

# Report on 2018 Autumn Conference of the Japanese Archaeological Association

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## ABSTRACT

*This short essay reports the proceedings and some highlights of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Japanese Archaeological Association 2018 Autumn Conference, held between October 20–22, 2018, at Shizuoka University.*

**KEYWORDS:** 2018 Conference, Japanese Archaeological Association

Pursuant to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Japanese Archaeological Association, the 2018 convention was held over a three-day period (20 (Saturday)–22 (Monday) October) at Shizuoka University, which overlooks Suruga Bay. This was the first time in 30 years that the event was held in Shizuoka. Immediately prior to the convention, it was widely reported that a stone wall built by Nakamura of the Toyotomi clan and many gold-leaf tiles had been discovered below the huge castle tower support at the Sunpu castle ruins, which date to the time of Tokugawa. This discovery caused quite a stir at the convention.

The executive committee of the convention was organized around the Shizuoka Prefecture Archaeological Society, which was chaired by Shohachi Uematsu and held under the auspices of Shizuoka City with the support of Shizuoka University. Mr. Kazuo Shinohara of Shizuoka University served as Head of the Secretariat.

The event attracted roughly 330 participants (i.e., approximately 250 members and 80 non-members, including researchers). The “History of Static Archaeology” exhibit was held at the campus museum during the event. Participants were thus allowed to briefly observe the history of archaeology research at Shizuoka University.

The 70<sup>th</sup> annual plenary session was held under the theme “The Yayoi Age in East Asia” at 9 a.m. on the first day (the 20<sup>th</sup>). This was moderated by Mr Takashi Mizoguchi (Kyushu University). Announcements were provided in English by Mr Gary W. Crawford (Toronto University, Canada), Kazuo Miyamoto (Kyushu University), Mr Mizoguchi, and Ms Gina L. Barnes (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London). The venue was

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thoroughly attended despite beginning very early. A Q & A session was also held.

The opening ceremony began at 1 p.m., at which time a public lecture was held. Having taught at Shizuoka University, Mr Makoto Takizawa led the proceedings. President Akio Tanigawa was present at the sponsor's salutation. He noted the historical significance of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference after touching on the fact that the establishment of the Japan Archaeological Society was closely tied to a survey of the Toro archaeological site in Shizuoka City that was conducted soon after the war. Serving as the event's organizer, Executive Committee Chair Uematsu similarly greeted participants. Respective greetings were then offered by Section Chief Sho Okamura of the Cultural Property Section of the Shizuoka City Tourism Exchange Bureau and Dean of Shizuoka University's Humanities and Social Sciences Division Kazuyuki Hitsume.

The public lectures consisted of three talks that were consistent with the three themes presented by the subcommittee. Representing Subcommittee I, Mr Hiroyuki Sato (University of Tokyo) gave a lecture titled "The Formation of Boundaries and Regional Characteristics in the Palaeolithic Age." Mr Sato splendidly drew parallels between the three regional characteristics seen in the Movius-Line of the latter Acheulean period and the Palaeolithic culture of the Japanese archipelago. Representing Subcommittee II, Hiromi Shitara (Tokyo University), a graduate of Shizuoka University, gave a second talk titled "The Dawn of Yayoi Cultural Area Studies." This presentation introduced Jomon/Yayoi research carried out by Eto Chimaki, an archaeologist from Numazu City-Yukari. Shizuoka City native Mr Atsushi Nito (National Museum of Japanese History) represented Subcommittee III by giving the third lecture, which was titled "Royal Authority and the Region in the Time of Kinmei." Mr Nito provided an explanation of the relationship between the development stage of the Yamato royalty governance and aspects of its domination of the Suruga area (including Izu) in addition to its connections with the Yamato royal authority.

The subcommittees opened the first day at 4:40 p.m. following the public lectures. Subcommittee I included an opening address from Mr Nobuyuki Iketani. This was held under the theme "Regional Characteristics of the Foothills of Mt. Akutaka During the Palaeolithic Age: Activities That Divided People." Subcommittee II included an opening address given by Mr Kazuhiro Shinohara. This was held under the theme "Diversity and Boundaries of Agricultural Spaces in the Yayoi Period." Finally, Subcommittee III received an opening address from Mr Ryutaro Tamura, which was held under the theme "Various Aspects of Eastern Regional Chiefs During the Latter Half of the Kofun Period."

