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Focus

What's Happening to Japanese Colonial Architecture in Postcolonial South Korea? : Interpretational Shift from the Remnants of Japanese Colonialism into Korean Cultural Heritage

In accordance with the Japan–Korea Treaty of Amity (1876), the Korean ports of Busan, Wonsan, and Incheon were opened in succession in 1876, 1880, and 1883 respectively. The opening of Mokpo and Jinnampo (1897) and Gunsan (1899) followed, and Korea's port towns and fishing villages became modern cities. Banks, customs houses, and courts were established as the cities underwent colonial development, and the original buildings from that time still remain. Unlike religious facilities such as the Shinto shrines, which were immediately demolished after liberation in 1945, many buildings constructed around the time of the opening of the ports and during the period of colonization continued to be used in postcolonial Korea (hereafter Korea means South Korea). For example, in Gunsan, a coastal city in the North Jeolla Province, buildings such as the Old Gunsan Customs House (1908) and the former Gunsan branch of the Bank of Joseon (1922) functioned as the Gunsan Customs House and a bank until they lost their roles and turned to be vacant eyesores.

Japanese buildings which were constructed under colonial rule since the port opening were either “immediately demolished” or “retained” in postcolonial Korea, and such decisions were made based on criteria that determined whether they symbolized the Japanese spirit and commemorated the colonial achievements by Japanese or whether they were usable under the social situation of confusion and poverty caused by the Korean War. In provincial cities, such as Gunsan, many such buildings still remain, despite being considered as uncomfortable by local residents. These buildings, which had been neglected, underwent a significant change when the Cultural Heritage Registration System, which defined such buildings as “modern cultural heritage” and actively sought to

promote their preservation and utilization, was established in 2001. I have already discussed the background of the establishment of this cultural system, its historical–sociological context, and

its sociocultural significance; currently, I am examining how the national system will develop and affect how to interpret and deal with the dark and negative past of Japanese colonialism in the local context from the perspective of governance.

Guryongpo, a town on the eastern side of the Korean Peninsula in the south of Pohang, North Gyeongsang Province, has a total area of 45.02 km², contains 28 village administrative sections/10 legal sections and 4,989 households with a population of 9,838. The “Guryongpo Modern Culture and History Street” initiative (see Left and Right Photo) has been underway since April 2011 in Janganri and Yongjuri villages because of their high concentration of Japanese buildings that were constructed since the opening of the ports of the Korean Peninsula.

Guryongpo was not a treaty port like Incheon and Gunsan; rather, it developed as a fishing village with a large population of Japanese immigrants. Fishermen, primarily from the Kagawa Prefecture, began to immigrate to the area between 1902 and 1910 after the arrival of a longline sea bream fishing ship from Toyoura, Yamaguchi Prefecture. Roads and town blocks were developed, and a local government office and police station were established. By the late 1920s, the number of Japanese immigrant households had exceeded 120. Furthermore, breakwaters and wharfs were constructed (1923–1926), and the area flourished as an important fishing port town on the eastern coast on the strength of its Spanish mackerel and yellowtail fishing and shipping industries. However, after liberation, the catches diminished and the local economy has been struggling due to the outflow of population as residents moved to the city of Pohang in search of education and employment as Korea experienced a period of rapid economic growth. In 2009, town development initiatives began—initiatives that sought to capitalize on the area's local history as a Japanese immigrant fishing village and utilize numerous Japanese build-



ings, mainly private houses and shops.

Since the end of the 1990s, active efforts to assign value to, and preserve and utilize Japanese colonial buildings since the opening of ports have progressed in Korea. Such national policy changes have also influenced a significant number of local town development initiatives. However, in the case of Guryongpo, it is still unclear whether genuine cooperation with local residents can be achieved in such town development initiatives. If the Guryongpo Modern Culture and History Street initiative was implemented in a top-down manner, I would consider it proof that the most sensitive problem for contemporary Koreans, the problem of “modern identity,” is not a theme that has been open for discussion based on a multiplicity of voices, but rather a closed encumbrance determined by national ideology, as it was prior to the 20th century. There-

fore, I focus on this aspect of governance. In my study conducted in August 2013, anti-Japanese criticism against Oh seon-hwa, a Korean professor at Takushoku University in Japan, had spread within Korea, and the Guryongpo section of my investigation was problematic because people were wary of what I, a Korean scholar working at a Japanese national university, was researching in Guryongpo and what information I would convey to Japan. In Korea, the words “Japan,” “modern,” and “colony” are still used in political rhetoric, and such topics have been reduced to a dichotomous choice between “pro-Japanese” and “patriotism.” In the future, I also intend to examine the interpretational changes because of local town development initiatives centered on the architectural remnants of colonialism. **(Hyeon-Jeong Kim)**

