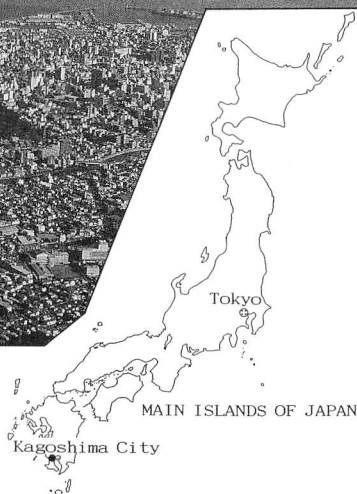
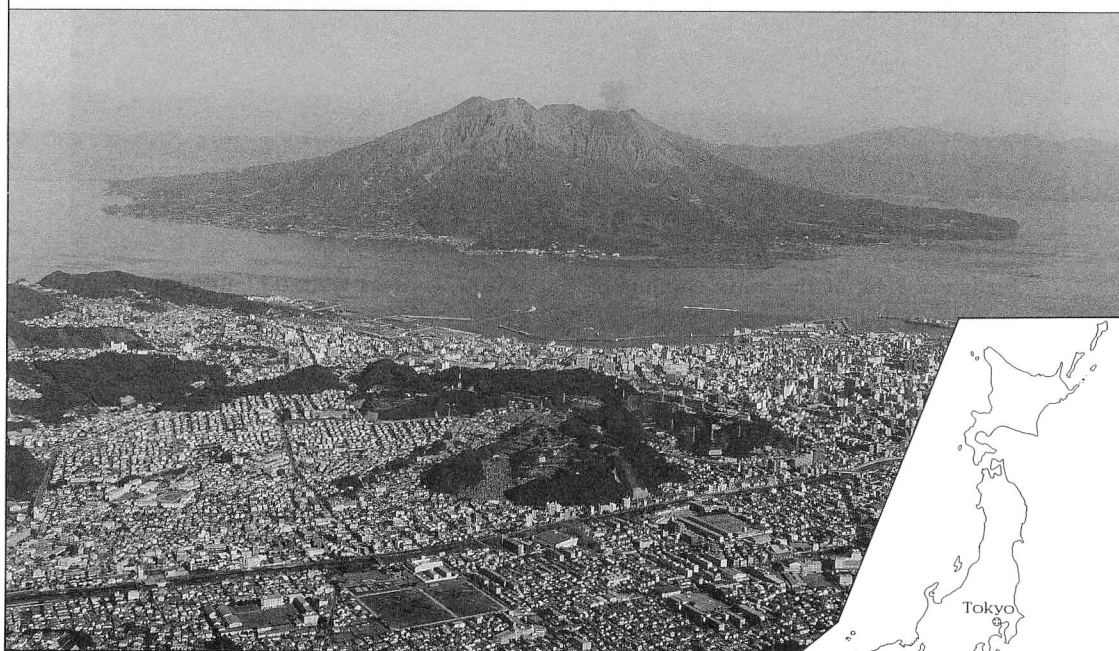


SOUTH PACIFIC NEWSLETTER

No. 5

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**KAGOSHIMA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER
FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC**



Birds-eye view of the main campus of Kagoshima University, the home base of the Research Center.

Announcement:

This “Newsletter” has been published once a year since 1990 (No.1) up to 1992 (No.3) by the Kagoshima University Research Center for the South Pacific. The title of the Newsletter is henceforth changed to “South Pacific Newsletter”, the first issue is not No.1 but No.4.

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Cover photograph:

Aerial view of the active volcano, Sakurajima, facing the City of Kagoshima.

The Historical Background and Future Development of the Kagoshima University Research Center for the South Pacific

Shozo HAYASAKA

President, Kagoshima University



The Committee on South Pacific Studies has continued subsidizing the South Pacific studies carried out by rather young researchers of the University since the Committee was formed in 1963, evolving from its antecedent, the Institute of Industrial Science for the South Pacific, unofficially formed in 1955. This clearly indicates a strong interest in the South Pacific area by Kagoshima University since its foundation. At the same time, it gives us a strong impression about the spirit of the University to make efforts by self-help to encourage young researchers during the days of rather hard financial stringency. According to the record, numerous young teaching staff were given grants by the Committee and the names of many professors in later days are seen in the list of recipients. Although most of the research work was restricted to southern Japan because of the politically and financially hard situation at that time, not a few studies on the Amami and the Okinawa Islands were carried out even before the returning of these areas to the Japanese territory. The research activities on the Kagoshima and Okinawa areas and their accumulated scientific results have brought about an energy characterizing the University, and many actual accomplishments of inter-faculty cooperative studies greatly promoted the function of the University.

With the background of such history and accomplishments, Kagoshima University Research Center for the South Pacific was formed in 1981. During the 12 years since then, magnificent results have been produced through the field and laboratory studies by the Center. 13 volumes of periodicals and 22 of monographs (Occasional Papers) have been published. We can see the more concrete effort for and results of synthesized or interdisciplinary studies aimed at since the establishment of the afore-mentioned Committee in 1963. South Pacific area studies, which is one of the main aims of Kagoshima University, should be extended and we have to formulate some new plan to realize this. In relation to the plan for total innovation of the University now in progress, the Center should form a plan for its future in conformity with its past record, and with a spirit of initiative.

On Area Studies

Kazutaka NAKANO

Director

Kagoshima University Research Center for the South Pacific



The Kagoshima University Research Center for the South Pacific which publishes this series of "South Pacific Newsletter" is one of the seven research organizations for "area studies" which the national universities keep on the basis of the authorization by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Japan. Recently, recommendations for the accelerating promotion of "area studies" have become more often incorporated into reports by the advisory councils or committees responsible to both the statesmen and the policy-makers at the Japanese national government. On the other hand, in fact, even the Japanese supreme class researchers for "area studies" are unsuccessfully making great efforts to define their concept.