All attendees moved to College Student Association Cafeteria No. 2 at 6 p.m., at which time a social gathering was held. Executive Committee members Masahiro Kuno and Masato Osawa led activities at this location. Following greetings from President Tanigawa and convention Executive Committee Chair Uematsu, Vice-President of the Archaeology Society of Shizuoka Prefecture Mr. Goro Hirano led everyone in a toast. Participants

were able to deepen their friendships while enjoying the culinary bounty of Suruga Bay, which included delicacies such as sashimi, glass eel, and deep-fried Sakura shrimp. Midway through the party, Mr Naoto Teramachi (Komazawa University) and Mr Akira Seiji (Okayama University) greeted guests on behalf of the venues for next spring's general assembly and the following year's convention, respectively. Vice-President Hideo Kondo then led attendees in a closing toast.

The second day (21<sup>st</sup>) included discussions after reports were submitted for each subcommittee. Mr Nobuyuki Iketani of Subcommittee I, Mr Hiroyuki Tazaki of Subcommittee II, and Mr Makoto Takizawa of Subcommittee III served as moderators, with each subcommittee enjoying lively discussions.

The poster session organized by the association consisted of the Research Environment Review Committee's "Attitude Survey II of Employers Who Employ Buried Cultural Asset Protection Administration-Related Staff," the Investigative Committee on Social Studies and History Textbooks' "Education and Archaeology (Part I) – Introduction of Education and Other Practices in Various Areas," and the Commission to Protect Buried Cultural Properties' "Activities of the Commission to Protect Buried Cultural Properties for FY 2017." The assembly venue highlighted problems in preserving the Takaosan tumulus in Numazu City in a session titled "Results of Archaeological Research and Investigations of Buried Cultural Assets in Shizuoka Prefecture."

Participants enjoyed an excursion on the third day (22<sup>nd</sup>). The excursion originally included two courses (i.e., course A and course B). Course A was slated to involve visits Shizuoka, Fuji, and Numazu, but was cancelled due to a lack of participation. Thus, only the course B excursion around Shizuoka City took place. A total of 16 participants joined the course B excursion, which departed by bus from Shizuoka Station at 8:30 a.m. The tour involved stops at the Toro Archaeological Site and Museum, the Sunpu castle tower support ruins excavation site, the Shizuhatagayama tumulus, the Miike Daira tumulus, the Shizuoka Buried Cultural Property Center, and the Shizuoka Prefectural Archaeological Center. Explanations regarding corrections made to the results of a survey implemented in the Showa era as a result of a survey conducted during the Heisei period were presented through a basic discussion at the Toro Archaeological Site and Museum. "Member applications" (prototypes of Association regulations) and similar documents from the Association's establishment period were also exhibited to participants. Participants were deeply impressed with the presentations given on this excursion, which was designed to commemorate the association's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A stone wall built by Kazuuji Nakamura of the Toyotomi clan prior to the fortification efforts of Tokugawa Ieyasu was discovered at the Sunpu castle ruins. Gold-leaf roof tiles were also excavated. As noted earlier, this discovery was reported just prior to the convention. Participants were thus able to observe related proceedings during the excursion. For instance, participants were able to enter the giant cave-like stone

chamber at the Shizuhitagayama tumulus, which was normally not accessible. There, they could more closely observe the bowl-shaped house-like stone coffin. Built on top of a hill at the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, Miike Daira tumulus featured keyhole-shaped tumuli on its front and back. The artefact had been restored to excellent condition. Participants were also impressed by the natural beauty surrounding the tumulus, which overlooked the Shimizu plain and offered breath-taking views of Suruga Bay. The Shizuoka Buried Cultural Property Center was constructed on the site of former elder statesman Kaoru Inoue's private villa Choja-so, where the "Hakusanzan Tumulus Exhibition" was then held. This allowed participants to see bronze harnesses and other excavated relics before visiting permanent exhibitions at the Shizuoka Prefectural Archaeological Center, which provided a basic explanation of the area's history using related artefacts. Participants enjoyed fair weather throughout the tour and punctually returned to JR Shizuoka Station's south exit just after 4:00 PM, at which time the group separated. The excursion was a great success thanks to the efforts of the Assembly Executive Committee, particularly those of Mr Hiroki Koizumi and Director Ikuo Nakajima of the Shizuoka City Cultural Heritage Section.