Recent Events

Association for Northeast Asia Studies Regular Open Lecture: Current Situations of Neighboring Russia

The lecture was held on May 24, 2013, in the Tokyo Office of Tohoku University. Details about the two guest speakers and lecture topics are given below: Professor Shinji Yokote (Faculty of Law, Keio University), “Russian Heterogeneity and the World,” and Professor Masumi Motomura (Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation), “The Energy Flow of a Northeast Asia in Change.” Professor Yokote’s lecture considered the recently often discussed argument, especially after the arrival of Vladimir Putin, that the nature of the Russian state is heterogeneous.

First, Professor Yokote introduced Alfred J. Rieber’s academically influential argument including four factors that have influenced Russian foreign policy (economic backwardness, porous frontiers, a multiethnic/cultural society, and cultural alienation). Next, he discussed three patterns of Russian exceptionalism in the country’s 19th-century international relations (reactionary systems, distancing itself from Europe, and state expansion) based on available materials. Finally, he introduced the argument used by the modern Russian elite to renounce democratization sought by the



West.

Professor Motomura traced the history of Europe-bound exports through Soviet Union natural gas pipelines since the 1970s and emphasized their mutual benefit over the last 40 years (mutual assured control). Further-



more, he persuasively showed that the Russia-Ukraine gas dispute of 2006 and 2009 was not a politically motivated price rise targeting Ukraine by comparing these prices with international natural gas prices. Indeed, compared to other foreign countries, the price for Ukraine had been kept low up until that point. About the energy flow in the Eastern Region, he emphasized growing importance to Japan of Russian crude oil produced in Sakhalin, the fact that exports of crude oil and natural gas from East Siberia through pipelines to the East are expected to expand in the future and that Igor Sechin, Executive Chairman of Rosneft and a confidante of President Putin’s, is actively working in this area, the fact that plans are underway to import liquefied natural gas via the Arctic Ocean, and the benefits of installing a pipeline in Japan. **(Kyoosuke Terayama)**

Recent Events

Open Lecture “Looking Back on the History of Murata: Messages from the Edo Period”



On June 29, 2013 (Sat), the open lecture “Looking Back on the History of Murata: Messages from the Edo Period” was held in Murata, a town in Shibata District, Miyagi Prefecture (at the Murata Road Station History and Warehouse Community Exchange Village Market Center). The event was hosted by the

Center for Northeast Asian Studies Department of the Uehiro Tohoku Historical Materials Research, Tohoku University International Research Institute of Disaster Science, Miyagi Shiryo Net, and Murata Town Board of Education.

The lectures were based on an investigation of historical documents in the possession of the Yamada family, a long-established family in Murata village. In the Azuchi-Momoyama period in the late 16th century, the ancestors of the Yamada family set up a sake brewing business in the village after relocating from present-day Fukui Prefecture to Togatta in the town of Zao, and then to Murata. The family has played a pioneering role in the town’s

commerce. The family owned several warehouses, including a store warehouse that was constructed during the Edo Period, but some of these were destroyed in the Great East Japan Earthquake. When the items owned by the family were reorganized, a significant number of historical documents were found, and a full-scale investigation was conducted by Miyagi Shiryo Net and Murata Town. The results of the investigation revealed that the documents helped explain Murata's history during the early Edo Period (17th–18th century), a period about which little was known before the documents were discovered. Discussions of Murata during the Edo Period focused on safflower transactions from the



19th century. However, both lectures not only considered the safflower trade but also vividly portrayed the history of a town from the early Edo Period. Approximately 140 people from the local area and Sendai attended the lectures, which were met with enthusiasm as attendees engaged in question-and-answer sessions. The event led me to reaffirm the importance of handing down the Yamada family documents as valuable items of historical heritage in the future. At the same time, I felt that it was necessary to value people's enthusiasm for local history and actively promote local collaborative history initiatives that capture their enthusiasm and channel it in a positive direction. **(Yoichi Takahashi)**



