

OCCASIONAL REPORT No. 10

THE TOYOTA FOUNDATION November 1989

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Fourth Research Contest Winner: A Triumph of Grass-Roots Science

The Toyota Foundation's biennial research contest on the theme "Observing the Community Environment," a program administered by the Research Grant Division, aims to encourage specialists and local residents to cooperate in carrying out long-term research closely related to the local community.

Outline of the research contest

The first research contest was inaugurated in the autumn of 1979. Since then, applications have been accepted every other year. Each contest extends over a period of more than three years. In the first stage, twenty or so of the hundred-odd research teams applying are selected to receive six-month preliminary study grants. In the second stage, around ten of these teams are chosen to continue their projects with two-year main research project grants. At the end of the two-year period the projects are evaluated and one team is selected to receive the most outstanding research award, while one or more teams receive outstanding research awards.

To put research on a competitive basis is an unprecedented experiment in Japan. The research contest is also unique in its emphasis on local residents taking the initiative in research and in its broad definition of "community environment." All aspects of the community are included: animal life, the townscape, children's play, scenic features, and the life of handicapped and old people, to mention a few.

In the five research contests held so far, a total of forty-six teams have received main research project grants for activities conducted throughout Japan, from Hokkaido in the north to Okinawa in the south. While space limitations make it impossible to describe the great variety of projects undertaken, a steady growth in community-based study and action focused on the local environment has definitely been seen over the ten-year duration of the program.

The Foundation is now conducting a comprehensive review of the program, with the help of past selection committee members, in order to explore future directions for this program.

Environmental problems have today become a

worldwide concern. The experience of the teams participating in the research contests should provide useful lessons for people undertaking similar projects not only in Japan but also throughout the world. The project of the team selected in March 1989 to receive the most outstanding research award in the fourth research contest is an example of a successful grass-roots approach to local environmental problems.

Profile of a winning project

Driving along the highway toward Tokyo from the New Tokyo International Airport in Narita, Chiba Prefecture, you pass an industrial zone on Tokyo Bay. Just beyond, you see a grassy expanse stretching away on your right. This area, located in the Shinhama district of Gyotoku, Chiba Prefecture, is the Gyotoku wildlife sanctuary, the first such preserve in the vicinity of the capital. The sanctuary contains an artificial pond where black-winged stilt, a species now rare in Japan, have established a thriving colony.

This pond is the work of the Gyotoku Bird-Watching Station Friendship Society, winner of the most outstanding research award in the Foundation's fourth research contest. What makes the team's accomplishment so amazing, however, is that the water in the pond is drawn from a river that was once hopelessly polluted by domestic waste water.

The membership of the Friendship Society, establish to observe wild birds at the bird-watching station in the Gyotoku wildlife sanctuary, constitutes a cross section of local citizens, including white-collar workers, homemakers, and students. The group began its research-contest project, "Restoration of Shinhama: Cleansing the Water and Bringing Back Birdlife," in April 1986 with a six-month preliminary study grant. The initial aim of the project was to purify the filthy water of the river flowing past the bird-watching station and use it to create a marsh to attract water birds.

For its preliminary study the team installed water wheels of the kind used at fish farms to aerate the river water. Members succeeded in oxygenating the water enough that *Tubificidae* and other water organisms could once again live there. The success of

this experiment led to the team's being awarded a grant for a two-year main research project, in which the team would attempt to use this purified river water to revive the parched land of the sanctuary.

In the summer of 1987 all the team members turned out to dig a pond about one hectare (ten thousand square meters) in area and lay a pipeline to run water from the river to the pond. A food chain was built up in the pond, attracting water birds. For its achievement the team was selected from among the 140 teams that had initially applied to participate in the fourth research contest as the recipient of the most outstanding research award.

The three runners-up, receiving outstanding research awards, were the Tokyo-based Study Group on the Edo Towns of Nezu, Sendagi, Ueno, and Yanaka, for the project "A Survey and Study of the Friendly Environments of Nezu, Sendagi, Ueno, and Yanaka"; the Okinawa-based Ishigaki Island Wild Bird Study Group, for "Wild Birds of Amparu, Ishigaki Island"; and the Tokyo-based Dairy Farm Village Study Group, for "An Attempt to Continue Dairy Farming in an Urban Environment: The Coexistence of Urban and Rural Communities in Tama New Town." (*Masaaki Kusumi, Assistant Program Officer, Research Grant Division*)

Report on a Modest Experiment In Environmental Improvement

The river flowing through the Gyotoku wildlife sanctuary runs hard by the bird-watching station, separated only by a path. Its water is gray—about the same color as the water of most Tokyo rivers. Several species of water birds can be seen leisurely pecking for food on the riverbank. Nearby, dragonflies lined up head to tail are laying eggs.

Only three years ago, the water was pitch black and gave off a fearful stench. Nothing lived in or near this "river of death." An almost unbelievable transformation has been wrought.

Three water wheels, fixed to floats, have been installed on the river: two at the mouth of the pipeline feeding the pond, and another about a hundred meters away. As the photo shows, they are small mechanisms that kick up only about as much water as children splashing their feet in a pool.

Members of the Gyotoku Bird-Watching Station Friendship Society say that when they set up the first water wheel in May 1986, they had no idea how effective it would be. They had consulted a professional



Friendship Society members, gathered to install a water wheel

water analyst, only to be told dismissively that no one had ever succeeded in purifying water that was black with contamination. Nevertheless, they decided to try.

