

# Report on the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting (FY 2016) of the Japanese Archaeological Association

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## *ABSTRACT*

*This short essay reports the proceedings and some highlights of the Japanese Archaeological Association 2016 Annual General Meeting, held between May 28–29, 2016, at Tokyo Gakugei University.*

*KEYWORDS:* 2016 Annual General Meeting, Japanese Archaeological Association

The 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting (FY 2016) of the Japanese Archaeological Association was held at Tokyo Gakugei University, in the Koganei district of Tokyo, over the course of two days, from May 28 (Saturday) to 29 (Sunday). The Annual General Meeting has been held at Tokyo Gakugei University a total of three times, including that held in 1994 and 2006. On the day before the meeting, the 27<sup>th</sup>, a meeting of the committee for the protection of buried cultural properties was held, and on the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., the plenary was held on the first floor hall of the Geijutsu-kan. The general meeting was attended by 398 people on the 28<sup>th</sup> (309 members and 89 participants from the public) and 1,075 people on the 29<sup>th</sup> (702 members and 373 participants from the public), for a total of 1,473. At the end of March 2016, the Japanese Archaeological Association had 4,109 members; in the previous year, 23 members passed away, and 72 withdrew their membership. Meanwhile, 66 new members were approved at the plenary; unfortunately, there has been no abating the trend toward decline in membership that has been seen in recent years. At the beginning of the plenary, a moment's silence was observed for the 23 members who passed away, beginning with the late Takayasu Higuchi. Opening remarks were delivered by the president of the Association Hiroaki Takakura and chairman of the Annual Meeting organising committee Shin Hidaka. The chairman announced that the general meeting had met its required quorum. Subsequently, the president chaired the meeting, and after the vice-chairman and secretary endorsed by the board of directors were approved, the meeting moved on to the order of business.

The first items of business were announced and considered in order, based on the nature of the item. First, the honorary membership committee that had been established

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in the previous year gave its first reports and requested that honorary membership be awarded to Takuya Iwasaki by the board of directors. Although this proposal was approved, Iwasaki was undergoing medical care at the time, so the certificate was received by his proxy, Akira Tsuneki. Second, the 'public report and acknowledgement of the 6<sup>th</sup> Japanese Archaeological Association Award' was delivered. The prize winners were recognised and publicly acknowledged at the general meeting: the Association's award selection committee had recommended Dr. Tasuhito Sekine's book *Chu-kinsei No Ezochi To Hoppou Koueki* (Trading activities in the northern part of Japan during the medieval and early modern periods), whereas Noriyuki Kakuda (absent from the meeting) received honourable mention for *Tatarabuki Seitetsu no Seiritsu to Sono Tenkai* (The Establishment and Development of Tatarabuki Iron Production). The third item was the presentation of a gift to Akihiro Mizuyama from the Association's members, in recognition for his long-term management of the Association's public website. Plans for a full redesign of the website had been put in place, and the day before the general meeting, a new albeit incomplete website had been published. Fourth, the 'report and approval of the review of entry qualifications for joining the Association' was presented, followed by the report of Entry Qualifications Review Committee chairman Kazumi Yamasaki. His report mentioned that 66 individuals' qualifications had been evaluated for entry into the Association. The new members immediately took to the stage to be introduced, and Ryouzuke Kakudou (Tokyo) represented the membership in expressing the members' best wishes.

In accordance with the order of business, the 2015 business report was presented (including such items as the general meeting, public lectures, board of directors' meetings, annual report, and bulletins). Following this, information was disseminated as committee reports on meetings convened to review various matters, such as imperial mausolea, research environments, public relations, international exchanges, social studies and textbooks for primary and secondary education, protection of buried cultural properties, the special response committee for the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, the subcommittee for association's library collections, and general rules and regulations. Among these, the international exchange committee reported that the Association had granted support and cooperation for the 8<sup>th</sup> World Archaeology Conference, to be held at Doshisha University in Kyoto in late August and early September. Moreover, in the report from the meeting convened to review general rules and regulations, association's copyright policy and the establishment of the 'supporter' membership were explained. Next, a report was delivered on the planned activities and budget for the fiscal year 2016. Two additional items were reported under 'other items': the progress in the matters concerning the protection of the Takaosan tumulus, and a report on the meeting convened to discuss various issues concerning cultural properties.

