

**INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF  
LANGUAGES AND CULTURES  
OF ASIA AND AFRICA**

**AN OUTLINE**

**1974**

**TOKYO GAIKOKUGO DAIGAKU**  
**(Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)**

## *HISTORY & BACKGROUND*

The Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa is the first inter-university research institute in Japan in the field of humanities and social sciences. In the past, a considerable number of inter-university research institutes have been founded in the field of natural sciences. The purpose is to promote progress in research through providing researchers at any academic institution, private or public, with facilities and research materials as well as opportunities for mutual contact and exchange.

The institute was established on April 1, 1964 as one of the inter-university research institutes. Its origin, however, dates further back to 1955, when Asian and African Conference was held in Bandung, Indonesia. The concept of "Asia and Africa" as one block first sprung out of this conference. This gave a great deal of influences upon us who were, at that time, searching for a new position for our country to take in the world after World War II. In 1960, Japanese economy entered "the period of high growth rate" and the people began to realize what happens in Asia and Africa was going to decide our future. It was this year when the Science Council of Japan formed a special committee for research on Asia and Africa. In the following year, the Committee recommended the Government to establish "the Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa". Three years later in 1964, the Institute was established in the form of an institute affiliated with Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, one of the State Universities in Tokyo.

## *PURPOSES & FUNCTIONS*

The purposes of the Institute are: to conduct comprehensive research on languages and cultures of Asia and Africa; to compile dictionaries of languages in these areas; and to provide instruction and training for these languages. To be more specific,

- 1) to study the languages of Asia and Africa as well as their histories, societies and cultures through their native languages;
- 2) to compile and publish dictionaries of these languages in order to facilitate utilization of materials written in these languages for research;
- 3) to provide language training conducted in Japanese to facilitate acquisition of these languages.

The above functions are to be performed not only by the members of the Institute but also by "faculty members of State Universities, or others" who are engaged in the same research, which is the main characteristics of an inter-university research institute such as this one.



## ORGANIZATION

### A) Research Department

Research activities are carried out by Research Departments, which are classified into groups mainly by subject area or language. Each research department is composed of one professor, one associate professor, and one research assistant, with a total of three for its regular staff. As of April, 1974, the Institute has 12 research departments.

- 1) Language-Culture: Section I (General Linguistics)
- 2) Language-Culture: Section II (General History / Anthropology)
- 3) North East Asia
- 4) China
- 5) Turkic-Uralic
- 6) Indo-China: Section I (Vietnam, Thailand, Laos)
- 7) Indo-China: Section II (Burma, Cambodia)
- 8) Indonesia-Oceania
- 9) India: Section I (Aryan)
- 10) Iran
- 11) Arabia
- 12) Africa

Three new departments, India: Section II (Dravidian), Tibet, and Mongolia, are being planned for addition in the future.

Researchers at each departments are specialists in linguistics, history, or anthropology, respectively, making the nature of their research interdisciplinary. This is one of the strong characteristics of this Institute.

### B) Administrative Committee

The daily activities of the Institute are administered by Faculty Meeting which consists of professors and associate professors. Separately from this, Administrative Committee is formed as an advisory organ to Director, for the purpose of maintaining the openness of the Institute as an inter-university research institute. It deals with fundamental administrative policies of the Institute. Members of Administrative Committee include experienced scholars and specialists outside the Institute as well as a few professors and/or associate professors of the Institute. The following is a list of 23 Administrative Committee members for 1974.

M. Ara, H. Doi, M. Goo, S. Hattori, M. Ichimata, Y. Ijichi  
K. Imanishi, Y. Isigaki (Institute member) H. Izui,  
S. Kaizuka, T. Kawabe (Institute member) S. Maejima,  
T. Matsuda, C. Nakane, T. Nakanishi, K. Sakamoto,  
T. Shibata, H. Suzuki, M. Tomikawa (Institute member),

M. Yamaguchi (Institute member)

N. Yamamoto, T. Yamamoto, H. Watanabe

(In an Alphabetical Order)

### **C) Joint-Research**

As explained earlier, research at an inter-university research institute such as this one is to be conducted not by the members of the Institute only, but in co-operation with specialists and researchers outside the Institute. For this purpose, the Institute has a joint-research program in which several researchers outside the Institute are asked to work as joint-researchers. The Institute provides them with facilities and other necessities so that they can participate actively in the research being carried out at the Institute. In addition, the Institute has a program for research students.