The reason they were so determined to go ahead with their experiment despite the odds was that the wildlife sanctuary (specifically, the field of reeds on the other side of the river embankment) suffered from a chronic shortage of water. Although the water birds the group hoped to attract required a tideland moist with brackish water, the only water to be seen was a small artificial pond dug by the group. (This area, originally a fertile tideland, had dried out when landfill was added in the 1960s, a time of rapid economic growth, to create more industrial land.)

The beneficial effects of that first water wheel became evident sooner than expected. In a week the water in the immediate vicinity of the water wheel was no longer black but dark gray. In two weeks a single live midge was discovered in the water directly beneath the water wheel. The Friendship Society members were ecstatic. Encouraged, a year later they installed two more water wheels. Freshwater organisms proliferated, until today five hundred to a thousand are living in the water.

Once a month, samples of water are taken from ten locations and analyzed carefully for ten substances, including ammonia, oxygen, and hydrogen sulfide. Sampling and analysis are carried out for the most part by women and middle and high school students. Their equipment consists of implements found in any home—cake-flour sieves, soft-drink bottles, simple hand-operated pumps normally used to siphon kerosene from large containers to heaters. (The domestic nature of the equipment reportedly

amused the research contest's selection committee.)

In August 1987, Friendship Society members dug a pond one hectare (ten thousand square meters) in area, laboring ten days to complete the task. Many of those involved in the project say their most moving experience came when they released water from the river to the lower ground where the pond is located. The pond is about thirty centimeters deep. Since sunlight and oxygen can penetrate to the bottom, the water is further purified.

Whether water birds would actually nest by the pond was the next test. The following year a number of species, including the rare black-winged stilt, rewarded the members' enthusiastic efforts by building nests, laying eggs, and successfully raising their young.

Altogether, over fifty people took part in the research project. Because this amateur group did everything by hand, as it were, learning by trial and error, the work consumed a great deal of time. Reading through the documents of the project, however, I was struck by the evident pleasure and pride the members took in their work, each using his or her skills to the full.

The documents give us a good idea of the variety of the group's members. We meet a systems engineer who became an expert on water analysis, a salesman who used up all his paid leave pestering reluctant government agencies for permits, a white-collar worker who traveled to other prefectures to catch frogs for the pond. There were also people who volunteered to cut grass "for the exercise" and others who helped out simply because they liked the beer served after work details.

The day I visited the project site, a motorcycle had rammed one of the water wheels, knocking it awry. I imagine the members used more of their scarce free time repairing it. I came away impressed by the enormous amount of thought and toil needed to restore an environment ruined to serve human convenience.

One of the group's first members, a woman who has monitored the area's environment for twenty years, told me, "Until we began this project, all my efforts went into trying to hold the line against further deterioration of the environment. But once we started taking active steps to improve the environment by purifying the water of the river, everything we've done has been sheer fun. We can actually see life proliferating and the food chain growing longer and longer."

The Friendship Society is now trying to persuade the prefectural government to authorize the construc-

tion of more ponds in the hope of restoring the entire bird sanctuary to its original tideland state. Members are also teaching local residents how to make biodegradable soap in order to reduce the pollutants in domestic waste water.

Headquarters of the Gytoku Bird-Watching Friendship Society is 4-22-11 Fukuei, Ichikawa City, Chiba Prefecture 272-01. (*Shukuko Matsumoto, freelance writer and editor*)

Over a Decade of Research on CFCs and Stratospheric Ozone

Destruction of the ozone layer by chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) has become an environmental concern of such urgency that hardly a day goes by without some mention of the problem in the news. Though the Japanese scientific establishment has drawn criticism for its lack of basic research in this area, my colleagues and I have been internationally commended for our studies of the distribution and movements of CFCs in the atmosphere, initiated more than ten years ago with the help of a Toyota Foundation research grant. We are grateful for the Foundation's wisdom and foresight in extending the funding we needed at a time when worldwide environmental issues were attracting little attention in Japan.

We became interested in CFCs and other halocarbons long before they became the focus of environmental concern, since their molecules contain numerous carbon and halogen atoms. These molecules' reactivity to radioactivity and the regularity of their reactions under analytical conditions can be studied while their carbon and halogen atoms are being systematically rearranged.

The beginning of our concern with the environmental hazards posed by CFCs can be traced back to November 1973, when Professor F. S. Rowland of the University of California, visiting Japan to attend a Japan-U.S. seminar on radiochemistry held at Oiso in Kanagawa Prefecture, told me he was studying the possibility that CFCs were destroying the ozone in the stratosphere. His publication of this hypothesis in the scientific journal *Nature* the following year caused a considerable stir.

The CFCs used in aerosol spray cans and as coolants (CFC 11 and CFC 12) are extremely difficult to break down. They accumulate in the atmosphere and rise to the stratosphere, where they are finally broken down by ultraviolet radiation. In the process, they generate chlorine atoms that trigger a chain re-

action that destroys ozone molecules. Rowland forecast that eventually the action of CFCs would reduce the ozone layer by almost 10 percent. The implications are serious, because the less ozone there is, the more harmful ultraviolet radiation will reach the earth, resulting in a higher incidence of skin cancer and other ill effects.

Large-scale observation and experiments were immediately undertaken in the United States, and the use of CFCs in spray cans was banned there as early as 1978. In Japan, however, there was still very little interest in the issue. In 1975 I published articles in several magazines warning of CFCs' destructive effect on ozone, and in the spring of 1976 I presented a paper on the subject at the national meeting of the Chemical Society of Japan, but there was little reaction.