The meeting then moved on to items for discussion. The 2015 financial statements and audit reports were discussed, and the results of deliberation were approved. A reminder was issued that, accompanying changes to relevant statutes, supervisory responsibilities no longer simply concern auditing, per the traditional view, but also encompass the general activities of the Association. This year, members of the board of directors were due for re-election. The election was carried out; the acting chair of the Committee for Election Administration, Shin Shimizu, reported the results of the election, and these were accepted by the membership. After this, Vice President Hideshi Ishikawa proposed the election of two new supervisors (Tetsuo Yoshida [continuing] and Shiro Katsuzawa), because two of the existing supervisors (Tetsuo Yoshida and Shirai Kumiko) would be reaching the end of their four-year terms, and the proposal was accepted. Finally, an emergency proposal was made for the establishment of an emergency response committee for the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake by the board director Kazuo Miyamoto. The proposal was accepted after deliberations.

As approved at the plenary, a meeting of the board of directors was held by the newly elected directors during lunch break. Akio Tanigawa was elected as the new president. Hideo Kondo and Hideshi Ishikawa were then elected as vice presidents. Then the chair and the members of the respective committees were chosen. The plenary resumed at 1:30p.m., beginning with the introduction of the new directors and a general policy speech by the new president, Akio Tanigawa.

Following this, memorial lectures were delivered from 2p.m. onwards. After president Takakura's speech, Tokyo Gakugei University president Toshisada Deguchi gave a brief speech, followed by a memorial lecture by Masashi Kinoshita (Emeritus Professor, Tokyo Gakugei University). At 3:10p.m., Session 1, Archaeological and cultural property sciences in Jomon Period Research, was held at the same venue. After this, the gathering moved to Musashino Hall 2 within the campus, where the conference party was held.

On the following day, the 29<sup>th</sup>, the event separated into nine venues. The oral presentations, poster presentations, and book exchange meetings were held simultaneously. A total of 38 poster presentations (30 by Association members and 8 by high school students) were held: 10 in venue 1, 9 in venue 2, 10 in venue 3, and 9 in venue 4. Among these sessions were joint sessions with the Anthropological Society of Nippon Osteoarchaeology Subcommittee (Session 4: Development and prospects for the bioarchaeology of Edo period human skeletal remains) and the Science Council of Japan Subcommittee on the Management of Museums and Galleries (Session 7: Effects of the amendment of the Museum law and allied legal frameworks on museums), which demonstrated the expansion of the range of issues Japanese archaeologists had to deal with. In Session 8, which was organised by the special response subcommittee for the Great East Japan Earthquake, the activities of the special committee over the last five

years were summarised, as their activities had come to a close with the final report remaining to be published.

During the core time for the poster session, between 1 and 2 p.m., the presenters explained the content of their posters. This year, as a part of the association's drive for revitalising interests in archaeology amongst the young generation, eight poster presentations were delivered by high school students from around the country. The first prize went to Tokushima Bunri High School student Taketomo Tateishi for his 'Memorial Stelae and Ippen Shounin in the province of Awa.' Awards of excellence were also conferred on two selected posters: 'Taka-jizo Buddhist stone statues of the lower flow of the Yoshino-gawa river' by Tokushima Bunri High School's folk history research club and 'Itoshima's Koma-inu guardian lion dogs' by Fukuoka Prefectural Itoshima High School history club. President Takakura presented the certificates and prizes to the winners. This event was extremely successful; Tokyo Gakugei University president Deguchi even referred to it in his speech, and Asahi Newspaper for Middle and High school students featured the event. There are plans to continue this programme next year.

The meeting was a pleasant one, blessed by good weather on both days, and perhaps for this reason, had a noticeably higher participation from the membership. The successes of this general meeting were all thanks to the staff of the General Conference Organising Committee, foremost to chairman Shin Hidaka, who planned earnestly and meticulously and who issued a heartfelt welcome on the opening day of the conference. We extend our deepest gratitude.