

Report on the 84th General Assembly of the Japanese Archaeological Association

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ABSTRACT

This short essay reports the proceedings and some highlights of the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Archaeological Association, held on May 26 and 27, 2018, at Meiji University.

KEYWORDS: 84th Annual Meeting, Japanese Archaeological Association

The 84th General Assembly of the Japanese Archaeological Association (FY 2018) was held on 26 (Saturday) and 27 (Sunday) May on the Surugadai campus of Meiji University. It was the first time in 11 years—since the 73rd meeting was held in 2007—that the general assembly took place at Meiji University. The meeting was a great success thanks to the efforts of 95 alumni and students.

On the 26th, a general meeting and lecture (the 70th Anniversary Lecture Meeting) were held in classroom No. 1013 on the 1st floor of Liberty Tower (Liberty Hall). This was followed by social gatherings at Kishimoto, Miyagi, and Yatsuhiko Halls on the 23rd floor. On the 27th, an oral presentation and study session were held at Liberty Tower, while regular and high-school student poster sessions and a book exchange were held on the 2nd Victory Floor of the Academy Commons. Another book exchange was held at the Global Front 1st Floor Multipurpose Hall, which was completed in 2013. A total of 1,584 people participated in the event. Of these, 396 attended on the 26th (i.e., 328 regular members, 8 support staff, and 60 members of the public), and 1,188 attended the events held on the 27th (i.e., 711 regular members, 15 support staff, and 462 members of the public). There were 4,052 members as of 1 April 2018, with 14 members having passed away and 71 withdrawing since the previous year. In addition to the general assembly, an exhibition titled “The Past, Present and Future of Meiji University Archaeology: Beyond the Study of Things” was held at the Meiji University Museum (Dates: 21 May–21 June 2018).

The general assembly began at 10 a.m. on the 26th. The moderator reported that the general assembly had fulfilled constitutive requisites at that time. Opening remarks were then delivered by President Akio Tanigawa, who said it was no coincidence that the 70th general assembly was hosted at Meiji University, where Professor Sosuke Sugihara (who

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was devoted to establishing the Japanese Archaeological Association) taught for such a long time. The Board of Directors was facing a structural overhaul, but President Tanigawa noted that its members were to be re-elected and that the Association would like to continue addressing the challenges entrusted to it by the former board. He also said that various projects commemorating the association's 70th anniversary were planned for the current year and that honorary and long-time members were to be honoured at the general assembly for that reason. Meiji University President Keiichiro Tsuchiya then welcomed attendees on the institution's behalf. He commented that archaeology was a featured curriculum at Meiji University when introducing the storied program, which was built through the efforts of many fine professors, including Sosuke Sugihara, Hatsushige Otsuka, and Hideji Ishikawa. Executive Committee Chair Hideji Ishikawa then greeted participants. He also noted that the Japanese Archaeological Association was founded in 1948 and that the first archaeology course was established at Meiji University two years later. In continuing his address, Ishikawa mentioned that 120 presentations were given at the 70th meeting, including poster sessions at 10 venues. Including high-school student poster sessions, the total rose to 132. A silent prayer was offered to honour the 14 former members who had passed away since last year after these opening remarks.

The moderator introduced the president just prior to the proceedings, also noting that he was to act as Chair per the articles of incorporation. The Chair then nominated the Vice-Chair and Secretary. Proceedings then began.

The first issue was Proposal No. 1, which was titled "Regarding the Approval of New Members." At that time, the Admission Eligibility Review Committee Chair reported that 46 members had passed the application review process. The Organizational Director then noted that a total of 36 applications (i.e., for 3 corporate, 16 friendship, and 17 student members) had been submitted, all of which were approved. The new members took the podium immediately thereafter. Seira Ozaki acted as representative and highlighted member ambitions.

