

Summary Record of the Research Symposium, 2012

on the "Management of Natural Heritage as Cultural Properties"

1. Introduction

The Management Research Symposium for Cultural Sites, the first session of which was held on February 16 and 17, 2012, is designed to build on the achievements of the Research Symposiums on the Preservation and Utilization of Historic Sites (FY2006–FY2010) to explore ideal management systems and specific measures for the protection of historic sites and other monuments, from general, comprehensive, and cross-sectional viewpoints. This paper outlines the purpose and the outcome of the first session of the symposium, held under the theme of the “Management of Natural Heritage as Cultural Properties,” and indicates the future direction of this meaningful attempt.

2. Reasons for emphasis on “natural heritage as cultural properties”

Recently in Japan, the protection of cultural properties has been widely undertaken under the “Basic Scheme for Historic and Cultural Properties,” the “Plan for the Maintenance and Improvement of the Beautiful Historical Scenery in the Region,” and other arrangements in which cultural heritage is treated as an integral part of the local community at large. This tendency is also widely observed in the restoration of historic sites, which is generally carried out in a manner that emphasizes the close association of these sites with other local cultural and natural assets, instead of preserving and utilizing the sites independently.

Even in projects designed to preserve cultural properties in a comprehensive manner, however, the main focus is often placed on properties that are easily recognized as “historic heritage,” such as historic sites and buildings of cultural value, and only secondary importance seems to be given to their association with the natural environment that constitutes the foundation of the local community and natural assets that represent the community.

On the other hand, various international initiatives have been launched to identify and preserve local natural assets, taking into consideration their close association with local cultural assets, while special importance is placed on ensuring the sustainability of the local community. These initiatives include those carried out by the Global Geopark Network (GGN) and the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) that is supported by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

The importance of the close relationships between biological diversity and the natural environment and between local life and local culture (or cultural assets that represent culture) is now drawing a higher degree of global attention, as indicated by the discussions that took place repeatedly during the International Year of Biological Diversity, 2010. It is no longer an exaggeration to say that understanding is now growing worldwide that close attention should be first paid to the association between local cultural and natural assets when considering measures for protecting such.

Behind this understanding is the recognition of the essential and tight linkage between biological diversity and cultural diversity—two of the most important factors that should be considered when discussing the sustainable development of the world, or, in other words, the inseparability between local culture and the local natural environment.

In Korea, meanwhile, extensive discussions had taken place on the protection of cultural properties since the 2000s, which led to the agreement to rename “cultural properties” as “national heritage” and to roughly group national heritage into two categories: cultural heritage and natural heritage, as part of their efforts toward developing a new framework for cultural policy to better reflect the recent domestic and international situations and the rapidly changing needs of society. Especially, the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea has been

promoting intensive measures for the designation and protection of important places of scenic beauty that can serve as a bridge connecting cultural heritage with natural heritage. Following such a move, the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage of Korea established the Research Division of Natural Heritage in 2006 to promote research on natural heritage, while launching various initiatives focusing on natural elements of cultural heritage through its affiliated facility, the Natural Heritage Center.

It is against this backdrop that we adopted the term, “natural heritage as cultural properties,” which sounds somewhat strange, as part of the theme of the first session of this research symposium, hoping that the strangeness of this term would emphasize the existence of natural elements in cultural properties.

3. Contents of the Research Symposium

Organized for the purpose mentioned above, the first session of the Research Symposium consisted of three lectures, three anecdotal reports, and a panel discussion, which included presentations of the cases of Korea and Geoparks. As two Korean researchers were invited to this session, a booklet containing the lectures and reports were produced in Japanese and Korean, and an interpretation service was provided to ensure smooth communications.

At the start of the session, HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi explained the aim of this session and outlined the direction of this Research Symposium by discussing the perspectives concerning “cultural properties” and “natural heritage as cultural properties,” while talking about such issues as: materials, the process of procuring materials and cultural properties; nature itself and cultural properties; humans/nature and cultural properties; the preservation of historic sites, places of scenic beauty and natural monuments; and the management of natural heritage as cultural properties, in order to emphasize the importance of natural elements in cultural properties.