Basically, the extent that the concept of an area or region should cover is one of the most difficult problems which a great number of researchers have been discussing to solve academically since very early times. It is the geographers that have been most seriously engaged in the abovementioned problem. In geography, the one who has succeeded in reasonably dividing areas with regard to some geographical subject in accordance with a standardized, even though not scientific, measure with which all the others concerned with the subject agree is often greatly admired for his work.

Recently in Japan, many research centers have been established at the respective national universities including Kagoshima University in order to promote industrial and economic development—through collaboration by the researchers at the universities with those at enterprises—of the "areas" where those universities are located. Furthermore, it should be mentioned here that, also in Japan, there are many researchers who are engaged in "regional analysis" which was established mainly by researchers in economics in the United States of America in the 1950's. Thus, the concept of "area studies" might be easily confused with other academic fields the subjects of which are closely related to the term "area" or "region".

The term "area studies" seems to have become popular in the United States of America after World War II. It is said that this academic field was supported because it was regarded as what could contribute to the obtaining and maintaining of the United States' hegemony of the rest of the world, particularly in the Latin American countries. The "area" in this academic field, by contrast with some others mentioned above, means a very vast one which

extends almost globally, such as, Latin America and Southeast Asia. Also in Japan, the Institute of Developing Economies, the Japanese name of which is still the "Institute of Asian Economies" literally in English despite the fact that it holds many experts of the areas outside Asia, appears to have been established for its contribution to the international policies of the Japanese government. Inasmuch as Japan, by contrast with the United States of America, had no formal intention to obtain the political hegemony of overseas, it has been actually supported as being able to provide the Japanese government with the basic and systematic information for the development of the Japanese trade with foreign countries.

On the other hand, the Japanese academic circles mainly at universities have refused to accept the objective that "area studies" should be useful, even though indirectly, for governmental policies. They, however, have accepted the purely academic characteristics and the methodology of those studies and have been gradually developing themselves. Particularly, they have been attracted to the aspect of those studies that they can use to deal with a subject, on the basis of field surveys, from another view than the routine one in an established discipline. Consequently, the development of interdisciplinary researches can be expected. In the past few years, a small number of researchers in Japan have begun to insist seriously that "area studies" themselves should become a new discipline in academic circles. As a result of this view, a book series entitled "Southeast Asianology" was completed in eleven volumes in 1992. One of the features in the attitude towards "area studies" among Japanese circles is that, more than among the corresponding circles in the United States, researchers maintain the opinion that cultural studies and natural science should be combined for the development of "area studies". In this respect, our Research Center which holds both the researchers on cultural studies and the natural scientists can easily be in line with such a trend specific to Japanese circles.

As one of the basic reasons why the promotion of "area studies" has been incorporated in the reports of some important advisory councils and committees to the governments, I might point it out that, as the frequency of international interactions at the various activity spheres in Japan exponentially multiplies, the actually increasing occurrence of international incidents inevitably makes the people directly concerned fully realize the grave paucity of the fundamental and systematic knowledge and information needed to cope appropriately with them, such as the conflicts in the Near East which resulted in the war in 1991.

Apart from the trend as stated above, what I, one of the researchers dealing with "area studies", feel through the actual field surveys is that the results of our studies will, it is hoped, be beneficial to most people in the areas where I conduct those surveys. That is to say, I want to emphasize that one goal to develop those studies is the steering of our effort for the contribution, even though slight, to the construction and completion of an international co-existence system.

ABSTRACTS FROM SEMINARS

The Changes in Land Tenure and the Present Situation of Sugarcane

Production in the People's Republic of China

December 14, 1992

1. Changes in land tenure

After the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, the land ownership system was completely changed. Private ownership was transformed into public ownership. It was decided that all land in urban areas belonged to the state and in rural areas to the people's communes. In 1987 this system was reformed by the enactment of new land management law. Under the new law land ownership was divided into two types: state ownership and collective ownership. Individual farmers were given the right to use land which belong to the farmer's group. These claiming rights of usufruct have an obligation to deliver a quota of their harvest to the government, the remainder can be disposed of as they wish.

2. Present situation of sugar production

China's sugar production reached to 6,300,000 t in the 1990 production year (from November 1990 to April 1991) which was 20.6% higher than in 1989. This harvest ranked sixth in the world. About 1,300,000 t was imported. Guangxi district is one of the most important production areas in the southern part of China. Some 330,000 ha is under cultivation and yields average about 50 t/ha. In 1992 more than 2,000,000 t was produced which accounted for nearly one third of the total production

of the country. There are about 100 sugar manufacturing factories in the district whose maximum capacity is about 120,000 t a day. The current price of sugarcane is 130 yuan/t (about 2,700 yen/t). Processed sugar sells at 2,000 yuan/t. Ninety percent of the final product is refined sugar. Guangxi Sugarcane Research Institute is the second biggest in China. It is engaged in research carried out in five laboratories and is primarily committed to breeding new varieties. Guangxi No.11 bred by the Institute is cultivated in about 40% of China's sugarcane fields.

Sugar consumption in China at present is about 6 kg per capita per year. This figure is expected to increase soon. The Chinese Government is promoting sugar production. Incentives are provided in the form of subsidised fertilizers and the award of special benefits to successful farmers. The author sincerely hopes that China's sugar production will undergo rapid development in both quantity and quality in near future.

