

Annual Activities of the Japanese Archaeological Association

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The first thing that should be mentioned regarding activities of the Japanese Archaeological Association during fiscal 2011 is measures taken for problems due to the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011. “Preparation Group for a Special Committee for Urgent Measures of the Great Earthquake” was installed at the regular council meeting held on March 26, and the group began to collect information on the safety of Association members and damage to cultural properties. The group issued two statements from the Association chairman, conducted three inspection missions on cultural property damage, and held repeated discussions among the Agency for Cultural Affairs and the three prefectures that were strongly affected by the earthquake. At the 77th General Meeting, “Special Committee for the Great East Japan Earthquake” was officially installed, and decided on exemption from payment of the member’s fee for the earthquake affected members, and fundraising activities for rescue projects of cultural properties. “Emergency reports” were also made at study meetings of the General Meeting, to give an outline on damage to cultural properties and their rescue efforts, as well as estimating casualties.

As demand for reconstruction in tsunami affected areas rose in the latter half of fiscal 2011, the Association conducted a questionnaire with 46 local governments, mainly to ensure research systems for cultural properties due to reconstruction. Although the rescue mission for damaged cultural properties has passed its peak, still there are no clear prospects for solving problems of preservation/restoration and storage for recovered cultural properties. Reconstruction projects began to take place in full force from the fiscal 2012; however there are still many problems, such as securing excavation systems to conduct archaeological excavation research before reconstruction. Excavation research due to reconstruction projects in areas damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake is expected to continue for a long time in the future. There is still no prospect of solving

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the problem of cultural properties affected by the nuclear power plant accident.

The style of study reports at the General Meeting has been changed from this fiscal year and a session system under a specific theme was introduced, in addition to the verbal presentations of the past, and it was well received by the Association members. This fiscal year continued to see many activities of standing committees regarding archaeological research environments, international exchanges, social study/history textbooks, protection of cultural properties, and so on. The problems regarding maintenance of donated books and operation issues are becoming more serious in recent years. A special committee was organized to discuss these problems, and it is expected that some proposals will be made in near future.