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

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Japan National Museum of Ethnology
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 Koyama 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 Koyama. For many years, Koyama 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:


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:
Biesele, Megan (University of Texas, U. S. A.)
Feit, Harvey (McMaster University, Canada)
Hitchcock, Robert (University of Nebraska, U. S. A.)
Ichikawa, Mitsuo (Kyoto University)
Lee, Richard (University 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)
Ikeya, Kazunobu (National Museum of Ethnology)
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 University)
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)
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.
Biesele, 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.
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.
Ingold, Tim (University of Manchester, U.K.) Knowing foragers: tourists, environmentalists, and academics.
Keen, Ian (Australian National University, Australia) Ethnicity, church and state.
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.
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.

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of all participants at the conference, we thank the following organisations for supporting the conference financially and in many other ways: Aomori Prefectural Government, Aomori City Office, Commemorative Association for the Japan World Exposition (1970), Daido Insurance Company, Historical Museum of Hokkaido, Hokkaido Ethnological Society, Hokkaido Newspaper Company, Monbusho (Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Sport), Kayano Museum of Ainu Culture, National Museum of Ethnology, Nibutani Ainu Culture Museum, San-nai-maruyama Exhibition Hall, Senri Cultural Foundation, Shiraoi Ainu Museum, To-o Nippo Newspaper Company, UCC Coffee Museum, and Wenner-Gren Foundation. All activities of the CHAGS 8 Organising Committees were carried out in collaboration with the Department of Research Development, National Museum of Ethnology.

REFERENCES

(publications arising from previous conferences in the CHAGS series)


