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The Eighth International Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies (CHAGS 8)

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The Eighth International Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies (CHAGS 8)

P. J. Matthews, J. Tanaka and S. Koyama

More than two hundred participants from around the world came together for the Eighth International Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies (CHAGS 8), held at the National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka (26.–30. October, 1998). This conference was the latest in a series that originated in discussions held in 1965 (Lee and DeVore 1968). It was also the largest international gathering of anthropologists in Japan since 1968, when the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences was held in Kyoto. In this issue of the *Bulletin of the National Museum of Ethnology*, the four papers that follow introduce the conference, the research field, and publications that are planned from the conference.

In the first paper, Shigeru Kayano (Kayano Museum of Ainu Culture, Nibutani) introduces the history of the Ainu in Japan, and reflects on recently enacted government legislation affecting the Ainu; Richard Lee (University of Toronto, Canada), one of the founders of CHAGS as a conference series, reviews the history of the conferences and of hunter-gatherer research; and Nicolas Peterson (Australian National University, Australia) discusses the purposes of anthropological research ‘at home’ and on hunting and gathering societies. In the concluding paper, Harvey Feit (McMaster University, Canada) outlines his impressions of the conference as a whole, and identifies some major issues and questions raised during the conference.

Why was the conference held in Japan? The two main organisers for the conference were Jiro Tanaka at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University, and Shuzo Koyoma at the National Museum of Ethnology. In his concluding speech, Tanaka recalled that while located at a small town in the Kalahari Desert in Africa, on November 18th, 1994, he received a fax from Richard Lee asking if the next conference could be held in Kyoto. Tanaka returned to Japan in December, 1994, and discussed the matter with Mitsuo Ichikawa (also at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies). Unfortunately, the School was unable to support the plan, so Tanaka discussed the matter with Shuzo Koyoma. For many years, Koyoma and other staff at the National Museum of Ethnology have carried out research among hunters and gatherers (and ‘post-foraging’ societies) in Africa,

Australia, Canada, Russia, Japan, and elsewhere. Numerous researchers around Japan are also involved with foraging and post-foraging societies in various parts of the world. It was thus possible to put together an active and well-motivated local organising committee for the conference. A further stimulus was the recent enactment of a new law concerning the Ainu—this made it timely that Japan host a conference in which the status and rights of indigenous peoples could be discussed.

The present conference – and the associated sessions in Aomori (October 21–25) and Hokkaido (October 30–31) – covered a huge range of issues, and a number of monographs are being planned by participants who have offered to act as editors. Abstracts from the Osaka conference were distributed during the conference and may be cited as:

CHAGS 8 (1998) *Foraging and Post-foraging Societies: History, Politics, and Future* (Program and abstracts from the 8th International Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies. Osaka Oct. 26–30, Aomori Oct. 21–25, Hokkaido Oct. 30–31, 1998). CHAGS 8 Office: Osaka.

The CHAGS conference series has no fixed institutional address. To ascertain whether the series would continue, and to determine the next location, discussions were held between past and present conference organisers. Enquiries regarding the next conference can now be directed to:

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The many people involved in organising CHAGS 8 are recorded below. Supporting organisations are then acknowledged, and the present article concludes with a list of the publications that have resulted from previous conferences in the CHAGS series.

Convener:

Ishige, Naomichi (Director-General, National Museum of Ethnology, Japan)

Program Co-Chairs:

Koyama, Shuzo (National Museum of Ethnology, Japan)
 Tanaka, Jiro (Kyoto University, Japan)

International Organising Committee:

Bieseke, Megan (University of Texas, U. S. A.)
 Feit, Harvey (McMaster University, Canada)

Hitchcock, Robert (Univeristy of Nebraska, U. S. A.)
Ichikawa, Mitsuo (Kyoto University)
Lee, Richard (Univeristy Of Toronto, Canada)
Peterson, Nicolas (Australian National University, Australia)

Japanese Organising Committee:

Akazawa, Takeru (International Research Center for Japanese Studies)
Akimichi, Tomoya (National Museum of Ethnology)
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Kishigami, Nobuhiro (National Museum of Ethnology)
Kubota, Sachiko (Hiroshima University)
Kuchikura, Yukio (Gifu University)
Matsui, Akira (Nara National Cultural Properties Research Institute)
Matthews, Peter (National Museum of Ethnology)
Nishida, Masaki (Tsukuba University)
Nobayashi, Atsushi (National Museum of Ethnology)
Ohtsuka, Kazuyoshi (National Museum of Ethnology)
Okada, Yasuhiro (Aomori Prefectural Government)
Sasaki, Shiro (National Museum of Ethnology)
Takeuchi, Kiyoshi (Toyama University)
Uchiyama, Junzo (Toyama Univeristy)
Yoneda, Minoru (National Institute for Environmental Studies)

