

ITCS Seminar #01 (2016 Academic Year)

Localism that Transgresses Borders: Christian Architecture of Eastern Anatolia with a Focus on Armenian Architecture

Date : April 20 (Wednesday), 2016, 16:30~19:00

Venue : K-222, Koshien Hall

Lecturers : Dr. Shiro Sasano (Professor Emeritus at Tokyo Institute of Technology)

The Institute of Turkish Culture Studies' first seminar of the 2016 academic year was held at the Koshien Hall on April 20 (Wednesday), 2016. Dr. Shiro Sasano, Professor Emeritus at Tokyo Institute of Technology, was the invited speaker and gave a presentation titled "Localism that Transgresses Borders: Christian Architecture of Eastern Anatolia with a Focus on Armenian Architecture".

Dr. Sasano began with a general overview of the development of Armenian architecture and its associated issues. He next introduced the characteristics of Eastern Anatolia's early-, mid-, and late-stage architectural remnants in approximate chronological order. This discussion revealed some general trends in Eastern Anatolia's constantly changing historical architecture that accompanied transformations in the practice of prayer, including trends in various architectural structures such as basilica, inscribed cruciforms, and pendentive-type and squinch-type frames. Finally, doubts were raised about the "standard" perspective on the history of Western architecture and architectural language that is often taken for granted.

Dr. Sasano's lecture included abundant photos and even videos complete with commentary and music, which conveyed a sense of what it must be like at the sites. Furthermore, he related various anecdotes from his own research, giving the audience a glimpse of his life as a professor and researcher. It was a wonderful workshop that rekindled in the audience a sense of the richness, beauty, and depth of architecture.



Seminar Poster



Venue at Koshien Hall

ITCS Seminar #02 (2016 Academic Year)

Technologies for Measuring Cultural Assets, and the Utilization of the Outcomes of Such

Date : March 6 (Monday), 2017, 13:30~16:00

Venue : K-222, Koshien Hall

Lecturer : Mr. Hiroshi Kiguchi (Senior Administrative Officer, Cultural Heritage Division, Ciba City Board of Education)

The Institute of Turkish Culture Studies' second seminar of the 2016 academic year was held at the Koshien Hall on March 6 (Monday), 2017. Mr. Hiroshi Kiguchi from the Chiba City Board of Education, Cultural Heritage Division was the invited speaker and gave a presentation titled "Technologies for Measuring Cultural Assets, and the Utilization of the Outcomes of Such".

Mr. Kiguchi first outlined the objectives of measuring cultural assets, the types of outcomes, and general preparedness. He then covered digital photographic surveying and 3D laser scanning as examples of recent trends in measurement technology. An overview of laser measurement was then presented, along with a discussion of the challenges involved in its application in areas such as buildings and constructions, topographical measurement and landscape study, disaster site record preservation, restoration and documentation of cultural assets, laser measurement of remains and stone walls, and measurement and physical modelling of relics. After a presentation of case studies from Afghanistan and Okinawa the lecture concluded with an overview of trends and challenges in the utilization of measurement outcomes.

This field is experiencing rapid progress and steady technological advancement. As such, things which were just dreams in the past are now becoming reality. This current situation was illustrated by many high-quality photographs, maps, and videos. There was lively debate during the question and answer session and the lecture was declared a success by all. This proved to be an enlightening lecture which allowed all participants to become acquainted with the significance of the field of cultural asset measurement.



Seminar Poster



Venue at Koshien Hall

ITCS Seminar # 03 (2016 Academic Year)

Architectural History, Preservation, and Maintenance of a Gandhara Site in Pakistan

Date : March 14 (Tuesday), 2017, 13:30~16:00
Venue : K-222, Koshien Hall
Lecturer : Dr. Masaya Masui (Professor, Kyoto University)

The Institute of Turkish Culture Studies' third seminar of the 2016 academic year was held at the Koshien Hall on March 14 (Tuesday), 2017. Dr. Masaya Masui, Professor at the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University, was the invited speaker and gave a presentation titled "Architectural History, Preservation, and Maintenance of a Gandhara Site in Pakistan".

Dr. Masui began with an overview of the Gandhara Buddhist temple remains and a brief history of his own involvement at the site. Having now been working at the site since 1983, he detailed the goals and results of excavation at the Ranigat site, then related his own first-hand experience maintaining and preserving the site after the excavation work was done. Through close analysis of the stonework, masonry, material and structural features, Dr. Masui was able to identify structural transitions of temples at the site as well as morphological transitions of the stupas over time.

Based on his knowledge of preservation and conservation of archeological remains through case studies, Dr. Masui offered technical insights gleaned through actual restoration work carried out at the Ranigat site: fitting together corners, brackets, and other elements of stupas, capping, and so on. The presentation made for a very detailed yet fascinating seminar.



Seminar Poster



Venue at Koshien Hall