Mian YIN

(Vice Director;

Guangxi Sugarcane Research Institute)

Ownership Types of Salt Fields in the Seto-Inland Sea Coast

January 18, 1993

Japan's Salt fields, which mainly existed along the Seto-Inland Sea coast, completely disappeared after the introduction of the ion exchange resin membrane method of salt extraction around the end of 1971. But the human relationship involved in the salt fields and how they distributed the profit have hardly been made clear.

The ownership types of salt fields are mainly divided into two types; one is a personal type, and the other is an incorporated one. About the personal type, I made a study of the salt fields referring to a register book made in 1884; I also followed the transmission of the owners and the vicissitudes of almost all the salt fields along the coast line of the Seto-Inland Sea, visiting those involved in the salt fields and their descendants; while I used the data of the register book which gave the owners and the places of the salt fields. Also I made a verbal inquiry to the people living nearby about those salt fields whose ownership and working conditions were transmitted. The results showed that, in every area, there was no difference as to the social and economic character of the owners. It also became evident that the salt fields were a way of money making rather than a fundamental way of living.

The incorporated salt fields were mainly found in Kagawa prefecture, most of which were of the so-called tenant types. Salt fields were not the target of the farm land reformation after World War II, but all of them became independent after the

four periods of reforming. The first period was around 1921, when the salt producing right was being transmitted; the second period was around 1937, when salt producing factories with vacuum devices were being built, while the salt fields were being restored to the land owners. The third period was after World War II, when the landlords were selling their salt fields, finding it difficult to pay the private property tax; and the fourth period was about 1955, when the land owners and the tenants were sharing the salt fields, in which pumps and slopes were being introduced (so called *ryukashiki enden*). There were three rights involved in the salt fields; the salt producing rights, the ownership of the land, and in Kagawa prefecture, the customary tenant right (*kankou kosaku ken*). These rights were so deeply involved that they made the producing process more complicated.

Yukio SHIGEMI

(Faculty of Fisheries, Kagoshima Univ.)

For Development of Oceanic Oriented Economics.

February 15, 1993

As far as oceanic space is concerned, there exist groups of island countries around which the surrounding sea is extremely vast. Because of the lack of economic power these island nations may be reluctant to tackle the global level of oceanic issues and they may want other countries to handle these issues by giving special attention to their problems or conditions. From the point of view of interests at the international or Earth level, their attitude, therefore, may be a passive one toward these issues. Their passivity is basically due to their poor economic

conditions. A problem, then, exists as to what kinds of policies must be adopted in order to strengthen their economic power and performance.

It is important to consider these policies for the insular states for their establishment of economic independence as well as for the effective use of the vast oceanic space at the global level. I would like to clarify where the basic problems lie in dealing with the above matters.

Yoshinobu TAKAHASHI
(Inst. for Regional Studies,
Kagoshima—Keizai Univ.)

Managing Resources under Traditional Tenure

March 15, 1993

INTRODUCTION Resource management is in the hands of marine and land tenure holders who are often too preoccupied with disputes to look at the overall picture. The courts become overloaded and the real issues of a deteriorating man/resource ratio are ignored.

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM ?

High rates of population growth (3.5%), with nearly 50% 15 years of age or under, population doubles every 15 years. Pressure on land and marine resources increases. Although the population density remains low (11.6/km²) when the situation is exacerbated by the commercial exploitation of natural resources real problems can result.

Until the question of tenure is resolved and people are made aware of what is happening resource management will remain moribund.

HOW DID THE CURRENT IMPASSE COME

ABOUT ? Pre-colonial tenure systems did not have to cope with this problem. When they first arrived Europeans were themselves a resource to be managed but what followed fundamentally changed the context of daily life and people's view of themselves and what they could do. Although Solomon Islanders blame colonialism for their present situation a more critical understanding is required to escape the legacy of paternalism and dependence.

WHAT WAS RECOMMENDED AS A SOLUTION IN THE PAST? Judges, colonial administrators and even the occasional anthropologist have argued for better legal procedures such as codified law and stronger policing to support court decisions. The justification for these positions tends to compound the problem rather than offer a way out of the impasse.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM CASE STUDIES?

An examination of specific societies such as the "bush" people of Vella Lavella and the "salt-water" people of Marovo Lagoon shows how in one island group there are quite different traditions. Mbilua customary tenure was unilateral and matrilineal but manipulated by big men, there was no clear "law" and a debilitating history of dependence makes it difficult for people to solve problems for themselves. Marovo bilateral descent is so open that resources are frequently subject to disputes. A stronger tradition of descent means that people are

more willing to manage for themselves.

WHAT CAN BE DONE? If people are encouraged to look at their resource situation they are more likely to be receptive to the need for taking tenure problems in hand and forming multi-lineage groups with comprehensive enough claims to land and marine resources to attempt and coordinate local management. Researchers can help out by adopting a more participatory approach to their work. Rather than collecting information and departing for home in the habitual manner, information should be fed back into the community so that people can assess it.

CONCLUSION Sustainable resource management is possible and is best left to local communities. By judicious intervention local institutions can be strengthened so that they are better able to perform this role.

John. M. McKINNON

(Univ. of Wellington, Visiting Foreign Res. Prof: Kagoshima Univ. Res. Cent. South P.)

Perspectives and Problems in a Local Museum

April 26, 1993

Currently the number of museums, especially those sponsored by local governments, is increasing significantly. However, their prospect is not so easy under the conditions of institutional constraints and budgetary limitations. Local museums need new and original perspectives which facilitate the participation of local people.