Secretariat

Ikegami, Hiroe (National Museum of Ethnology)

Session chairs and session titles

(note: some sessions were chaired by more than one person)

Akimichi, Tomoya (National Museum of Ethnology, Japan) Fishing knowledge, resource rights, and the challenge of economic globalization.
Anderson, David (University of Alberta, Canada) Hunting culture and mining knowledge.
Bahuchet, Serge (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France) Hunter-gatherers and agriculturalists: new perspectives.
Bieseke, Megan (Kalahari Peoples Fund; University of Texas, U. S. A.) Changing demography, landscape and ecology.
Buntman, Barbara (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa) Self- and other-images of hunter-gatherers.
Fienup-Riordan, Ann (U.S.A.) Identity:transformation and performance.
Griffin, P. Bion (University of Hawaii, U.S.A.) Knowledge-transmission and the persistence of society.
Headland, Thomas N. (Summer Institute of Linguistics, U. S. A.) Historical relations between hunter-gatherers and agriculturalists.
Hovelsrud-Broda, Grete (Brandeis University, U.S.A.) Social economy of sharing: resource allocation and modern hunter-gatherers.

- Hudson, Mark (Tsukuba University, Japan) i. Hunter-gatherers in different environments: ecology, history, diversity. ii. Comparisons of Mesolithic adaptations between the western and eastern edges of Northern Eurasia
- Ichikawa, Mitsuo (Kyoto University, Japan) Changing demography, landscape and ecology.
- Ikeya, K. (National Museum of Ethnology, Japan) Foragers and post-foragers in the global economy.
- Ingold, Tim (University of Manchester, U.K.) Knowing foragers: tourists, environmentalists, and academics.
- Keen, Ian (Australian National University, Australia) Ethnicity, church and state.
- Koyama, Shuzo (National Museum of Ethnology, Japan) i. Ainu: history politics and the future. ii. Socio-political variations and changes in hunter-gatherers: theoretical perspectives. iii. San'nai-maruyama: new perspectives on hunter-gatherers in the Northern Pacific area. iv. Messages from Ainu people: the present and future situation of their culture.
- Layton, Robert (University of Durham, U. K.) Archaeology and faunal resource management.
- Mann, R. S. (University of Delhi, India) Foragers and post-foragers in the global economy.
- Nobayashi, Atsushi (National Museum of Ethnology, Japan) Archaeology and faunal resource management.
- Ohtsuka, Kazuyoshi (National Museum of Ethnology, Japan) i. Messages from Ainu people: the present and future situation of their culture. ii. Ainu: history politics and the future.
- Osaki, Masakazu (Himeji Institute of Technology, Japan) Historical relations between hunter-gatherers and agriculturalists.
- Sasaki, Shiro (National Museum of Ethnology, Japan) Trapping and hunters of North Eurasia.
- Scott, Colin H. (McGill University, Canada) Defining territory: indigenous conceptions and state jurisdiction.
- Smith, Andrew B. (University of Cape Town, South Africa) Archaeology and history: Southern Africa.
- Shimpo, Mitsuru (Japan Women's University, Japan) Indigenous education: whose culture?
- Stewart, Henry (Showa Women's University, Japan) Self- and other-images of hunter-gatherers.
- Sugawara, Kazuyoshi (Kyoto University, Japan) Symbolic categories, ritual practice and habitual thought.
- Takeuchi, Kiyoshi (Toyama University, Japan) Hunter-gatherers and agriculturalists: new perspectives.
- Trigger, David S. (University of Western Australia, Australia) Hunting culture

and mining knowledge.

Uchiyama, Junzo (Toyama University, Japan) i. Hunter-gatherers in different environments: ecology, history, diversity. ii. Comparisons of Mesolithic adaptations between the western and eastern edges of Northern Eurasia.

Wenzel, George W. (McGill University, Canada) Social economy of sharing: resource allocation and modern hunter-gatherers.

Widlok, Thomas (University of Cologne, Germany) Symbolic categories, ritual practice and habitual thought.

Yamada, Takako (Kyoto University, Japan) Gender and the dynamics of culture.

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(publications arising from previous conferences in the CHAGS series)

Burch Jr., Ernest S. and Linda J. Ellanna (eds)

1994 *Key issues in hunter-gatherer research*. Oxford: Berg.

Ingold, Tim, David Riches and James Woodburn (eds)

1988 *Hunters and gatherers 1: history, evolution and social change*. Oxford: Berg.

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1988 *Hunters and gatherers 2: property, power and ideology*. Oxford: Berg.

Leacock, Eleanor and Richard Lee (eds)

1982 *Politics and history in band societies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Lee, Richard B. and I. DeVore (eds)

1968 *Man the hunter*. Chicago: Aldine.

Wilmsen, Edwin N. (ed.)

1989 *We are here: politics of aboriginal land tenure*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.