

# みんなくりポジトリ

国立民族学博物館学術情報リポジトリ National Museum of Ethnology

## Preface

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## Preface

It is our great pleasure to send you the newsletter of the Intensive Course on Museology 2008.

The Intensive Course on Museology 2008 was held for almost three months from April 14 to July 11, 2008, mainly at the National Museum of Ethnology. This year saw another nine curators and museum professionals joining the course from five countries around the world, namely, Colombia, Jordan, Peru, Viet Nam, and Zambia.

As is well known, this course originally started in 1994 as the Museum Technology Course organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In 2004 it embarked on a fresh start under its present title, the Intensive Course on Museology. During its 14-year history, over 120 participants from around 50 countries worldwide have completed the course and returned home to contribute to the activities of museums in their respective countries. The current Intensive Course on Museology is run by the National Museum of Ethnology together with the Lake Biwa Museum, with full financial support from JICA.

The mission of this course has several aspects. Its primary objective is to provide participants with the general and fundamental knowledge and skills they are required to master in order to work as museum professionals. A secondary objective is to share experience and knowledge stemming from the history of museum activities in Japan. I am now very gratified to see that all of the participants have benefited from what was offered through the various programs included in the course. As you will see from the reports here, the participants had many opportunities to attend lectures by a large number of lecturers in different specialties and also to visit numerous museums and cultural sites throughout Japan, as well as to attend optional workshops selected according to their own interests. Thirdly, this course tries to serve as a kind of platform for participants, a space where they are free to share their own experiences and knowledge they have acquired through their careers as museum professionals in their countries. Of course it goes without saying that we Japanese staff are also members of this platform, participating in the discussion and learning many things from the participants.

As you have already been aware, this course is far from being merely a training course for younger museum professionals. Rather, it is a kind of international symposium or forum lasting for as long as three months during which they can share their experiences, knowledge, and views. It is my hope that this forum will expand to form a global network through which issues and problems related to museum activities will be discussed, and the resulting opinions, findings or proposals will be shared among museum professionals on a global scale.

It is our intention to make every possible effort to improve the course, step by step, by incorporating the ideas and opinions given by all those who have previously been involved, including previous participants. We are of course aware, however, that there is still scope for improvement. We should welcome your telling us your ideas and opinions on how to improve the course once you have finished reading through this newsletter.

Finally, I would like to express my particular thanks to all those who contributed their time and energy on behalf of this course. We are grateful in particular to the staff of JICA Osaka Center, who generously provided us with this valuable opportunity, and to the staff of the Lake Biwa Museum for their great efforts and friendliness in looking after the participants.



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