Recent Events

Tohoku University Katahira Festival

The Tohoku University Katahira Festival was held on October 12 and 13, 2013. As its name suggests, the festival is held at the Katahira campus every alternate year. The event showcased to the people of Sendai the activities of the following research institutes and centers: the Institute for Materials Research; the Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Advanced Materials; the Institute of Electrical Communication; the Institute of Fluid Science; the Research Institute of Development, Aging and Cancer; the International Research Institute of Disaster Science; the Advanced Institute for Materials Research; the Tohoku University Archives; and the Center for Northeast Asian Studies. The theme of this year's event was "Come, see, and experience the power of science." The theme for the Center for Northeast Asian Studies was "Northeast Asia—Human Activity—Mother Earth." This year, the event was held in the Life Sciences Project Research Laboratory Building 1st Floor Hall, and exhibitions were organized by both Arts/Humanities' and Sciences' five laboratories from the Center. Professor Motoyuki Sato's Division of Geoscience and Remote Sensing introduced state-of-the-art radar technology used by members of his laboratory for mine detection operations.

The Department of the Uehiro Tohoku Historical Materials Research held a panel on the preservation of historical materials and showcased an exhibit focusing on reading the text contained in historical documents. Professor Masahisa Segawa from the Division of Chinese Studies presented a photographic display exhibiting his field surveys and operated a corner in which visitors could receive photographs as gifts. Professor Akira Ishiwatari's Division of Geochemistry showcased an exhibit and sponsored a lecture in collaboration with the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) entitled "Unraveling the Mystery of the Great East Japan Earthquake with the 'Chikyu' Drilling Ship" (lecture by Saneatsu

Saito of the Institute for Research on Earth Evolution, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology). Professor Hiroki Oka from the Division of Mongolian and Central Asian Studies held his customary Mongolian yurt exhibition and showcased research conducted by his division. In addition, the division sponsored a hands-on exhibit where visitors could look at and try on native clothing as



well as watch a traditional Mongolian morin khuur performance. Around 1,400 people attended the exhibitions at the Center for Northeast Asian Studies during the two-day festival, and the number of visitors exceeded that of 2011. Furthermore, as part of the Katahira Festival, the Center planned a special commemorative conference entitled "Water and the Atmosphere: A Multinational Problem" in collaboration with the International Research Institute of Disaster Science. The conference featured lectures entitled "Air Pollution in China and Japan—China Cooperation" and "Will the Number of Flood Disasters Increase in the Future Due to Global Warming?" by Professor Jusen Asuka from the Center for Northeast Asian Studies and Shuichi Kure from the International Research Institute of Disaster Science, respectively. A considerable number of local residents attended the IODP conference, and the special commemorative lectures and both events generated lively question-and-answer sessions. **(Hiroki Oka)**

Recent Events

Open Lecture: Message from a World Heritage Site: Power of the History of Hiraizumi and the Iwami Ginzan Silvermine



On Saturday, December 7, 2013, the customary annual open conference was held at Sendai City War Reconstruction Memorial Hall (hosted by the Tohoku University Center for Northeast Asian Studies; co-hosted by the Association for Northeast Asia Studies). The overall theme for this year's conference was "Message from a World Heritage Site: Power of the History of Hiraizumi and the Iwami Ginzan Silvermine." Profes-

sors Nobuo Irumada (Professor Emeritus, Tohoku University, and Director of the Ichinoseki City Museum) and Professor Yoshifumi Nakano (Director of the Iwami Silvermine Museum) lectured on Hiraizumi in Iwate Prefecture and Iwami Ginzan in Shimane Prefecture, respectively. The subject of world heritage has attracted the attention of various media and is of major interest even to the general public. Recently, the registration of Mt. Fuji as a UNESCO World Heritage Site has become a popular topic of discussion in Japan. In addition to generating interest in research, the move has led to changes in the tourism industry and local society.

