

---

# I Research Activities - Research Support Center

## [Overview]

In this final fiscal year (2009) of the Medium-term Plan (Phase I), a total of twenty-one collaborative research projects based mainly on collection materials were conducted, with an eye toward future exhibitions, under the conventional framework of basic research, scientific research, and specific research. Collaborative research projects for subsequent fiscal years were also planned and revised according to the results of a review of the collaborative research framework of the Medium-term Plan (Phase II) (e.g., the "specific research" component was eliminated in favor of development-based collaborative research).

Plans for new collaborative research projects, and the achievements of completed collaborative research projects, were presented and discussed at a meeting of the Collaborative Research Committee (including outside committee members), which was set up under the Executive Council so that it would widely reflect opinions from the academic world. Work on one open-application collaborative research project started in the previous fiscal year is continuing this fiscal year, and the public was invited to submit applications for new open-application collaborative research projects to be started the next fiscal year (2010). Collaborative researchers recruited by this public application procedure participated in one collaborative research project this fiscal year, and new collaborative researchers were similarly recruited to participate in three collaborative research projects planned for the next fiscal year. These activities enhance and strengthen the collaborative use of the National Museum of Japanese History (NMJH) as an inter-university research institute.

Arrangements were made to complete the implementation of international exchange projects in fulfillment of international exchange agreements as of this fiscal year. In accordance with this system, five international exchange research projects involving three countries and five research organizations, including two organizations that concluded an international exchange agreement with NMJH this year, were conducted. A total of four international research meetings were held, including those co-hosted by the Pusan National University Museum in South Korea. With regard to foreign researchers, the recruitment system was revised in light of considerations such as NMJH's ongoing basic research projects and prospective international exchange projects. Foreign researchers were recruited for both long-term and short-term appointments by a public application procedure.

To improve the research environment, budgets and work schedules were developed relating to the planned use of a second temporary warehouse, previously used for storage of Museum collections under the direction of the Museum Resource Center, as a second stack room for the library, which has been experiencing space limitations. Some library resources will be relocated to the second stack room at the beginning of the next fiscal year. Rules permitting after-hours use of the library, with some limitations, were also developed.

Hiroo AOYAMA  
Director, Research Support Center

---

# 1 Collaborative Research

## [Overview]

"Collaborative research" refers to collaborative research projects undertaken in cooperation with researchers from around Japan and overseas by NMJH in its capacity as an inter-university research institute. The research themes are chosen by considering contemporary research trends in Japanese history and culture. This research is firmly rooted in the interdisciplinary and empirical research tradition linking history, archaeology, folklore, and related fields that has characterized collaborative research at NMJH since it was established as an inter-university research institute in 1981.

Collaborative research has three fundamental components: basic research, scientific research, and development-based collaborative research. Basic research consists of interdisciplinary research topics based on major research themes focusing on human agency and history. Scientific research establishes methodological bases for new historical research and also develops advanced digitalization systems for widening access to the Museum's collections. These two components constitute the core of collaborative research at NMJH. The third component, development-based collaborative research, is designed to nurture young researchers, who will be offered positions as fixed-term assistant professors. Conventional "specific research" for system development is being replaced by development-based collaborative research, one purpose of which is to ensure that the collaborative research program as a whole tackles emerging research topics meriting further exploration.

During fiscal year 2009, collaborative research was carried out on twenty-four topics: eleven basic research topics, twelve scientific research topics, and one specific research topic. Four of the basic research topics and five of the scientific research topics were initiated during this fiscal year. The following discussion of collaborative research topics focuses on these new topics.

## [Basic Research]

One basic research project "General Study of Ethnography in the Japanese Archipelago" currently in progress, along with a study of popular spiritual culture, "Folklore of Omens, Knowledge, Taboos, and Magic," and a study of modern technologies and livelihoods, "Ethnography of Nature and Technology," will contribute to exhibitions being renovated for fiscal year FY2012 (Heisei 24) (March 2013). During fiscal year 2009, "Conservation and Use of Culture in Regional Development," a study of the relationship between regional development and the conservation of culture, was started, as were three topics of the project "General Study for Establishing a New Image of the Ancient Period." Each of these three topics deals with a different historical

period that has been distinguished on the basis of carbon-14 dating results, and the results of these studies will contribute to the Gallery 1 exhibit after its planned renovation. All of these studies are examples of an NMJH goal referred to "Museum-based Research Integration," according to which the results of collaborative research boost the academic foundations of new and renovated permanent exhibitions.

[Scientific Research]

In fiscal year 2009, two General Chronological Research projects were started: "High-precision Dating in the History of Research on Historical and Archaeological Materials" and "Comparative History of Architecture and Cities in East Asia." Three projects were also started under the Research on Advanced Digitalization of Historical Materials program: "General Study of Folding Screens of Scenes In and Around Kyoto: Rekihaku Version A," "Basic Research on Formation Process of Literary Culture in the Ancient Period" (a preliminary research project conducted to support an application for a large Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research, as in the previous fiscal year), and "Utilization of 'Geographical Photos' as Materials." These collaborative research projects will all contribute to special exhibitions.

[Development-based Collaborative Research]

Development-based collaborative research, which is replacing "specific research for the further development of the system," will be started next fiscal year (2010). This fiscal year, the public has been invited to submit applications to fill two fixed-term assistant professor positions.

Applications from the general public were solicited for collaborative researchers for "Scenes In and Around Kyoto," which had been a continuing issue, and two of the three applicants were employed. Funds provided for collaborative research were used effectively, primarily for basic research projects (which have received new emphasis), to pay expenses for overseas exchanges, and to cover the travel expenses of recruited researchers. The excess was redistributed at the end of the fiscal year.

Atsushi NITO and Shinya YAMADA  
Staff Members in Charge of Collaborative Research

---

## 2 Externally Funded Research

### [Overview]

One of NMJH's responsibilities is to acquire external funds to support research. External funding has become increasingly necessary each year owing to reductions in the size of NMJH's operating grant. During this fiscal year, we worked hard to increase the number of applications submitted for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, which are contested research funds. In addition, Mr. Masao Yoshida, Head of the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research Section III of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, was invited to the Museum to brief Museum staff. We also held sessions to educate researchers on the reasonable use of research grants, including a seminar on what constitutes the improper use of such funds.

In fiscal year 2009 (Heisei 21), twelve applications for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research were approved. Including those projects receiving continuing funding, a total of nineteen research projects were funded, and the total amount of external funding received was JPY 69,540,000 (refer to the List of Projects under Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research). In addition, funds were obtained for one contract research project.

Mayumi SEKIZAWA and Atsushi NITO  
Staff Members in Charge of Collaborative Research

---

## 3 Research System

### [Overview]

The planning and implementation of collaborative research at the Museum is overseen by the Research Support Center, which considers the needs of the Museum as a whole when discussing and fine-tuning plans for collaborative research projects proposed by the Museum's staff or outside researchers. Project proposals are also presented and discussed at meetings of the Executive Council Collaborative Research Committee, which includes outside committee members, to ensure that they take into account opinions from the wider academic world.

The staff of the Museum's Research Department and outside researchers work together to carry out collaborative research, and guest teachers and (long-term) foreign researchers are appointed to research projects to enhance the collaborative use of the Museum. Adjunct researchers and research assistants, including researchers from other research institutions, are employed to promote the efficient conduct of research.

Hiroo AOYAMA  
Director, Research Support Center

### [Research Equipment]

NMJH seeks to develop new historical studies through collaboration across the three disciplines of history, archaeology, and folklore studies, as well as related sciences, and through the incorporation of new research methods. As an inter-university research institute, NMJH endeavors to introduce new research methods via collaborations with external researchers and also to acquire various items of equipment required for conducting cutting-edge research at the Museum. Such equipment includes instruments used in the scientific analysis of historical materials, information technology-related equipment used for research purposes, and audio-visual equipment.

Major research equipment installed in the past six years, including in fiscal year 2009, is listed below. Some of this equipment is also made available to inter-university researchers.

Hiroo AOYAMA  
Director, Research Support Center

## [Library Resources]

The Museum's policy is to collect basic library resources concerning Japanese history and culture in history, archeology, folklore, and related fields; to collect basic library resources related to collaborative research projects and exhibitions; and to acquire a focused and exhaustive collection of histories of metropolises and districts and of municipalities, excavation research reports, folkloric investigation reports, exhibition catalogues, and similar items. Accordingly, the Library Resources Subcommittee strives to select library resources, secure storage space, and improve services for users of the library. The main activities in fiscal year 2009 are listed below.

1) Teachers and researchers from other universities and institutions are now permitted to enter the library stacks: "Researchers of universities, research institutions, registered museums, and other similar organizations" and "persons of local governing bodies such as school board members engaged in research with the Museum staff" were given permission to enter the library's stacks.

2) Approval for establishing a second stack room:

To cope with the diminishing available space in the research library, the use of a warehouse as a second, temporary stack room was approved, and compact electric stacks were installed there at the end of February. Library resources to be relocated at the beginning of fiscal year 2010 (Heisei 22) to the second stack room were selected.

3) Start of after-hours use of the library:

Two new policies, "agreement on after-hours use of the research library" and "guide to after-hours use of the research library," were established this fiscal year, and enforcement began on December 1. Because of practical property management considerations, for the time being, only the Museum's staff (including the Director-General) and students of the Department of Japanese History of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies have unrestricted access to the library. Once electronic locks are installed and other suitable measures taken to control the entrance of visitors to the library, it is expected that access will be expanded to a wider range of users.

4) Selection and arrangement of library resources related to the Gallery 6 exhibit:

With the collaboration of the teachers concerned, about one hundred sixty items related to the Gallery 6 exhibit

were selected and put on display in the visitors' library.

5) Disposal of deteriorated microfilms and film cleaning:

There was a request to immediately relocate some severely deteriorated microfilm materials (commercially available newspaper materials) in the storage warehouse for visual materials to other rooms. After discussion, it was decided to dispose of them without duplicating them. Film cleaning (rewinding work) was carried out on microfilms that were not excessively deteriorated.

Takuji SUZUKI

Staff Member in Charge of Library Resources

---

## 4 International Exchanges

### [Overview]

NMJH holds international research meetings, issues invitations to foreign researchers, and dispatches researchers overseas to promote international expansion of research activities. In fiscal year 2009, the following additional efforts were made to strengthen cooperation with overseas research institutions.

#### 1. Conclusion of a New Agreement

In May 2009, NMJH concluded an agreement with the Foundation of East Asia Cultural Properties Institute in South Korea to start collaborative research in the field of archaeology. In September 2009, NMJH concluded an agreement with the Canadian Museum of Civilization to cooperate regarding a special exhibition, to be titled "Japan" and held at that museum.

#### 2. Improvement of Infrastructure for International Exchanges Based on the Exchange Agreements

In June 2009, NMJH revised the handling of the international exchange agreements. Participants in exchanges with institutions covered by an agreement are now obliged to submit a plan on a prescribed form, and each plan becomes a project supported by the Research Support Center. Following this new procedure, five projects were started in fiscal year 2009.

#### 3. Invitations to Foreign Researchers for Short-term Visits Started

Conventionally, NMJH has accepted several foreign researchers every year. This fiscal year, NMJH newly established a project for inviting foreign researchers to come for short periods, with the first researchers recruited to start in fiscal year 2010. The short-term invitation project targets young and mid-level foreign researchers, and its aim is to build a network of relationships with overseas research institutions that will eventually promote international collaborative research.

In addition to participants in exchange projects or collaborative research with institutions with which NMJH has an exchange agreement and attendees at international research meetings, many foreign researchers visit the Museum for some other specific purpose. This fiscal year, the Museum received visitors from the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the National Museum of Australia, the Naju National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage (South Korea), the preparation committee of the Vietnam History Museum, the Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Science,

the Liaoning Province Museum (China), the French National Centre for Scientific Research, and the Sigiriya Museum (Sri Lanka), among others, who viewed the exhibitions, studied research materials, and exchanged opinions with the Museum's researchers.

Yoshifumi UENO

Staff Member in Charge of International Exchanges

---

# II Collection of Materials and Publicizing of Research

- Museum Resource Center -

## [Overview]

The Museum Resource Center has jurisdiction over museum activities focusing on the collection and management of materials and exhibits for publicizing research results. In order to carry out these duties effectively, staff in charge of materials, information, and exhibits meet monthly at the Center for discussion of two topics.

### 1. Collection, Production, and Preservation of Materials

The intensive collection and preservation of materials as resources for research activities and exhibitions for publicizing research results at the Museum are extremely important activities.

This fiscal year, many groups of materials were purchased to further increase and supplement the Museum's collections. The "Ikuta Collection--Kodo" is a group of materials that was purchased as an addition to the Museum's systematic collection of Kodo and other Noh musical instruments, which is part of the "Materials on Medieval and Early Modern Entertainment" collection. The Museum already had an excellent collection of Gagaku musical instruments, including "Gagaku Musical Instruments of the Kishu-Tokugawa House." This new and complete collection of Noh musical instruments greatly increases the breadth of materials related to entertainment that the Museum has accumulated.

"Scenic Maki-e Reading Desk," "Materials Related to Dyeing," and "Kishiwada-ryu Hojutsu Densho," are among other collections acquired with the aim of further increasing existing Museum collections. The collection "Materials Related to Koeberlein, German Prisoner of World War I" will be a key feature of the Contemporary History Gallery or of a future special exhibit.

The Museum continues to receive offers of donations of materials from individuals who highly value the Museum's research and exhibition activities. Notable examples include "Materials Related to Becchaku Nariyoshi" and "Nishiki-e Printing Blocks of the Utagawa School." Among donated items, "Materials Related to Izanagi-ryu Prayers" are particularly valuable folkloric materials.

## 2. Dissemination of Information on Materials and Collections

Basic information about materials acquired as a result the Museum's policy of collecting materials is compiled by the Surveys of Materials and made available to the public in databases of the Museum collections for use as a research resource. More detailed information of greater depth is also made available to the public in the form of catalogues of documents or illustrations, or in special collection databases. In fiscal year 2009 (Heisei 21), the *Catalogue of the Collection of Materials on Popular Entertainment* and a catalogue of illustrations entitled *Shini-e* were published. These catalogues of materials from the late Edo period through the Meiji period are drawing attention to the Museum's collections because of their quality and because of the large quantity of materials included. The catalogues will be used as research resources in various fields.

## 3. Permanent Exhibition

The Museum opened permanent exhibition Gallery 6 "Contemporary History" at the end of fiscal year 2009 (Heisei 21). Gallery 6 deals mainly with the period from World War II to the 1970s, including the occupation period and the postwar period of high economic growth. With this gallery, the Museum has completed permanent exhibitions covering Japanese history from the primitive and ancient periods to the modern period in the twenty-seven years since the Museum opened. Gallery 6 "Contemporary History" is also linked to the basic research project "General Study of the Twentieth Century" and reflects its research results.

Concurrently with the planning and opening of Gallery 6, preparations for the Gallery 4 "Folklore" permanent exhibition, including the exhibition lineup and the investigation and collection of materials, were also intensively advanced. The exhibition drawings and specifications were completed in fiscal year 2009 (Heisei 21). In fiscal year 2010 (Heisei 22), additional materials will be collected and investigated in keeping with the exhibition design, and the removal of existing exhibits will begin in the second half of the fiscal year.

## 4. Special Exhibitions

The special exhibition "The How and Why of Nishiki-e Production" was held from the end of 2008 (Heisei 20) to May 6 of this fiscal year. Subsequent special exhibitions were "Palaces, Religious Structures, and Dwellings in East Asia--The Truth of Traditional Japanese Architecture" and "The Beginning of the Jomon Culture--What Took Place Fifteen Thousand Years Ago?" The former was not directly linked to the Museum's collaborative research program, but reflected some of the research results of the "East Asian Comparative Architectural History" project (FY2008 to 2009). The latter incorporated results obtained by carbon-14 dating, which is currently a focus of the Museum's archaeological research effort.

A room near Gallery 3 is used for the exhibition series "The Early Modern Period in 'Artifacts'." The theme of this series of small-scale special exhibitions was chosen in order to make use of various Museum collections of material from the early modern period. In fiscal year 2009 (Heisei 21), the Museum held four small-scale special exhibitions, starting with "Ryori-chaya of Edo in Nishiki-e." The next, "World of Hyakki Yako--Genealogy of the Hyakki Yako Picture Scroll," was developed jointly by the Museum and the National Institute of Japanese Literature as a dual-theme exhibition of the National Institutes for the Humanities, and it was held simultaneously at both sites. The next small-scale special exhibition was "Hina Doll Display Associated with Princess Kazunomiya." The last special exhibition was renamed as a feature exhibition called "Japanese Immigrants--In the United States and the War Era," which was held concurrently with the opening of Gallery 6.

The Botanical Garden of Everyday Life held three exhibitions, including a special program called "Traditional Primroses." These exhibitions are of particular interest to hobbyists who are interested in the cultivation of traditional plants. During fiscal year 2009, the Botanical Garden of Everyday Life also investigated the possibility of an area study in cooperation with the Natural History Museum and Institute in Chiba.

## 5. Conclusion

In recent years, the Museum has been actively developing various research activities based on the Museum collections, and this direction became clearer in 2009 (Heisei 21), as shown by the publication of catalogues of the Museum collections. "Museum-based Research Integration," which was established as the Museum's guiding principle in 2007, is the organic integration of the Museum's functions of collection, arrangement, preservation, research, and provision of historical materials and information in a place called a museum. In accordance with this principle, the recent activities of the Museum reflect its awareness of the need to use effectively the enormous amount of materials acquired over many years as research resources; to deliver information to a wide audience through catalogues of documents and illustrations and through database compilation of research information regarding the materials, as well as through large and small exhibitions with Museum collections forming the core; and, through these, to generate further research activities.

Junichi OKUBO  
Director, Museum Resource Center

---

# 1 Materials

## [Overview]

The main duties of the staff in charge of materials are the collection, production, preservation, and management of materials.

"Sho (Inscription 'Uguisumaru')," "Ikuta Collection--Kodo," and "Koimoegi-shusui-ryusui-hanatabamoyo-furisode," and other materials were purchased in fiscal year 2009 to add to the Museum's unique collections. These materials have been the subject of collaborative research efforts, and special exhibitions have made them available to the public. Additional research on them is expected to be carried out in the future.

Particularly notable donated materials include Izanagi-ryu prayer manuscripts and artifacts of the Imabari-han Shibata Family. The former will be used as exhibition materials for Gallery 4, currently under renovation, and the latter will be used for a special exhibition to be held in fiscal year 2010 (Heisei 22).

Digital photography was used experimentally to produce copies of documents in keeping with the policy formulated in the previous fiscal year (2008) to introduce new technologies and otherwise enhance the efficiency with which reproductions of Shosoin Documents, for example, are obtained.

With regard to materials preservation, as in the previous fiscal year, measures were taken against injurious insects in underground areas such as storage locations and research rooms. In addition, the environment of building facilities for storing archaeological materials was improved, and the system for managing collected materials was improved by measures such as the integration of procedures for handling collected materials and the acquisition of insurance against damage or loss. Investigation of the condition of the collection "Materials Related to Modern Life in Kanazawa" was also started this fiscal year; this investigation is planned as a three-year project. It was decided to tackle new tasks concerning the preservation and management of materials of the early modern and modern periods while seeking a comprehensive investigation method for historical and folkloric materials.

Kazuki TAKAHASHI  
Staff Member in Charge of  
Materials

---

## 2 Exhibitions

### [Overview]

NMJH is an inter-university research institute charged with collecting, arranging, preserving, and investigating historical materials and information and making them accessible to the public. The outcomes of interdisciplinary collaborative research between NMJH and outside researchers are presented to the public through permanent exhibitions, special exhibitions, special programs (Botanical Garden of Everyday Life), and small-scale special exhibitions (feature exhibitions) in keeping with the Museum's unique research mission called "Museum-based Research Integration."

A permanent exhibition to be installed in Gallery 6 ("Contemporary History") was discussed exhaustively by the Exhibition Renovation Committee during the previous fiscal year (2008), and construction work on the exhibition was advanced while materials for the exhibition were being investigated. On March 16, 2010, the "Contemporary History" permanent exhibition, which deals mainly with the period from the early Showa to the 1970s, was opened to the public. With the opening of Gallery 6, the comprehensive exhibition of Japanese history and culture from the primitive and ancient periods to the modern period was realized, which has been a concept of the NMJH since its opening.

To celebrate the opening of Gallery 6, the feature exhibition "Japanese Immigrants--In the United States and the War Era" was opened concurrently.

Ideas for a new exhibition for Gallery 4 (Folklore) were thoroughly discussed with the Exhibition Renovation Committee in fiscal year 2009, and the "Exhibition Design Drawings and Specifications for New Permanent Exhibition Gallery 4," based on the results of accumulated research and investigations of materials, was completed.

The special exhibitions, "The How and Why of Nishiki-e Production," continued from fiscal year 2008; "Palaces, Religious Structures, and Dwellings in East Asia--The Truth of Traditional Japanese Architecture"; and "The Beginning of the Jomon Culture--What Took Place Fifteen Thousand Years Ago?" were held. In addition, four special "Traditional Plants of the Seasons" programs were held, one each season, at the Botanical Garden of Everyday Life. In a room near permanent exhibition Gallery 3, four small-scale special exhibitions were held in keeping with the policy of "always [having] a new exhibition" at the Museum, including both permanent

exhibitions and special exhibitions. These were redesignated as feature exhibitions in February 2010 (Heisei 22). The "World of Hyakki Yako," a small-scale special exhibition, was held in liaison with the National Institute of Japanese Literature as a joint project of the National Institutes for the Humanities.

The permanent exhibition, "Scenes In and Around Kyoto: Version A," was also held as part of the Museum's efforts to present research achievements to the public.

Jun-ichi KOIKE  
Staff Member in Charge of Exhibitions

---

## 3 Surveys of Materials

### [Overview]

To enhance the availability of the materials held in its collections for research use, NMJH regularly undertakes systematic surveys. In these surveys, basic data on objects are compiled and classified, and the data are made accessible to the public in a variety of formats, including as catalogues of documents and illustrations.

Over the course of fiscal year 2009, NMJH conducted surveys of prehistoric archaeological artifacts, materials related to the Tobishima-Suzuki Family, and the Nomura Collection (Dress Furnishings I). NMJH also published *Shini-e*, a catalogue of illustrations, and the *Catalogue of Collection of Materials on Popular Entertainment*, a catalogue of documents.

Takehiko HIGUCHI  
Staff Member in Charge of Information

---

## 4 Databases

### [Overview]

NMJH makes available to the public three types of database. Databases of the Museum collections makes information on the materials held in its collections accessible to the public and positively contributes to their use for research purposes. Other databases bring together collaborative research findings and bibliographies in various research fields. The third type is full-text databases composed mainly of historical records.

This fiscal year, NMJH newly made two databases available to the public: a database of folk belief that is a compilation of "traditions" such as omens, knowledge, taboos, and magic; and a database of folk vocabulary for the collection "A Comprehensive Typology of Japanese Ethnology." NMJH also updated existing databases of Museum collections, including databases of artifacts of the Jomon period, the Museum's bibliography, materials on medieval local cities, the bibliography of Japanese folklore studies, the bibliography of research on the democratic rights movement, and traditional Japanese folk songs.

These databases are available at: <http://www.rekihaku.ac.jp/database/>.

Takehiko HIGUCHI  
Staff Member in Charge of Information

---

### III

## Research, Public Relations, and Cooperative Activities - Museum Outreach Center -

### [Overview]

In its role as an inter-university research institute, NMJH seeks to promote collaborative research with universities and other institutions; to disseminate the Museum's achievements widely to the general public, from domestic and overseas researchers to lay citizens; and also to conduct public relations activities in cooperation with other institutions and schools to promote their use of the Museum. To widen and deepen the public's understanding of the Museum's research activities and to publicize research achievements, the Museum Outreach Center has formulated a public relations policy and has developed public relations activities, produced publications, and taken other measures to interface with the public, based on advice from the Advisory Council on Public Relations.

#### 1. Publicizing Research, Exhibitions, and Resources

##### (1) Public relations activities

To promote understanding of NMJH's research activities, the Museum Outreach Center issued "Rekihaku's Vision Examples 1--Practice of Museum-based Research Integration," which describes the practical impact of "Museum-based Research Integration," promoted by NMJH. This document was distributed to universities, research institutes for the humanities, public libraries, and other institutions.

For the openings of special exhibitions, Rekihaku Forums, and the opening of the permanent exhibition "Contemporary History" in Gallery 6, the Center produced posters and flyers, which were distributed in the local community and further afield and posted where they would be widely noticed. The Center also held three press conferences in Tokyo as part of its public relations efforts. Before each press conference, the Center produced and distributed innovatively designed press releases with easy-to-understand contents to encourage coverage of the Museum's activities by the media. On the occasion of the opening of the feature exhibition "Japanese Immigrants--In the United States and the War Era," which opened concurrently with the "Contemporary History" exhibition, the Center produced posters in English to promote the exhibition overseas and among foreign residents of Japan.

The Center also made efforts to deliver information via the NMJH website, updating the website twice a week to ensure that the latest information on special exhibitions, forums, and other Museum activities was available, and distributing fourteen e-mail newsletters. The Center also redesigned the NMJH website to enhance delivery of information on research activities, and improved its English language web pages to increase the number of non-Japanese readers.

#### (2) Publicizing research achievements through lectures and forums

Rekihaku Lectures are held by NMJH every month, along with Rekihaku Forums (eight forums, including one on visual materials), to make the public aware of the Museum's cutting-edge research achievements in Japanese history and culture. Each lecture or forum is held either independently, or in conjunction with a special exhibition to achieve a better understanding among the participants through a synergetic effect. To publicize the new permanent "Contemporary History" exhibition, Rekihaku Forums were held in advance of its opening. Most of the Rekihaku Forums were held in Tokyo in order to help people who had not yet visited the Museum to understand NMJH's activities.

Three "Rekihaku Film Series" were presented in the Museum's auditorium. The films shown were selected from "Visual Materials for Folklore Studies," produced by the folklore studies staff, and "Visual Materials for Folk Cultural Assets," produced in cooperation with the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

#### 2. Publications

In fiscal year 2009, as it does each year, the Center published the *Bulletin of the National Museum of Japanese History*, which compiles NMJH's research achievements, and also six issues of the bimonthly magazine *REKIHAKU*, which introduces readers to various research activities of NMJH. The Center also produced programs and abstracts for the Rekihaku Forums for distribution to the participants and published forum proceedings. It also published booklets about the Museum's educational activities. Finally, the Center published the "NMJH Annual Report," which contains information about all of the Museum's research and other activities.

#### 3. Cooperation with Schools and Other Institutions

To support the role of NMJH as an inter-university research institute, the Center continued to distribute the "NMJH Guide for Universities" to encourage universities to use the Museum.

In fiscal year 2009, NMJH held a five-day training seminar for experts from history museums around Japan. Co-sponsored by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the seminar aimed to improve the skills and expertise of the participants. Through this seminar, which is held annually and serves around thirty-five trainees each year, close links have been forged with other history museums throughout the country.

The Center also held a joint meeting of Museum researchers and school officials for the second consecutive year to discuss practical utilization of NMJH resources and the wider use of Museum facilities and materials by schools and elementary, junior high, and high school teachers. It also held a joint NMJH–school forum called "Meeting to Report on Activities Connecting Schools and NMJH," which summarized the accomplishments of the two-year effort.

The Center also held the "NMJH Seminar for Teachers," a two-day training program for school teachers with the goal of encouraging the inclusion of exhibitions in school and community educational activities. Although fewer than twenty teachers attended the seminar, this training program is an effective way to promote use of the Museum as an educational resource and thus should be continued.

In addition, the Center held events for elementary and junior high school students during summer vacation and other school holidays to foster an ongoing interest in Japanese history and culture in Japanese youth.

Fumio ADACHI  
Director, Museum Outreach Center

---

# Publicizing Research through Lectures and Forums

## [Overview]

NMJH hosts various events to make knowledge of its practical research activities widely available to the public. These events consist mainly of Rekihaku Lectures, Rekihaku Forums, and Rekihaku Symposiums. To supplement the bimonthly magazine *REKIHAKU*, which NMJH has been editing and publishing for years, the Rekihaku Forum on Visual Materials was inaugurated in fiscal year 2006. In keeping with its "Museum-based Research Integration" mission and to encourage public interest in the Museum's activities, NMJH disseminates information about its research activities and their results through such events and publications.

This fiscal year, NMJH held twelve Rekihaku Lectures, seven Rekihaku Forums, one Rekihaku Forum on Visual Materials, one joint symposium with NIHU, and three Rekihaku Film Series films. The Museum also published six issues of *REKIHAKU* magazine. Moreover, it held research meetings and gave presentations on issues related to Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research and creative scientific research as needed. By publicizing research findings and through the debates and responses that the findings generate, NMJH identifies new research challenges.

Kaori HIDAHA

Staff Member in Charge of Public Relations

Rekihaku Film Series No. 6

Theme: "Folklore of Kuroshima (Okinawa)--Life and Nature"

Film: "Folklore of Kuroshima" (1993, 120 minutes)

Rekihaku Film Series No. 7

Theme: "Tradition and Creation of Tsuboyayaki"

Film: "Present-day Tradition of Ceramic Ware of Okinawa" (2000, 83 minutes)

Rekihaku Film Series No. 8

Theme: "Japan under Occupation as Filmed by the US Military"

---

## 2 Cooperative Activities

### [Overview]

The public relations and outreach activities of NMJH are designed to publicize NMJH's research activities and Museum activities based on this research, and to enhance visitors' understanding of Japanese culture and history.

Since its opening, NMJH has accomplished these goals in various ways. In recent years, it has especially tried to strengthen cooperation with schools, for example, by strengthening the support system to enable school teachers to use the Museum more often. NMJH has also started developing international activities. To this end, it has become involved with the educational programs for foreign students at universities.

A program to create always-open hands-on spaces supervised by registered volunteers took off, and the updating of members is running smoothly. As part of this programs, worksheets, which are continuously revised, are provided free of charge to primary and junior high school students. New programs are planned for the future to accompany the opening of Gallery 6 at the end of the fiscal year. In addition to continuing past practices at the Museum, new innovative uses are always being sought.

Jiro MURAKI

Staff Member of Museum Activities

### [Cooperation with Elementary, Junior High, and High Schools, and with Universities]

NMJH offers several educational programs to schools that make use of materials such as Museum guidebooks, orientation videos, worksheets, monoculars, and other aids, which are prepared by NMJH to enable elementary and junior and senior high school students to enjoy learning about history and folklore. NMJH responds to inquiries from teachers and offers them preview visits prior to visits by school groups. NMJH also makes available examples of ways in which schools have already incorporated a visit to the Museum into their curriculum. NMJH staff members provide orientation and give guided tours of exhibitions upon request. Programs are also available that provide workplace experience for junior high students and internships for high school students.

Moreover, NMJH seeks to cooperate with school teachers by encouraging them to further incorporate the Museum's activities into their classes. For example, NMJH sets up meetings of school teachers with Museum researchers and has developed training programs for teachers.

NMJH encourages university researchers and instructors to use Museum facilities, exhibitions, and resource materials for lectures, orientation programs, and training, and strives to improve the procedures enabling such use. These procedures are summarized in an NMJH guide created specifically for universities, and orientation videos have been distributed to university departments and programs. If requested, NMJH research staff members will provide individual assistance and guided tours of the Museum's exhibition galleries, storage space, and other facilities.

In fiscal year 2009, two hundred ninety-four elementary schools, fifty-one junior high schools, thirty-seven high schools, and fifty universities visited the Museum and made use of these services.

### [Explore Rekihaku]

To increase the knowledge of history among Japanese youth, NMJH conducts guided tours of the Museum (exhibition galleries) for older elementary school children and junior high school students. These tours are conducted by a Museum staff member (called a "captain") who gives easy-to-understand explanations of the exhibits. Four such guided tours were given in fiscal year 2009:

(May 9, 2009) "Foreigners in the Edo Period" Hiroshi KURUSHIMA (Research Department)

(August 8, 2009) "Let's Measure the Size of Japanese Buildings." Tetsuo TAMAI (Research Department)

(November 14, 2009) "Secret Science Research Room" Tsutomu SAITO (Research Department)

(February 13, 2010) "Treasure of Kofun" Yoshifumi UENO (Research Department)

### [Programs at the Botanical Garden of Everyday Life]

In the Botanical Garden of Everyday Life, which opened in September 1995, plants that have supported the Japanese way of life and culture are systematically cultivated with the aim of deepening our understanding of them as materials and to relate them to the Museum's exhibition materials. Programs are held for the general public, generally on the fourth Saturday of each month, to observe seasonal plants and deepen the public's understanding of the relationship between humans and plants. Twelve programs were held in fiscal year 2009.

No admission fee was charged for program No. 121 because it was Greenery Day at NMJH.

No. 121 (April 29, 2009) "Flower Calendar of Rekihaku Botanical Garden of Everyday Life"  
Seiichiro TSUJI (Professor, Graduate School, University of Tokyo)

No. 122 (May 23, 2009) "Plants of Early Summer in Sakura Joshi"  
Masatoshi HARA (Chief Researcher, Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba)

No. 123 (June 27, 2009) "Reading Illustrated Maps of Trees"  
Hiroo AOYAMA (Research Department)

No. 124 (July 25, 2009) "Japanese Architecture and Forest Culture"  
Seiichiro TSUJI (Professor, Graduate School, University of Tokyo)

No. 125 (August 29, 2009) "Breeding Morning Glories"  
Eiji NITASAKA (Assistant Professor, Graduate School, Kyushu University)

No. 126 (September 26, 2009) "Specialties of Tokaido -- Food and Souvenirs"  
Mitsumasa YAMAMOTO (Research Department)

No. 127 (October 24, 2009) "Roses in the Edo Period"  
Yuki MIKANAGI (Senior Researcher, Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba)

No. 128 (November 28, 2009) "Book of Chrysanthemum Cultivation "  
Kei HIRANO (Part-time Lecturer, Meiji University)

No. 129 (December 5, 2009) "How to Enjoy Sasanquas"  
Naotoshi HAKODA (Professor Emeritus, Keisen University)

No. 130 (January 23, 2010) "Excavated Artifacts with Representations of Camellias "  
Masaharu NAGASHIMA (Research Department)

No. 131 (February 27, 2010) "Spring Prayer in Artificial Flowers"  
Koichi MATSUO (Research Department)

No. 132 (March 27, 2010) "Let's Walk in the Village with an Illustrated Village Map"  
Hiroshi KURUSHIMA (Research Department)

---

## 3 Publications

### [Overview]

NMJH issues several publications in order to publicize the results of its research activities more widely. These publications communicate the outcomes of a variety of activities not only to the research community but also to the general public. These activities include both surveys and research conducted jointly by Japanese and foreign researchers in the Museum's capacity as an inter-university research institute and community programs conducted at NMJH.

In fiscal year 2009, NMJH published seven volumes of the *Bulletin of the National Museum of Japanese History*, three exhibition catalogues, one catalogue of resource materials, one illustrated catalogue, and six issues of the history magazine *REKIHAKU*. NMJH also prepared reports summarizing the proceedings of research meetings and symposiums, which present the accomplishments of international exchanges and the results of inter-institutional joint research projects. To publicize the accomplishments of past Rekihaku Forums, researchers from within and outside NMJH write and edit some of the presentations for inclusion in a forum anthology, which is published through a publishing house. One such anthology appeared in fiscal year 2009.

The achievements of a variety of activities providing services to Museum visitors based on the principle of "Museum-based Research Integration" and undertaken in cooperation with school groups from local schools and volunteers were published in a booklet on NMJH's educational activities entitled "Let's Visit Rekihaku--Rekihaku Educational Programs Report." NMJH also publishes the series *Front Line of Historical Research*, which is mainly a compilation of the contents of lectures held annually by the graduate school (Department of Japanese History, Graduate University for Advanced Studies) (one publication in fiscal year 2009).

Masaharu NAGASHIMA

Staff Member in Charge of Publications

---

## IV Graduate Education

### [Overview]

The Department of Japanese History in the School of Cultural and Social Studies of The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, a university graduate school curriculum spread nationwide across different inter-university research institutes, is based at NMJH. The Department of Japanese History specializes exclusively in three-year doctoral programs (second stage) and no more than three students are enrolled.

The educational policy of the Department is aimed at fostering researchers with comprehensive high-level abilities by taking advantage of the Museum's numerous resource materials and excellent facilities. Moreover, the students can also benefit from the features and assets of the other base institutions by conducting various cutting-edge collaborative research projects.

Its admission policy was established with the goal of developing human resources, that is, to train researchers in the field of Japanese history, broadly speaking, to have a wide-ranging vision and an international outlook who are capable of conducting advanced research in specialized fields utilizing museum resources and materials, and also capable of utilizing their high-level research capabilities to make meaningful contributions to society.

Desired students are individuals who have a keen interest in conducting research in the field of Japanese history, construed broadly, and in related fields, who are also self-motivated to continue their research activities as independent researchers. Adult students are welcomed because their research achievements are likely to contribute to specific societal needs.

Classes are offered in two areas, "Research on Materials" and "Research on Social History," based on the principle that a historical image or period can be constructed by using resource materials. One professor, in principle, is assigned to each class. In addition, an intensive curriculum, "Methodology of Research on Japanese History," is offered in the summer, and consists of three courses: Research on Materials (A), Field Research (B), and Museum Research (C). These courses are open to all students at the University and also, as "Sokendai Lectures," to people from outside the University. However, in part because only one new student enrolled in fiscal year 2009, no students of the Department registered for course (A) or (B), so only course (C) was held in summer 2009.

Doctoral theses are prepared under the tuition of a chief professor and a deputy chief professor. "Basic Practice," which is overseen by all professors and held three times a year, is a program during which students give progress reports on their research in order to improve their presentation skills. Academic training is also provided at the Museum as the venue for research studies on a daily basis.

In addition, two professors deliver a lecture in Tokyo every July and a graduate school orientation is held at the Museum in October to introduce to a wider audience the Department's research and education activities. The contents of the lectures are published as a graduate school booklet *Front Line of Historical Research*, which also includes columns written by graduate students. In fiscal year 2009, Vol. 12 "Analytical Chemistry and Historical Studies" (edited by Shinichiro FUJIO and Tsutomu SAITO) was published. A summary is posted on the NMJH website.

As of April 2010, twenty-seven students were registered in the Department, of which two are foreign students (both from South Korea) and nine are adult students. Eight students earned doctoral degrees by graduation and one student by completing a thesis in fiscal year 2009. It is delightful to see that past educational research achievements have appeared as a number of degree recipients.

Michihiro KOJIMA  
Chair, Department of Japanese History