On the first day of the session (February 16), Dr. KAMEYAMA Akira, professor emeritus of Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, delivered a keynote lecture titled Cultural Properties and Nature, which was followed by two lectures: Cultural Property of Natural Monuments in Japan by Dr. KATSURA Yuzo, chief senior specialist for cultural properties, Monuments and Sites Division, Agency for Cultural Affairs; and Recent Developments and Current Status of Natural Heritage in Korea by Mr. LEE Wi-Su, previous director of the Natural Heritage Center, National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, Korea. Through these three lectures, the basic concept of and attitude toward cultural property management were highlighted.

On the second day (February 17), three anecdotal reports were given: Our Homeland of the Oriental White Stork Flying Sedately by Ms. MATSUI Takayo, Toyooka City Board of Education, Hyogo Prefecture; Forest in Village of Korea by Dr. JANG Miah, committee member of the Juridical Foundation “Forest of Life,” Korea; and Itoigawa Geopark (Niigata Prefecture); Preservation and Utilization of Natural Heritage by Dr. TAKENOUCHI Kou, Itoigawa City Board of Education, Niigata Prefecture, in which cases of cultural property management focusing around birds, plants, and geology/minerals were presented.

In the keynote lecture, Dr. Kameyama discussed the “characteristics of natural heritage as cultural properties” in light of places of scenic beauty, natural monuments, natural parks, and forest ecosystem reserves, referring to the project implemented in the Kamikochi highlands, and remarked that natural heritage as cultural properties can be best characterized by a tolerance to different concepts of heritage. He then discussed the evaluation of natural heritage in light of naturalness, historical importance,

and aesthetic value. He also made mention of the idea of treating cultural properties, including historic sites and buildings of historic importance, as part of the local community, referring to the case of Hinode-machi, Nishitama-gun, Tokyo, and focusing on landscaping that reflects the relationship between men and nature and the value of cultural properties as local assets. He concluded that the characteristics of local culture have been nurtured over a centuries-long period, affected by local geographical, geological, and climatic conditions, flora and fauna, residents, and the interactions among all these factors.

Next, Dr. Katsura spoke about the “essential nature of local communities represented by groups of cultural properties.” He placed focus on the characteristics of natural monuments that retain the memories of all the critical moments of the Earth’s evolution, along with geological factors; earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, climatic and weather events; geographical and soil evolution; flora; fauna; humans; history; culture; and life in general. He maintained that all cultural properties are based on natural elements, and they play a role in combining the knowledge and wisdom necessary for living in the local community and in providing guidelines for action and selection for the future. He also made mention of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and in this connection, he referred to various cultural properties that have served as reminders of past disasters, thus emphasizing the importance of preserving and making comprehensive use of cultural properties as a symbol of the wisdom handed down for generations in Japan—an island nation so prone to disasters.

This was followed by a presentation by Mr. Lee on the development of Korea’s policy on natural heritage, especially how the policy has been changed and expanded since the 1990s, parallel to the strengthening of the environmental policy. He discussed problems concerning the designation and protection of natural monuments and places of scenic beauty, which are currently categorized “natural heritage as cultural properties,” and enumerated the purposes for protecting such “natural heritage as cultural properties.” These purposes include: increasing opportunities for citizens to appreciate culture by preserving remnants of local cultural and natural history; enhancing the landscape characteristics of the country by preserving traditional scenic spots; promoting academic research on natural heritage as cultural properties; building platforms for preserving and utilizing traditional biological resources; and achieving a greater national consensus on the preservation of natural heritage.

As the first anecdotal report, Ms. Matsui presented the experience of Toyooka City in Hyogo Prefecture in protecting giant salamanders in the Izushi River, creating a pleasant environment for both people and Oriental white storks, preserving the Genbudo caves, and developing the San-in Coast Geopark. Through this presentation, she showed that natural heritage as cultural properties can effectively contribute to local revitalization.

Next, Dr. Jang spoke about the “Forest in Village” program, a new initiative launched to protect natural monuments in Korea, focusing on its concept, characteristics, and typological classification. She also made mention of three specific activities to show the current status of forest management and utilization, the response of local residents, and the tasks undertaken by governmental agencies (Korea Forest Service, Cultural Heritage Administration, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry).

The last anecdotal report was given by Mr. Takenouchi, who explained the philosophy and mechanism of the Geopark program, which aims to evoke community-wide interest in local geological and geographical features in order to promote local revitalization. He gave an outline of the Itoigawa Geopark, including local resources used in the program (geological background, ecosystem, and culture) and the activities of the program (protection, education, and geo-tourism).