Museum Chiran, opened in April, 1993, is a well equipped middle size museum if we consider that it is sponsored by the

town government. It is equipped with four exhibition rooms and three stores and functionally designed with an audio-visual hall, a library and research offices for curators. The speciality of the museum is the fusion of audio-visual presentations and well-designed replicas, which reproduce social life around the collection. The museum's theme, "a cross-road of cultural waves" is presented with performances of audio-visual and special effects. The content of

exhibitions, theme, and captions are well discussed and prepared so that they may appeal to public of all generations. Other activities such as mini museum tours with curators and demonstrations are planned in the near future. The museum has already conducted public lectures outside the museum. These activities should be more emphasized. Although there is a constraint on the size of facility and personnel, local

museum should be designed with a clear vision developed under the leadership of curators, such as easy and enjoyable captions and research activities, designs and administration backed up with academic networks. The Museum Chiran tries to be the embodiment of such a museum.

Mitsuki SUNADA

(Museum Chiran, Kagoshima Prefecture)

Clinical and Virological Studies of Juvenile Laryngeal Papilloma in Thailand

May 17, 1993

The etiology of juvenile laryngeal papilloma (JLP) has been suggested to be a viral condition related to the presence of genital warts in the mother at the time of delivery. No direct demonstration of human papilloma virus related to the larynx and genital organ has been established. The incidence of JLP in all districts of Thailand suggests some local endemicity and presents an opportunity to elucidate the etiological bases of this disease. In the current study clinical and virological studies of juvenile laryngeal papilloma were studied in Thai children suffering from the recurrent respiratory papilloma and airway obstruction. Sixty two cases are included in the clinical study and 30 biopsy specimens are included in the histopathological and virological examinations. The histological examinations reveal the papillomas were characterized by papillary growth of well differentiated squamous cells with an orderly maturation pattern. No virus

particles were demonstrated in the papillomatous tissue sections studied by electron microscopic examination. Both dot and southern blot hybridization technique and PCR revealed the presence of HPV 11 type in 23 cases and type 6 in 3 cases related sequences in the papillomatous tissue of these cases. HPV type 16 and 18 could not be detected in any of these cases. Clinically, onset was observed before 4 years of age in 80% of the children, and was most frequently observed in first born children. The prevalence of JLP differs in different parts of Thailand. The study does not provide strong support for a viral condition related to the presence of maternal genital warts as the etiological basis for JLP.

Masaru OHYAMA

(Faculty of Medicine, Kagoshima Univ.)

Development of Rural-based Cooperatives in Southeast Asia

June 28, 1993

The focus of this study will be on peculiar characteristics of the development process of rural-based cooperatives in Southeast Asia.

Cooperative movement in Southeast Asia has already passed through a long history. However, the membership of cooperatives has still consisted of a small portion of all farmers. Moreover, economic functions of cooperatives are partial, not affecting all aspects of the production and distribution of members.

There have been a large number of failures as regards business operation and organization. This is the substantial factor to have made the policy for the promotion of cooperatives fluctuate between pessimistic and optimistic appraisal. However, changeable government attitude towards

cooperatives have often caused serious confusion into their business and organization. Due to the fact that the incentive to form cooperatives usually comes from the central authority, people tend to regard cooperatives as formal institutions, not voluntarily organizations.

The policy for the promotion of cooperatives becomes a controversial issue. Governments do not always regard as cost-effective. They review the economic rationale of private sectors in agricultural development. Privatization affects negatively the promotion of cooperatives. There is today increasing disagreement over what the role of rural-based cooperatives should play in agricultural development.

Masahiro YAMA0

(Faculty of Fisheries, Kagoshima Univ.)

Distribution and Ecology of Nereidid Polychaetes Inhabiting Tidal Flats around River-Mouth in Japan.

September 27, 1993

Tidal flats around river mouth are characterized by accumulation of various matters coming from land. High primary productivity and high density of infauna are observed there. They play important roles in degradation and removal of organic contaminations coming into the sea.

Nereidid polychaetes usually occur in tidal flats in brackish-waters (seven species

in Japan). "*Neanthes japonica*" is the most common of them in and around Japan, and comprises two forms which differ in reproductive and developmental characteristics and karyotypes. The two forms co-existed in the same river of at least 4 in Kagoshima Prefecture. Electrophoretic analyses of isozyme patterns demonstrated no gene exchange between the two forms. These

results indicate that the two forms are in fact sibling species (the large- and small-egg species).

In the brackish-waters of the Omoi River, both of the two sibling species had a wide distributional range. The proportion of the two species was variable at place after place and at time after time. On the other hand, almost all individuals collected in the Kotsuki River, which is about 20km apart from the Omoi, were of the large-egg

species at any places at any times.

Benthic fauna (20 spp.) at the river mouth of the Omoi River is much richer than that (9 spp.) of the Kotsuki River. The natural tidal flat is well preserved around the river mouth of the Omoi. It is rare at present in Kagoshima Bay. The place is faced with a crisis of artificial reclamation.

Masanori SATO

(Faculty of Science, Kagoshima Univ.)

Tooth Size and Dental Arch Length in Maori

—Comparison between 14th to 16th Centuries and Today—

October 25, 1993

Tooth shape is said to be genetically stable in nature. Recently, tooth size was reported to increase gradually in these hundreds of years in Europe and Japan. On the contrary, shape of dental arch is said to be easily influenced by masticatory function as well as surrounding muscle function. Discrepancy of sizes between tooth and dental arch may become larger in modern people even in other countries. To confirm this trend in Maori, they were compared in two Maori samples; one was a skull collection of 14th to 16th centuries preserved at Otago University and the other was dental casts from inhabitants at Rotorua, New Zealand.