In the spring of 1978, when my colleague Yoshihiro Makide (now a professor at the University of Tokyo Radioisotope Center) returned from the United States, where he had been studying halocarbons under Rowland, we decided to apply for a Toyota Foundation research grant to study halocarbons in the atmosphere. Fortunately, our application was accepted. The generous funding we received in fiscal 1978 and again in fiscal 1979 enabled us to build a device for the detailed analysis of minute traces of halocarbons and methane in the atmosphere and to launch an ongoing study of their distribution over broad areas, their progression through the atmosphere to the stratosphere, and the changes they undergo in the process. Working with Professor Tomizo Ito of the Institute of Space and Aeronautical Science, we are analyzing the stratosphere, and with the help of members of the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition at Showa Station we are analyzing the composition of the atmosphere over the Southern Hemisphere.

Our research has been supported by such international observation projects as the Middle Atmosphere Program and the World Climate Research Program, as well as environmental studies and priority-area research programs funded by the Japanese government. But we owe our early start to Foundation grants. The Foundation also made it possible for me to go to New York in 1981 to present some of our findings at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society.

Rowland's hypothesis has been validated by observation and experimentation. In 1985 extreme deterioration of the ozone layer over Antarctica was detected—the so-called ozone hole—and it has since

become clear that the rest of the world's ozone is being progressively depleted, as well. In the spring of this year it was agreed at an international conference in Helsinki to eliminate all CFCs harmful to ozone by the end of the century. This agreement went a step further than the Montreal Protocol of 1987, whose signatories agreed only to halve the use of CFCs by the end of the century.

Any attempt to protect the ozone layer requires an accurate grasp of the distribution and movements of the trace gases in the atmosphere. The reliability of the data we have gathered in our more than ten years of observation is internationally recognized. We intend to further refine our analytical methods so that we can observe trace gases that have not yet been measured, including those used as CFC substitutes. (*Takeshi Tominaga, Professor, Faculty of Science, University of Tokyo*)

Exhibition and Symposium On Kite Aerial Photography

While conducting research on the project "Development of an Aerial Photography Method Using Kites at Altitudes of About One Thousand Meters and Its Application in the Study of Snow," awarded a Toyota Foundation grant in fiscal 1987, I was invited to attend an international conference in Labruguière, France, in July 1988 commemorating the centennial of kite photography. A museum dedicated to Arthur Batut, who originated this form of aerial photography, was also opened there while the conference was underway.

While I was at the conference Michel Dusariez, president of the Kite Aerial Photography Worldwide Association (KAPWA), asked me if it would be feasible to hold the next international meeting in Japan. I accepted on behalf of the Japan Kite Photography Association and began preparations as soon as I returned to Japan, scheduling the event for February this year.

This year's program was divided into three parts: an exhibition of kite aerial photographs, a symposium, and a field demonstration of kite photography.

The exhibition, held February 8–14, displayed about a hundred photographs, including fifty or so by Japanese researchers. Among them were photos of snow in Asahikawa, Hokkaido, and others showing how Nagaoka City, Niigata Prefecture, was photographed from an altitude of 737 meters, made

in the course of my Foundation-supported research project. There were also photos of Tohoku University's survey of the Abukuma River sandbars in northern Japan; Waseda University's survey of the ruins of Sigiriya in Sri Lanka; the Paleological Association of Japan's Akoris dig and the Middle Eastern Culture Center's survey of Islamic ruins at al-Tur, both in Egypt; and a number of photographs by members of the Japan Kite Photography Association. With KAPWA's cooperation, we were also able to include around thirty kite photographs from Europe and North America. Serge Nègre, director of the Arthur Batut Museum, arranged for the inclusion of about twenty kite photographs made a hundred years ago.

Because the exhibition was held in the Nomura Building, a high-rise office building in Nishi-Shinjuku, one of Tokyo's busiest subcenters, it attracted many businesspeople working in the area. The press was also interested. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, Japan's biggest daily newspaper, ran an article on kite photography in its science column, and NHK, Japan's public network, covered the exhibition on TV news programs. Perhaps thanks in part to generous press coverage, the exhibition drew large numbers of viewers.

About sixty people attended the Kite Aerial Photography International Symposium, held on February 11 at the Konica Plaza, also in Nishi-Shinjuku. I opened the three-hour program, after which Yoshinori Yamaoka, program officer of the Toyota Foundation's Research Grant Division, briefly addressed the gathering.

The first lecturer, KAPWA President Dusariez, spoke for about thirty minutes on the present state of kite photography, illustrating his talk with slides of kite photography activities around the world. Arthur Batut Museum Director Nègre then discussed the history of kite photography, explaining Batut's work with the help of slides and models of old equipment.

Toshio Koike, an associate professor at the Technological University of Nagaoka, and Atsushi Rikimaru, a specialist in remote sensing in Hosei University's Faculty of Engineering, presented a report on the kite photography research project supported by the Toyota Foundation, using slides to illustrate their explanation of the use of kite photography and computerized data analysis to study snow.

After a short break, the symposium resumed with a report by Masayo Kubota, a graduate student at Hosei University, and Katsuhiko Yashiro, a graduate student at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, on

their use of kite photography to survey gardens, buildings, and settlements in China. The final speaker was Shigeo Wakita, a curator at the Ancient Orient Museum, who discussed the application of kite photography at the Tell Mastuma dig in Syria.

Kite photography is being used in Europe, North America, and Japan. France and Japan are most active in scientific applications, with Japan probably slightly in the lead. One promising area for further development is archaeology, since aerial photography is now an indispensable part of archaeological surveys. Kite photography has proved to be especially well suited to surveying desert sites.

