

Center for Research Development

The Center for Research Development was established in 2004 to help develop strategies for the Museum's core research projects and other research activities. Overseas visiting faculty are hosted by the Center.

Plan for 2009

Development of Research Strategies

Survey of trends in anthropological and ethnological research and publication of the results

As a core research institute of cultural anthropology and ethnology in Japan, the Center is responsible for collecting information on the latest research trends in Japan and abroad, and making the information available to the Museum staff and the general public.

Currently, the Center is carrying out a research project entitled "A Survey of the Trends in Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology Research, How Such Research can Meet the Needs of Academic and Non-academic Communities, and the Best Ways to Build Cooperative Relationships with Other Research Institutions." The Center now employs research assistants who are working on this project. The results of the project will be reported in "Report on the Activities of the Center for Research Development" to be issued at the end of every academic year.

Study of the Academic and Social Demands for Ethnological and Anthropological Research

The Center for Research Development accumulates information on the academic interest and demand for the Museum's core research, joint research, and inter-university research projects, in addition to the public interest shown at fieldwork sites, in order to investigate what types of ethnological and anthropological research should be considered.

Development of Research Strategies

The Center determines mid-term objectives and formulates research strategies based on analysis of the data coming from the above studies. The Center also explores research systems that might be suitable for the research programs and research fellow systems to facilitate it, and examines the development of methods for essential resources such as reference and archive materials

Planning of Academic Exchange Salon Meetings

In order to help create research strategies, academic exchange meetings have been hosted at Minpaku since 2007, aiming to foster greater understanding of research trends in academic fields outside anthropology and ethnology. Following a lecture from a guest speaker whose study area is relevant to anthropology and ethnology, the salon is opened for all those attending to exchange ideas. Four salons were organized in 2008 under the same theme, "Ethics."

1st: MORIOKA Masahiro (Professor, Osaka Prefecture University)	"Ethics of the Manipulation of Life"
2nd: NAKAMURA Shoji (Research Fellow, Ryukoku University)	"Development and Ethics"
3rd: KITO Shuichi (Professor, Tokyo University)	"Environmental Management/Design and Ethics: The Practical Border of Environmental Ethics"
4th: HASHIMOTO Tsutomu (Associate Professor, Hokkaido University)	"Economics and Ethics: Maps of Modern Ideology from the Perspective of Economic Ethics"

Four salons are planned in 2009 under the theme, "Reexamining Interdisciplinarity."

Planning, design and implementation of research projects

Promotion of Core Research Projects, and Support for the Operation and Planning Designs of National Joint Research Projects of the Institutes for the Humanities, and Other Large Research Projects

The Center will support the implementation of the Museum's core research projects, while giving advice on the redesign and operation of projects to help to enhance the efficiency of the projects.

Evaluation of research structure and research projects

Development and Use of Evaluation Systems, and Inspection/Evaluation of Ongoing Research Projects

Reference materials are prepared for mid-term and final evaluations of the drafts of the National Institutes for the Humanities' annual achievement reports and the progress of their mid-term goals/plans. The Center also seeks further improvement of its research systems and activities through self inspection, considering the comments of external evaluation committees, and evaluations based on the mid-term goals/plans of the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation. By summarizing annual reports and mid-term reports of ongoing core research and joint projects, the Center supervises their activities and provides support.

Research coordination and collaboration

Promotion of Research Collaboration with Universities and Other Research Institutes

In order to promote research collaboration with other research institutes, core research projects and research fellow systems are continuously examined to identify areas for improvement.

Projects for Junior Researchers

Starting in 2006, the Center has organized a yearly “Meeting for Junior Researchers Concerning Shared Uses of the National Museum of Ethnology”. Graduate students from national, public, and private universities around the country who are specializing in different academic areas are invited through public announcements to attend. Based on an idea generated at one of the meetings, a new experimental project, “Collaborative Research Projects by Junior Researchers” was started in 2008, and two projects were accepted through a public offering process.