## ***RESEARCH ACTIVITIES***

### **A) Joint-research Project**

In addition to conducting individual studies, each member of the staff is engaged in a joint-research project organized by co-operation with joint-researchers outside the Institute. The following is a list of joint-research projects for 1974.

- 1) Language Training
- 2) Fundamental Research for Mechanical Processing of Linguistic Information
- 3) Research on Islamization and Modernization in Asia and Africa
- 4) Academic Expedition into Africa
- 5) Research on a Linguistic Questionnaire for Asian and African Languages
- 6) Fundamental Research on Vocabulary and its Semantic Field
- 7) Research on Religious Movements in Asia and Africa
- 8) Compilation of a Dictionary of Altai Studies
- 9) Research on Village Communities in India
- 10) A Comparative Study on Symbolisms and World Perspectives in Asia and Africa
- 11) The Original Structure and its Transformational Process of Asian Society

The members engaged in these projects come to a total of 137, including both Japanese and foreign scholars.

### **B) Language Training**

Education and training for the acquisition of Asian and African languages

has not been fully developed in Japan. In order to promote technical development in this area, the Institute has conducted, almost every summer since 1967, an experimental training session for Korean, Bengali, Modern Hebrew, Ethiopian, Swahili, Burmese (at Osaka University of Foreign Studies), Fukiense, and Tibetan, one or two of them each year. From 1974, this experimental session is developed into a full program, publicly inviting 10 students for registration for Korean and Tibetan, respectively.

### C) Overseas Expedition Party

One of the important functions of this institute is to conduct field research in Asia and Africa. For 1974, two parties are sent to these areas. Each research party is composed of the members of the Institute staff and joint-researchers outside the Institute. The objectives of these research parties are as follows:

- 1) Comparative Research on African Tribal Societies
- 2) Comparative Research on Changes in the Societies and Cultures of the Islamic World

### D) Sending Researchers Overseas for Field Research

The Institute is sending young researchers such as research assistants to Asian and African countries for the period of two years in a respective country; this is to train scholars who have absorbed the cultures of Asia and Africa through actually living there, having mastered language skills to speak, read and write their languages freely.

### E) Major Publications

- \* *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, No. 1 – 7. Issued once or twice every year.
- \* *Newsletter*, No.1 – 21. Issued several times a year.
- \* Series for the Study of the Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa:
  - No. 1 *The Life of the Farmer in Thailand*, translated by Toshio Kawabe
  - No. 2 *The Risala of Ibn Fandlan*, translated by Hikoichi Yajima
  - No. 3 *An Outline of Gwandara Phonemics and Gwandara-English Vocabulary*, Shuji Matsushita (in English)
  - No. 4 *Conversational Texts in Eastern Neo-Aramic (Gzira Dialect)*, Akio Nakano (in English)
- \* *A Linguistic Questionnaire for Asian and African Languages*, two volumes
- \* *A Classified Dictionary of Spoken Manchu, with Manchu, English and Japanese Indexes*, Ken'go Yamamoto



- \* *Basic Vocabulary of Hakka Dialect*, Mantaro J. Hashimoto
- \* *A Classified Dictionary of Modern Korean, with Korean English and Japanese Indexes*, Hiroyuki Umeda
- \* *Iraqw Basic Vocabulary with Swahili Equivalents*, Shohei Wada
- \* *A Basic Clause Dictionary of Ethiopian: Book I*, Yukio Isigaki
- \* *Asian and African Grammatical Manual*
  - No. 1 "Korean," Hiroyuki Umeda
  - No. 2 "Cushitic," Yukio Isigaki
  - No. 3 "Fulfulde," Paul Kazuhisa Eguchi
  - No. 4 "Romance & Greek," Yukio Isigaki

In addition to the above, a large number of publications are published by this Institute, such as the reports of joint-research projects, etc.

## *FUTURE PLANNING*

The Institute has a library which collects books and materials on Asian and African studies, as well as a phonetic laboratory equipped with various machines such as a sound spectrograph, a magnetic oscillograph, a pitch indicator, a sonalyzer, memoriscope, etc. The scale of each facility, however, is not sufficient to satisfy the needs of the Institute as an information center to be jointly utilized. In order to remedy such deficiency, an installation of a large-scale computer is being planned in the near future to strengthen the function as an inter-university research institute to a full scale in the following three areas.