Professor Nobuo Irumada introduced the case of Hiraizumi in Iwate Prefecture, a town that has also invested effort in World Heritage registration and that has been the focal point of Professor Irumada's research over a long period of time. Professor Irumada has focused on conducting investigations and re-

search as a member of the World Heritage Registration Recommendation Book Making Committee regarding the registration of "Hiraizumi—Temples, Gardens and Archaeological Sites Representing the Buddhist Pure Land" as World Heritage Sites. His lecture focused on and presented clear explanations of the following three aspects: (1) the process of World Heritage Registration; (2) the evaluation of cultural heritage in Hiraizumi, such as temples, gardens and archeological sites, representing the Buddhist Pure Land; and (3) the historical significance of Hiraizumi and its surrounding area.

Professor Yoshifumi Nakano discussed the topic of "The Universal and Intrinsic Values of the Iwami Ginzan Silvermine World Heritage Site and Its Cultural Landscape." Professor Nakano is an expert on Iwami and the local history of the Shimane Prefecture. In his lecture, he reported on his research on Iwami Ginzan by organizing his study into a number of key topics, such as (1) an overview of the Iwami Ginzan Silvermine, (2) the historical significance of development in Ginzan, and (3) the original silver production landscape and the Ginzan community. **(Ken'ichiro Aratake)**



Recent Events

Field Report Meetings for the "Comparative Studies of Damaged Local Communities after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and Applied Ethnographic Informatics"

This joint research project sought to confirm the results of the "Investigation of the Damage to Folk Cultural Assets from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami" that was conducted in 2011 and 2012 by a commission from the Miyagi prefecture and to apply ethnographic informatics by comparing local communities while also considering partnerships with administrative and educational organizations. The field report meetings introduced here were held at five locations within and outside the prefecture as part of the use of ethnographic information collected in the investigations. Furthermore, some of the studies received financial assistance from the Miyagi Prefecture Regional Cultural Heritage Reconstruction Project "Miyagi Prefecture Damaged Folk Cultural Assets Investigation Results Publication Initiative." The aim of the meetings held in the prefecture was to generate discussion with a view to exchanging opinions and promoting active cooperation by reinvesting the results of the studies of damaged folk assets into the local communities and presenting these results for comparison with other communities within the prefecture.

A meeting entitled "The Power of Folk Performing Arts" was held in Yamamoto on November 2, 2013, and meetings were held in Kesenuma and at the Shichigahama History Museum on November 3 and December 16, 2013, respectively. The purpose of the meetings held outside the prefecture was to report on the state of

folk cultural assets in Miyagi Prefecture as well as the systems used in the studies and to promote discussion and the exchange of opinions as a way of learning from the events surrounding the

Great East Japan Earthquake in preparation for future disasters. On October 21, the School of International Relations at the University of Shizuoka sponsored a meeting in the form of a special lecture. On December 2, a meeting entitled "Damaged Intangible Folk Cultural Assets and the Role of Research in Local Reconstruction—Miyagi Prefecture Post-Great East Japan Earthquake Entrusted Research Project" was held at the University of Kochi Eikokuji campus. The event was hosted by the Kochi Museum Network and the University of Kochi Faculty of Cultural Studies with the support of the Kochi Society of Humanities and Social Sciences. **(Tsutomu Inazawa and Katsuhiko Takizawa)**



Recent Events

Center for Northeast Asian Studies Symposium: “From behind the Veils—A Cultural Anthropological Analysis of the North Korean Populace”

In 2013, the Center for Northeast Asian Studies hosted its customary annual symposium. The theme of the symposium was to understand the lives of people in the North Korean society. Despite the country’s important position in Northeast Asia and its close proximity to Japan, conducting academic research in North Korea has not been possible. The country’s political and economic systems are closed to foreign nations, and overseas researchers cannot enter the country. Moreover, interest in North Korea has focused largely on political and military issues, and the state of people’s everyday lives has been largely overlooked. As a result, North Korea is shrouded in a double veil. Removing this veil is not an easy task; however, researchers have recently attempted pioneering studies through various means.

