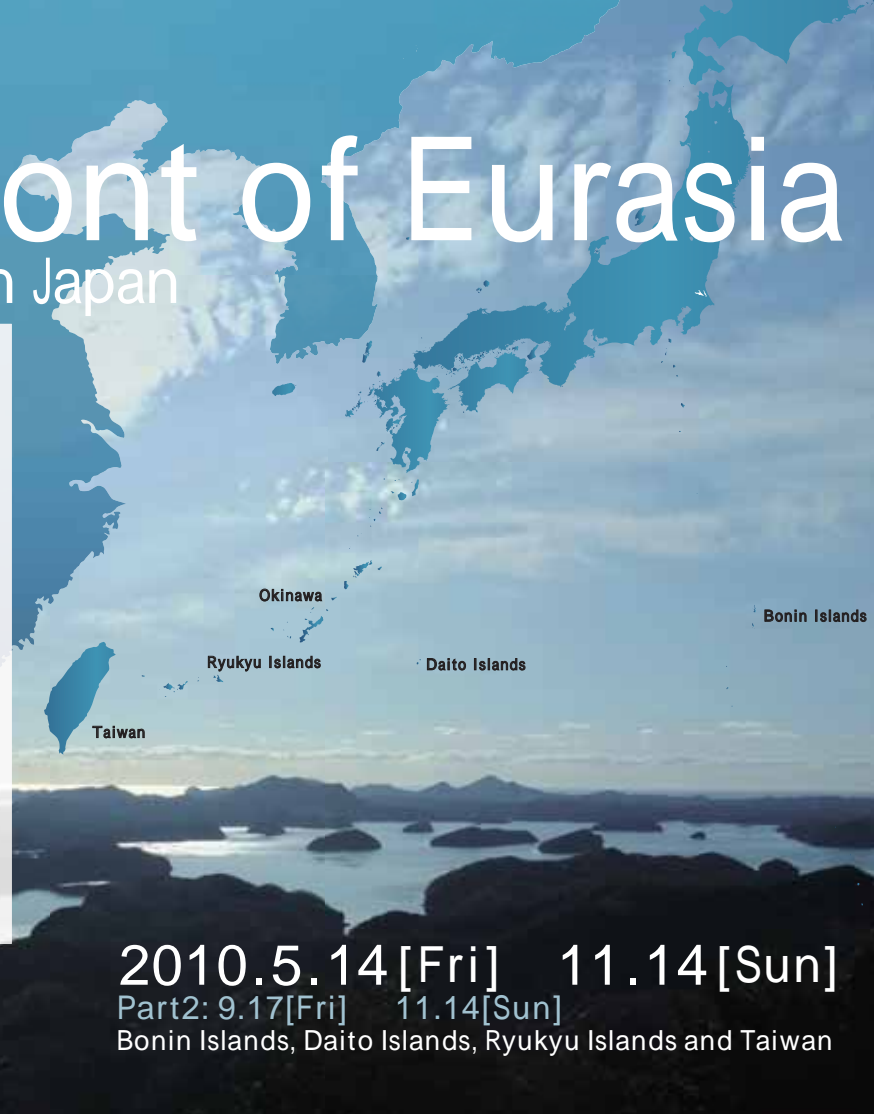


The Sea Front of Eurasia

Borders of Southwestern Japan

Please take a close look at the globe placed in the center of the booth. The Japanese archipelago is situated at the eastern end of the Eurasian plate with its borders surrounded by the sea. The sea may pose as an obstacle but at the same time it plays an important role in connecting people and goods. This 3rd museum exhibition captures southwestern Japan as a "sea frontier" or a frontier zone where people and culture interact beyond the borders. We have on display materials and specimens from the Ryukyu Islands, Daito Islands, Bonin Islands and Tsushima from which we can see a glimpse of their history that transcends the physical boundaries. Many of our visitors from Hokkaido may not be very familiar with this area. The Japanese archipelago that stretches from north to south is a collectivity of areas each with diverse history. This exhibition would like to introduce the history and the daily lives of the people living in border areas in the southern part of Japan. We hope that this exhibition will be a good opportunity for our visitors to reflect on the common features of people living in border areas by comparing their history and lives. Our aim is to create a new paradigm to consider the world that we live in by helping to link the realities and people's "emotions" of those living in various border areas.

