations.

Four presentation were reported by foreign and domestic researchers by the chair Hiroki Takakura (Tohoku University). First was “Movement and emotion among Eveny reindeer herders,” from Piers Vitebsky of The Scott Polar Research Institute at the University of Cambridge in the UK ; the second was “The dependent

resistance on/against the mining development: A case study on Shamanic activities around a copper-gold mining site in Mongolia,” by Ippei Shimamura of the University of Shiga Prefecture; third was “Supernatural sanctions, legal pluralism, and political procedure,”



Prof. Piers Vitebsky

from Zorbas Konstantinos of Shandong University in China; and the fourth was “Cultural perceptions and its re-embedded contexts from the toxic sea.” from Shuji Iijima of Kyushu University. Russia and Mongolia are both engaged in resource development, and this has created a situation where indigenous peoples and local residents have to cope with. Ethnography can clarify the local condition with the standpoint of environmental perceptions of the residents. While somewhat different contexts in the study of the cases of Minamata disease in Japan, it is also apparent that, similarly, the religious practices of the communities have played an important role in how resource development has been handled, which has resulted in interesting discussions.

(Hiroki Takakura)

## Recent Events

### Recent communication circumstances in western Siberia in Russia

I would like to write about the current circumstances of communication when it comes to mobile phones and Internet connections when conducting research in western Siberia in Russia. Since 2001, we have worked in concert with researchers from the Russian Academy of Sciences, Siberian Branch, Institute of Systematic and Ecology of Animals, almost every summer in the south of western Siberia around Lake Chany to conduct research about the food web of wetland ecosystems, including parasites, using a technique called carbon and nitrogen stable isotope analysis. Going to the Lake Chany field research station by car requires a trip of about 300 km west along the Siberian Railway from Novosibirsk, the central city of western Siberia, and then an additional 100 km south; around 40 km of this trip is on unpaved roads. The location is in a large grassland and birch forest about 10 km in a straight line from the nearest village. For about the first ten years of conducting research in Russia, we gave no thoughts as to



Photo 3  
five-meter water tower at the Lake Chany

having our own cell phones or connections to the Internet. However, going into the 2010s, a third-generation G3 WiFi router could be rented in Japan and used in Russia. We have been using those since 2013. In Novosibirsk and places with good reception, our devices can be used without any issues, but signals at the field research station at Lake Chany are poor, and an area must be selected for use. When a signal cannot be found, a five-meter water tower can be climbed to allow for communications to be transmitted (Photo 3). However, the router’s rental fee is ¥19,000 for two weeks (same as of 2016).

Talking with Russian researchers, we learned that Russia’s communication expenses are one-tenth that amount, and in the summer of 2016, we tried using prepaid Russian SIM cards. There are three major carriers in Russia—Beeline, Mega-



Photo 4

Russian prepaid SIM card. One month of unlimited data with calls is 450 rubles (about ¥800), which is less than half the cost of a Japanese mobile virtual network operator SIM card.

Fon, and MTS—but this time, we subscribed to the MegaFon prepaid SIM card for use with the iPhone 6 (SIM lock-free version) (Photo 4). To make the purchase, we were asked the period of use, the amount of communication we would be doing, whether we needed to be able to make telephone calls, and the size of the SIM card; we needed to also to present our passports for them to process our request. However, it was not possible to use English even at shops in Novosibirsk, and the process can be very difficult for someone who cannot speak Russian. I removed the mobile virtual network operator SIM card I use in Japan myself and, after I handed my iPhone 6 to the store clerk and had a new SIM card inserted, as well as confirmation that it worked, he taught me the

number I needed to use to make a telephone call. However, it became clear later that there were at least three things that we needed to change on our APN settings to use MegaFon, which took up a good deal of time deciphering on the Internet. The SIM card could connect in Novosibirsk using 4G, but near Lake Chany, the 3G and radio signals were weak, so we connected using the older 2G. However, the communication situation in the area has been improving steadily. Using these methods, we are now able to connect to the Internet using smart phones even in the countryside of western Siberia, however, this is also the situation where the work runs after us even to Siberia using e-mail.

