

## Overview

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We cannot talk about 2011 Japan and onward without mentioning the Great East Japan Earthquake. The triple disasters of a massive earthquake, consequent tsunami, followed by hydrogen explosions at Fukushima Daiichi Power Plant, releasing radioactive materials, hugely impacted Japanese society. Japanese Archaeological Association installed a “Preparation Group for a Special Committee for urgent measures for the Great Earthquake of Tohoku and Kanto (name changed to ‘Great East Japan Earthquake’ on April 1)” in March, and started working on confirming the safety of association members, collecting information on damage to cultural properties, and consulting with the Cultural Agency as well as related institutions. The preparation group was officially approved at the 77<sup>th</sup> general meeting and inaugurated as “Special Committee for the Great East Japan Earthquake” and is continuing its work. However, there still no clear prospect of solving issues related to preservation and restoration of cultural properties and their storage in damaged areas. Problems are mounting up, such as securing research systems for cultural properties preceding reconstruction. Also, there is not even a clue for the future measures for contaminated cultural properties due to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disasters.

As for the problem of stored books at the association, “Special Committee for the Books at the Association” was installed at the 77<sup>th</sup> general meeting, and its members, as well as two non-member experts, are deep in discussion and are expected to come up with a discussion result within the next fiscal year.

This fiscal year saw the first announcement and awarding of three Japanese Archaeological Association Awards: “Grand Prize,” “Encouragement Prize,” and “Special Prize” at the general meeting. First, TSUBOI Kiyotari was awarded Special Prize of the Japanese Archaeological Association Award for his long years of accomplishment in archaeology and receiving the Person of Cultural Merit (*bunka korosha*) award in fiscal 1999. The first Grand Prize of the Japanese Archaeological Association was awarded to IKEYA Nobuyuki (*Kokuyoseki Kokogaku: Gensanchi Suitei ga Akiraka ni Suru Shakai*

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## TRENDS IN ARCHAEOLOGY IN JAPAN

*Kozo to Sono Henka [Obsidian Archaeology: Social Structure and Change Learned from Assumptions of Quarries]*, Tokyo: Shinsensha), and the Encouragement Prize was awarded to MIZUSAWA Koichi (*Nihonkai Ryutsu no Kokogaku: Chusei Bushidan no Shohi Seikatsu [Archaeology on Distribution around the Sea of Japan: Consumption Life of Medieval Samurai Warriors]*, Toyama: Koshi Shoin).

Activities of each committee of the association are going smoothly, and both the general meeting and convention were carried out successfully. Publication of our magazine, *Nihon Kokogaku* is also going smoothly, and in this sense, the activity of our academic society is satisfactory. Japanese archaeology is quite prominent in the world for its quantity and variety, backed up by enormous excavation examples. And there is significant research that qualifies as international, interdisciplinary, and integrated science, keywords idealized by today's Japanese academics. In this sense, Japanese archaeology is showing certain changes. In the future it is necessary to send out the results to the world and receive appropriate evaluations, rather than ending up just within the country. When this becomes normal, "Japanese Archaeology" will be established as a genre in world archaeology.