

Feb 15, ZUNO International Seminar

This is an announcement to invite you to the ZUNO International Seminar.

Date: Feb 15th(Fri) 2013

Time:13:00~18:30

Place: Medium Seminar Room on the 3rd Floor of Inamori Building

Abstract :

Humans act in a specific environment using cultural references deployed through mundane activities. Even in remote areas such as deserts and rainforests, people with “indigenous” knowledge actively shape the environment. The resulting landscape reflects the history of their activities. Now, increasing numbers of international organizations, governments, non-governmental and mass media organizations, and educational groups appreciate such knowledge. Consequently, more people have been required to formulate explicit “indigenous” knowledge so that they can claim their right to the environment. Analyzing the process of forming and using such knowledge sheds light on the distinctiveness of contemporary societies, in which globalization and locality are inseparably interwoven.

All of the presenters at this seminar have examined the relationships between nature and society in Africa as cultural processes, although their stances for vitalizing “indigenous” knowledge differ considerably. The diversity of approaches promotes dialogue on the study of the relationships of knowledge, society, and power over the environment. Through such dialogue, this seminar aims to facilitate further collaboration among divergent actors working for African societies.

PROGRAMME:

13:00~13:10 Opening Remarks

13:10~14:00 “Studies on indigenous knowledge of San-speaking people: Achievements and perspectives of Japanese scholars” Akira Takada (ASAFAS)

14:00~14:50 “The University of Botswana San Research Centre: Bridging the gaps and increasing the competence in indigenous issues”

Maitseo M. Bolaane (Research Center for San Studies, University of Botswana)

14:50~15:10 Coffee Break

15:10~16:00 "Constructing AFlora: The database of plant utilization in Africa"

Daiji Kimura (CAAS, Kyoto University)

16:00~16:50 Multi-language Use and Lingua Franca Use: Two Strategies to Cope with Multilingualism in Africa

Shigeki Kaji (ASAFAS, Kyoto University)

16:50~17:10 Coffee Break

17:10~18:00 Transmitting and Vitalizing Indigenous Knowledge in a Diminishing Bio-cultural Environment: Case Studies from Africa

Herman Batibo (Department of African Languages and Literature, University of Botswana)

18:00~18:30 General Discussion

18:30~18:40 Closing

We are looking forward to many people attending the seminar.

Regards