

# Report on the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Japanese Archaeological Association

DAIKUHARA Yutaka<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

*This short essay reports the proceedings and some highlights of the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Japanese Archaeological Association, held on May 23 and 24, 2015, at Teikyo University.*

The Annual General Meeting (Fiscal Year 2015) for the Japanese Archaeological Association was held at Teikyo University, Tokyo, 23–24 May 2015. The event was successfully held due to meticulous preparations led by Professor Asaei Abe, Head of the Executive Committee, who coordinated former and current archaeology students of the university to assist with the meeting. This was the first time that the general meeting was held at Teikyo University.

Meetings of the directors and the Committee for Conservation of Cultural Properties were held a day earlier on 22 May. On 23 May, the general meeting and Session 1 with five presentations were held in Building 17, Room 1723. A welcome party followed in Choyukan party room. On 24 May, four sets of parallel oral presentations (35 presentations), four and four sets of parallel lecture sessions (37 presentations) and a poster session (24 presentations) took place in Building 17. A book exchange meeting was also held in the students' lounge and students' hall in the campus. There were a total of 1408 participants, of which 382 individuals (291 members, 91 non-members) participated in the event on 23 May and 1,026 individuals (649 members, 377 non-members) participated in the event on 24 May. With regard to the number of association members, there were 4,149 members at the end of 28 March; 28 members had passed away and 45 members had retired in the previous year.

The general meeting began with a moment of silence for the 28 deceased members, including former Presidents Koichi Tamura and Yoshiyuki Tanaka. This was followed by an inaugural address by President Hiroaki Takakura. In this address, he explained the amendments made during the previous year to the Association's articles as a general incorporated association, announced the Association's policies for the Great East Japan Earthquake relief assistance, and discussed issues related to the re-housing of the books donated to the Association since its foundation and difficulties related to internationalization. Next, Yoshihito Okinaga, President of Teikyo University and

<sup>1</sup> Committee Member (General Affairs), The Japanese Archaeological Association, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 5-15-5 Hirai, Edogawa Ward, Tokyo 132-0035, Japan (jjarch@archaeology.jp)  
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Professor Asaei Abe, Head of the Executive Committee, presented their welcome addresses. The emcee then announced that the requirements for the general meeting had been met. This announcement was followed with an explanation of the changes made to the general meeting's proceedings based on amendments to the Association's articles. Accordingly, the President was to chair the meeting. The chairperson then named the vice-chairperson and the secretary, after which the meetings proceedings (reports and other matters) commenced.

First, 'The 5<sup>th</sup> Japanese Archaeological Association Awards,' an announcements, approvals, and awards presentation, were held. The associations' Award Selection Committee recommended member Koji Mizoguchi's 'The Archaeology of Japan' for the Grand Prize and member Tomoko Nagatomo's 'The Development of Earthenware Production in Yayoi Period' and member Tomoya Aono's 'The Archaeology of the Social Function of Graves' for the Encouragement Prizes. The meeting approved these recommendations and these individuals were presented with the respective awards. This was followed by 'Announcement and Approval of Review of Eligibility for Admission into the Association.' The Head of the Committee for Review of Eligibility for admission into the Association announced that 58 people had fulfilled the eligibility conditions this year. These people were then approved and immediately registered as members. Member Shun Sato (Fukushima Prefecture) addressed the gathering on behalf of the new members with regard to their future plans.

Next, the 2014 business report was presented. First, there was a presentation on activities such as general meetings, conferences, courses, directors' meetings, annual reports, and the official journals (Japanese and English-language). Next, the following committees presented their reports: Ryobo (Imperial mousolea), the Research Environment Review Committee, the Public Relations Committee, the International Exchange Committee, the Social Sciences and History Textbooks Review Committee, the Buried Cultural Properties Conservation Committee, the Great East Japan Earthquake Relief Special Committee, the Association Books Review Subcommittee, the Rules and Regulations Revision and Review Committee, and the Science Council of Japan. The Rules and Regulations Revision and Review Committee reported that regulations and internal rules for honorary membership had been devised. These regulations allow the Association to recommend and admit honorary members. Furthermore, the committee presented the 'regulations for the supporting membership category (proposal)' and 'internal rules for the supporting membership category (proposal),' and announced that it will continue to review these proposals. Moreover, members determined that there can be three types of supporting membership: corporate, friendship, and student. The corporate and friendship memberships can include groups and individuals who wish to provide continuous support to the Association's activities, whereas student membership