(Shuichi Shikano)

## Recent Events

### Center for Northeast Asian Studies Symposium “Historical Materials Research and Regional History Research”: Session 2 “The Preservation of Historical Materials Research in Future”

At the Center for Northeast Asian Studies Symposium “Historical Materials Research and Regional History Research,” a session was held titled “The Preservation of Historical Materials Research in Future.”

The keyword of the session was “continuity,” in relation to the preservation of historical materials research. Up to now, activities to rescue historical materials have been ongoing in the Tohoku region, but to preserve important cultural assets for a long time, appropriate handling and storage measures after the initial rescue is also important. In particular, when you consider that a majority of unspecified items rescued for preservation are ancient documents, preservation measures should be viewed as critical parts of their management and use. Thinking about it this way, management of storage facilities and the dozo (traditional Japanese storehouse) of

private residences needs to be considered in terms of sustainability when it comes to exhibiting and using the items in public lectures, and that makes it seem necessary for ancient documents to be passed down as property of the region.

Following the perspective that has been described, in this session, the continuation of preservation of ancient documents through activities that come “after rescue” or are “things other than rescuing” was discussed. In addition to reporting on the actual situations of each region/location, following the words of two commentators who understand the research circumstances in Tohoku and overseas, I think it is possible for us to have a realistic and overarching discussion about the future of historical document preservation measures.

(Yoichi Takahashi)

## Recent Events

### Japan Russia Workshop 2017

At the Center for Northeast Asian Studies, the Office of Japan-Russia Relations, Tohoku University, along with the Graduate School of Arts and Letters and the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, have co-sponsored the Japan Russia Workshop, along with the Novosibirsk State University, since 2013, creating a place for exchange between teachers, researchers, and graduate students of both countries. Last year, on the afternoon of February 10 (Friday), the Center for Northeast Asian Studies held in their conference hall a conference on the topic of “Asian Studies in NSU and TU II.”

Professor Elena Voytishkek from the Institute for Humanities in Russia and five students attended. From our university, one graduate student from the Graduate School of Arts and Letters, two graduate students from



Japan Russia Workshop 2017

the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, and one graduate student from the Graduate School of Environmental Studies participated. After the former Director Oka’s greeting, Professor Voytishkek presented a lecture entitled “Origins of Incense Burial Ritual mái xiāng (埋香) in the Culture of East Asia (China, Korea, Japan),” and Assistant Professor Kim Hyeon-Jeong from the Center presented “Displaying Negative Heritage in Contemporary South Korea: Change of Evaluation of Japanese Colonial Architecture and Negotiating Dissonance.” After the lectures, the contents of the nine graduate students’ and young researchers’ studies were presented. Presentations and all question-and-answer sessions were conducted in English with lively debate and exchanging of perspectives. Despite the themes of the presentations being quite diverse, including archeology, folklore, Chinese history, Japanese history, cultural research, environmental research, etc., the students and young researchers in attendance engaged in productive question and answer sessions.

(Hiroki Oka)

## Recent Events

### The activity Zao volcano and what I have realized through its survey

I have considered the possibility of Zao volcano, 40 km southwest of Sendai (photo 6), becoming active as a result of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, and have measured fumarolic temperatures since 2012 at the Maruyamasawa fumarolic geothermal area approximately 2 km northeast of the



**Photo 6**

The bird's eye view of Zao volcano (from Google Earth)

where the most recent eruption of Zao volcano occurred in 1940 (although this event may have been a small-scale explosion that would not truly be considered an eruption). I thought I could at least take temperature measurements on my own without sufficient observation equipment, and I heard that the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) had not been conducting frequent field surveys. For these reasons I began this work as a means to fill in gaps in their observations. Initially, I conducted only temperature measurements, but since 2013, working with Professor Noriyoshi Tsuchiya of the Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Tohoku University, and Dr. Tetsuya Matsunaka of the University of Tsukuba (currently an assistant professor at Kanazawa University), we have been conducting chemical analyses of the spring water and conducting surveys of the Okama crater lake. Additionally, when traveling toward Maruyamasawa, we have also paid attention to changes at the ruin of the Niizeki hot spring, where high temperatures and high concentration hot springs appeared as a result of activation in the past.