Organizer	Research theme	Research period
ICHIKAWA Tetsu	Anthropological Research on Place, Space, and Landscape, Focusing on Human Migration	October 2008–September 2010
ISHIDA Shinichiro	Joint Research on the Effect that Restructuring of Alternative Dispute Resolution Systems Would Have on the Pluralistic Legal Systems of Asian and African Countries	October 2008–September 2010

Promotion of research collaboration with user communities such as the Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology

On February 27, 2008, the Museum entered into an agreement on research coordination with the Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology, the academic association with which we have the closest relationship within the user community. Through this collaboration, we are planning to build a database of anthropology references, and manage and preserve the Society’s video archives. In addition, having developed the infrastructure for practical anthropology research projects, the Committee of Practical Anthropology Research Projects was established. In February 2009, a practical anthropology workshop, “Suggestions from Anthropology on Thorough Evaluation Methods for Technical Collaboration” was held, and then in March, an open symposium, “Challenges in Anthropology: Past and Future” was organized (see pages 12 and 13).

As this year’s hosts, the Museum organized the 43rd Meeting of the Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology at International House, Osaka, on May 30–31. On May 29, prior to the meeting, a joint symposium organized by the Anthropological Associations Council, “On the Relentless Quest for Food” was held at the Museum’s lecture hall with the Museum’s cooperation.

Coordination with the Japan Consortium for Area Studies

The Japan Consortium for Area Studies is an entity of academic communities sharing the common theme of “area studies” and the Museum joined the Consortium as the 70th member institute in May 2006. On November 8, 2008, an annual meeting was held, co-hosted by the Museum, and an open symposium was offered on “Practical Use of Area Studies: Reports from the Field at Development, Disaster, and Medical Sites.”

Promotion of research coordination and collaboration with overseas research institutes

The Center is undertaking preparations for agreements with overseas research institutes in efforts to obtain research coordination and collaboration. On September 22, 2008, a new agreement was made with the Inner Mongolian University in China, and in May 2009, the Center made an agreement with Taipei University of the Arts.

Institute of Human Sciences (France)

December 8, 2004

Researcher Exchange Programs, joint research projects, and symposia

In 2008, the Museum’s faculty members gave a presentation at their symposium, “Cities and Environments: Culture, Cities, and Clusters” in France, and the report of the Japan–France International Symposium (2007) is currently in preparation for publication.

The National University of San Marcos (Peru)

July 14, 2005

Conducting joint studies in archaeology, and promoting academic exchange based on these studies.

In 2008, as part of the 50th Anniversary of the Japanese Expedition to the Andes, the international symposium, “Japanese Expedition to the Andes and the National University of San Marcos” was held at the University, co-hosted by San Marcos and the Museum, and then in November, a workshop related to the same anniversary event was organized at the Museum (see page 22).

Shung Ye Museum of Formosan Aborigines (Taiwan)

July 1, 2006

Collaboration includes conducting anthropological, linguistic, and historical studies of the current status of Formosan aboriginal peoples, alongside studies regarding reference materials about Formosan aborigines which are housed at the National Museum of Ethnology and other museums, and publishing reports and an academic journal.

In 2008, academic meetings, film showings, and fieldwork studies were organized, and the academic journal, *Taiwan Aboriginal Studies* 12 was published. This year, an international collaboration exhibition was organized (see page 39).

The National Folk Museum of Korea

July 11, 2007

Collaboration here included organizing scholar exchange programs, collaborative research projects, and academic meetings; coordinating museum exhibitions and educational activities; and exchanging academic information and publications.

In 2008, two publications based on research at the Museum and one publication identifying the Museum's collections were published in Korea. In February, in order to organize the academic exchange project, "The Centennial Anniversary of Ulsan Tal-ri," a three-party collaboration agreement was made that included the city of Ulsan-Gwangyeok.

Collection of research information and publication of research results

Collection of information on research activities and compilation of the 2008 annual research report

The Center collects, digitizes, and stores information about all of the research activities conducted at the Museum, including core, joint, and individual research projects as well as externally-funded research projects such as those conducted with JSPS Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research. The Center is also compiling the annual research report of the Museum for AY2008.

Supporting the publication of research results through the Research Dissemination Program

In efforts to open research results to the public more effectively for the good of society, we expanded the "Promotion of the Research Forum Program" established in 2002 into the "Research Dissemination Program" in 2003. Through this program, the Museum's joint research and individual research projects are made available to the public in various forms, such as symposia, research forums, and academic lectures. In 2008, two symposia and four research forums were held through the program. In addition, academic lectures are organized every year in Tokyo and Osaka, helping to disseminate research results throughout society (see page 21).