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can include students involved in archaeological research at the graduate and post-graduate levels in the universities. These proposals are being reviewed with the aim of expanding the scope of the Japanese Archaeological Association's framework. Next, the activities and budget planned for 2015 were announced. Due to of the amendment of the Association's articles, it was decided that the budget requires directors' approvals from this year forward and will therefore be announced at the general meeting.

The meeting then moved to other necessary matters. The Director for Finance explained the balance sheet, the statement of changes in net assets, and the special accounting report related to donations received in 2014 for the Great East Japan Earthquake. Then, the auditors' report was presented, approving that it was legal and accurate. A question-answer session was then held, following which the budget was passed and the meeting was concluded.

The gathering was also informed that a press conference would be held on 25 May at the Association's office, at which the President planned to make a statement concerning the proposed destruction of Takaosan Tumulus in Numazu City and its in-situ preservation.

On the same afternoon, Professor Asaei Abe of Teikyo University gave the keynote lecture 'Children of the Early Man.' He presented an overview of research on the living environment of children during the early hominin stage in Africa, the causes for their deaths, and the social structure. He introduced examples of children drowning because of natural calamities or being preyed upon by members of the large cat family or birds of prey, as the children were small in size and could not move swiftly. He also presented possible archaeological evidence of polygamy and monogamy in early humans and argued that further investigations were necessary to make concrete reconstruction as to how children lived and grew up during the early hominin stage. This was followed by Session 1, 'Archaeology of Children.' The panelists presented papers on the lives of children in the Palaeolithic, Jomon, Yayoi, and ancient periods. After the session, the participants adjourned to the welcome party and engaged in lively and enjoyable conversations.

On 24 May, oral presentations were held at four different venues in the morning and afternoon. Of the 35 total presentations, nine each took place in Venues 1, 2, and 3, while eight took place in Venue 4. There were seven sessions in all. Five research presentations were made in Session 2, 'The Frontlines of Research on the Appearance of Current Humans (*Homo Sapiens*) on the Japanese Archipelago,' and six research presentations were made in Session 3, 'Chronology and Cultural Changes from Initial to Pre-early Jomon Period.' Six presentations were made in Session 4 'Investigation of Buried Sculptures in Chieftain Tombs in the Late Kofun Period – Focusing on Joyama Tumulus No. 1 in Chiba Prefecture,' whereas four presentations were made in Session 5, 'Archaeological Classification by Mathematical Analysis and Innovation in the Social

Development Theory.’ Session 6 was held in collaboration with the Osteoarcheology Society, Anthropological Society of Nippon. Six presentations were made in this session titled ‘Adjusting to Island Environment and Group Formation – Hints from a Survey of Two Ruins in Hamanaka, Rebun Island.’ Session 7, ‘Five Years from the Great East Japan Earthquake – Issues in Recovery Survey, Large-scale Disaster and Archaeology’ was conducted by the Great East Japan Earthquake Relief Special Committee; it consisted of six presentations. Furthermore, there were four presentations in Session 8, ‘Ten Years of Archaeological Property Conservation System and the Future’ which was conducted by the Archaeological Property Conservation Committee.

A poster session with twenty-four posters was held, with the core presentation time designated between 1 to 2 p.m. Lively question-answer exchanges took place.

120 groups and individuals took part in the book exchange session held at a separate venue. There were 132 tables (102 members with 105 tables, 18 companies with 27 tables). The atmosphere was lively as is the case every year and a large number of books and journals, many of which are published locally with invaluable information of the archaeologies of respective regions, were exchanged. The activity was more participant-friendly this year because it was held in a large, spacious venue.

This year’s general meeting was held successfully with a large number of participants. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Teikyo University for all of their support. I also would like to thank the Conference Executive Committee members and students for their efforts.