

Overview

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A year has passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake. The Japanese Archaeological Association has carried on activities in 2012 while reconstruction projects are not running smoothly yet.

The Special Committee for Measures for the Great East Japan Earthquake continued this fiscal year, and a “resolution regarding protection of cultural properties located in areas affected by the nuclear power plant accident in Fukushima Prefecture” was adopted at the 78th General Meeting, and subsequently was sent to related organizations. There were some media reports that excavation research is an obstruction to reconstruction projects such as housing construction, but not many people are aware that municipal employees are exerting much effort to plan reconstruction in order to avoid archaeological sites as much as possible. They are achieving this goal to a certain degree. We are keenly aware of the need for steady and continuous activities in the future.

There are six regular committees at the Association, and also there are two special committees. One is the Special Committee for the Measures for the Great East Japan Earthquake mentioned above, and the other is the Special Committee for the Problem of Donated Books. After the suggested plan to donate books stored at the Association was denied at an emergency general meeting, we continued with thorough discussion on the matter, including non-member consultants. The committee holds members with various standpoints and every possibility is being discussed.

Fiscal 2012 saw installment of two examination groups within the board of trustees. One is the “Committee for Reexamination of the Association Articles and Rules.” It is trying to reorganize the articles and due to revision of “laws regarding general aggregate corporations and general foundations,” as well as due to the need for organization of rules that has been added continuously. The results of examination will be discussed at the fiscal 2014 General Meeting.

Another is a discussion group for the publication of an English journal on the internet. It was concluded the Japanese Journal of the Japanese Archaeological Association is an important medium for the Association, so its publication will be continued, and

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an English journal will be newly published on the internet. The board of trustees has approved the plan, and the journal is titled Japanese Journal of Archaeology. It is an internet journal published by the Japanese Archaeological Association in English which is open to be accessed by anybody related to archaeology from all over the world. Such movement for international accessibility is seen not only in Japan but also in Asian countries; especially China and South Korea and they rather seem to be ahead of us. The wave of internationalization keeps coming quite forcefully whether we like it or not, and we have to deal with it even though internationalization does not always bring benefits. Since the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (TPP) may possibly relate to excavation research of buried cultural properties, the Association is beginning to discuss this problem at the Committee for Discussion of Research Environment.

The Second Japanese Archaeological Association Award's Grand Prize was awarded to FUNAHASHI Kyoko [*Basshi Fushu to Shakai Shudan (Tooth Extraction Customs and Social Groups)*, Suirensa], and the Encouragement Award was awarded to HIGAMI Noboru [*Mokuseihin kara Kangaeru Chiiki Shakai: Yayoi kara Kofun he (Local Communities Seen from Wooden Objects: from Yayoi to Kofun)*, Yuzankaku]. These books are well worthy of Japanese Archaeological Association Awards. The author would like to congratulate these members, and hopes many members of the Association will enter for the Award.

Thus, based on the enormous number and accumulation of excavation research and reports/preceding studies, it could be considered that the enormity and variability of Japanese archaeology is one of the best in the world. And there are many studies that fit with today's keywords in Japanese study such as international, interdisciplinary, and integration. In the future it is necessary to send information to the world and receive appropriate evaluation rather than holding it within the country. In this sense, publication of an English internet journal, Japanese Journal of Archaeology, is a big step forward. When all research results are published as theses in the journal rather than a mere introduction or outline, and with accumulation of such publication, research methods like entire-site excavation, style of excavation reports, and various study methods will be recognized in the world and "Japanese archaeology" will be established as a field within the world archaeology.