

## The Committee for the Protection of Buried Cultural Properties

TERAMAE Naoto<sup>1</sup>

The Japanese Archaeological Association (the Association) has established a standing committee, the Committee for the Protection of Buried Cultural Properties (the Committee) in order to protect archaeological sites from development. The Committee consists of members appointed by the Association members from each prefecture, and continues to work toward protection of buried cultural properties through annual committee meetings, monthly board of directors meetings, information exchange sessions and so on. Fiscal 2021 saw protection efforts for the Imperial Japanese Navy Taisha Base site in Izumo City, Shimane Prefecture (modern), adjoining land to Inarimae mounded tombs in Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture (Kofun period), Hiroshima castle remains in Hiroshima City, Hiroshima Prefecture (early modern/modern), Takanawa Embarkment in Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo (modern), Tokushima castle remains in Tokushima City, Tokushima Prefecture (early modern), Urijiri site in Aki City, Kochi Prefecture (ancient), and the Committee submitted letters of request to municipalities in charge of the sites.

As in the previous year, many of the activities of the Committee were spent on preservation problems of modern sites. Destruction of early modern/modern sites is expected to continue increasing as infrastructure in big cities is getting outdated. It is important for administrative bodies to grasp the existence and importance of buried cultural properties before development with wide cooperation from researchers of related fields, not only archaeology. Of course, a big issue is to have enough quantitative and qualitative personnel distribution to support the workload, as the required manpower cannot be supplied only by archaeological institutes and departments in universities. The author sincerely hopes that there will be one more case of an underground heritage in the past to be preserved strategically as an investment target for local society and an asset left by our predecessors. In order to realize that, it is vital to expose excavated features to as many people as possible.

In order to achieve these goals and solve issues, it is necessary to tackle issues as a whole society on exchanges between different fields and generations in protection activities and search for new utilization policies and methods using the latest archaeological study and digital technology.

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Literature, Komazawa University, 154–8525 Japan