Totals of mesio-distal crown width of incisors, canines and premolars of both

sides were larger in modern Maori. The dental arch length of these teeth was almost the same in the maxillary arch but smaller in the mandibular arch to show the space deficiency for tooth alignment. These findings were almost the same as those of our previous report comparing data between skulls from Kamakura era and modern Japanese.

Increase of tooth size might be caused by higher nutrient, while decrease of dental arch length might be caused by the reduced masticatory function and undergrowth of jaw bones in modern Maori. This kind of changes might be very similar as those reported in Europe and Japan.

Gakuji ITO

(Faculty of Dentistry, Kagoshima Univ.)

Fishery Development Policy and its Education in Papua New Guinea (PNG)

November 11, 1993

A total of 2,000-3,000 coastal inhabitants are involved in cash-earning fishing in PNG, where the fishery industry is not affluent since collapse of its tuna industry in 1984. PNG had established no over-all fishery policies till relevant publications recently, i.e. Sector Review by UNDP (1989) and Fisheries & Coastal Resource Management & Development Report by ADB (1991). The UNDP Sector Review, which is the proxy primary fishery policy nowadays, defines the following development objectives; (1) resource utilization within the range of sustainable reproduction, (2) economically-viable coastal fisheries, (3) enhanced provincial expertise for fisheries project implementation, and (4) promotion of investment by the private sector. Particularly the second policy includes entirely new strategies to aim at market-oriented coastal fisheries, effective production with modern fishing gear and vessels, facilitation of fish markets, and privatisation of coastal fishing authorities. These are in line with encouraging;

domestic fishing industry, localized resource utilization and private fishing industry.

The former Fisheries Department of the University of PNG had run an integral fisheries programme, involving fishing technology, resource management, mariculture, seafood technology and fisheries economics since its establishment in 1976. The Department was amalgamated, however, into the Biology Department in 1990, when the curriculum was reformed to suit to marine biology and ecology. Further reduction of relevant courses, i.e. fishing technology, seafood technology and aquaculture, while creating new courses in ichthyology and physiology for marine organisms, are under consideration.

The inconsistency between the industrial policy for the sector and its educational strategies may provoke deficient man-power production against future fisheries development in the country.

Tatsuro MATSUOKA
(Faculty of Fisheries, Kagoshima Univ.)

Fruit Production in the State of Georgia in the United States

December 20, 1993

The state of Georgia occupies a high position in the United States as regards the agricultural industry. In terms of total sales of major commodities it ranks as

No.1 in pecan and peanuts, No.2 in broilers and eggs, No.3 in peaches and No.4 in sweetpotatoes production. The meteorological conditions are very varied, for

instance annual mean temperature and mean precipitation are 15°C and 1,780mm in the northern areas and 19°C and 1,270mm in the south respectively. These conditions permit the growing of many fruits except evergreen subtropical types such as citrus. Major fruits that are grown are pecans, peaches and apples followed by grapes and blueberries. Total hectarage of fruit trees is about 80,000 hectares. Pecans are grown in the south where conditions are frost free and the total production area is 65,000 hectares. The hectarage of peaches is 10,000 hectares. Major peach cultivars are yellow fleshed types unlike those in Japan which

are white fleshed. In the north high chilling requiring cultivars are grown, where as in the south low chilling requiring cultivars are grown. Apples are grown in the northern mountainous districts. Some growing of common European and American grapes is also done. The growing of the Muscadine grapes which belong to a different sub genus has been increasing in recent years. Some fruit tree cultivars of Japanese persimmon, Asian pear and apples introduced from Japan are being tried but disease and pest attacks are a problem.

Shigeto TOMINAGA
(Faculty of Agriculture, Kagoshima Univ.)

Another New Zealand Geographer at the Research Center

Following the successful visit of Dr. J. M. McKINNON, the Center invited another New Zealand geographer, Professor J. R. FLENLEY of Massey University, Palmerston North, who has taken the position of Visiting Foreign Researcher from September 1993 through February 1994. Dr. FLENLEY, who had previously made only brief Conference visits to Japan, warmly welcomed this opportunity to strengthen links with Japanese researchers and to indulge in full time research. As Head of the Geography Department of Massey University, most of his time there is taken up with administration and teaching.

Professor FLENLEY is working with Professor Kazutaka NAKANO, Director of the Center, on the history of human impact on vegetation in the South Pacific region, with special reference to the history of swidden agriculture. The technique being used is palynology (pollen analysis), of which Professor FLENLEY has a long experience in the South Pacific region. Palynology, accompanied by radiocarbon dating, of samples from stratified sediments in lakes and swamps has been rather successful at discovering the nature and time-depth of human impact. It has become clear that swidden agriculture has a history of several thousand years in New Guinea and Sumatra, leading to permanent removal of the rain forest in many areas, where repeated firing during the dry season prevents the regeneration of the forest. This shows in the pollen record as a decline in pollen of forest species and a rise in pollen of grasses and other herbs, accompanied by the presence of charcoal fragments.

In recent years Professor FLENLEY has turned his attention to Polynesia, especially the Society Islands, Cook Islands and Easter Island. At the last-named, there was evidence for an exceptionally extreme depletion of forest, occurring not long before the catastrophic collapse of the island's megalithic civilization. The hypothesis that the decline of the forest resource was one of the causes of the collapse of the civilization was of exceptional interest as a possible model for the whole Earth. Therefore, a new core was obtained from Easter Island, at a location likely to cover the time-depth of human occupancy, which is about 2,000 years or less. Twenty six samples from this core were prepared in New Zealand, and the resulting slide mounts were brought to the Center. They are now under analysis by Professor FLENLEY. Meanwhile, through the good offices of Professor NAKANO, AMS radiocarbon dating of significant samples from the core has been arranged at Nagoya University by Dr. Masatomo UMITSU. Preliminary pollen results appear not to conflict with the earlier hypothesis, and the results of the dating are awaited with great interest.