There is still a great deal Japanese enthusiasts can learn from developments overseas, and further international exchange can play an important part in improving kite photography in Japan. The existence of the international umbrella organization KAPWA is especially important. About twenty countries are now participating in its activities, and all are making interesting and effective use of kite photography. Kite photography has a bright future in scientific and other fields, and the Japan Kite Photography Association will continue to help advance its applications in every way possible.

The first international symposium on kite photography to be held in Japan was a great success, thanks to the cooperation and support of the Toyota Foundation and Konica Corporation and the efforts of the many individuals who helped make it possible. (*Katsutaka Murooka, President, Japan Kite Photography Association*)

Research on Vietnamese History Conducted in Japan

The idea of making a study of Vietnamese history first occurred to me more than ten years ago, crystallizing gradually from many motivations. First, like everyone of my generation, I was strongly affected by the Vietnam War, a dehumanizing phenomenon that dragged on for twenty years. As the war escalated and world protest against it increased, my childish sympathy with the Vietnamese people's suffering and admiration for their fighting spirit and endurance turned to serious interest.

Second, I became fed up with being a lecturer on "general" Southeast Asian history. Many Thai universities include the history of Southeast Asia in their curriculums. Unfortunately, Southeast Asian history is taught in a wholesale manner: it is always

a general history of Southeast Asia, no matter what the course is named. It is also true that in this wholesale history, ideas imported wholesale from Western scholars are taught. Of course there are people who wish to improve the way of teaching Southeast Asian history, but this is hard to do in Thailand because of limited human and material resources. Human resources are not scarce: there are a number of well-trained Western-educated scholars specializing in Southeast Asian history who are still very active. But aside from case studies of Thailand, so far they have conducted no research in depth after writing their dissertations. We do lack materials, however. Research by Thai scholars is also inhibited by our inadequate knowledge of other Southeast Asian languages.

Finally, the development of a Western orientation in Thailand has insidiously caused us to look constantly to the West, so that we know a great deal about things far away but little about our neighbors. A Western orientation has become deeply rooted in our country because of our need for transfers of advanced knowledge and technology.

Relations with our Indochinese neighbors have been strained and confused because, as a small, Western-oriented country, Thailand has followed the lead of Western powers, and hence has taken their part in conflicts. Fortunately, conditions in Indochina are much calmer than before, and there is hope that the long-stalemated situation in Cambodia will soon be peacefully resolved. It is time, I think, finally to begin true and deep study of our neighbors, something that has never been undertaken in modern Thailand.

In 1986 I had the opportunity to discuss my wish to undertake a study of Vietnamese history with the Toyota Foundation, which has been promoting Southeast Asian studies by Southeast Asian scholars. In principle, the Foundation supports research by scholars in their own countries. Because there is almost no tradition of Vietnamese studies in Thailand, however, in fiscal 1986 the Foundation awarded me a grant for the first year of a three-year project, "Preliminary Study on the Social and Economic History of Vietnam During the Nguyen Period, 1802-1883." This and further grants in fiscal 1987 and 1988 have allowed me to conduct research in Japan, mainly at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Kyoto University, where numerous documents on Vietnamese history are available.

During the first year of my project I studied Vietnamese at the Osaka University of Foreign Studies,

after which I began research at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. I have now been working there under the supervision of Associate Professor Yumio Sakurai for a year and a half.

The center's library contains materials in Burmese, Chinese, Indonesian, Korean, Malay, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese, as well as in Japanese and in Western languages. The Vietnamese materials include more than two thousand books, as well as journals, newspapers, maps, and microfiche materials. These are useful for the study of history, social sciences, language, and literature. Further acquisitions promise to make this library one of the best in the world for Vietnamese studies.

The center's academic activities include lectures, meetings, and seminars organized for students and scholars. I have participated in many of these. One activity that has impressed me greatly is a group studying historical texts in classical Chinese that meets monthly. The members—professors and researchers at the center, Kyoto University students, and outside scholars and researchers—work together harmoniously despite the wide age spread.

Another advantage of working at the center is the opportunity to meet many Japanese scholars in various fields, including Vietnamese studies. I have also had the chance to associate with the many eminent scholars from other countries who conduct research at the center. I have become acquainted with some Vietnamese scholars, who are so similar to Thais in appearance, use of language, gestures, and general attitudes that I feel quite at home with them.

My preliminary study of Vietnamese history during the Nguyen period has yielded some pleasant surprises. First, I did not expect to find that Vietnamese scholars had continued to turn out a considerable body of academic work despite many years of war and, later, the limited resources of the socialist regime. Another surprise came during the second year of my project, when I was able to read historical works in Vietnamese. The body of knowledge revealed by these works was most impressive and made me realize that Vietnam has a long, continuous tradition of Chinese-influenced scholarship.

While the modern Vietnamese scholastic spirit benefits from the legacy of past scholarship, however, ideologically the modern spirit differs from the traditional spirit, having undergone changes during two periods: those of French colonialism and Vietnamese socialism.