Discussions then turned to Proposal No. 2, which was titled "Matters Related to the FY 2017 Business Report/Approval for Account Settlement." Member Mitsuhiro Kuwahata's "Influence of Mega-Volcanic Eruptions on Humanity: The Kikai Akahoya Eruption in Southwest Japan" was first selected for the Grand Prize by the Association Award Selection Committee, while member Chizuko Kodera's "Ancient East Asia and Glass Archaeology" and member Tomohiro Sakakida's "Research on Satsumon Earthenware: Chronology, Grouping and Movements of Regional Pottery in the Northern Part of the Ancient Japanese Archipelago" received Honourable Mentions. Member Shunsuke Yamada was recommended for the Excellence in Writing Award for his "The Succession of Deer Horn Swords." The Board of Directors approved each of these awards. The FY 2017 business report (including the general meeting, public lecture, Board of Directors, annual report,

institution magazines, and other items) was then presented, after which the Imperial Mausoleum report, the Investigative Committee Research Environment report, the PR Committee report, the International Exchange Committee report, Investigative Committee on Social Studies and History Textbooks report, the Commission to Protect Buried Cultural Properties report, the Disaster Response Committee report, the 2017 Kumamoto Special Committee on Earthquake Countermeasures report, the Future Planning Study Committee report, and the report of the 70th Anniversary Commemorative Project Subcommittee were presented. Explanations were subsequently provided by the Director of Finance with regard to the 2017 balance sheet. A report on the 2017 Kumamoto Earthquake Fund was then discussed. An audit report was also provided by the auditor, who indicated that all items were appropriate and accurate. The auditor also commented that future improvements were needed to facilitate the collection of membership fees. The settlement of accounts was finally approved following a brief Q & A session.

Regarding Proposal No. 3, which was titled “The Election of Directors,” the Chair for Election Administration then moved that 23 persons (i.e., 22 election winners and 1 non-candidate winner from the Kinki district) be appointed as directors. All appointments were approved. Proposal No. 4, titled “The Appointment of Auditors,” was then presented. At that time, Vice President Kondo explained that the two current auditors had the same office terms and thus requested that one more auditor be appointed. This request was approved.

Regarding Proposal No. 5, which was titled “The Approval of Honorary Members,” Assistant Committee Chairperson Ishikawa gave a recommendation to the Honorary Members’ Selection Committee that member Hatsushige Otsuka be named an Honorary Member. This recommendation was approved.

Moving on to post-deliberation issues, reports were presented on “Business Plans and Income and Expenditure Budgets for FY 2018,” “the 70th Anniversary of Establishment of the Association,” and “Partial Revision of Rules and Provisions of the Japanese Archaeological Association.” These items concluded the general assembly.

An association awards ceremony attended by both honorary and long-standing members (69 total members) was held after the general assembly. Commemorative photographs were taken at that time. The 18 honorary members, prize-winners, and long-standing members in attendance were recognized in a greeting given by Koji Kosaka.

Mr. Akio Tanikawa was elected new chair at the extraordinary executive meeting, which was held at 12:30 p.m. Newly appointed President Akio Tanigawa made an inaugural address at 1:30 p.m., at which time the new directors and auditors were introduced.

A memorial presentation was held at 2 p.m. to commemorate the association’s 70th anniversary. This included lectures titled “The History of Studies of the Paleolithic Age in Japan,” which was provided by Hideji Ishikawa (Meiji University Emeritus Professor), and “A History of Japanese Research on the Old Stone Age,” which was given by Masao Anbiru

(Meiji University). All attendees then moved to Kishimoto, Miyagi, and Yatsuhira Halls on the 23rd floor of Liberty Tower, where social gatherings were held.

