

【Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research(S)】

Humanities and Social Sciences (Humanities)



**Title of Project : Eurasia in the Modern Period:
Towards a New World History**

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Research Area : Historical studies

Keyword : world history, cultural interactions, port cities, maritime world, comparative history

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

In an age of progressive globalization where there is a growing awareness among people that they are citizens of the world, it is all the more necessary to approach and understand the history of the world in a holistic way. Thus it is of vital importance how we comprehend and describe the history of Eurasia in the eighteenth and nineteenth century, which is often written dichotomously in terms of Europe and non-Europe, modern and pre-modern.

This joint research project will be free from existing modes of historical description based on nation states and dichotomy of European (Occidental) and Asian (Oriental), seeking rather a methodology through which to construct a new world history that is able to look at Eurasia and the world as one. The ultimate purpose of the project is to develop a new model of world history (in Japanese and English) that is able to describe a period that witnessed one of the greatest changes ever to have occurred in human history.

【Research Methods】

1. A detailed investigation based on historical sources and data, of the diverse cultural interchanges (people, material objects, the reception of information, acceptance, rejection) that took place in 18th-19th centuries Eurasia at a broad range of sites (cities, regional society, the state, the maritime world) located at key port cities and caravan cities in the interior.

2. The results of this research will be used comprehensively to reach a viewpoint that is able to unite Eurasian history in the 18th and 19th centuries. This will be achieved by comparing developments in a particular place along a time axis, as well as by making multi-faceted comparisons among diverse groups of places.

3. Members of joint research team will be assigned, as appropriate to their interest, to one of three groups, researching people, material objects and information. Each group has its annual meeting and an international conference for each group will be held once in the course of the project.

4. Fieldwork will be conducted in port cities and caravan cities to check the city plan and the condition of buildings etc.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

<Outcomes>

1. To explain in detail the nature of cultural interchanges in various places in 18th and 19th centuries Eurasia, together with their transformations, through the sphere of people, material objects and information.

2. To understand the actuality of cultural interchanges in Eurasia as a whole and the changes that took place over time by comparing the results of individual studies from various angles.

3. To describe in Japanese and English a world history that understands the 18th-19th centuries world as one.

<Scientific significance>

1. To give stimulus to the academic historical studies in Japan by means of joint research that goes beyond specialist fields.

2. To display high-quality Japanese research to an international audience.

3. To create the world history that is necessary in the contemporary world.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

Haneda Masashi, *Higashi Indo Kaisha to Ajia no Umi (The East India Companies and Seas of Asia)*. Kodansha, 2007.

Haneda Masashi, ed. *Asian Port Cities 1600-1800*. NUS Press and Kyoto University Press, 2009.

【Term of Project】 FY2009-2013

【Budget Allocation】 94,600 Thousand Yen

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