Everyone would agree, I think, that Vietnamese scholars have had more opportunity to think crea-

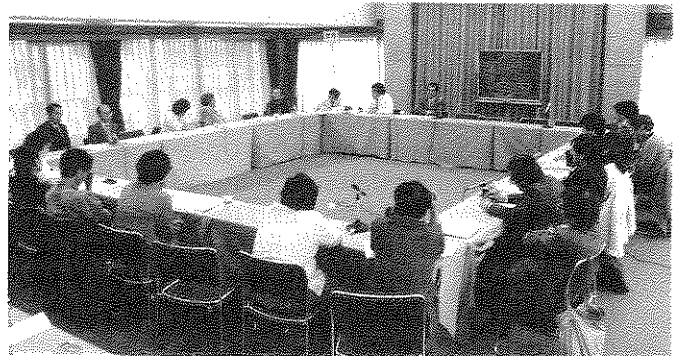
tively and to express their thoughts in full accordance with the modern spirit after 1975 than before. During the long war for independence, first against France and then against the United States, the devastation of the country afforded little chance for progress in any fields of scholarship except those that served the immediate national purpose. Only since 1975, and the triumph of Vietnamese socialism, has the modern spirit of Vietnamese scholarship truly emerged, a spirit marked by a Chinese-oriented sense of historical refinement, traditional Vietnamese nationalistic fervor, and socialist ideology. The first two of these traits lay the groundwork of this spirit, while the last crowns it.

To me this modern spirit is of great interest, for it is fundamentally bound up with Vietnamese history and culture and the characteristics of the Vietnamese people as a nation. In the future, I hope, we will see this spirit become more universal and humanistic in scope. Building on a solid tradition of scholarly achievement, the next phase of Vietnamese scholarship promises to be even more interesting and valuable.

I hope that my preliminary study of Vietnamese history will help promote serious research by Thai scholars on neighboring countries based not on Western views but on our own learning. Only in this way can we learn about our neighbors and their thinking as they really are rather than as they appear when seen through the prism of our own nationalistic prejudices. And only by means of such an endeavor can we build lasting relationships with our neighbors that focus on the common interest and well-being of the people of Southeast Asia. It is time for Southeast Asians to concentrate on learning about one another. (*Pornpen Hantrakool, Research Fellow, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University; Assistant Professor, Silpakorn University*)

The Japan-Southeast Asia Forum

Geographically, Japan and Southeast Asia are the closest of neighbors. Academically and intellectually, though, they are oceans apart. Until recently, Japanese academic interest in Southeast Asia was low; conversely, Southeast Asian research on Japan was meager. In the last few years, however, the number of scholars going to Japan to conduct research, to study, or to lecture and participate in seminars has increased dramatically. Many are involved in the sciences, but a growing number are in-



The second Japan-Southeast Asia Forum symposium, April 1989

involved in the social sciences and humanities. The number of Japanese scholars doing work on Southeast Asia has also risen.

Despite the increasing number of Southeast Asian scholars going to Japan, there was no mechanism that would enable them and Japanese scholars interested in Southeast Asia to meet regularly to exchange research results and that would provide a forum for the discussion of issues of mutual interest to Japan and Southeast Asia. It was to fill this gap that the Japan-Southeast Asia Forum was founded. Inaugurated in August 1988 as an informal clearinghouse to enable concerned Southeast Asian and Japanese scholars to discuss research interests and intellectual concerns pertinent to the region, the forum has been holding monthly discussion meetings since that time.

The forum has three main aims: to act as a venue for the exchange of ongoing research and intellectual work of mutual interest concerning Southeast Asia and Japan; to deepen the common understanding of mechanisms and processes related to Southeast Asia and Japan in line with global development; and to provide opportunities for intellectual networking and interaction with a regional orientation, specifically that of Southeast Asia and Japan.

The need to maintain continuity and to involve more scholars and researchers resulted in the forum's being placed on a more formal footing. Support by Japanese organizations was sought, and was very graciously granted. The fourth regular meeting, held on January 19 this year at the International House of Japan, was supported by the Toyota Foundation and the International House of Japan. On March 19 and April 10 the forum held its first two symposiums, also at the International House of Japan, and again jointly sponsored by the Foundation and the International House of Japan. Both institutions support the monthly meetings of the forum, and grants from the

Toyota Foundation also provide for the publication of a newsletter.

At present the forum meets once a month at the International House of Japan, with a scholar or resource person presenting a short paper for discussion. A quarterly newsletter is planned, to facilitate exchange of research findings and topics and to assist in networking with other scholars in Japan and Southeast Asia. The first issue will contain a report on the March and April symposiums. The forum also plans to hold two symposiums a year, one in the spring and one in the autumn.

The forum is currently chaired by George Aseniero of the Philippines, program officer of the United Nations University in Tokyo. The members include scholars and researchers from Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand and several Japanese scholars specializing in Asian studies. (*Ricardo T. José, Foreign Research Student in Oriental History, Division of Humanities, Graduate School, University of Tokyo; Graduate Student, Department of History, University of the Philippines*)

Interview with Surichai Wun'Gaeo

Dr. Surichai Wun'Gaeo, an associate professor at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, is one of the founding members of the Japan-Southeast Asia Forum and was its first chairman. He was interviewed about the forum in August this year, when he was in Japan to attend an international conference in Yokohama. Highlights of his remarks follow.

I was privileged to live and study in Japan for about seven years, from 1971 to 1978. During that period I had many meaningful encounters in both my daily and my intellectual life. I met not only academics but also many intellectuals who were not academics.

When I came to Japan again in May 1988 as a visiting professor at Hosei University, the number of Southeast Asian scholars in Japan was double or triple what it had been when I was here earlier. But most of these scholars have little opportunity to meet one another, and their relationships with Japanese academic circles are fragmented, formal, and superficial.

The first aim of the Japan-Southeast Asia Forum is to strengthen two-way interaction and multilateral relationships among Asians. Second, we need a means of independent intellectual networking, as opposed to talking to one another in terms of our self-

centered interests. We cannot share many problems if we confine ourselves to that level of communication. And as intellectuals we have to share problems. The forum is an independent institution that allows independent intellectual exchange.

