

Young Researcher Overseas Visit Program for Vitalizing Brain Circulation  
Trip Report, Republic of Palau, March 18 to 24, 2012

Name: Kazuharu Mizuno, Associate Professor, Graduate School for African and Asian Area Studies, Kyoto University

Trip dates: March 18 to 24, 2012

Destination: Republic of Palau, Belau national museum

Trip report:

I visited the Belau National Museum in Koror and met with the museum director Olympia Morei. In addition to the present project, we discussed future academic exchange and educational research. We also negotiated fees for the hosting of Akari Konya, who will be dispatched by the Young Researcher Overseas Visits Program for Vitalizing Brain Circulation, from April to November, 2012, by the museum.

I was shown exhibits at the museum, through which I was able to gain valuable information regarding the history, culture, and nature of Palau. I also visited the Senior Citizens Center in Koror. At the center, seniors gather to pass on traditional Palau culture by weaving small crafts and bags using the leaves of the pandanus tree. There, I interviewed and spoke with Ms. Konya's informant, Antonina Antonio. In addition, I visited Peleliu Island and inspected locales that had been battlegrounds during the Second World War.

I also visited the Kayangel Atoll located in the north of Palau, which is a typical atoll, to observe its terrain and nature.

Because Palau was assigned to Japan as a trust territory by the League of Nations following the end of the First World War, many foreign words used in Palauan, reflecting the influence of Japanese language education at the time, are of Japanese origin. Some examples of these are *denki* (electricity), *denwa* (telephone), *senpuki* (fan), *sensei* (teacher), *daitoryo* (president), *kuruma* (car), *haisha* (dentist), *okyaku* (guest), *otsuri* (changes), *hage* (bald) (from *hageyama* (bald mountains)), and *haburashi* (tooth brush). I also observed that many Palauan names are Japanese names.



Photo 1. A senior at the Senior Citizens Center weaving a native dress using the leaves of the pandanus tree.



Photo 2. Some seniors enjoying a game of *hanafuda* (traditional Japanese card game) at the Senior Citizens Center.



Photo 3. Ruins of the Japanese military headquarters on Peleliu Island during the Second World War.



Photo 4. The Kayangel Atoll