

Center for Research Development

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

AY2012 Activity Report

Development of Research Strategies

Survey of Trends in Anthropological and Ethnological Research and Publication of the Results

As a core research institute of cultural anthropology and ethnology in Japan, the Center is responsible for collecting information on the latest research trends in Japan and abroad, and making the information available to the Museum staff and the general public. Currently, the Center is carrying out a research project entitled "A Survey of the Trends in Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology Research, How Such Research Can Meet the Needs of Academic and Non-academic Communities, and the Best Ways to Build Cooperative Relationships with Other Research Institutions." The Center now employs research fellows who are working on this project. The results of the project will be reported in "Report on the Activities of the Center for Research Development" to be issued at the end of every academic year.

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

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

Development of Research Strategies

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

Planning of Academic Exchange Salon Meetings

In order to help create research strategies, academic exchange meetings have been hosted at Minpaku since 2007, aiming to foster greater understanding of research trends in academic fields outside anthropology and ethnology. Following a lecture from a guest speaker whose study area is relevant to anthropology and ethnology, the salon is opened for all those attending to exchange ideas. In 2011, we conducted the event four times under the common theme of "Thinking about Society with the Brain".

1 st	MORIYAMA Toru (Shinshu University)	"The Heart's True Nature: Learning From the Woodlouse"
2 nd	KANZAKI Ryohei (Tokyo University)	"Attacking the Mysteries of Fabre's World of Insects—Using Robots to Explore Insect Brains and Smells"
3 rd	FUJITA Ichiro (Osaka University)	"Strange Things About Vision and the Puzzle of the Brain—Binocular Vision as a Case in Point"
4 th	KATO Tadasfumi (Riken Brain Science Institute)	"Towards Developing a Fundamental Cure for Depression"

Planning, Design and Implementation of Research Projects

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

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

Evaluation of Research Structure and Research Projects

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

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

Research Coordination and Collaboration

Promotion of Research Collaboration with Universities and Other Research Institutes

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

Projects for Junior Researchers

To promote joint use of Minpaku resources, the Young Researchers Meeting on Joint Use of the National Museum of Ethology was launched in 2006. In 2009, it became the Minpaku Young Researcher Seminar. In 2012, the theme of the three-day seminar was “Anthropological Studies of Inclusion and Autonomy.” While continuing to introduce core research projects conducted by Minpaku researchers, this seminar has also become a venue at which selected participants present their individual research. The most outstanding presentations receive the Minpaku Young Researcher Seminar Award. Eleven graduate students from public and private universities throughout Japan participated in this event. In addition, in response to young researchers’ proposals, an experimental project, “Joint Research by Junior Researchers” was begun. In 2010 it was incorporated into the regular structure of Minpaku and applications solicited for “Joint Research (Junior Scholars).” (See p.13)

Promotion of Research Collaboration with User Communities such as the Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology

On February 27 2008, Minpaku signed an agreement with the Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology (JASCA), the closest affiliated society within our user community. Minpaku has formed an alliance for cooperation on research conferences organized by Minpaku and for managing and maintaining an archive of anthropological videos owned by academic societies. To further strengthen this alliance, Minpaku has reviewed its agreement with the Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology (JASCA) and entered into a comprehensive formal agreement, apart from specific programs, with that society. In March 2013, an agreement was signed with the Japan Association for International Education, under which programs related to museology will be developed.

Coordination with the Japan Consortium for Area Studies

The Japan Consortium for Area Studies (JCAS) is an active group of academic communities sharing the common theme of global research. Minpaku became JCAS’ 70th member organization in May 2006 and a member of its executive group in 2008.

Collection of Research Information and Publication of Research Results

Collection of Information on Research Activities and Compilation of the Annual Research Report

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

Supporting the Publication of Research Results through the Research Dissemination Program

In an effort to open research results to the public more effectively for the good of society, we expanded the “Promotion of the Research Forum Program” established in 2002 into the “Research Dissemination Program” in 2003. Through this program, the Museum’s joint research and individual research projects are made available to the public in various forms, such as symposia, research forums, and academic lectures, and overseas workshop. In 2012, four symposia, and five research forums were held through the program. In addition, academic lectures are organized every year in Tokyo and Osaka, helping to disseminate research results throughout society (see p.20).