

Naoko Sonoda *Editor*

# New Horizons for Asian Museums and Museology

 Springer Open

# New Horizons for Asian Museums and Museology



Naoko Sonoda  
Editor

# New Horizons for Asian Museums and Museology

 Springer Open

*Editor*

Naoko Sonoda  
National Museum of Ethnology  
Suita, Osaka, Japan

ISBN 978-981-10-0885-6                      ISBN 978-981-10-0886-3 (eBook)  
DOI 10.1007/978-981-10-0886-3

Library of Congress Control Number: 2016943142

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and the Author(s) 2016. This book is published open access.

**Open Access** This book is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits any noncommercial use, duplication, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license and indicate if changes were made.

The images or other third party material in this book are included in the work's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in the credit line; if such material is not included in the work's Creative Commons license and the respective action is not permitted by statutory regulation, users will need to obtain permission from the license holder to duplicate, adapt or reproduce the material.

This work is subject to copyright. All commercial rights are reserved by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made.

Printed on acid-free paper

This Springer imprint is published by Springer Nature  
The registered company is Springer Science+Business Media Singapore Pte Ltd.

# Preface

The international symposium “New Horizons for Asian Museums and Museology” was held at the National Museum of Ethnology, popularly known as Minpaku, Japan, February 21–22, 2015. This symposium aimed to build a new framework for sustainable international cooperation which would contribute to the future development of museums, promoting the network of museums and museology that had already been formed.

Minpaku was founded in 1974 as an Inter-University Research Institute in order to serve as a research center for cultural anthropology and related disciplines, according to the Japanese government higher research and education policy. The exhibitions were opened to the public in 1977. Our 60 researchers have conducted fieldwork on societies, cultures, and socio-cultural changes caused by globalization at sites worldwide.

Every year, we also organize 40 research projects and 20 international symposia, and receive more than 1,000 scholars from overseas and Japan to join these activities. In the Asia-Pacific region, this museum may be the largest research center for socio-cultural anthropology and ethnology. We provide graduate education at the doctoral level.

To pursue deeper understanding of cultures and values, our staff collect and preserve ethnographical, audio-visual, and documentary materials. Minpaku has collected upwards of a half million artifacts and audio-visual materials. And around 10,000 artifacts are exhibited in the permanent gallery and 700 films are offered in our Videothèque. Our permanent and temporary exhibitions receive over 200,000 visitors each year.

Since 1994, we have been organizing an international training course on museology with financial support by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and in collaboration with the Lake Biwa Museum, Japan. The course covers a wide range of museum activities, from collection planning, acquisition, documentation, conservation, exhibition, education and public relations. More than 200 museum professionals from all over the world have participated in the course.

In fiscal 2012, Minpaku launched a 3-year project called “New Horizons in Asian Museums and Museology.” This was sponsored by the Japan Society for the

Promotion of Science (JSPS), and has the objective of establishing a common platform for sharing knowledge and experience, whereby museum specialists and researchers in Asian countries can communicate with each other about their activities and research results.

The international symposium “New Horizons for Asian Museums and Museology” was an opportunity to present outcomes from the 3-year project, and to evaluate our 20-year-long effort of the training course, and to present new perspectives on international cooperation and human resource development for museums and museology. Researchers and other experts at museums and in the field of museology came from Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Japan to share research findings and case studies on the development and maturing of museums, based on their respective historical, social, and cultural backgrounds.

It is my honor and pleasure to have welcomed 15 invited speakers from Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Japan. In particular I am so delighted that Mr. Ichinkhorloo Lkhagvasuren and Mr. Galbadrakh Enkhbat from Mongolia, Ms. Nu Mra Zan and Ms. Aye Aye Thinn from Myanmar, Ms. Jarunee Incherdchai and Ms. Nitaya Kanokmongkol from Thailand joined us and made presentations. We are also extremely grateful to all speakers and participants of the symposium for sharing ideas and insights, and making productive and successful presentations and discussions over the two days.

This collection of papers presents the results of the above symposium. We hope it will contribute to the development of effective dialogue and networks among museums in the Asian region.

We are extremely grateful to the National Institutes for the Humanities, Japan, for supporting the symposium and to JSPS for supporting the project on which the symposium was based. We offer sincere gratitude and appreciation to JICA and the Lake Biwa Museum for their support and cooperation of long standing in organizing the training courses in museology.

This volume is published with support of the National Museum of Ethnology, Japan (Program for the Promotion of External Publication).

National Museum of Ethnology  
Suita, Japan  
January 2016

Ken'ichi Sudo