

Summary Record of the Research Symposium, FY2012

on the “Archaeological Sites and Cultural Heritage in Public”

1. Introduction

The “Management Research Symposium for Cultural Sites,” held every year since FY2011, is a series of symposia on “Comprehensive Sites Management in Communities” aiming to further deepen the exploration related to the “Comprehensive Management of Historic/Archaeological Sites in Communities” which was the main topic of the “Research Symposium on Preservation and Utilization of Historic Sites (the 5th)” held in FY2010, using the term “Management” as the keynote.

The most noteworthy theme among the studies on the main topic of the 1st symposium namely “Management of Natural Heritage as Cultural Properties”, was “What should be regarded as a cultural property and how should they be addressed for protection from a comprehensive perspective on cultural properties, irrespective of whether the origin is artificial or natural?”

Under such conceptualization, the important issue that arose was “the exploration of the way management ought to be” which focused attention on the viewpoints/standpoints of the various stakeholders involved in archaeological sites and cultural heritage (hereinafter referred as ‘Sites/Heritage’ in this summary report).

In this paper, we report on the outlined explorations of the 2nd Symposium in FY2012 held on December 21 and 22, 2012, based on recent research results of Public Archaeology.

2. ‘Sites/Heritage’ as Management Targets

‘Archaeological Sites’ and/or ‘Cultural Heritage’, as to the main consideration in this symposium, are not an exclusive domain of researchers, experts, and administrative organizations. The ‘Sites/Heritage’ themselves are public. Being public is a key characteristic (*Merkmal*) of ‘Sites/Heritage’. At this symposium, we tried to explore how they are public as the subject of management.

With regard to the protection of historic sites, it is well-known as the earliest example of the national protection movement that the effort made by Karl XI of the Kingdom of Sweden in the middle of the 17th century to protect the mementos/relics passed down from the people of their ancestral lands in the past. After the latter half of the 19th century, European nations, in which modernization was rapidly advancing, reacted against the disappearance of various kinds of legacy which were the symbols of their identity. In addition, through the rapid intensification of international exchanges, national movements developed to consciously recognize the significance and values existing within their borders. These events provided the major impetus to bring ‘Sites/Heritage’ to social attention. In Japan, this trend appeared as the counter-reaction to sharp, large-scale changes arising from trends such as that to “Break down antiquated notions” or “Change everything” popular in the context of the Meiji Restoration and the Westernization. As a counter-reaction, Japan steadily enacted cultural property protection laws including the Act for the Preservation of Ancient Artifacts in 1871, the Law for the Preservation of Ancient Shrines and Temples in 1897, the Law for the Preservation of Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty and Natural Monuments in 1919 and the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties in 1950. Today, then, as typified by the

efforts based on the World Heritage Convention (Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972) which has marked its 40th anniversary since adoption, the protection of ‘Sites/Heritage’ has been recognized as into “universal”, exceeding the individual protection efforts made in any single nation or community.

On the other hand, exploring the current state from the angle that a century has already passed since the ‘Sites/Heritage’ protection efforts have begun across the world, we might be afraid that; (i) the more powerful such efforts are, the more ‘Sites/Heritage’ are unnecessarily emphasized and treated as something special; and, (ii) in the past, efforts may have adversely affected ‘Sites/Heritage’, separating them from the real world in which we are living everyday. In short, I wish to query whether public ‘Sites/Heritage’ are truly “public” or not, nowadays.

3. Contents of the Research Symposium

This symposium was composed of two sub-sessions as a two-day program in order to; (i) explore the perception of “archaeological sites” and “cultural heritage” based on the concept of “public”; and, (ii) discuss the perception of “management” which should be envisioned based on the conclusion of (i) above. Through this two-day program, an opportunity for discussions was provided after lectures and other events.

To begin the opening day (Dec. 21), HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi as secretariat of this symposium introduced the research symposium aim: the importance of exploring the concept of “public” related to sites, based on the conclusions of the past symposia that public attention to cultural properties is becoming more focused due to changes in communities and stakeholders or social structure and living environment.

