

## 1. OUTLINE

### (1) Name

The International Expert Meeting on Paradise and Gardens in Eastern Asia

### (2) Purpose

The “Ancient Garden Research Project” commenced in FY2001 at the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, as part of the “Research of Gardens Associated with Ancient Capital Ruins,” set forth in the medium-term plan. In its second phase, the Ancient Garden Research Project currently focuses on gardens of the Heian period (from the end of the 8th century to the end of 12th century). Specifically, we have been examining the gardens of palaces and of aristocratic residences since FY2006.

While there are a number of issues that have to be addressed in examining the gardens of the Heian period, we recognize that it is of special importance to deepen our understanding of the essence of the uniquely characteristic gardens known as “Pure Land Gardens” which were created from the 11th century to the 14th century in Japan. To clarify the historical background behind the Pure Land Gardens, it is absolutely necessary for us to investigate the beliefs in ideal worlds and the techniques of spatial design of gardens brought to Japan from China and Korea, their influence on the process of establishment and development of Pure Land Gardens in Japan, and similarities and differences in the way these ideal worlds were represented between China, Korea and Japan.

Representative of such Pure Land Gardens is the garden of Byôdô-in Temple, listed as a World Heritage Site as part of the “Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyôto (Kyôto, Uji and Ôtsu Cities)” and the group of gardens in Hiraizumi, one of Japan's historical assets included in the Tentative List of World Heritage. These important gardens, which are the main topic of our research, are all closely associated with the World Heritage initiatives undertaken in Japan.

It is for this reason that we sought cooperation and support from the Agency for Cultural Affairs in conducting the “Ancient Garden Research Project” in FY2009 and invited researchers specialized in the history of architecture and gardens from China and Korea, as well as Japan, to address the issue of how views of ideal worlds were associated with gardens historically, identify the characteristics of such gardens, and define, in a global context, the value of the group of “Pure Land Gardens” in Hiraizumi, which represents the very essence and the pinnacle of Japanese “Pure Land Gardens,” by comparing them with other ancient gardens.

### (3) Organizer

\*Independent Administrative Institution, National Institute for Cultural Heritage,  
Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties

\*Agency for Cultural Affairs

#### (4) Date

From May 19 to 21, 2009

#### (5) Place

the smaller auditorium of the Nara Palace (Heijô-kyû) Site Museum

#### (6) Schedule

##### Part I: 19 May 2009, 10:00~17:45

- AM** (1) The opening address: Mr. TANABE, Ikuo  
(2) Introduction of participants and schedule: Secretariat  
(3) Explanation of the purpose of this meeting: Dr. ONO, Kenkichi  
(4) Proposal of the issues on this meeting: Chairperson / Dr. TANAKA, Tetsuo  
(5) Lecture I: Dr. MOTONAKA, Makoto,  
(6) Commenting I: Dr. AMASAKI, Hiromasa  
(7) Questions and Answers I  
Lunch Break 12:05~13:30
- PM** (8) Report I: Mr. SUGIMOTO, Hiroshi  
(9) Report II: Mr. SATÔ, Yoshihiro  
(10) Commenting II: Dr. NAKA, Takahiro  
(11) Questions and Answers II  
Preparations and Break 14:45~14:55  
(12) Lecture II: Dr. LU, Zhou  
(13) Questions and Answers III  
Preparations and Break 16:15~16:25  
(14) Lecture III: Dr. HONG, Kwang-Pyo  
(15) Questions and Answers IV  
Reception 19:00~21:00

##### Part II: 20 May 2009, 9:30~16:30

- AM** (16) Lecture IV: Dr. TANAKA, Tan,  
(17) Questions and Answers V  
Preparations and Break 10:30~10:50  
(18) Discussion I  
Lunch Break 12:50~14:30
- PM** (19) Discussion II

##### Part III: 21 May 2009, 14:00~16:00

- PM** (20) Discussion III  
(21) The closing address: Dr. ONO, Kenkichi