All the ideas and cases presented in these lectures and reports indicated that nature and cultural heritage are closely associated with each other and that they are an inseparable part of local life. In this sense, we may say that cultural properties, whether natural or human-made, can exist only by virtue of their relationships with humans themselves.

4. Topics of the Discussion, the Outcome, and the Future Direction of the Symposium

Prior to the discussion scheduled for the afternoon on the second day, the lecturers and presenters met together as panelists to determine the topics to be discussed based on the six questions submitted by the audience. These topics included: identification and evaluation of natural heritage as cultural properties; surveys, research, and protection measures; utilization of natural heritage; and the management and administration system.

At the beginning of the discussion, each of the panelists presented his or her view on the preceding lectures and reports as a whole, and it turned out that all of them shared the recognition that cultural properties consist of both natural and cultural elements and that these elements should, essentially, be treated collectively in light of the relationships between humans and nature, or the emotional attachment that people have to their local communities.

Next, the individuals who submitted the questions were asked to give comments to supplement their questions, to which the panelists offered their opinions as well as additional views from various different angles. To be specific, these questions were related to: the identification of natural heritage as cultural properties; the relationship between the protection of endangered species and the protection of natural heritage as cultural properties (especially natural monuments); the identification of resources in Geoparks; feeding damage caused by wild animals; the preservation and utilization of gigantic and old trees; the treatment of gifts given by natural heritage as cultural properties; and the government’s policy and scheme for protecting natural monuments/places of scenic beauty and the natural environment.

The discussion revealed that in both Japan and Korea, different criteria are applied for the protection of endangered species and for the preservation of natural monuments. In case of the former, the urgency of the protection of specific species is measured based on the current population, while in case of the latter, the importance of the monuments is determined in light of their relationships with humans. The panelists also emphasized that the recent increase of feeding damage caused by wild animals is basically attributable to the explosive increase of the human population during the past 50 years and to the drastic changes in social structures and living environments, which led to the destruction of the harmonious relationship between wild animals and humans.

The most important points raised during the entire symposium were as follows: (1) The significance of natural heritage as cultural properties is recognized always in the context of their relationships with local residents; (2) With the passage of time and the advancement of society, people have developed a deeper insight into natural and cultural heritage, and with a deepening of the understanding of the background behind such heritage, have become increasingly appreciative of their value; (3) In Japan and Korea, the harmonious relationship between humans and nature that had been historically maintained has been largely destroyed due to the rapid changes in social structures and living environments, which is at the root of many of the problems that face us today.

The local natural environment is the foundation of local life and the source of local culture, and various natural heritages are given life when they are connected with local residents and culture. In this light, we may say that one of the topics that have to be discussed at future sessions of the Management Research Symposium for Cultural Sites is the public nature of heritages, namely, how cultural and natural heritages, such as ruins, are recognized by people and how they are associated with culture. Other important themes for future sessions of the symposium include: development of plans for the preservation and utilization of individual local heritages for local revitalization; the arrangements necessary for implementing such plans; and the future of local communities.

HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi

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Management Research Symposium for Cultural Sites (the 1st)

- a. Theme: "Management of Natural Heritage as Cultural Properties"
- b. Date: 16Thursday-17Friday, February, 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

12:30-13:30 Registration

13:30-13:35 Opening speech

ONO Kenkichi (Director of Department of Cultural Heritage)

Explanation of aim etc.; About "Protection of Natural Heritage as Cultural Properties"

13:35-14:05 HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi (Head of Sites Management Research Section)

Keynote Address Cultural Properties and Nature

14:05-15:05 KAMEYAMA Akira

(Professors Emeritus, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology)

Break 15:05-15:20

Lecture 1 Cultural Property of Natural Monuments in Japan

15:20-16:10 KATSURA Yuzo (Chief Senior Specialist for Cultural Properties,

Monuments and Sites Division, Agency for Cultural Affairs)

Lecture 2 Recent Developments and Current Status of Natural Heritage in Korea

16:10-17:15 LEE Wi-Su (previous Director, Natural Heritage Center,

National Research Institute of Cultural Heritages, Korea)

*the 2nd day

Anecdotal report 1 Our Homeland of the Oriental White Stork Flying Sedately

9:35-10:25 MATSUI Takayo (Toyooka City Board of Education, Hyogo Prefecture)

Anecdotal report 2 "Forest in Village" of Korea

10:30-10:30 JANG Miah (Committee Member, Juridical Foundation "Forest of Life", Korea)

