

Opening Remarks

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Opening Remarks

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Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for joining the JSPS Core-to-Core Program Public Seminar “Social Roles of the Museum and Human Resource Development”. In organizing the Public Seminar, support was extended from the JICA Myanmar Office.

My name is Naoko Sonoda, from the National Museum of Ethnology, Japan. As a leader of this project, I will make a brief introduction.

This Public Seminar is carried out as part of the project entitled “New Horizons in Asian Museums and Museology”. The National Museum of Ethnology, Japan is conducting this three- year project since 2012, with financial support from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). The project aims to promote joint research between Japan and Asian countries, especially Myanmar, Thailand, and Mongolia.

The National Museum of Ethnology, Japan has been conducting training courses on museology since 1994, in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). From 1994 to 2003, it was a six-month course and out of this, two weeks was entrusted to the museum. After 10 years, it became an intensive course (three and a half months) and the operation, planning and training were totally under the responsibility of our museum and the Lake Biwa Museum. JICA trainees took part in the course, and external researchers also took part as observers. Thus, with Myanmar, Thailand and Mongolia, we have more than 20 years of friendship and cultural exchanges concerning museology and museum activities.

Last year, we organized the first International Research Meeting in Mongolia. This year, we are delighted to organize the second International Research Meeting on Museology in Myanmar. It is composed of a joint research meeting using two venues, Bagan Archaeological Museum on Monday 23rd and the National Museum (Yangon) on Thursday 26th, followed by a Public Seminar on Friday 27th at the National Museum (Yangon). The joint research meeting in Bagan and in Yangon was destined for specialists in museology, museum staff and museology students. They were both composed of two sessions, dealing with two basic themes for museums: Session 1 on “Museum Exhibition”, and Session 2 on “Conservation and Documentation for Museums”. We had different speakers for the joint research meeting in Bagan and in Yangon.

Today, on Friday 27th, JSPS Core-to-Core Program Public Seminar, held at the National Museum (Yangon) is open to the public. The Public Seminar is entitled

“Social Roles of the Museum and Human Resource Development”. In this, we are going to treat the relation between people and museums.

Participants to this Public Seminar came from many countries, and we are altogether 14. I am going to introduce some of them:

- Dr. Ken'ichi Sudo, Director General of the National Museum of Ethnology, Japan
- Prof. Ichinkhorloogin Lkhagvasuren, from Mongolian National University of Science and Technology and coordinator of this project for Mongolia
- Ms. Jarunee Incherdchai, Director of Kanchanaphisek National Museum, and coordinator of this project for Thailand
- Dr. Yasushi Kusuoka, Research staff from the Lake Biwa Museum
- Prof. Tsuneyuki Morita, Professor emeritus of National Museum of Ethnology, Japan

I hope we are going to have an interesting and fruitful moment together at the Public Seminar. Thank you very much for your attention.