

## Overview

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The Japanese Archaeological Association was founded in April 1948, after the excavation of Toro site in Shizuoka Prefecture, and it is the leading archaeological society in Japan. Among archaeological researchers, there are teachers at universities, staff involved with buried cultural properties at municipalities and private excavation research companies, curators at museums who specialize in archaeology, retired researchers, and researchers who achieved meaningful results without working in the field of archaeology. The Association consists of those researchers who are above 25 years of age, willing to belong to the Association, and who have passed qualification screening. Currently there are about 5,800 researchers who engage in archaeology in Japan, and 4,172 of them belong to the Association, about 72%. Therefore about 70% of Japanese archaeological researchers are members of this Association, reflecting the heavy responsibility the Association has to fulfill in Japanese archaeology.

Acts of the Association such as articles, regulations, provisions, and bylaws of the Japanese Archaeological Association as a general corporation had been mutually contradictory. Therefore, the board of directors prepared for a revision of the articles in fiscal 2013, and new articles were incorporated at the 80<sup>th</sup> general meeting in fiscal 2014. Correspondingly, the association regulations were revised drastically. Also office rules, and provisions and bylaws regarding matters that were not set in the old articles, such as rules for honorary members, were organized. Although some works were delayed until fiscal 2015, reorganization of the Association is almost complete.

Under the new articles, regulations and provisions, activities of the Association are being carried out by seven standing committees.

As an academic society, one important activity of the Association is presentation of research results, such as general meetings, conventions and public lecture. Publication of periodical journals is one of such activities, and the Journal Editorial Committee has published volume 37 and 38 of the Association journal, *Nihon Kokogaku*, that reflects archaeological research activities.

Although Japanese archaeology has been achieving many research results and excavation results, the results had not been accessible by the world. In order to make

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such results available to the English speaking community, an English Journal Editorial Committee published an electronic journal in English, Japanese Journal of Archaeology Vol. 2, No. 1. The first publication became No. 1 although it was published only once a year, because multiple publications are planned in the future just as two publications are planned for the next fiscal year.

The Committee for International Exchanges has provided the latest excavation results of Japanese archaeology to the world on the internet, by choosing one site from each period and a site related to Great East Japan Earthquake reconstruction from an illustrated historical book, *Hakkutsu Sareta Nihon Retto 2013* (Excavated Japanese Archipelago 2013), and translating the commentary into English on the Association's website. In fiscal 2016, the World Archaeological Congress is planned to be held in Kyoto, and internationalization of Japanese archaeology is indispensable, and the Association will continue with sincere efforts mainly with these committees.

The Committee for Research Environments focused on the decline of the number of students majoring in archaeology at colleges, and highlighted the importance of the problem with analysis on grooming successors in archaeological study. The Committee for the Protection of Buried Cultural Properties held committee meetings, director meetings, study meetings, and information exchange meetings, trying to grasp the situation on the preservation and utilization of buried cultural properties in various places. The Committee for Social Studies and History Textbooks has continued its efforts toward revision of government curriculum guidelines.

The importance of activities by the Public Relations Committee has often been neglected in the past. This is one factor due to which various activities by the Association are not very well known, such as activities of the board of directors and committees, efforts regarding the imperial mausoleum problem, release of research results through public lectures, and submission of statements and requests of the Association chairman and so on. Therefore, there is an effort to revitalize the Public Relations Committee and enrich its activities.

Fiscal 2014 continued to see sincere efforts by the Association members toward archaeological study, and the results were published as books, theses, and excavation reports. Such results will be discussed in this annual report.