The symposium aimed to introduce the results of this valuable research and facilitate discussion on the analysis of current conditions and prospects for future research. The symposium featured presentations by Abito Ito, Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo, Jong-su An, a research fellow at the South Korean

University of North Korean Studies Institute for Studies of North Korea and freelance writer with firsthand experience as a North Korean refugee, and In-ja Lee, Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Education at Tohoku University, who was born in South Korea and is currently conducting research on the issues of home education among East Asian immigrant families. In addition, Professor Lili Nie from Tokyo Woman’s Christian University School of Arts and Sciences, and Mitsuhiro Mimura, Director of the Economic Research Institute for the Northeast Asia Research Division, commented on the presentations before the speakers participated in a discussion session. (Masahisa Segawa)



Awards

Postdoctoral researcher Satoshi Sasaki receives the 2012 Sasakawa Scientific Research Grant Award

Doctor Sasaki, a postdoctoral researcher, received the Sasakawa Scientific Research Grant from the Japan Science Society. The presentation ceremony for this award-winning research was held in Tokyo on April 26. The topic and outline of the work for which Doctor Sasaki received the award is outlined below: Research topic: “A Fundamental Study of *the Kaiyuan Zhanjing*: Based on an Exhaustive Survey of Materials in Japan, China and Taiwan.”

Research Outline: The research involved a survey of manuscripts related to *the Kaiyuan Zhanjing*, a compilation of astronomy, judicial astrology, divination, and calendar systems from the Tang Dynasty period and clarified the characteristics of these materials, including the ideas and thoughts behind these materials.



Professor Motoyuki Sato receives an award in recognition of his service to the Society of Exploration Geophysicists of Japan

On June 3, 2013, Professor Sato received an award as a tribute to his service to the Society of Exploration Geophysicists of Japan. Professor Sato was recognized for his long-term contribution to this society.

Professor Akira Ishiwatari received the 2013 Island Arc Most Downloaded Award from the international journal, *Island Arc*, for his joint paper

Professor Ishiwatari received the 2013 Island Arc Most Downloaded Award for a co-authored paper (title given below) pub-

lished by the international journal *Island Arc* in 2011. The first author, Professor Dereje Ayelew, was an invited researcher of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and conducted research at the Center for Northeast Asian Studies in 2010 and 2013. (The “2013 Island Arc Most Downloaded Award” was given by Wiley for the most downloaded paper of 2012 among those papers published between 2007 and 2011.)

Award-winning paper: Ayalew, D. and Ishiwatari, A. (2011) “Comparison of rhyolites from continental rift, continental arc and oceanic island arc: Implication for the mechanism of silicic magma generation.” (*Island Arc*, Vol.20, p. 78–93)

Postdoctoral researcher Satoshi Sasaki receives the 2013 Sinological Society of Japan Prize (philosophy/thought division)

The Sinological Society of Japan is a comprehensive national society for researchers and scholars studying Chinese philosophy, literature, and linguistics. The prize is awarded each year to about two researchers of the age of 40 years or less for papers published in *the Bulletin of Sinological Society of Japan*. The award-winning paper for 2013, “Manuscripts of *the Kaiyuan Zhanjing* and how they have been inherited since early modern times” (published in Issue No. 64, 2012) received praise for the following two points: (1) research was conducted at a significant number of libraries within Japan and overseas, manuscript groups were organized, and the manuscript group with the most accurate lineage was identified based on surveys of manuscripts related to *the Kaiyuan Zhanjing*, a compilation of astronomy, judicial astrology, divination, and calendar systems from the Tang Dynasty period, and (2) it provided a guideline concerning the transmission of texts after the Yuan and Ming Dynasty periods. The award ceremony was held at Akita University on October 12.

Masafumi Asada, a research fellow at the Center for Northeast Asian Studies, receives the Junzo Kashiyama Prize and the Sumita Prize of the Railway History Society of Japan

Doctor Asada, a postdoctoral researcher, received the 8th Junzo Kashiyama Prize (2013) from the Kashiyama Scholarship Foundation and the 4th Sumita Prize (2013) from the Railway History

Society of Japan for his book "Management history of the Chinese Eastern Railway: Russia and Manchuria, 1896-1935" (University of Nagoya Press, 2012).



New Staffs and Visiting Scholars

Assistant Professor **Masahiro TOMODA**

2013.10.1-present
Political history of Japan from the end of Edo period to the Meiji period



Research Fellow **Masafumi ASADA**

2013.10.1-present
The Sino-Soviet relations in Manchuria from the 1920s until the 1960s.