Chief Organizer
Akihiro Iwashita
May 14, 2010



2010.5.14 [Fri] 11.14 [Sun]
Part2: 9.17 [Fri] 11.14 [Sun]
Bonin Islands, Daito Islands, Ryukyu Islands and Taiwan

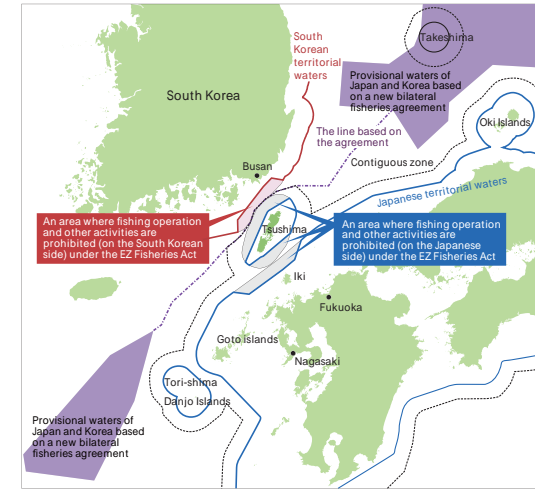
Tsushima an island on the border-

Busan can be seen from Tsushima – an island located about 120 km from Hakata and some 50 km from the Korean Peninsula. This island, with its strategic geopolitical position between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese archipelago, has experienced both tension and exchanges. Unlike the seas in which Takeshima, Senkaku and other disputed islands are found, the area off Tsushima is one of only a few border waters where ocean boundaries have been specified (see the figure below). Japan and South Korea have promoted cooperation in the area off Tsushima and maintained peaceful relations there.

In recent years, regular sea routes linking South Korea, Tsushima and Fukuoka have been opened, and the number of Korean visitors to Tsushima is increasing rapidly. Although there was once friction due to cultural differences, people from both nations have actively promoted various exchange activities (including the National Border Marathon, the Tsushima Ching Music Festival and the Izuhara Port Tsushima Arirang Festival).

Number of non-Japanese visitors to Tsushima	
1998...	520
2000...	6,271
2008...	50,283
*Tsushima's population: 3,556 (as of August 2010)	

Tsushima has long been a place where people and commodities from Kyushu and the Korean Peninsula mix. It may be quite natural for islanders there to think of their future roles as intermediaries between the eight million residents of Fukuoka and the rest of Kyushu on the northern coast of Kyushu and the twelve million Koreans living along the southern coast of Korea.



The waters around Tsushima

Baltic Battle Cruiser Fleet No. 1



A bell on the destroyer Voiskovi
(from the collection of a member of the Tsushima Board of Education)

Animals in Tsushima



Tsushima Leopard Cat
(from the collection of the Tsushima Wildlife Conservation Center)
The Tsushima Leopard Cat – an endangered species – has an estimated population of 80 to 110, and has been designated by the Japanese Government as a protected species.



Ring-necked pheasant
(from the collection of the Tsushima Board of Education)



Siberian weasel
(from the collection of the Tsushima Board of Education)

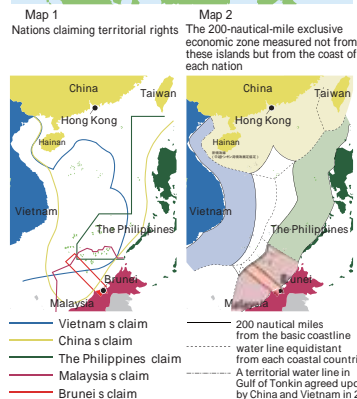
国境の島・対馬

南シナ海と島々

The South China Sea and its islands

Modern history of territorial disputes

The South China Sea, which is surrounded by Taiwan, China and southeastern Asian nations, has a number of islands, including those of Hainan, Pratas, Parcel and Spratly. Although these islands were once used by fishermen as mooring places, they later became the center of conflicts due to wars and resource exploitation. Territorial disputes in the region still remain unresolved.