Morning and afternoon oral presentations were given on the 27th, including 11 research projects at venues No. 1–No. 3. An additional 11 sessions were simultaneously held at venues No. 4–No. 9. Titled “Standardized Resources as Education, Research and Cultural Resources” (comprised of five research papers), the first morning session was held at venue No. 4. Held in the afternoon, session 2 was titled “On the Frontline of Methods for Restoring Ancient Feeding Habits That Utilize Residual Lipid Analysis of Earthenware” (comprised of five research papers). Held at venue No. 5, morning session No. 3 was titled “The Cultural Alternation of the Diffusion of Newcomers and Original Inhabitant Groups: A Viewpoint from Holocene Archaeology/Ethnology” (comprised of four research papers), while afternoon session No. 4 was titled “Assessing ‘Housing’ at the Beginning of Jomon Period” (comprised of five research papers). Morning session No. 5 was held at venue No. 6, and was titled “The Shortening of Rice Preparation Time from the Yayoi Period through the Middle Ages” (comprised of six research papers), while afternoon session No. 6 was titled “Reflections on the Early Yayoi Period” (comprised of five research papers). Titled “Interdisciplinary Research of the Haizukayama Tumulus in Kitakata City” (comprised of six research papers and jointly presented with the Archaeology Subcommittee of the Japanese Anthropological Society of Japan), morning session No. 7 was held at venue No. 7, while afternoon session No. 8 was titled “Artefacts Excavated from Isomaiwakage Ruins in Wakayama Prefecture” (comprised of four research papers). Morning session No. 9 was presented at venue No. 8 by the Japanese Archaeological Association FY 2017 Kumamoto Special Committee on Earthquake Countermeasures. The presentation was titled “Protecting and Restoring Cultural Assets Damaged by 2017 Kumamoto Earthquake and Investigating Buried Cultural Properties: Circumstances and Issues.” Afternoon session No. 10 consisted of a presentation titled “Revisions to the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties and Its Application to the Preservation of Archaeological Sites” (comprised of five research papers and jointly presented with a subcommittee of the Science Council of Japan’s Part I Historical Committee, which is involved in protecting and utilizing cultural properties). Morning session No. 11 was held at venue No. 8. At that time, a presentation titled “History Covered and Left Out of Textbooks: From Practices in Hokkaido, Gunma and Okinawa” (comprised of five research papers) was given by the Japanese Archaeological Association Investigative Committee on Social Studies and History Textbooks.

The Poster Session Venue (venue No. 10) featured 33 presentations. Presenter comments were held from 1–2 p.m. The third annual high-school student poster session featured 12 total presentations (three more than the previous year) given by students from the Fukushima and Fukuoka prefectures. This event attracted much attention. Student explanations were given at 1 p.m., followed by an awards ceremony. Itoshima High School in Itoshima

Prefecture received 1st Prize for a project titled “Basic Research on Masonry in the Itoshima Area” (Masayuki Umemoto, Kenta Takayma, Takuro Karashima, Sho Nichiyu, Koko Irie, Yoshitaka Yama, and Sho Nichijo). In addition, the Gakuyukan High School History Club in Tochigi Prefecture (Haruka Ogawa, Masato Sakurai, and Maki Hashi), Tokushima Municipal High School History Research Department (Natsu Kawakami, Hanako Imura, Akihide Masuda, Ruka Kasai, and Azumi Ikoma), and Tokushima Literature and Science High School Regional Studies Department (Yuki Inoue, Sota Kanbara, and Kyoichi Nakayama) each received Awards of Excellence for their respective projects, which were titled “The Iwade Tumulus and the Religious Beliefs of Mt. Fuji: A History of the Religious Beliefs of Tochigi Prefecture’s Iwade-cho and Iwakurayama,” “Japan as Seen by Tori Ryuzo,” and “The Utilization and Spread of Buried Cultural Properties by 3D Printer.” After the award ceremony, President Tanigawa noted that the number of participating schools had increased. He also said that both the number of research themes and quality of papers had increased each year, adding that the quality of these papers was comparable to reports submitted by college students.

Blessed by fine weather, the general meeting was a great success. The events attracted a large number of participants. This was largely due to the support offered by Meiji University, which was reinforced by the efforts of students and the General Assembly Executive Committee, to whom I would like to express my sincere gratitude.