During this period, volcanic tremors and tilt change were witnessed at Zao volcano in 2013 for the first time since the JMA started its observations. In October 2014, researchers at Yamagata University and the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology confirmed partial turbidity at the Okama crater lake, and tensions ran high. In April 2015, volcanic earthquakes increased in frequency, and a near-crater warning was issued because of the risk of eruption; thus, access to the near-crater area was restricted. In June, the warning was reduced to Forecast (Potential for increased activity), but the regulation remained and we were unable to survey the area for some time. In September, we finally implemented a survey, and found that the ruin of Niizeki hot spring had resumed flow with multiple hot springs of approximately 32°C in temperature. It was also confirmed that Maruyamasawa's maximum fumarolic temperature had risen more than 5°C from the previous year. Two months later, the temperature at the ruin of the Niizeki hot spring exceeded 34°C, and at Maruyamasawa, there was a trace of small-scale mud spouting visible. At this time, I expected further progress in activity, but during the 2016 surveys, the ruin of Niizeki hot spring had only a

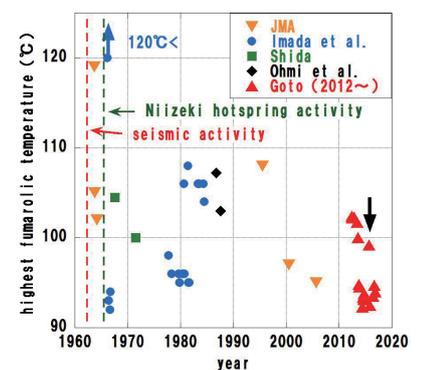
few weak cold-water springs, and the maximum fumarolic temperature at Maruyamasawa was lower than that during the previous year, although steam emission was still intense. JMA has announced that volcanoseismic activity from 2016 to 2017 had been relatively low.

Among the scenarios is that Zao volcano will further decrease its activity to a normal level, but the possibility of a reactivation is still undeniable. Many volcanos repeat similar activities over a long period of time. However, the activity of Zao volcano during recent years has not reached the levels of the past active period. Past activity records are important in predicting future activity trends, but we have not been able to find past documentation describing the activation process of the surface phenomena, such as fumarolic temperature increases and hot spring water discharge. This may be because past surveys were conducted only after anomalies were noticed. In this sense, there are no data that can be directly compared to the activity trends during recent years, and the data we have been collecting from pre-activation stage will be useful to refer to the trends of the next active period in the future.

Although somewhat contradicting the aforementioned discussion, the increase in temperature observed at Maruyamasawa during 2015 was possibly not directly connected to the activity level of Zao volcano. Referring to fumarolic temperatures in the past, during the 1980s, when there was no conspicuous anomalous activity, and during 2012, shortly after I started observation and volcanic tremors and tilt change had not yet occurred, the temperature was at more than 100°C and higher than that measured in 2015 (black arrow in photo 7). In terms of numerical value, the temperature in 2015 is not necessarily anomalously high.

Unfortunately, past observations are limited in frequency and do not provide a full understanding of periods of inactivity, making it difficult to compare to the short-period fluctuations since 2012. In addition, the activity of Zao volcano cannot be evaluated based solely on fumarolic temperature. However, similar to connecting the pieces of a puzzle together to create a complete picture, collecting dense temperature data, for example, makes it possible to reveal a trend in temperature fluctuation, and aligning this data together with other observed data offers a perspective on the activity. Through the survey of Zao volcano, I have realized the importance of collecting such data consistently over time, although individual survey data would not yield an immediate result.

(Akio Goto)



**Photo 7**

The highest fumarolic temperature

## Awards

### Director Hiroki Oka was conferred a decoration by Mongolia

On August 15, 2016, Professor Hiroki Oka, the former Director for the Center of Northeast Asian Studies, was awarded the Order of the Polar Star (Altan Gadas odon) by the president of Mongolia, Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, for his contributions to Mongolian research thus far.



