

Archaeological Research in Asia

Europe/Japan Colloquium 2003

Kyoto and Shiga, December 11-12

Final declaration

European and Japanese archaeologists have been carrying out field activities for many years in many parts of Asia. Besides the factual results, their work has been a vehicle for technical expertise, new concepts for fieldwork, and analytical methods as well as theoretical strategies in archaeological interpretation. Bringing together Japanese and European archaeologists representing different countries, the Kyoto colloquium of 2003 started a network of links between European and Japanese institutions in the field of archaeological research. At the end of the colloquium the participants expressed their intention to build long-lasting relations between Europe and Japan in connection with strategic areas in Eurasia.

This task will be carried out through a permanent liaison committee, constituted for the moment by the people who have joined the first colloquium. The committee will be accessible to all scholars interested to enhance co-operation between Europe and Japan in the field of archaeological research in Asia.

The committee will be based at the Italian School of East Asian Studies (ISEAS) and Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO) centre in Kyoto, in collaboration with the Institute for Research in the Humanities, Kyoto University. The next meeting is proposed for the end of 2005.

An executive board will be established in order to do what follows:

The initiative will be advertised both in Europe and Japan to obtain support from individuals and institutions.

Areas of interests will be identified, if necessary, and lists of scholarly contacts will be created for Western Asia, Northern Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, and East Asia.

Meetings will be organized on a regular basis (every two or three years) to create a stable framework of contacts.

Ideas will be collected for fund raising.

As long-term objectives, the Europe/Japan Liaison Committee will be promoting the dissemination of information about archaeological work on both sides (newsletter or electronic bulletin board); creating proposals for co-operation between nationals and non-nationals conducting archaeological research in Asia, within the constraints of the areas of expertise and interest of the participants; sharing expertise and information on how to contact local authorities; creating opportunities for young archaeologists to experience and train in Asian archaeology.