Many of the people who write about Southeast Asia do not live there. Since we Southeast Asian researchers seldom know one another, we do not quote one another but people outside the region. We should share more intellectual projects, teaching materials, and theories and concepts that spring from Asian soil. But this hope cannot be realized instantly, like making instant coffee. It must be a process, and I hope that the forum will be part of this process.

We hear a lot of talk about the twenty-first century and the Asia-Pacific era. I think there were over ten international conferences on this theme during my year teaching at Hosei University, which ended in May this year. Such discussions are good, I am sure. But the language tends to be economic, and the thinking dominated by considerations of profits and markets. This is not enough to bring about a true understanding of Asia.

Those of us in the forum share a common concern. We are not totally opposed to profit-making enterprises. We are not totally opposed to government initiatives, because official development assistance is necessary. But we are very concerned that only a rosy picture is being painted. We have to be realistic and recognize that transnational interests have both a positive and a negative impact on our peoples.

We also have to realize that government initiatives alone are not enough. International involvement by citizens and the nongovernmental sector also needs to be strengthened. International networking must be conducted not in the context of a profit orientation alone but also in the nonprofit and intellectual spheres. It took forum members a very short time to realize that we shared this hope. It is my impression that we all wish for an independent way of seeing things rather than a narrowly nationalistic and profit-oriented way of seeing things.

Two Symposiums on Labor Friction Between Japanese and Other Asians

The first half of 1989 saw two symposiums in Tokyo on problems having to do with interaction between Japanese and other Asians in the workplace. Both centered on studies supported by Toyota Foundation research grants.

Research Grant Division Symposium

The first was the twenty-sixth Research Grant Division Symposium, on the theme "Japan and Other Asian Countries in the Workplace," held on April 21 at the International House of Japan. The participants included a Filipino researcher and a Thai researcher who had taken part in the joint international studies that were the focus of the symposium. About a hundred people attended the daylong gathering.

The morning session was chaired by Ichiro Sato, director of the Institute for International Economic Studies, who has management experience in Thailand. The session focused on "Research on Japanese Involvement in Southeast Asian Development," a joint international project awarded a research grant in fiscal 1986. Reports were delivered by Shoichi Yamashita (the project's director) and Jozen Takeuchi, both professors at Hiroshima University, and Prayoon Shiowatana, an associate professor at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

The reports were based on a joint international study of the degree to which the management methods of Japanese companies in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand are being accepted by indigenous workers. Yamashita reviewed the project as a whole, Takeuchi presented the results of questionnaire surveys, and Prayoon concluded with a report on recent trends and problems in technical transfers in Thailand.

Lim Hua-sing, a visiting professor at Nagoya University who has conducted his own study of Japanese companies in Singapore, commented on the importance, when making comparative studies, of taking into account the distinctive political circumstances of the countries concerned. Tetsuo Abo, a University of Tokyo professor who received research grants in fiscal 1985 and 1987 for "A Joint Japan-U.S. Study on Problems Associated with Local Production by Japanese Manufacturers in the United States," discussed the importance of constructing a theoretical framework for organizing terminology and concepts, presenting the framework created by his team as an example. The session ended with a brief question-and-answer period and concluding remarks by Sato.

The afternoon session, chaired by the cultural anthropologist Takao Sofue, a professor at the University of the Air, centered on "Cultural Friction and Conflict in Work Groups: Research on the Crews of Flag-of-Convenience Ships," a project awarded research grants in fiscal 1984 and 1985. Various aspects of the research were discussed by Nobuo Ohashi, a professor at Nagano Prefectural Junior College; Ryu-

taro Otsuka, an associate professor at the University of Tokyo; and Captain Regino Dodds Giagonia, a professor at the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy.

The shipboard environment is extremely confined, and cultural friction arises easily among crew members of different nationalities forced to live and work together in such close quarters. In this joint international project Filipino, Indonesian, South Korean, and Taiwanese crew members were surveyed on the problems they faced working on Japanese flag-of-convenience ships. Ohashi presented an overview of the project, after which Otsuka reported on a questionnaire survey of Japanese captains, noting the importance of their role in settling disputes among crew members. This was followed by a report, illustrated with slides, on Ohashi's participant observation aboard a Japanese flag-of-convenience ship. Finally, Giagonia presented the results of a questionnaire survey of Filipino crew members of Japanese flag-of-convenience ships.

Professor Tadashi Hanami of Sophia University, an expert on labor law, commented on the legal issues involved in the internationalization of labor. Tsunehiko Niiyama, a reporter for the *Mainichi Shimbun* newspaper who has covered foreign workers employed by Japanese companies, shared many firsthand observations and commented on the circumstances in which problems arise.

Though lack of time curtailed questions and debate on the issues raised in the symposium, the reports and comments gave those attending a more closely focused and systematic understanding of the problems of cultural friction in workplaces in various Asian countries. The audience was also made aware of the need to understand the history of Japan's relations with other Asian peoples when trying to work with them.

Symposium on foreign workers in Japan

On June 5 the Institute of Statistical Research sponsored a symposium on the theme "Foreign Labor: Getting Along with Tomorrow's Neighbors" at the Shigaku Kaikan in conjunction with the publication in book form of the results of "The Economic and Social Impact of the Influx of Foreign Labor into Japan," a project awarded a research grant in fiscal 1987 and carried out by the Committee for the Survey of Foreign Workers in Japan under Tadashi Hanami's direction.