Award ceremony for the Order of the Polar Star  
(President Elbegdorj on right)

### Monograph of papers contributed by researchers of the Center for Northeast Asian Studies, *Siberia: Water and Social Environments in the Warming Far North*, received the 2016 Scholarly Publishing Award of the Japan Society of Hydrology and Water Resources

The monograph contributed by members of the Center for Northeast Asian Studies entitled *Siberia: Water and Social Environments*

in the *Warming Far North* received the 2016 Scholarly Publishing Award of the Japan Society of Hydrology and Water Resources (Photo 9). This book was a result of the project of the Research Institute of Humanity and Nature. One of the editors, Tetsuya Hi-yama (Professor at Nagoya University), acted as project leader, and another, Junko Fujiwara (former post-doc researcher at the center, presently associate professor at Kobe City University of Foreign Studies), acted as subleader for the project. CNEAS contributors to the book are a professor Hiroki Takakura and an associate professor Atsushi Ishii, as well as a former center professor Makoto Okumura, and an associate professor Hitoshi Yamada of the Graduate School of Arts and Letters.

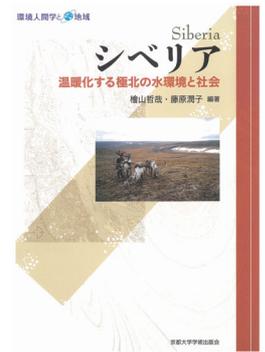


Photo 9

## New Staffs and Visiting Scholars

### Assistant Professor Hiroko NAITO

2017.4.1-present  
Comparative Politics (Contemporary Chinese Politics)



### Assistant Professor Kazutaka KIKUTA

2017.4.1-present  
Instrumentation engineering



### Research Fellow Toshikazu TANAKA

2017.4.1-present  
Ecological Anthropology, Area Studies



### Research Fellow Hiromitsu MIYAJIRI

2017.4.1-present  
Environmental Policy



### Visiting Scholars Vladimir MALKOVETS

Senior Researcher, VS Sobolev Institute of Geology and Mineralogy, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia)  
2016.11.1-2017.1.14  
An integrated study of the Siberian diamonds



### Visiting Scholars Tsevel SHAGDARSUREN

Professor, International University of Ulaanbaatar, Institute for Mongol Studies (Mongolia)  
2016.11.1-2017.1.31  
A Study of Mongolian Dictionaries



### Visiting Scholars Giovanni NICO

Researcher, Italy's National Research Council (Italy)  
2017.1.16-2017.3.31  
Application of GB-SAAAR to environment monitoring



### Visiting Scholars Sergei Andreevich PAPKOV

Leading Researcher, Institute of History, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Science (Russia)  
2017.2.1-2017.3.31  
Soviet Inner and International Policies toward Asian countries: 1920-1950's.



### Visiting Scholars Kazi A KALPOMA

American International University – Bangladesh, Professor  
2017.4.1-2017.6.30  
Development of satellite image database



## Publications

The language of the following books is basically in Japanese except showing the other language.

### ■ Northeast Asian Monograph Series

This commercially published series presents scholarly monographs in Northeast Asian regional studies aimed at specialists, general readers and university students.

15. The modern era of the Tohoku district and Jiyuminken (自由民権), Over Shirakawa Ithoku(白河以北, the north of Shirakawa). Masahiro Tomda ed. Tokyo: Nihon Keizai Hyoronsha. February 2017.

16. Anthropology of “eating”: Social relations constructed through eating practice. Ryoko Sakurada, Tsutomu Inazawa, Tetsuya Miura eds. Kyoto: Showado. March 2017.

17. The Soviet Union and the International Relations of East Asia, 1919-1941. Masafumi Asada. Tokyo: Misuzu Shobo. February 2017.

18. The early modern period society inspected from the angle of the travel and the interaction. Yoichi Takahashi. Osaka: Seibundo. March 2017.