Professor FLENLEY has also been able through the help of Professor NAKANO, to visit the International Research Center for Japanese Studies in Kyoto, where there is an excellent palynology laboratory run by Dr. Yoshinori YASUDA. A further visit will be made shortly, to present a seminar, and the possibility of future international collaborative research in palynology will be discussed.

ABSTRACTS FROM WORKSHOP AND SYMPOSIUM

People's Lives and History in the South Pacific Region

June 13, 1993

A symposium entitled "People's Lives and History in the South Pacific Region" was held under the co-auspices of the Kagoshima University Research Center for the South Pacific and The Japan Society for Tropical Ecology at Taniyama Southern Hall in Kagoshima City on the 13th of June (Sunday), 1993. It was planned as one of the two symposia held for the Annual Meeting of the Society and was directed not only to the participating members of the Society but also to all the people concerned with the Research Center and the general citizens.

After the keynote address by Professor Kazutaka NAKANO (the Director of the Research Center), the below-shown three speakers including Professor NAKANO himself provided the topics for discussions led by Professor Eiji NITTA (College of General Arts, Kagoshima University) and Associate Professor Koji TANAKA (The Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University). All of the three topics were related to human beings and the environment in Oceania from the respective points of view. The full record of this symposium is to be brought out in "Tropics", the Bulletin of the Society, soon. The summary of each topic is as follows:

1) Subsistence Agriculture in Melanesia

Most researchers engaged in the vari-

ous aspects of subsistence agriculture in Melanesia agree on the view that the staple foods of the majority of the inhabitants there have been *Colocasia* taros and yams since very old times. Talking about the present situation of subsistence agriculture in many regions of Melanesia, however, we cannot disregard the great and growing importance of sweet potato and cassava as the inhabitants' basic sources of food energy. For example, according to the popular view, more than 300 years have already elapsed since the primary food in the New Guinean Highlands changed from taros and /or yams to sweet potatoes. In the Solomon Islands, however, it was not a very ancient date, but about 1960 that sweet potato was considered to become the crop for the staple food of most people there. The major and direct reason for the change of the primary crop in the Solomon Islands was the spread, throughout that country, of pathogenic blight-producing fungi and of a beetle pest both of which are specific to taros. In addition to this direct reason, however, the following circumstances are considered to have certainly related to the preceding change:

As a consequence of such Pax Britannica, since the 1930's, the majority of inland villagers began to move to seek after an easier life in coastal zones to which many mission centres of some Christian

sects attracted them by various kinds of benevolent aid which respective missionary groups offered. As predicted logically and naturally from such population movement in an island, the population density in a considerable number of coastal zones was much increased and the fallow periods for most swiddens there were distinctively shortened, even though the average value of population density of an island increased only slightly. It is said that, to obtain a satisfactory yield of taros or yams, a long fallow period for more than 15-20 years is desirable. When the fallow period for those crops has been shortened to less years than the desirable period, undesirable results leading finally to a marked decrease in the yield and a severe deterioration in the quality of those crops will follow in many cases. On the other hand, sweet potatoes were usually found to be much less affected in this regard than both taros and yams even when the fallow periods were reduced to less than 10 years. Furthermore, attention ought to be paid to the fact that, generally speaking, sweet potatoes provide, of all the food crops in the world, the highest value of land productivity measured in energy units.

In addition to the patchy distribution of the population, the rate of increase of the population in all the Solomon Islands jumped up after 1960. This also accelerated the reduction of the fallow periods of the swiddens in that country. It is also notable that the swiddening management for the production of sweet potatoes is much easier and less laborious than for that of taros or yams.

In conclusion, the change of the staple

food of the inhabitants in the Solomon Islands needed a trigger such as the spread of pest and blight but was, however, basically due to changes of social circumstances.

Kazutaka NAKANO
(Kagoshima Univ. Res. Cent. South Pac.)

2) Island Environments and Human Habitation Strategies in Oceania

The Austronesian speaking Mongoloid people had dispersed into Oceania around 3600 years ago. The culture complex possessed by early settlers was composed of horticulture, domesticated animals, voyaging skill and various technologies, especially fine decorated pottery making called *Lapita*. Despite the rapid expansion into the central Oceania, this cultural complex was retained as similar among the early settling populations dispersed into different island environments. The early similarities did not however last long and cultural diversity has been developed in the later habitation history. Several common strategies taken by early settlers are as follows.

- 1) The cultural complex possessed by the dispersed population was retained.
- 2) The new environment was exploited thoroughly to look for useful resources.
- 3) Many native plants, birds and shellfish were heavily exploited.
- 4) Some of the resources unobtainable on the island, such as stones, were imported from other islands.

The following strategies were then taken to be adapted to each island environment which had contributed to developing cultural diversities between

island societies in Oceania.

- 5) The development of intensive agriculture can be detected by extensive landscape change by land clearance.
- 6) The increase of domesticated animals, especially pigs, was detected on high islands.
- 7) Adaptive changes made in various cultural aspects had created cultural diversities among different island societies.

Michiko INTOH
(Hokkaido Tokai Univ.)