Research Fellow **Tetsuaki OKAMOTO**

2014.4.1-present
International relations, Environmental policy studies



Research Fellow **Quan YU**

2013.10.28-2014.10.31
Middle Mongolian Language



Research Fellow **Takashi OIKAWA**

2014.4.1-present
Folklore studies and Religion



Visiting Scholars **Jianguo PAN**

Professor, Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Peking University (China)
2013.9.1-2013.11.30
Chinese popular fiction in Japan



Visiting Scholars **Leonardus Petrus LIGHART**

Prof. Emeritus, Delft University of Technology (Netherlands)
2014.2.1-2014.3.14
Application of Radar Technology to Environmental Monitoring for Area Studies



Visiting Scholars **Larisa POROZOROVA**

Principal Researcher, Institute of Biology and Soil Sciences, FEB RAS (Russia)
2014.4.18-2014.6.16
Studies of freshwater fauna in Far East Asia



Visiting Scholars **BAYAER**

Professor, Tourism College of Inner Mongolian Normal University (China)
2013.9.2- 2013.12.31
Horse culture in Mongolia



Visiting Scholars **Khar Aduutan Sampildondov CHULUUN**

Director, Institute of History, Mongolian Academy of Sciences (Mongolia)
2014.4.1-2014.7.31
Study on the 17th century Mongolian Archival Sources kept in the Pre-Modern Archive of Russia.



Visiting Scholars **Natalia KULINICH**

Vice Chairman, Department of Philosophy and Culture Studies, Pacific National University (Russia)
2014.5.1-2014.8.31
Everyday life and cultural activities of city residents in the Soviet Far East under the Stalinist Regime



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.

5. Gift of /in the Moose : Natural History of Northern Hunter Kaska and Animals. Yamaguchi Mikako. Tokyo: Syunpusya. February 2014.

6. The Development of the Cotton Industry in Russia, Russian printed cotton and the Asian Merchants. Shiotani Masachika. Tokyo: Chisen Syokan. February 2014.



■ CNEAS Monograph Series

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

50. Hot Springs and Interaction in Edo period: The World of the Historical Documents of Sato Niemon in Maekawa Village of Shibata Province of Mutsu. Takahashi Yohichi. 2013.

51. Written Mongolian Index to The Monguor Vocabulary. Kuribayashi Hitoshi. 2013.



52. Mengwen Daogang: Arranged by Romanized Mongolian Words with Chinese and Manchu. Kuribayashi Hitoshi and Sechinbat. 2014.

■ 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 publications).

10. The Study of Local History: Cultural Heritage of Osaki City, Miyagi Prefecture. Aratake Ken-ichiro. 2013.

11. The Reprint and Bibliography of Kaiyuan Zhangjing Man. Sasaki Satoshi. 2013.

12. Hsiao-ching -An Early Mongolian Version. Kuribayashi Hitoshi. 2014.



■ Resercher's Initiative Publication

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Damaged by Tsunami: Ethnography of Miyagi Coastal Local Communities and Tohoku Earthquake (Mukey minzoku bunkazai ga hisaisuru toiukoto). Ed. By Takakura Hiroki and Takizwa Katsuhiko. Jan. 2014. Tokyo: Shinsensha.



Letters

Dr. Natalia Yurlova
Leading Scientist,

Institute of Systematics and Ecology of Animals, SB RAS (Russia, Novosibirsk)

Long-term cooperation between the Center for Northeast Asian Studies of Tohoku University (Sendai, Japan) and Institute of Systematic and Ecology of Animals of SB RAS (Novosibirsk, Russia): Food web studies in Western Siberia freshwater ecosystems

The collaborations between Institute of Systematics and Ecology of Animals (ISEA) of SB RAS and Center for Northeast Asian Studies (CNEAS) Tohoku University began in 1999, and continue up to the present time. Our interests of researches are focus on food webs, biota studies, and monitoring of the ecological factors with using the satellite system of observation at closed brackish-water Chany Lake located in Western Siberia. The Chany Lake is one of the largest lakes of Russia, with inter-annual water level fluctuation and gradient of salinity. It is a unique natural ecological laboratory for study fluctuations of populations, communities and the food webs, their spatial and temporal variation in the conditions of global climate change. In our studies, we applied stable isotope analysis of nitrogen and carbon to examine trophic predator-prey and host-parasite interactions. The estimation of stable isotope ratios in food sources and consumers were determined by Japanese scientists in Tohoku University using a mass spectrometer DELTA plus, Finnigan (MAT, Germany).