19. Stalin and Mongolia: 1931-1946. Kyosuke Terayama. Tokyo: Misuzu Shobo. March 2017

### ■ Northeast Asian Books

Northeast Asian Books are being published as a trial to introduce fundamental knowledge about nature, history, culture and society in Northeast Asia to general readers. They are the result of

natural, social science and humanities research on the environmental and societal problems.

6. Archaeological Survey by Ground Penetrating Radar: Principles of GPR and its applications. Motoyuki Sato, Akihiro Kaneda and Kazunori Takahashi ed. Sendai: Tohoku University Press. March 2016.

### ■ Northeast Asian Studies

Northeast Asian Studies is a periodical academic journal for the purpose of contributing to the development of area studies and its related fields in Northeast Asia.

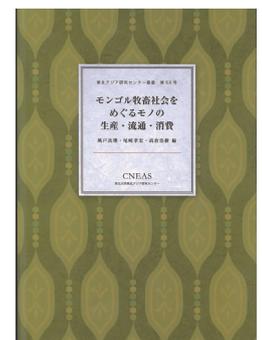
21. Northeast Asian Studies. February 2017

### ■ CNEAS Monograph Series

Research results of CNEAS joint research projects, and individual projects, irregular publication (in house publications)

57. Mengwen Zidian : Mongolian-Chinese Dictionary of 1928 Arranged by Romanized Mongolian Words. Hitoshi Kuribayashi ed. 2016.

58. Production, Distribution and Consumption in Mongolian Pastoral Society. Mari Kazato, Takahiro Ozaki, Hiroki Takakura eds. 2016.



## ■ CNEAS Reports

A series for such purposes as timely reports from symposiums, cataloguing references, and promotion of exchange with national and international researcher communities since 2010 (in house publication)

21. Phags-pa Mongolian Documents in "A Collection of Historical Archives of Tibet". Hitoshi Kuribayashi, Takashi Matsukawa eds. 2016.

22. Eurasian Nomadic Pastoralism-History, Culture, Environment-. Sampildondov Chuluun, Andrian Borisov, Hiroki Oka eds. 2016.

23. The Basic Documents of Yamanaka Village, Nakamura Domain, former Mutsu Province. Yuki Iwamoto, Hiroshi Tada, Daisuke Sato, Kunihiko Izumida, Hiroki Takakura eds. 2016.



## ■ Researcher's Initiative Publication

1. Lineage and Chinese Society: Change and Present of its Anthropological Study. Masahisa Segawa and Yukihiro Kawaguchi eds. Tokyo: Fukyosha. March 2016.

2. Disappearing and Emerging Ethnicity Distinctions within the Chinese Baot Community. Tsutomu Inazawa. Sendai: Tohoku University Press. July 2016.

3. The study of the travel history in early modern Japan—The journey of faith and sightseeing, Destination and Hot spring—. Yoichi Takahashi ed. Osaka: Seibundo. August 2016.



## Letters

Vladimir Belosludov, Professor  
Institute of inorganic chemistry, SB, RAS (Russia)

### Twenty years of collaborative work with Tohoku University

I am a physicist at the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (SB RAS). I started collaborative work with Tohoku University in 1997. Since then, I have visited Sendai and stayed there for three months each year. I first began my relationship with Tohoku University through cooperation between F. Kuznetsov, Academician of RAS, and Prof. J. Nishizawa, former president of Tohoku University. I stayed in the Center for Northeast Asian Studies in 2002 and 2004. Then, I conducted collaborative work with Prof. Junichi Kudoh. Except for these years, I have carried out collaborative work with Prof. Yoshiyuki Kawazoe's laboratory.

A consistent focus of research has been "simulation design and development of crystals with clathrate structure." Following my son Rodion's completion of a Ph.D. under the instruction of Prof. Kawazoe, he has worked as an associate professor at the Energy Center of the Institute of Materials Research at Tohoku University.