The three lectures described below were presented through which speakers provided diverse perspectives related to “As what kind of objective are ‘Sites/Heritage’ recognized within society?” --- (i) “Rethinking the Participation of Local Communities in the Cultural Heritage Management” (Keynote Lecture I: SEKI Yuji, Professor, the National Museum of Ethnology) in which the presenter discussed his long years of experience in site research/preservation in Latin America from the perspective of cultural anthropology; (ii) “Cultural Heritage as Common Good: the Case of the Architectural Heritage” (Lecture 1: UGO Mizuko, Associate Professor, Gakushuin Women’s College) in which the presenter centered on the preservation of Italian historical buildings; and, (iii) “How are Local People Involved in Heritage Management?: Case in the Nomination Process on the List of UNESCO World Heritage at the Ruins of Nan Madol, Federated States of Micronesia” (Lecture 2: ISHIMURA Tomo, Researcher, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties) in which the presenter discussed the efforts undertaken at the Nan Madol Site, Federated States of Micronesia.

Based on these lectures, the Discussion-(a) entitled “The Concept of ‘Public’ for ‘Sites/Heritage’” (Chairperson: MATSUDA Akira, Lecturer, the University of East Anglia, UK; the Keynote speaker on the 2nd day).

On the 2nd day, based on the Discussion-(a), the “Relationship between the Concept of ‘Public’, Archaeological Sites, Heritage, Cultural Properties, and Archaeology” (Keynote Lecture II: MATSUDA Akira) was delivered and in which there was a discussion of the development of Public

Archaeology, taking up specific cases in Somma Vesuviana, in a suburb of Naples, Italy.

The three reports described below were presented, through which ‘Sites/Heritage’ were recognized from a range of various viewpoints/standpoints, and the existence of various concerned stakeholders and their diverse movements were indicated; --- (i) “Relationship between Historic Town Space and People in the thinking of ‘Public’: Comparison of Malacca and George Town World Heritage Sites” (Anecdotal Report 1: CHONG Hon Shyan, Associate Professor, Tottori University of Environmental Studies); (ii) “Publicity of Industrial Heritage: Generation of Social Value” (Anecdotal Report 2: OKADA Masaaki, Associate Professor, Kinki University); and, (iii) “SEEDS OF FURUSATO: Cultural Heritage Existing as the Symbol of the Regional People” (Anecdotal Report 3: DOI Sachiko, Chief Researcher, Japan National Trust for Cultural and Natural Heritage Conservation; Public Interest Incorporated Foundation).

In addition, after contemplating the theme based on the question slips submitted by the audience, we discussed “Management of ‘Sites/Heritage’ as Public Entities” (Moderator: HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi) as Discussion-(b) on comprehensive perspectives.

4. Topics of the Panel Discussions

The main topic of Discussion-(a) was originally a fundamental question “What do ‘Sites/Heritage’ and their protection mean in society?”

First of all, upon receipt of the raised thesis, “Doubting Cultural Heritage”, we affirmed “Should cultural anthropological ‘viewpoint of the post-colonial turn’ occur in Japan as well?” which was discussed in the context of Latin America in the Keynote Lecture I. Then, with regard to considerations arising throughout the three lectures, we explored the topic, “Public properties in the context of ‘Development’”. Especially, the importance of exploring how things that modern-day people refer to as “heritage” were originally treated by the communities directly involved with it, before considering measures for preservation and utilization.

Meanwhile, based on the perspective to redefine a more fundamental thesis, two questions were raised; (i) what disadvantage will occur in the modern society, if the sites that people strive to preserve by spending enormous effort, time, and money; and, (ii) to what extent are “cultural heritage” needed in practice. As a result, the discussion centered about the role and function of heritage as a social apparatus discussed in “‘Sites/Heritage’ as Social Memory”, as well as about how to measure benefits from a noneconomic perspective.

In other words, if we do not preserve cultural heritage, what would our society lose? Or, if we do preserve them, what privilege will be brought about? Even admitting that cultural heritage sites are deeply involved with the social memory or the cultural life indispensable for us to survive into the future, it can hardly be said that they are as indispensable to survival as air or water. For such ‘Sites/Heritage’, is there any management method which does not produce an economic profit, but is sustainable? If yes, then, what kind of management is it?

The conclusion was reached that we need to make further investigations into what we want from the protection of ‘Sites/Heritage’.

At the beginning of Discussion-(b), it was especially emphasized that the term “public” was prefixed, because the participants hoped to discuss ‘Sites/Heritage’ based on the perspective that the ‘Sites/Heritage’ could be an object of negotiation with any and every person.