The influx of foreign workers into Japan from other Asian countries is the obverse of the growing

presence of Japanese companies in those countries, while mixed crews of Japanese flag-of-convenience ships combine elements of both phenomena. Thus this symposium supplemented the Research Grant Division Symposium.

The first part of the symposium, addressing the theme "The Outlook for Foreign Labor," was devoted to a report by Yasuo Kuwabara, a professor at Dokkyo University and secretary of the committee, on the issue of foreign workers in Japan from the perspective of shifts in the international labor force. The second part was devoted to a panel discussion by Kuwabara and six others, moderated by Hanami. (*Yoshinori Yamaoka, Program Officer, Research Grant Division*)

Recent Publications Based on Foundation-Supported Research

Shashin Minzokushi: Suemura, 1935-1985 (Photomonograph *Suye Mura, 1935-1985*). Morimitsu Ushijima, ed. Tokyo: Nihon Keizai Hyoronsha, 1988. 158 pp. ISBN 4-8188-0258-1. In Japanese.

Suye Mura, a village in Kumamoto Prefecture on the island of Kyushu, is well known through John F. Embree's classic 1939 study of Japanese rural society,

Photomonograph 写真民族誌 ● 牛島盛光 Morimitsu Ushijima
須恵村、1935~1985
 SUYE MURA, 1935~1985



The slipcase of Photomonograph Suye Mura, 1935-1985

Suye Mura, A Japanese Village, based on his fieldwork there in 1935. Morimitsu Ushijima, who was a middle school student when Embree was conducting his research and attended lectures by the young cultural anthropologist, has closely followed the changes in this community since 1951.

In the present book Ushijima tracks the transforma-

tion of the lifestyle and occupations of the people of *Suye Mura* over fifty years through photographs: some by Embree (now the property of Cornell University) and more than two hundred from Ushijima's own collection.

Ushijima's explanatory text and concise photo captions bring to life again both the history of research on *Suye Mura* and the history of the village itself. Foundation grants supported supplementary research and helped defray editing costs.

AZAO: Acta Zoologica Asiae Orientalis. Vol. 1. Yayuk Rahayuningsih Suhardjono and Ryozo Yoshii, eds. Jakarta: University of Indonesia Press, 1989. 127 pp. In English.

This monograph presents the results of research on the distribution of soil insects, conducted by Yayuk Rahayuningsih Suhardjono of the Bogor Zoological Museum and others under the direction of Ryozo Yoshii, professor emeritus of Kyoto University. Foundation grants supported the research, while the Toyota-Astra Foundation, chartered in Indonesia, supported publication of the results.

Umwelt und Wirtschaft der Aynu: Bemerkungen zur Ökologie einer Wildaeutergesellschaft. Hans Dieter Ölschleger. Bonn: Dietrich Reimer Verlag, 1989. 293 pp. ISBN 3-496-00980-2. In German.

This book, the author's doctoral dissertation, presents the findings of his research on the Aynu of northern Japan, conducted in conjunction with the Foundation-supported research project "A Survey of Aynu Collections in European Museums," directed by Josef Kreiner (discussed in *Occasional Report 8*, November 1988). Publication was supported by a grant from the Japan Foundation.

Tai no Ji'in Hekiga to Sekizo Kenchiku (Thai Art History: Mural Paintings and Stone Architecture). Yoshiaki Ishizawa, ed. Tokyo: Mekong Publishing Co., 1989. 229 pp. In Japanese.

This book contains the proceedings of the public symposium "Thai Art History: Mural Paintings and Stone Architecture," held in Tokyo in September 1987 under the joint sponsorship of the Foundation and the International House of Japan to commemorate the centennial of Japanese-Thai relations. Yoshiaki Ishizawa, professor of Southeast Asian history at Sophia University and director of the university's Institute of Asian Cultures, coordinated the symposium.

The book opens with an overview of Thai art his-

tory by H. S. H. Prince Subhadradis Diskul, former rector of Silpakorn University. The main text is divided into two parts, the first concentrating on mural paintings and the second on stone architecture.

The first part contains "Mural Paintings in Thailand," by Sone Simatrang, an assistant professor in the Faculty of Decorative Arts, Silpakorn University, followed by "Burmese Mural Paintings and Thai Mural Paintings: A Comparison," by Toru Ohno, professor of Burmese language and culture at Osaka University of Foreign Studies. The second part includes "History of Thai Architecture: Stone Architecture as the Key Subject," by Anuvit Charernsupkul, an associate professor in the Department of Architecture, Silpakorn University, and "Khmer Stone Architecture and Thai Stone Architecture: A Comparison," by Yoshiaki Ishizawa.

The papers by the two Thai experts are based on years of field study supported by Foundation grants. At the symposium itself the many slides and diagrams made by Sone and Anuvit added greatly to the impact of their reports. Something of their effect can be gathered from the color photographs at the beginning of the volume and the monochrome photographs and figures illustrating the text.

This introduction to Thai art, containing as it does the most up-to-date research findings, should appeal to a wide readership in Japan.

Agricultural Development in Japan: The Land Improvement District in Concept and Practice. G. Irving Latz III. Chicago: Geography Research Paper 225, University of Chicago, 1989. 140 pp. ISBN 0-89065-129-9. In English.

This volume, based on the author's doctoral dissertation, examines postwar Japanese land improvement policies through an analysis of the institutional framework established after World War II for developing and managing agricultural resources throughout Japan and the way in which it was implemented.

The first part of the volume defines and explains the terminology of Japanese agricultural administration and outlines the social and economic context within which the government's land improvement policies were conceived and administered. The second part presents a detailed case study of a land improvement project to upgrade the irrigation system of Minumadai, Saitama Prefecture.