3) Land as Society in an Atoll Environment

The report has dealt with the complementarity between two kin categories, i.e. *laiul mwal* (children of men) and *laiul shoabut* (children of women), found in the formation of land-holding groups in Falalap, Woleai Atoll, Central Caroline Islands. The fundamental units in Falalap social structure are matrilineal clans (*gailang*) and matrilineages or uxori-local extended families. However, two categories are recognized among the members of a matrilineal clan. The children of male members are called *laiul mwal* (children of men) and the children of female members

are called *laiul shoabut* (children of women). These two categories show oppositions in the complementary contexts of respect-avoidance behaviors and the formation of landholding groups. Strict respect-avoidance behaviors are stipulated between brothers and sisters. In this context, the children of men are superior to the children of women. On the other hand, in the formation of land-holding groups, the children of women are superior to the children of men. A segment is formed only when certain members within a lineage receive land from their father's lineage. When the children of men received certain land from their father's group, they had certain obligations towards their father's group before World War II. When the children of men could not meet these obligations, the children of women could chase the children of men out. This relation between the children of women and the children of men is in sharp contrast with the cross-sibling relationship in the respect-avoidance behaviors, so that it is possible to say the cross-sibling relation in Falalap, Woleai shows complementarity across the contexts.

Yasuyuki KARAKITA
(Kagoshima Univ. Res. Cent. South Pac.)

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

The South Pacific —the Various Aspects of Field Surveys—

July 13 & 14, 1993

The sixth public lecture series of the Kagoshima University Research Center for the South Pacific was held in the campus of Kagoshima University for two days, on the 28th and 29th of August, 1993. As with the similar series in the preceding year, the planners of the series in 1993 intended to focus the subjects of the lectures on not too diversified topics. As a result, they aimed to have the general citizens comprehend how field surveys, the conducting of which is one of the features of interdisciplinary "area studies" in which the staff of the Research Center are engaged, are actually made and how with various purposes those are made.

By some of both the full- and the part-time campus staff of the Reserch Center, the lectures were delivered mainly on the actual methodologies of the respective field surveys and the researchers' lives during those, from the viewpoints of cultural anthropology, agricultural economics, human ecology, physical anthropology and marine biology. Even though the researchers respectively conduct field surveys in an identical area, whether on land or off coast, of the South Pacific, neither their methodologies nor their experiences in the fields are uniform. The recognition of such variability of those aspects might have broken a "definite and fixed" image of the South Pacific held by the general citizens. The criticism by the

participants that some lectures were considered too specialized should be accepted affirmatively.

Inasmuch as the application period for the participation in this series was unfortunately in the mess shortly after the disaster brought about by the cloudburst onto Kagoshima City and other districts around it, the number of the participants was less than the previous years. Despite such unfavourable conditions, the discussion after each lecture was active. Furthermore, it should be mentioned that familiar interrelationships among the participants, as exemplified in an incident that one provided special lunch boxes for the others for the expression of friendliness, had been established. The summary of each lecture is as follows:

Kazutaka NAKANO

(Director, Kagoshima Univ. Res. Cent. South Pac.)

1) Participant Observations and Cultural Understanding

—an experience from research in an atoll—

The lecture presented my research in Woleai Atoll, the Central Caroline Islands as a case of anthropological research for cultural understanding based on participant observation. The lecture presented tales relating the origins of the present population and chieftainship of Woleai Atoll and

the ways in which such stories are told. Some of the oral traditions on the peopling of the Central Caroline Islands state that the outer islands of Yap were originally settled by migrants from Yap located in the west. Furthermore, because of this, those outer islands are subservient and owe allegiance to Yap. Other traditions state that the same islands were conquered and resettled by migrants from Ifalik, an atoll located in the middle of the Central Carolines. However, available archaeological and linguistic evidence contradicts the tales that the central Caroline atolls were settled from the western islands. Here, it is important to notice the way in which stories are passed on. Stories are abundant in tabooed words prohibited in daily contexts, and narratives are used to validate claims of tenure over certain lands and islands by certain clans. As such they are usually kept secret within a circle of close relatives with considerable variations. Furthermore, the geographical spread of the area covered by stories indicates an area which shares a stratum in the social hierarchy and micro-cultural differences. Although they may contradict the archaeological and linguistic evidence, stories of migrations are meaningful in terms of Woleain culture.

Yasuyuki KARAKITA

(Kagoshima Univ. Res. Cent. South Pac.)

2) An Approach to Rural Economy in Southeast Asia

—Research on the Rice Marketing System in Thailand—

The focus of this discussion is on rice marketing in Thailand for several reasons: (1) rice is the center of the Thai agricul-

ture, accounting for a large part of agricultural GDP and of agricultural export; (2) the system of rice marketing affects directly the economy of agricultural households; (3) it is seriously discussed whether or not rice marketing is competitive and effective, because it consists of many types of traders, rice millers and exporters; and (4) marketing policy for rice is a controversial issue.

The flow of rice from production to consumption is divided into two stages. The first stage is from farmers to rice millers by passing through the hands of paddy collectors. The second stage is from rice millers to retailers and to exporters by passing through the hands of brokers, wholesalers and packers. There are many patterns of the flow of rice.

The remarkable change in rice marketing is that farmers can actively participate in markets and enhance their bargaining power. There appears several central markets for paddy whereby farmers transact directly with agents of rice millers. Traditional type of paddy collectors existing in rural areas have lesser effect on farmers' marketing. Moreover, the competitiveness becomes more and more severe among rice and paddy traders.

Due to few statistical data, a study on such recent changes of rice marketing should be based on observation and interview. The study has to include the classifying of rice traders and of rice millers into several types. This is because the flow of commodity varies according to the economic function that they have.

Masahiro YAMAO

(Faculty of Fisheries, Kagoshima Univ.)