Furthermore, centering on the question submitted by the audience, we

shared our awareness of issues and held discussions. In response to one question, “When ‘Sites/Heritage’ disappear, isn’t what is lost the present (value), not the past?”, we explored the perspective of “the existence and attachment of ‘Sites/Heritage’”. In response to the question that “In Japan, in the site-protection field, has there been only the ‘government-private’ concept, not ‘public’ concept?”, we explored the relationship of the mutually complementary role between ‘government’, ‘private’ and ‘public’.

In addition, based on the change in the significance of “public” in the globalized society, we discussed “the treatment of ‘Sites/Heritage’ and the prospects”. In response to a question about varying access to ‘Sites/Heritage’; we discussed public access as a platform of communication. Furthermore, for such questions as; (i) “Awareness of community residents for the damage/protection of archaeological sites”; (ii) “Equivocal and critical approaches”; (iii) “universalization and individualization”; and, (iv) “Management of the Nara Palace Site”, discussions centered around the relationship between ‘Sites/Heritage’ protection activities and residents.

Meanwhile, extending to the discussion about “‘knowledge’ or ‘intelligence’ involved with ‘Sites/Heritage’”, the participants emphasized the necessity of management based on the perspective of addressing the many problems existing in communities that, notwithstanding recent improvements in understanding the preservation of ‘Sites/Heritage’, various risks have arisen due to rapid changes in social conditions.

Lastly panelists gave their final comments, reflecting a range of viewpoints, emphasizing the importance of communication with diverse types of stakeholders and of developing effective measures to upgrade communication skills.

5. For Establishing the Public Management

As previously mentioned, during human history, extending for tens of thousands of years, it is only in the last two centuries that the common understanding developed that various ‘Sites/Heritage’ are valuable properties for our present and future. This value judgment is still evolving, and we are striving to adapt it to our concept of values. In other words, every matter related to ‘Sites/Heritage’ is a distinctly modern thesis.

From the late modern period to now, ‘Sites/Heritage’ have been identified according to strict guidelines in society, and the route towards ‘Sites/Heritage’ protection has been established. Even so, we must continue to consider the ideals under which we should act in order to ensure ‘Sites/Heritage’ become truly part of the public entities which forms the foundation of our life.

How should we peruse and reorganize the system and method of management, while paying particular attention to the trend of changing social conditions and diversifying heritage-values? During such a process, how should we confirm, represent, and progress toward the ultimate intentions involved with protection (additionally with conservation or safeguarding)?

I firmly believe that the role of this research symposium lies in further broadening the specific mechanisms and methods enabling those engaging in ‘Sites/Heritage’ protection against events/situations presenting serious difficulties in various aspects, to face those difficulties responsibly.

HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi

(Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)

Management Research Symposium for Cultural Sites in fiscal 2012 (the 2nd)

Outline of the Programme <Actual Results>

a. Theme: “Archaeological Sites and Cultural Heritage in Public”

b. Date: 21 Friday-22 Saturday, December, 2012

c. Place: Hall in the Material Pavilion of the Heijo Palace Site

d. Secretariat: Sites Management Research Section, Department of Cultural Heritage,
Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties

e. Programme:

*the 1st day

12:00-13:00 Registration

13:00-13:30 Explanation of Aim of the Symposium

About to be “Public” concerning Archaeological Sites and Cultural Heritage

HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi (Head / Landscape Research Section, Department of Cultural Heritage)

Keynote Address I: Rethinking the Participation of Local Communities

13:30-14:30 in the Cultural Heritage Management

SEKI Yuji (Professor, National Museum of Ethnology)

Lecture 1: Heritage as Common Good - The case of the architectural heritage

14:30-15:15 UGO, Mizuko (Associate Professor, Gakushuin Women's College)

Lecture 2: How Are Local People Involved in Heritage Management?