Japan's advances southward and defeat in war
Military confrontation during the cold war
Heightening of resource nationalism
Military conflicts of joint control and development of waters

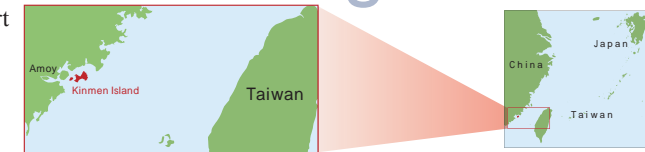
1920s:	Japan, China and France opposed one another over guano exploitation rights and the establishment of fisheries bases. Japan made economic advances onto the islands.
1937年	The Sino-Japanese War broke out. Japan's navy occupied the Pratas Islands.
From 1938:	Following the relocation of the Chiang Kai-shek Government to Chongqing, the Japanese navy occupied the Hainan, Parcel and Spratly islands to cut off the cargo shipment route.
From 1945:	An empty period in terms of occupancy came about due to Japan's defeat in the war. China took over the Hainan and Pratas Islands. China and France opposed each other over the occupancy of the Parcel Islands. France, China and the Philippines opposed one another over the occupancy of the Spratly Islands.
1949:	After the Chinese Civil War, the Republic of China retreated to Taiwan and pulled its troops out of the Parcel and Spratly islands.
1950:	The People's Liberation Army occupied Hainan Island.
1951:	The San Francisco Peace Treaty did not specify to which nations Parcel and the Spratly Islands belonged.
1954:	The Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) – an anti-communist military alliance – was established.
From 1960:	In the 1950s and 1960s, the South China Sea became the preliminary maritime zone of the Cold War, with China again finding its way onto these islands and the Philippines and South Vietnam also advancing there.
1970s to 1980s:	Oil resources in the South China Sea attracted worldwide attention. Following the end of the second Indo-China War and the occurrence of oil crises, territorial disputes over the Parcel and Spratly islands re-ignited. The concept of the 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) gained ground in the international community. A trend of increased economic value in occupying deserted islands also caused a rekindling of the conflict.
	China, Taiwan and Vietnam are in opposition over the occupancy of the Parcel Islands. China, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei are also in dispute over the possession rights to the Spratly Islands.
1988:	Chinese and Vietnamese military forces clashed on the waters of the Spratly Islands. Some 80 Vietnamese were injured or killed.
From the mid-1990s:	Following China's military advancement into the South China Sea, Southeast Asian nations promoted bilateral dialogue and negotiations under the framework of ASEAN for the peaceful settlement of territorial disputes.
2002:	The Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea was adopted at the ASEAN-China Summit.
Present	Although military tensions have recurred in recent years, attempts to jointly develop oil resources are being made. Based on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, enacted in 1994, a system for each nation to apply for the extension of its jurisdictional continental shelf has been consolidated. This poses the threat of another dispute being triggered.
	In 2009, China and the Philippines took a stance against claims by Vietnam and Malaysia that the continental shelf zone should cover an area of over 200 nautical miles not from the islands but from the relevant coastlines.

History of territorial disputes

雪解ける金門島

Kinmen Island in the thawing season

Kinmen Island, located 2 to 10 kilometers from the continent, is part of the territory of Taiwan.



Boundaries made by civil wars

In 1949 and 1958, this area became a battlefield in the civil war between Kuomintang and Communist forces, with the former triumphant on both occasions. Although no military conflicts have occurred since then amid the changing international environment (e.g., confrontation between China and the Soviet Union and the normalization of U.S.-China diplomatic relations), confrontations on the border lingered.



Landmines buried on the shore of Kinmen Island



Promotional material of the Communist Party on mine protection



A huge loudspeaker on the continental side

Transformation of the boundary area into a tourist spot

The boundary area has been open to tourists since 1994, and traffic with Amoy on the opposite shore was restored in 2001. The battlefields and military facilities of Kinmen Island have attracted tourists from within and outside China. Similarly on the continental side, the boundary area is steadily being transformed into a tourist destination.



An underground pit



An observatory open to visitors



A view of Kinmen Island from a pleasure boat



Bars made jointly by Kuomintang and Communist forces



A huge signboard that has become a tourist attraction



From Kinmen Island to the continent

Artillery shells are used as materials for kitchen knives:

During the civil war in 1958, Communist forces fired about 440,000 shells in 45 days. They subsequently continued to bombard uninhabited mountain areas from 7 to 10 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday until the normalization of China-U.S. diplomatic relations in 1979. Shells found on the island are now used as materials for kitchen knives.



A Kinmen knife and a piece of a shell



Brochures on Kinmen knives



▲ Pieces of iron are cut from the shells and heated.



▲ They are then beaten to make knives.

Kuomintang troops
57,179 shells fired



Communist troops
443,999 shells fired

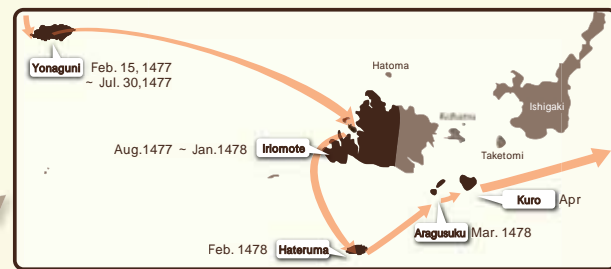
济州島から与那国へ

From Jeju to Yonaguni

In February 1477, a ship from Jeju carrying the island's specialty mandarin oranges to be offered as a tribute was blown adrift by strong winds. Two weeks later, three of the fourteen crew members, Kim Biui, Yi Jeong and Kang-Mo, were rescued. After landing on an island called Yun-i (known today as Yonaguni), they stayed there and interacted with the islanders for five months. At the end of July when a southerly wind was blowing, they left the island accompanied by thirteen locals.



Later, after staying on Iriomote Island for six months, they were sent to the islands of Hateruma, Aragusuku, Kuro, Tarama, Irabu and Miyako, and finally arrived in Okinawa, where interpreters were available. At Shuri Castle, they met with Sho Shin, the King of Ryukyu. The three men traveled on to Kagoshima, Hakata, Iki and Tsushima before reaching Yeompo in May 1479. It was a journey of two years and three months.



This story, reported by the returned drifters, was described in detail in that year's Korean Dynasty Fact Record: King Seongjong's Record. It has also come to light in recent years that Yonaguni islanders maintained an oral legend called Fuganutu (lit. "strangers") describing the episode of the drifters that came to stay with them. Its content matches that of King Seongjong's record very closely. Although this legend has been passed down orally on the island for 530 years, now Ms. N is the only one who can tell the story.

Episodes eloquently recounted by the drifters from Jeju

King Seongjong's Record, which narrates the three drifters' experiences up until they finally returned to Korea, is known as the oldest existing record of high value on the lives of Yaeyama and Miyako islanders. The following accounts are excerpts from sections that describe their days on Yonaguni Island after arriving there.

Korean Dynasty Fact Record: King Seongjong's Record vol. 105

Comparison of the accounts in King Seongjong's Record vols. 104 and 105 with the actual lives of Yaeyama islanders in the Taisho Period



▲ Having cows walk on the soil, photographed by Keisen Motoyama (Taisho Period; from the collection of the Yonaguni Folk Museum)