Prof. Kawazoe and I learned at the Asia Pacific Academy of Materials established by Academician Kuznetsov and Prof. Nishizawa in 1992, and started the Asian Consortium on Computational Materials Science in 2000. We have held international conferences, including from 100 to 300 participants, at various locations in Asia several times per year and have raised the level of computational materials science in Asia. As a result of the productive collaborative research between our institute and

Tohoku University, the Russian government chose our group as one of the recipients of a mega grant (one million dollars per year) in 2013. This project is aimed at strengthening Russian fundamental research, and excellent researchers throughout the world were welcomed as leaders of the project. When I applied for the Russian mega grants, I asked Prof. Kawazoe to be the leader of our project.

Our research is in regard to the storage technology of hydrogen as a clean energy, which is based on the achievement of our collaborative work over 20 years. In summary, the project was to design materials of hydrogen storage for automobile fuel batteries, by theoretical calculation, using high-speed computers. Our project was completed in 2016; however, I applied for Russian mega grant in 2017 and our project is expected to be chosen once again in 2018. I again asked Prof. Kawazoe to be the leader. I plan on continuing to stay at Tohoku University for several months in the future.



## Letters

Tsevel SHAGDARSUREN (G), NUM Professor, Dr.  
International University of Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia)

### The term Classical Mongolian Study and the CNEAS

The main aspect of my research is the history of Mongolian language, its development, and traditional writing systems as well as the spiritual culture of the Mongols.

Over the past 30 years, the Center for Northeast Asian Studies (CNEAS) of Tohoku University has published extensive documents of detailed study directly related to my subject in the following three journals: CNEAS Monograph Series, CNEAS Report, and Northeast Asian Studies, substantially contributing to Mongolian Studies worldwide, let alone to my research. The CNEAS continues to publish research monographs and compile source works that deserve great appreciation. It is also worth noting that the CNEAS is engaged in educating younger generations of mongolists.

The aforementioned research of Mongolian language can be classified chronologically as studies on Ancient Mongolian, Middle Mongolian and Modern Mongolian. This classification relates to cultural context as well. The approach of the CNEAS is to conduct a complete study of each subject; for example, the study of the Secret History of Mongols is an attractive line of research on original texts, Roman transcriptions, indexes of Mongolian words and their Chinese hieroglyphs, etc.

In addition, Prof. H. Kuribayashi has studied a lexicology of the Mongolian language during various periods and compiled

it into an electronic dictionary ("<http://www.gere1.net>") that provides a special opportunity for comparative study of many rare dictionaries published in many places during different periods.

The term Classical Mongolian Study that has circulated among the senior generation of mongolists differs from Amateur Mongolian Study. This has become more evident recently. The activity of the CNEAS no doubt is related to the former. I plan to write a separate article regarding this matter.

It was my pleasure to be invited to the famous CNEAS at Tohoku University and to work at the Division of Mongolian & Central Asian Studies together with Prof. Kuribayashi Hitoshi and Prof. Oka Hiroki. I am very thankful that I was provided access to rich research documents of the CNEAS that has contributed to my study even to this day. On this occasion, I wish all the best to the staff and professorship of the CNEAS.



## Editorial

### Editorial postscript:

We are sending you the fifth volume of the CNEAS Bulletin. Through this bulletin, we would like to inform you of the activities of the CNEAS from 2016 to 2017. In the bulletin, we received letters from Prof. Vladimir Belosludov (Institute of inorganic chemistry, SB, RAS) and Prof. Tsevel SHAGDARSUREN (G) (International University of Ulaanbaatar). We are very pleased to know of our old friends' present situations and to communicate their message to our Center.

This year we Japanese celebrate the 150th anniversary since the Meiji Restoration in 1868. Following this, we promoted the modernization of Japan. But the Japanese modern age will end in 2018. Next year, the present emperor will abdicate the throne, and a new emperor will accede to the throne. This change in emperor means transformative times in Japan. We hope that relationship between Japan and Northeast Asia countries will be more peaceful in the coming New Age.

The CNEAS Bulletin is published once a year by the Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University.

The Bulletin promotes a continuing exchange of information with

former visiting scholars and others who related to the Northwest Asian Studies.

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Editor: Masachika Shiotani

Editorial panel: Shuichi Shikano, Hiroko Naito, Mitsu Hatakeyama

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