15:15-16:00 Case in the nomination process on the list of UNESCO World Heritage
at the ruins of Nan Madol, Federated States of Micronesia

ISHIMURA Tomo (Research Fellow, International Cooperation Section,

Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)

Break 16:00-16:15

Panel Discussion-(a): The Concept of ‘Public’ for Archaeological Sites and Cultural Heritage

16:15-17:40 [Chairperson: MATSUDA Akira]

*the 2nd day

Keynote Address II: Heritage, Cultural Properties, Archaeology, and the Public

9:00-10:00 MATSUDA Akira (Lecturer, University of East Anglia)

Anecdotal Report 1: Relation between Historic Town Space and People in the thinking of ‘Public’

10:00-10:40 - Comparison of Melaka and George Town World Heritage Sites

CHONG Hong Shyan (Associate Professor / Tottori University of Environmental Studies)

Break 10:40-10:50

Anecdotal Report 2: Publicity of Industrial Heritage: Generation of Social Value

10:50-11:30 OKADA Masaaki (Associate Professor / Kinki University)

Anecdotal Report 3: SEEDS OF FURUSATO

11:30-12:10 - Cultural Heritage existing as the symbol of the regional people

DOI Sachiko (Chief Senior Research Fellow / Japan National Trust)

12:10-12:15 Summarization of Lectures and Reports [Secretariat; AOKI Tatsuji]

Break 12:15-14:00

Panel Discussion-(b): Management of ‘Archaeological Sites and Cultural Heritage’ as Public Entities

14:00-16:40 [Moderator: HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi]

Closing Remarks ONO Kenkichi (Director / Department of Cultural Heritage)

16:40-16:45

“Archaeological Sites and Cultural Heritage in Public”

The Reports of the Management Research Symposium for Cultural Sites in fiscal 2012 (the 2nd)

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Notes

1. The purpose of this report is to give an overview of the results of the Management Research Symposium for Cultural Sites (the 2nd) held under the theme of the “Archaeological Sites and Cultural Heritage in Public” (hereinafter referred to as “Research Symposium”) on December 21 (Fri) and 22 (Sat), FY2012 in the auditorium of the Nara Palace Site Museum.
2. The Research Symposium was planned and organized by the Sites Management Research Section of the Department of Cultural Heritage, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, as part of the “Research Study on Management for the Preservation and Utilization of Archaeological Sites”, while ONO Kenkichi, HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi, and AOKI Tatsuji took charge of the preparatory work. The Research Symposium was attended by about 100 people, including the Japanese local government employees, researchers, and working-level staff, as well as others involved in site protection.
3. While the Study Articles in this report were requested of each author to contribute in FY2013, it should be noted that author information with regard to the newly-contributed articles in this report, such as organizational affiliations, titles, etc. is information as of December, 2013. On the other hand, author information corresponding to the symposium record is as of December 2012.
4. This report consists of five parts; Photographic Illustrations, I. Study Reports / section A, II. Study Reports / section B, III. Information Documents-A, and VI. Information Documents-B.
5. Photographic Illustrations at the beginning of this report showcase various examples of 'curious' links between heritage and the public.
6. I. Study Reports / section A contains the papers written by the speakers/presenters based on the discussion-results of the Research Symposium, together with a number of presentation images used at the Research Symposium. Meanwhile, II. Study Reports / section B contains additional papers related to the main topic of the Research Symposium.
7. III. Information Documents-A provides the list and overall descriptions of international conferences/charters, etc. related to the “publicity/publicness” of archaeological sites and cultural heritage. VI. Information Documents-B includes the symposium summary and the participant list as an official record in addition to the Explanation of the aim (December 21), Discussion-(a) (December 21), General overview of lectures/reports (December 22), and the record of Discussion-(b) (December 22). For the purpose of reference, the record of discussions, etc. was outlined by HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi based on transcription from voice recordings, and checked by each speaker. Some wordings within the speeches have been corrected slightly, but ensuring the effect of the speech did not change. Furthermore, after the event, we sent drafts of the discussion to questioners who were absent from discussions despite rendering question slips prior to the summations of the reports. Additional comments were made on these drafts, which were included in Discussion-(b).
8. At the end of the report, a table of contents and an outline of the Research Symposium are provided in English.
9. TECBO LTD. rendered cooperation regarding the translation work for “note” and “Results of 2012 Management Research Symposium for Cultural Sites (2nd)” [from Japanese to English], and the article by PILAI, Janet of Assist. Professor of School of Arts, Universiti Sains Malaysia [from English to Japanese] in this report. Meanwhile it should be noted that request, checking and adjusting the article by PILAI was under the cooperation of Dr. CHONG Hon Shyan especially from a technical review.
10. This report was edited by HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi.