

都城発掘調査部記念の年

2013年は平城宮跡発掘調査部が創設されて50周年、飛鳥藤原宮跡発掘調査部が創設40周年という記念すべき年でした。奈良文化財研究所は、1954年以降平城宮跡の発掘にたずさわり、1959年からは発掘調査を継続的に実施するようになります。1963年には、平城宮跡全域を国が保護し、継続的な発掘調査をする方針が決定され、平城宮跡発掘調査部が発足したのです。以来50年、継続的に平城宮跡の発掘調査とその成果にもとづく各種研究を進めてきました。これまでに発掘調査を実施した範囲は、130haにおよぼ平城宮跡の3分の1以上におよびます。

一方、飛鳥地域では1960年代後半に明日香村の歴史的風土の保全が問題となり、藤原宮跡を含む飛鳥地域の遺跡の調査と保存を、平城宮跡と同様に国家的事業として実施することとなります。1970年の調査室設立を経て、1973年には飛鳥藤原宮跡発掘調査部が発足し、継続的に飛鳥藤原地域の遺跡の調査をおこなってきました。

この間、平城宮跡では第一次大極殿の遺構を確認し、東張り出し部やその東南隅の東院庭園を発見する等、奈良時代の歴史を書き換える成果を多数あげてきました。飛鳥藤原地域でも、政治上重要な石神遺跡や水落遺跡、総合工房の飛鳥池遺跡、さらに本薬師寺等の寺院跡の発掘調査を通じて、文献記録が多くはない7世紀の歴史像の復元に大きな役割を果たしてきました。

2007年に、両調査部は都城発掘調査部として一体になりました。都城遺跡の調査研究は奈文研の業務の大きな柱で、文献との照合もあわせた実証的な研究は高く評価されています。次の10年に向け、今後とも新たな視点で調査研究を進めていきたいと考えています。



復原された大極殿とその前面での発掘調査
The reconstructed Former Imperial Audience Hall, and excavation in the area to its front

Commemorative Year for the Department of Imperial Palace Sites Investigations

The year 2013 was worthy of commemoration as the 50th anniversary for the Division of the Heijō Palace Site Investigations' establishment and the 40th anniversary for that of the Division of Asuka/Fujiwara Palace Site Investigations. The Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties has been participating in excavations at the Heijō Palace site since 1954, and has conducted such excavations on a continual basis from 1959. In 1963 the Division of the Heijō Palace Site Investigations was founded when policy was put in place for the national government to protect the entire precinct of the Heijō Palace site, and for its continual investigation through excavation. For 50 years since that time it has conducted the excavation of the Heijō Palace site and various types of research based upon the results. At present the excavated area extends to 130 hectares (320 acres) and comprises more than one third of the site.

Meanwhile, in the Asuka region the conservation of the historic landscape of the village of Asuka became an issue from the latter part of the 1960s, and in the same manner as for the Heijō Palace site, it was decided to conduct the investigation and preservation of the Asuka region including the Fujiwara Palace site as a national project. After being set up as a section in 1970, the Division of Asuka/Fujiwara Palace Site Investigations was founded in 1973, and since then has been continually carrying out the investigations of sites in the Asuka/Fujiwara region.

Over the years, at the Heijō Palace site many results have been achieved which have rewritten the history of the Nara period, such as the identification of features of the Former Imperial Audience Hall, and the discovery of the eastern projection of the palace precinct and the East Palace Garden in its southeast corner. In the Asuka/Fujiwara region as well, a great part has been played in reconstructing the historic image of the seventh century, for which documentary sources are not plentiful, through excavation of the Ishigami and Mizuochi sites, the artisans' workshop compound at the Asuka-ike site, as well as temples such as Moto Yakushiji.

In 2007 the two Divisions were joined together as the Department of Imperial Palace Sites Investigations. The investigative research of ancient capital sites is a major component of the duties of the Institute, and its empirical research along with comparisons to written documents is highly esteemed. Looking toward the next ten years, we intend to continue furthering such research with newly gained perspectives.



整備された水落遺跡と発掘状況
The Mizuochi site as presented to the public and during excavation