King Seongjong's Record (1479)	Level of correlation:	Very close	Close	Partial	Yonaguni islanders lives and culture (until around 1925)
Paddy cultivation with cows walking on the soil	—	—	—	—	Islanders cultivated paddy fields by having cows walk on the soil.
Sowing in December, transplanting in January and harvesting in May	—	—	—	—	Sowing in October, transplanting in December and harvesting in June
People restrained themselves from making any sound before rice harvesting.	—	—	—	—	People were on their best behavior before rice harvesting.
People blew on small flutes while watching rice harvesting.	—	—	—	—	Islanders blew small flutes made of sacred giant reeds. (Iriomote Island)
Islanders planted once and harvested twice a year.	—	—	—	—	Double cropping was possible in years without typhoons. (Iriomote Island)
Storage of rice in family-owned towers	—	—	—	—	Each family piled up bundles of rice.
Women making unrefined sake by chewing rice	—	—	—	—	Young women made unrefined sake by chewing unpolished rice grains and cooked rice.
Seasoning of food with seawater	—	—	—	—	Islanders used seawater as a seasoning. (Shikagawa, Iriomote Island)
Islanders involved in the festival ate no meat for three months.	—	—	—	—	Yonaguni residents didn't eat beef.
Only robbers pick up things in the street	—	—	—	—	There are right ways to steal food and to have food stolen.



▲ Children and Yonaguni horses (Taisho Period; from the collection of the Yonaguni Folk Museum)

Comparison of King Seongjong's Record with interviews of Yonaguni islanders about their lives and culture until around 1925 reveals no significant differences in the way they earned their living. There are consistencies in the details of their lives and culture, both of which are rooted in the natural environment and climate of the islands and have basically remained unchanged for over 450 years.

Korean Dynasty Fact Record: King Seongjong's Record vol. 105

Comparison of the accounts in King Seongjong's Record vols. 104 and 105 with the actual lives of Yaeyama islanders in the Taisho Period



Case1

Ms. N's notebook, in which the Fuganutu legend was recorded



Level of correlation: Very close Close x None

King Seongjong's Record (1479)	Fuganutu legend (1955-1994)
Kim Biui, Kang-Mo and Yi Jeong	Three men
Drifted from Jeju	They are total strangers.
They had eaten nothing for 14 days.	Very tired and hungry
Leek and rice porridge + rice, dried fish and unrefined sake	Wild leeks, rice, dried fish and refined sake made by chewing rice
None of them know about fish.	Looking curiously at fish caught by islanders
Earthen pots break easily.	They said that earthen pots broke easily.
I wrote messages to communicate with them, but they couldn't understand.	They drew strange patterns on the ground.
There were no chieftains in the village.	Elder women were the parents of villagers.
People were on their best behavior before rice harvesting.	Joining villagers in restraining their behavior before rice harvesting
Observing rice harvesting	Villagers said they were good at rice harvesting.
They often cried because they missed their native land.	They suddenly began crying.
Kim Deoksan and four other men died by drowning.	They cried over the deaths of five of their comrades.
They found solace in old and new rice ears.	They told islanders how to distinguish between new and old rice ears.
They waited for the wind and set sail.	They left on the wind.
They stayed on Iriomote Island for six months.	Islanders drifting to Iriomote Island were reunited with the three men there.
They had no pigs and no toilets.	They were surprised to hear the call of pigs.

The exhibits are items related to exchanges between the three drifters from Jeju and Yonaguni islanders as well as objects restored by Ms. N to their original states based on the legend.

Exhibits



Case2

Left: Uppa: Fuganutu underwear

Right: A kimono owned by Ms. N, the teller of the Fuganutu legend



Case3

Left: Bidiri: A charm made by islanders to pray for the Fuganutu's safety

Center: An earthen pot for one person made by islanders for the Fuganutu

Right: Tozuru-modoki: Used by Yonaguni islanders on various occasions as a daily necessity. Also used in Fuganutu earthen pots.



Audio recording

Bagarigurishanu
Mabuiba Kumiti
Gajini Nushite
Ugui Yadakashanu
Kajinu Tayuiya
Minunido

Songs about parting from the Fuganutu sung in Yonaguni dialect.

Although it was hard for us to part from them
From the bottom of our souls
On the wind
Although we have sent them
Even on the grapevine
Never have we heard from them

DVD image

In February 2009, Yuji and Takako Ankei (who planned this exhibition) and Seoul National University professor Chun Kyung-Soo from Jeju made a journey to the islands of Yonaguni and Iriomote to pray for the spirits of the deceased and express their gratitude to the islanders. They wanted to inform Yaeyama residents that the three drifters they had sent off 530 years ago had returned to Jeju safe and sound. These are pictures taken during their trip to the islands.