3) Oceanographic observation in the Pacific Ocean

Oceanography includes all studies concerning the sea, such as the chemistry of sea water, the dynamics of ocean currents, the topography of the sea bottom, and the life of plants and animals living in the ocean. In recent years, remote sensing from aircraft and satellite has been developed in marine science, but research vessels are still required for purposes of oceanographic survey in the whole water column. During the last few decades, our knowledge of the Pacific Ocean has been extensively increased; however, the obtained information may be fragmentary and inadequate. For example, we do not have enough data on production cycles of plankton occurring in different regions in the Pacific Ocean. In the lecture, the general method and important results of oceanographic investigation in the Pacific Ocean were introduced. The data described here were collected during the cruises of R.V. Keitenmaru, Kagoshima University, and R.V. Hakuhomaru, University of Tokyo. The pleasure of an exciting field trip to the sea was also emphasized.

Toshihiro ICHIKAWA

(Faculty of Science, Kagoshima Univ.)

4) People and Daily Life of Rennell Island, Solomon Islands

The people living on Rennell are one of the so-called Polynesian Outliers within Melanesia, who speak the Polynesian language. The anthropological study on Rennell Islanders, carried out from 1973 to 1975, is summarized as follows: 1) The lingual depth of the maxillary central incisor, expressing the development of shovel-

shaping characteristic of Mongoloid, is in-between those of Mongoloid and Caucasoid.

2) The frequencies of absence of the palmaris longus muscle (7%) and the fibularis tertius muscle (27%), sexes pooled, are higher than usual among other racial populations.

The primary subsistence of Rennell Islanders is slash and burn cultivation to grow their main food items; taros, yams and sweet potatoes. In addition, coconuts are principal produce, and fruits such as banana and papaya are raised. Fishing is not routine work, but young men often take a leading part in fishing for the preparation of parties at the official events. Harpooning fishes by outrigger canoe in the lagoon is the common way. Co-operative work in driving fishes into the net, and catching flying fishes are seasonally conducted. In the lake, big eels and terapias are caught. The hunting of flying fox and trapping with decoy dove are common in this island. Pandanus and other plant fibers are utilized for making houses. Also daily necessities and folk craftworks are made of these plants, to earn money.

With tools made of human bones being prevalent in Oceania, the manufacture was recorded from an old man. Fortunately, a real spear of human bone was able to be seen, which was a valuable experience.

Takahiko OGATA

(Faculty of Dentistry, Kagoshima Univ.)

5) Surveys on Subsistence Agriculture in the South Pacific

Agricultural systems can be divided into two sectors, namely, those of commercial and subsistence production. The

inhabitants in Melanesia which contains the largest island of the tropics, New Guinea, and other larger ones than Polynesia and Micronesia seem more active for the agricultural production of subsistence than the other regions mentioned above. Most of the researchers engaged in the various aspects of subsistence agriculture in Melanesia, agree on the view that the staple foods of the majority of the inhabitants there have been *Colocasia taros* and yams since very old times. In addition to the Papua New Guinean Highlands where the cultivation of sweet potatoes became very popular more than 300 years ago, however, this crop has recently taken the position of the staple food also in many islands of the South Pacific. In Melanesia, sweet potatoes are, in most cases, produced in swiddens.

The precise data which I want to obtain during my stay at a village in the Solomon Islands is how much the villagers work, how much they produce sweet potatoes and how much they consume those. For obtaining such data, the following four tools, that is, a stop watch, a tape measure, a clinometer and a hand balance, are most frequently used during a field survey. A stop watch is necessary for measuring how long one works before a rest time. When a farmer does not work for more than 15 seconds, the watch is stopped. In order to obtain the working hours of a farmer, therefore, it is necessary to follow one for a fairly long time. The tape measure and clinometer are used for measuring the area of a field and the area which has been done with during the term of an

operation, such as the planting of sweet potato vines and the digging up of tubers. A hand balance is needed mainly to measure the weight of sweet potatoes dug up in a day and those consumed at a meal.

In the case of the village where I stayed for more than 3 months in total, the working days in a week were 4 on the average. With respect of the working hours in a day, they usually worked, at most, only 4 hours which excluded their resting times. Since both sweet potatoes and taros easily rot shortly after they have been dug out and must be kept alive in the fields, a farmer has no seasonal holidays over a long period of time. Inasmuch as the land productivity of sweet potatoes is generally higher than that of cereals, a swidden for the former with smaller area than the one for upland rice and support a family. According to the actual data which I have obtained, keeping constantly 0.4 ha of swidden for sweet potatoes will suffice for a nuclear family of 4 persons.

On the other hand, because most areas of Melanesia are always wet, much labour for the burning of slashed vegetation is necessary. Therefore the total labour needed for a definite area of a swidden for sweet potatoes is much more in comparison with the case of the areally corresponding one for upland rice.

During the field surveys, thus, I make many efforts to obtain precisely quantitative data which are very valuable for my researches.

Kazutaka NAKANO
(Kagoshima Univ. Res. Cent. South Pac.)

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This bibliography was, by courtesy of The Japanese Society for Oceanic Studies, adapted from a list of the books and papers brought out in English by the members of the aforementioned Society during 1988–1992. The publications in Japanese which appeared in the original list in the Special Issue (March, 1993) of the Newsletter of the Society in celebration of its 15th anniversary were excluded here.

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Editors hope that our South Pacific News-letter will link Japan into the flow of information available in the South Pacific. Letters to the editors are invited. We

hope to publish some of these in the next South Pacific Newsletter. The address is shown on the back cover of this News-letter. All contributions will be welcomed.

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