
Announcement of the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Society for Cultural Interaction in East Asia

As of 2014, Japan boasts eighteen World Heritage Sites. In June, 2013, Mt. Fuji was registered not as a natural World Heritage Site, but as a cultural heritage site out of the three possible categories of culture, nature, and mixed heritages. It has been given the status of “sacred place and source of artistic inspiration.” It is a “heritage asset” that comprises 25 points including the summit, sacred historical sites, and Fuji Five Lakes.

The temple dedicated to Yu the Great (now Fukuzawa Shrine) and the related Bunmei monument (Bunmei is an alternate name for Yu the Great), were built in 1726 in the Ashigara region of Kanagawa Prefecture, which is located at the foot of Mt. Fuji. The region is characterized by a series of cultural events devoted to Yu the Great, including the Bunmei Festival. Of course, formation of the Yu culture is thought to have been greatly influenced by a “sacred and artistic” Mt. Fuji. East Asian culture interacted with, penetrated, collided, transformed, and merged with it. As it spread in all directions, trial and error was repeated amidst the continuing cultural interaction, thereby creating an original historical and cultural landscape. Research on the historic sites related to Yu and modern society are a good example of what can be contributed to the new academic field of East Asian cultural interaction studies. Yu itself can be understood as a symbol of Sinographic languages, an intellectual construct that is common to all East Asia. A citizen’s research group in the Ashigara region has been at the heart of continuing fieldwork on Yu culture. They have discovered the existence of over 100 related historical sites from Hokkaido to Kyushu and Okinawa since 2007.

Human and material interaction throughout history is behind the distribution of Yu culture in each of these regions. This interaction can be interpreted and understood dynamically. Through elucidation using an integrated and multiple perspective and diverse methodologies in many fields, such as anthropology and sociology, the nature of this cultural interaction is made more real and familiar. Not only does such research productively facilitate East Asian cultural interaction studies, but cooperative research conducted regionally by local people is also of benefit. We expect such research activities to continue by drawing on the directionality of scholarship and by inquiry into social contributions.

The reason the site chosen for the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Society for Cultural Interaction in East Asia was Kaiseimachi, Kanagawa Prefecture, is that the Great Yu is enshrined there within view of Mt. Fuji. We wish to associate future research with presentations by the Society’s scholars with the backdrop of the double symbols of Mt. Fuji and Yu the Great. Further, we hope that this will be a mutually-enhancing opportunity for Society members, specialists, private sector researchers, foreign participants, and Japanese citizens to interact in many ways, thus re-initiating a great journey of intellectual pursuit.

We are looking forward to your participation, observations, and instruction.

Theme this Year

Responsibility for a Cooperative “East Asian Era”: A Cultural Interaction Approach

Panel Themes

1. A New Cultural History in East Asia: Texts and Personalities
2. Modern Society and Folk Beliefs in East Asia
3. Regional Cultural Interaction and Research on Yu the Great
4. Various Issues in Research on East Asian Intellectual History from the Perspective of

Cultural Interaction Studies

5. Construct of Modern Academic Systems in East Asia
6. Formation and Development of a Modern Historical View in East Asia
7. Research on Modern Intellectual History and New Cultural History in East Asia
8. Other Themes related to Cultural Interaction Studies in East Asia

Meeting Schedule

Arrival: May 8, 2015 (Friday)

Annual Meeting: May 9-10, 2015 (Saturday and Sunday)

Departure: May 11, 2015 (Monday)

Application Schedule and Announcement of Selections

The meeting will take the form of keynote addresses, individual panel sessions, individual presentations, and papers by PhD candidates. We encourage Society members to refer to the separate list of panel sessions to decide which one to join. Each panel will be allotted one hour and forty minutes, and will have one moderator and one to two commentators. Presenters may also serve as moderators or commentators. Please submit the application form and an abstract (not more than 400 characters) if you wish to participate.

Deadline for application submission is **January 13, 2015**. We will send out formal invitations at a later date.

Expenses

All participants who are not invited guests are responsible for their own roundtrip transportation and lodging expenses. Conference participation is ¥6,000 for full members and ¥3,000 for student members. Please pay in cash (Japanese yen) on site.

For applications for participation and presentation, contact:

The Organizing Committee for the 7th Annual Meeting of the Society for Cultural Interaction in East Asia (sciea2015@hotmail.com)

Head Organizer:

Wang Min, Vice-President

(Professor, Hōsei University Research Center for International Japanese Studies)

Auxiliary Organizers:

Zhang Qing, President (Professor in the Department of History, Fudan University)

Uchida Keiichi, Vice-President (Professor in the Faculty of Foreign Languages, Kansai University)

Sakuma Toshiharu (Chairman, Ashigara History Rediscovery Club)

Ōwaki Yoshio (Chairman, Chisuigami and Yu the Great Research Society)

Secretaries:

Tsuyuki Junichi (Former Mayor, Kaiseimachi, Kanagawa Prefecture)

Shen Guowei, Secretary General (Professor in the Faculty of Foreign Language Studies, Kansai University)