Since 2001 year, our joint research carried out within the

framework of the three scientific research projects abroad (2001-2003, 2004-2006, 2007-2009 years) which were funding by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). The leader of the first two projects was Professor E. Kikuchi, and the third project - associate professor, Dr. Sh. Shikano. Many field studies in Western Siberia were done for the execution of these projects. Every year 3-4 scientists and 1-2 students from CNEAS, Tohoku University and other University from Japan (Graduate School of Life Sciences of Tohoku University; the University of Shiga Prefecture; National Institute for Environmental Studies; Iwate University etc.) visited Biological station of ISEA on Chany Lake to take part in field work with Russian colleagues. Russian scientists visited CNEAS in framework of this projects for discussion the results of field studies, papers, and the prospects for further cooperation between our organizations.



In 2009-2010 and 2012-2013 years we had two Joint Projects which were supported by the Japanese Society Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the Russian Found Basic Research (RFBR). The aim of Joint Projects is to integrate parasites into the wetland food webs. Usually ecological studies on food webs rarely include parasites, partly due to the complexity and dimensionality of host-parasite interaction networks, although parasites can augment the flow of energy, alter the strength of interactions, change productivity and cause trophic cascades. Currently, there is very little knowledge on the role of parasites in food webs. We studied wetland food webs at an inflow river estuary of the Chany Lake.

The results of our intensive and fruitful collaboration discussed on the joint seminars, reported on different international conferences

and published in 15 papers including 12 in international journals (Hydrobiologia, Journal of Freshwater Ecology, Journal of Parasitology, Applied Geochemistry, Marine and Freshwater Research, Limnology, Parasitology, Journal of Molluscan Study, AMBIA, PeerJ etc.).

Thus, combination of knowledge of the Russian scientists on the field ecology and possession of modern ecological methods (in particular, method of isotopic analysis) by Japanese scientist stimulate a long-term successful collaboration between Japanese and Russian scientists. We would like to continue our cooperation in the study of water ecosystems ecology.

Letters

Professor Florian Stammler
Arctic Centre,
University of Lapland (Finland)

Human-animal relations in pastoralist societies: comparative research from the Arctic

I had the pleasure of spending 6 months at CNEAS for working with Professor Takakura in 2009 on one of social anthropology's most classical research topics and theories: human-animal relations. Combining our expertise from different regions in Siberia, we jointly developed a common theoretical framework under which we can analyse the closeness between humans and animals in pastoralist societies. We called this framework "symbiotic domesticity", and studied the importance of different pastoral animal species in the Arctic and elsewhere analysing what their social significance is for culturally specific human livelihoods. Under this topic, we organised a joint Finnish-Japanese conference at CNEAS, to which we invited Japanese and Finnish scholars of pastoralism working with societies in Siberia, Arctic Europe, Africa and Central Asia. The volume that we published in 2010 out of the best papers of this conference has become well-known, quoted and respected in the international

Arctic anthropological academic community. It is called "Good to Eat, Good to Live with" and can be read online at <http://www.cneas.tohoku.ac.jp/staff/takakura2/pub/NEASS11/Cover>.

Back in Finland at the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, we have received money from the Academy of Finland (2015-2019) for a research project called "the Arctic Ark" that would allow us to work. We hope that we can continue our fruitful cooperation with Prof. Takakura at CNEAS for contributing new insights to the old question how much does culture, and how much does nature contribute to shaping the adaptation of humans and animals to extreme environments.



Editorial

Editorial postscript:

I am very pleased to send you the 2nd volume of the CNEAS Bulletin. As has been the case in previous years, many domestic and foreign researchers visited the center this year, enriching the center's research activities and academic exchange of ideas, which we greatly enjoyed. The 2015 year is 20th anniversary of the

CNEAS. Our congratulation! We will organize the ceremonial conference of Northeast Asian Studies in December 2015. It would be a good chance to reflect on what CNEAS has explored and how the research results changed the society.[contasia@cneas.tohoku.ac.jp]

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The bulletin promotes a continuing exchange of information with

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

Website: http://www.cneas.tohoku.ac.jp/index_e.html

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Editorial panel: Akio Goto, Hyeon-Jeong Kim, Masachika Shiotani, Mitsu Hatakeyama

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