

The Committee for the Protection of Buried Cultural Properties

The Committee¹

(written by MATSUZAKI Motoki)

This article summarizes activities for protection of buried cultural properties during fiscal 2012, and it is mainly on activities of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Properties of the Association.

Activities of the Committee for the Protection of Buried Cultural Properties were reported at the 78th General Meeting of the Association as well as at an information exchange session at the Fukuoka convention. The Committee proposed a resolution regarding protection of cultural properties located within areas affected by the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant, collected results of a questionnaire conducted on committee members, and collected research results regarding “handling of excavated artifacts” by municipalities. At the information exchange session at the convention, a detailed report on the present administration of protection of buried cultural properties in Fukuoka Prefecture was given by Mr. Miyaji, who belongs to the protection section of Fukuoka prefectural government.

Also, an activity report of the committee secretariat summarized discussions at monthly committee meetings. Specially mentioned were the current status and measures for preservation of Negoroji temple site in Iwade City, Wakayama Prefecture, Takaosan mounded tomb in Numazu City, Shizuoka Prefecture, Sotomeyachi site in Goshogawara City, Aomori Prefecture, and Shimoterao Kanga sites in Chigasaki City, Kanagawa Prefecture. The committee has issued preservation requests for all of these sites. While significant results were achieved for Sotomeyachi site, where it was decided to preserve excavated Late and Final Jomon pit graves in their current condition, site destruction was reported at the remains of Nakamura castle in Soma City, Fukushima Prefecture, and Kudo mounded tombs in Kanmaki Town, Nara Prefecture, making us realize the differences in site preservation environment among municipalities.

Other than mentioned above, a meeting was held with the Cultural Agency discussing

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preservation problems and archaeological research due to reconstruction projects related to the Great East Japan Earthquake, where requests were made from the Association. Also, at the poster sessions at the general meeting and the convention, questionnaires were carried out on “handing of excavated artifacts” and “utilization.” The results were summarized and problems were reported.

In the summary and problems of the main article, mention was given to shortage of staff engaging in buried cultural properties, and the decline of the administrative excavation system. It was also stressed that it is necessary for the Association to take some kind of measures for the future.