Anecdotal report 3 Itoigawa Geopark

11:15-12:00 TAKENOUCHI Kou (Itoigawa City Board of Education, Niigata Prefecture)

12:00-12:10 Summarization of Lectures and Reports [secretariat; AOKI Tatsuji]

Break 12:10-14:00

14:00-16:15 Integrated Discussion (Coordinator: HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi)

Notes

1. The purpose of this report is to give an overview of the first session of the Management Research Symposium for Cultural Sites, held under the theme of the “Management of Natural Heritage as Cultural Properties” (hereinafter referred to as “the Research Symposium”) on February 16 (Thu.) and 17 (Fri.), 2012, in the auditorium of the Heijo 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, while ONO Kenkichi, HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi, and AOKI Tatsuji took charge of the preparatory work and operation of the symposium. The Research Symposium was attended by more than 70 people, including Japanese local government employees, researchers, and individuals involved in relevant projects, as well as Korean researchers.
3. Prior to the Research Symposium, a 50-page booklet titled Lectures and Reports for the FY2011 Management Research Symposium for Cultural Sites (the 1st Session), “Management of Natural Heritage as Cultural Properties” was produced in Japanese and Korean, and published on February 15, 2012 by the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (hereinafter referred to as “the Booklet”). At the Research Symposium, Japanese and Korean researchers delivered lectures and reports on problems pertaining to natural heritage as cultural properties, their protection, and relevant efforts. Remarks by Korean researchers and Japanese speakers were translated into Japanese and Korean by consecutive and simultaneous interpretation, respectively, so that the contents of their remarks could be fully shared among the participants, including the audience.
4. While the study reports contained in this report were written in FY2012 upon our request, it should be noted that the organizational affiliations are as of the time of the Research Symposium.
5. This report consists of two parts: I. Study Reports and II. Information Documents, and was produced in Japanese, Korean, and English.
6. In the Japanese part of this report, I. Study Reports contains additional commentaries made to reflect the results of the Research Symposium, while II. Information Documents provides a record of the Research Symposium, including the outline of the symposium and a list of participants, as well as an explanation of the purpose of the Research Symposium (February 16), summaries of the lectures and reports (February 17), and summaries of the integrated discussion (February 17). The Japanese text of the report made by Dr. JANG Miah contained in I. Study Reports was translated by Dr. Jang herself.
7. In the Korean part of this report, I. Study Reports contains the Korean abstracts of the lectures and reports contained in the Booklet after some revision, while II. Information Documents provides a record of the Research Symposium, including the outline and purpose of the symposium, as well as summaries of the lectures and reports (February 16 and 17) and summaries of the integrated discussion (February 17). The texts contained in I. Study Reports excluding those of Mr. LEE Wi-Su and Dr. JANG Miah were translated from Japanese to Korean.
8. For the purpose of reference, II. Information Documents also contains: the provisions of Article 2, Clause 1 (4) to (6) of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties of Japan that define “monuments and sites,” “cultural landscapes,” and “groups of historic buildings” under the Japanese system for cultural properties protection; the categories of cultural properties in Japan; the criteria for designation of place of scenic beauty and natural monument; the criteria for the selection of important cultural landscapes; the classification standard of important preservation districts for groups of historic buildings; the criteria for the registration of monuments and sites, excluding historic sites; and Chapter I of the Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, “Definition of the Cultural and Natural Heritage” (Article 1-3), in Japanese, Korean, and English, while comments are added.
9. In the Japanese part of this report, the texts of the explanation of the purpose of the Research Symposium (February 16), the summaries of the lectures and reports (February 17), and the summaries of the integrated discussion (February 17) were compiled by HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi based on the transcript of the audio recording of the remarks. Each speaker was asked to check his or her transcribed remarks for accuracy prior to publication. Some expressions in the remarks were altered only to the extent that the contents of the remarks were not changed.
10. This report is provided with tables of contents in Japanese and Korean, which apply to the Japanese and Korean parts of the report, respectively. At the end of the report, a table of contents and an outline of the Research Symposium are provided in English.
11. Congress Corporation rendered cooperation regarding the translation and interpretation work for the Research Symposium.
12. This report was edited by HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi, assisted by Dr. JANG Miah in the Korean texts.

"Management of Natural Heritage as Cultural Properties"

The Reports of the Management Research Symposium for Cultural Sites (the 1st)

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