### 1) Library Materials

The rich and extensive collection of library materials would be difficult to be attained by the ordinary method of purchasing, no matter how many years may be spent for it. Therefore, the Institute attempts to computalize an automatic index of various materials published in Japan as well as abroad.

### 2) Computalization of Dictionaries

Rather than compiling printed dictionaries, the computer will be utilized as a dictionary itself so that a new item can be added and a new index made constantly.

### 3) Automation of Language Training

Since languages to be studied come to a large number, "Language House" will be established. In this language house, participants can stay overnight and receive video-taped training courses efficiently.

Many new attempts are being made at the Institute, in addition to these three.

## *INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH THEMES FOR 1974*

### *Linguistics*

Director	Hajime Kitamura	A Descriptive Study of Modern Tibetan
Prof.	Hiroyuki Umeda	A Descriptive Study of Modern Korean
Prof.	Yukio Isigaki	Syntactic Typology
Prof.	Takao Ooe	Descriptive Studies of Modern Korean, and Middle Korean
Prof.	Mantaro J. Hashimoto	A Descriptive & Comparative Study of Hainanese Dialects
Prof.	Tsuyoshi Nara	Descriptive Studies of Bengali & Hindi; A Comparative Study of Modern Indo-Aryan Languages
Assc. Prof.	Yasuyuki Sakamoto	A Descriptive Study of Modern Khmer; A Comparative Study of Affixation in Modern Khmer Languages
Assc. Prof.	Akio Nakano	A Comparative & Descriptive Study of Modern Semitic Languages; An Analysis of Berber Folktales
Assc. Prof.	Shigeru Tsuchida	A Descriptive Study of Central Formosan Native Languages; Classification of Tsou Language Groups and Reconstruction of Tsou Common Language
Instructor	Tsuneo Morino	A Descriptive Study of Modern Swahili
Instructor	Koji Kamioka	A Historical Study of Iranian Syntax; A Contrastive Grammar of Modern Persian and Japanese; Compilation of a Conversational Dictionary of Modern Persian

Research Asst.	Yasutoshi Yukawa	A Theoretical Study of General Linguistics; Descriptive Studies of Various Languages
Research Asst.	Motoki Nakajima	A Descriptive and Historical Study of Chinese Dialects
Research Asst.	Shuji Matsushita	A Comparative Study of Chadic Languages
Research Asst.	Shiro Yabu	A Descriptive Study of Modern Burmese; A Study of the History of Burmese; Research on Burmese Dialects, Tibeto-Burman Languages and Karen Languages
Research Asst.	Ryohei Kagaya	Acoustic and Physiological Studies of Sound-segments

#### *Historical Science*

Prof.	Toshio Kawabe	Investigation of Overseas-Chinese Society in South East Asia; Compilation of a Thai-Japanese Dictionary
Prof.	Hidehiro Okada	Roles played by North Asian Peoples in the Formation of China; Developments in Modern China
Prof.	Heiji Nakamura	A Study of Political Process in Post-War India; A Study of Political Ideologies of Rahul Sankrityayana and Govind Ballabh Pant
Assc. Prof.	Wataru Miki	Changes of the Arab Society in Modern Era
Assc. Prof.	Noboru Karashima	A Study of Socio-economic History of South India; A Study of Mobility and Integration in the Society of India



Research Asst.	Hikoichi Yajima	A Study of the History of Maritime Trades in the Indian Ocean during the 10th – 15th Centuries
Research Asst.	Sakae Maotani	A Study of Nation-Building and Cultural Integration of Indonesia; A Study of Value System among Indonesian People; A Study of Islamic Reform Movement in Indonesia
Research Asst.	Mikio Mori	Continuity and Change of Existing Religions (a Case Study with Thailand and Vietnam)
Research Asst.	Masao Naito	A Study on History of Ideas of Modern India (Maharashtra & Gujarat)
Research Asst.	Yuzo Nagata	A Study of the Social History of Turk at the End of the 18th Century; A Study of Balkan Social History under the Ottoman Empire

### *Anthropology*

Prof.	Morimichi Tomikawa	A Comparative Study of Tribal Relationship; A Comparative Study of Ethno-Medicines
Prof.	Shigeru Iijima	Nation-Building of Multi-racial Societies in Asia
Prof.	Masao Yamaguchi	An Analysis of Roles Played by Peripheral Categories in Human Cultures; Mythological & Symbolical Analysis of Political Systems; A Comparative Study of Trickster Myths
Assc. Prof.	Tadahiko Hara	A Study of World View, Patterns of