A Foundation grant in fiscal 1980 enabled the author, then a Ph.D. candidate, to visit land improvement districts throughout Japan conducting

fieldwork for his doctoral dissertation and to carry out research for the compilation of an illustrated comparative glossary of Japanese and American agricultural-administration terms. *Agricultural Development in Japan* represents the culmination of that research.

Photomonograph Suye Mura, 1935-1985, also reviewed in this issue, presents a graphic account of the changes that have taken place in postwar rural Japan. *Agricultural Development in Japan* elucidates the policies underlying those changes. The two books together should contribute a great deal to international understanding of the postwar transformation and present condition of Japanese agriculture.

E-sarn Mural Paintings. Pairote Samosorn. Khon Kaen: E-sarn Cultural Center, Khon Kaen University, 1989. 308 pp. ISBN 974-8359-01-8. In Thai and English.

This book, a record of mural paintings in the temples of northeastern Thailand, presents the results of the first systematic research on such artworks. The author, a lecturer at Khon Kaen University, surveyed and photographed mural paintings from 1981 through 1985 with the help of Foundation grants.

In addition to many photographs and reconstructions of the colorful murals themselves, the text discusses E-sarn society and culture, E-sarn mural paintings, the themes of the murals, the murals' aesthetic value, and what the murals reveal about the common people's life cycle. The author's analysis of E-sarn mural paintings elucidates the strong impact of Buddhism on northeastern Thai folk culture and identifies the influence of other regions of Thailand, such as Lan Chang and Bangkok, as well as Laotian cultural elements.



E-sarn Mural Paintings

Foundation Grants for Fiscal 1989

At its fifty-third meeting, held on September 20 this year, the Toyota Foundation's Board of Directors approved one hundred ninety grants totaling ¥429.35 million for fiscal 1989. Following is a breakdown of the grants by program.

Research Grant Program: For the sixth year, grants under this program were approved for research projects addressing the basic theme "In Search of a New Society." Since fiscal 1988 priority has been given to projects that focus on two subthemes: coping with technologically advanced society and coping with multicultural society. Sixty-two grants, totaling ¥201 million, were approved: twenty-six for Category I (individual incentive) research, twenty-two for Category II (trial and preliminary) research, and fourteen for Category III (comprehensive) research. Only 8 percent of the seven hundred seventy-one applications were approved, an indication of the intense competition for research grants.

Grant Program for Citizen Activities: This program awards grants for the documentation of citizen activities and for the promotion of exchange among groups engaged in such activities. Ten grants, totaling ¥17.8 million, were approved: five grants (out of thirty-two applications) for the compilation of reports, three grants (out of seven applications) for the publication of reports, and two grants for activities promoting exchange.

International Grant Program: This program awards grants for research projects that are aimed at preserving and encouraging the indigenous cultures of Southeast Asia and are conducted by indigenous researchers. Ninety-six grants, totaling ¥120.6 million, were approved, including twenty-four incentive grants for young researchers in Indonesia (¥6.49 million).

"Know Our Neighbors" Programs: The "Know Our Neighbors" Programs award grants for the translation and publication of Southeast Asian works in Japanese, of Japanese works in Southeast Asian languages, and of Southeast Asian works in other Southeast Asian languages, as well as for other projects related to intercultural exchange through the translation and publication of written works. Sixteen grants, totaling ¥56.59 million, were approved: six for the Program in Japan, four for the Program in Southeast Asia, and six for the Program Among Southeast Asian Countries.

Southeast Asian Studies Translation-Publication Program: This program, initiated in fiscal 1987, supports the translation and publication in English of contemporary Japanese research on Southeast Asia. This year one grant of ¥13.96 million was approved.

Other grant-making activities: A total of ¥19.4 million was approved for five grants in the Foundation Initiative Grant Program, inaugurated in fiscal 1989.

About the Foundation

The Toyota Foundation, a private nonprofit, grant-making organization dedicated to the goals of realizing greater human fulfillment and contributing to the development of a human-oriented society, was endowed in October 1974 by the Toyota Motor Corporation.

The Foundation's total endowment is approximately ¥11.4 billion (roughly \$90 million). Chartered by the Prime Minister's Office, the Foundation relies solely on its endowment income. The Foundation, governed by its Board of Directors, is wholly independent of the corporate policies of the subscribing corporation or of any other institution.

Through its Research Grant Division and its International Division, the Foundation provides grants for research and projects related to the human and natural environments, social welfare, education and culture, and other fields. The Research Grant Division is responsible for projects that are conducted by Japanese nationals and by non-Japanese who can complete the Japanese-language grant application form. Research grants give priority to projects that focus on coping with technologically advanced or multicultural society.

The International Division's main activity is the administration of the International Grant Program and such other programs as the "Know Our Neighbors" Programs. The International Grant Program is directed mainly toward the developing countries and supports projects that best meet the needs of their present-day society. At present this program concentrates on projects aimed at preserving and encouraging the indigenous cultures of Southeast Asia and conducted by indigenous researchers. The "Know Our Neighbors" Programs support the translation and publication of Southeast Asian works in Japanese and vice versa, and of Southeast Asian works in other Southeast Asian languages.

The Toyota Foundation welcomes response from readers of the *Occasional Report*. Comments and questions should be addressed to the International Division, The Toyota Foundation, Shinjuku Mitsui Building 37F, 2-1-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163, Japan. The articles in the *Occasional Report* reflect the authors' opinions and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Foundation.

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