

Editorial

As I stated in the Editorial section of the inaugural volume, globalization is accelerating the exchange of information and ideas amongst archaeologists across the world, and interest in Japanese archaeology and the works and projects undertaken by Japanese archaeologists overseas as well as in Japan is rising. Such trends enhance the importance of disseminating information concerning all aspects of Japanese archaeological practice to the world. With a Japan Society for the Promotion of Sciences (JSPS) Kakenhi grant: ‘Grant-in Aid for Enhancement of International Dissemination of Information (18HP2012)’ secured for the next five years, the Editorial Committee of the *Japanese Journal of Archaeology: the official English language journal of the Japanese Archaeological Association (JJA)* is to organize a series of sessions on a theme of international relevance conducted entirely in English for the annual general meeting every year for five years, aiming to provide an opportunity for members of the Association to experience an academic session organized according to a standard international format close to home.

This year’s session, entitled ‘Contextualizing the Yayoi period as a farming society in East Asia,’ took place as a plenary session organized for 70th anniversary of Japanese Archaeological Association on Saturday, 20 October. With Professors Gina Barnes (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London), Gary Crawford (University of Toronto), Kazuo Miyamoto (Kyushu University), and Koji Mizoguchi (Kyushu University) as panelists, and chaired by myself in my capacity as current Chief Editor, the topics discussed ranged from the definition of agriculture to the re-contextualization of the roles and significance played by systematic rice paddy field farming. The session was very well-attended despite its early morning schedule, starting at the unearthly time of 9:00 in the morning (!), and the atmosphere was constructive and cheerful. The comments I personally received from the participants included ‘It was fun!’ and ‘Novel perspectives that I had never thought of in the context of Japanese archaeology’; all were overwhelmingly positive. Accumulation of this type of experience of exposure to the styles of international academic discourse is surely one of the best ways to open up the discursive space of Japanese archaeology to the world, and the Editorial Committee of the *JJA* hopes this series of *JJA*-organized sessions, taking place at the Annual General Conference of the Japanese Archaeological Association will serve that purpose.

The *JJA* has entered its sixth year of existence. I hope its presence has begun forming a critical mass of interests and opportunities for the meaningful and sustainable internationalization of Japanese Archaeology.

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