

Introduction: International Symposium on Network of Natural History Museums as a tool for promoting Research, Collections, Education and Outreach: Case studies from Asian Regions

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The Union of Japanese Societies of Natural History plans to have an international symposium during the ICOM2019 in Kyoto during September 2019. The symposium aims to address the network of research projects and museum activities across Asia. We would like to discuss the different functions that natural history museums perform, including research and the curation of collections, as well as education and outreach. During the symposium, we will present ideas about the future development of museum networks and discuss both the activities and functions of museums within the networks. Alongside the symposium, we will have poster presentations at Kyoto University main campus in order to encourage discussion and the exchange of knowledge about museum networks among symposium participants from all over the world.

The Symposium oral presentations will be held on the 4th of September 2019 at Inamori Auditorium of Shiran Kaikan, Graduate School of Medicine and Faculty of Medicine, Kyoto University, Sakyo Ward, Kyoto City, Kyoto. Poster presentations also will be held on both 4th and 5th of September 2019 at the Kyoto University Museum, Kyoto. The official language is English.

This symposium will mark the launching of a new network among Asian museums of natural history on the occasion of the ICOM Kyoto Congress. Although it is not part of the official program of the ICOM Kyoto Congress, we hope that many scientists, curators and officials from museums in foreign countries, as well as Japan, who are participating in the Congress, will join our symposium. It will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss museum network activities and develop good personal and institutional connections that will help to promote the further construction of networks among natural history museums in Asia and also on a global scale.

We stress that Natural History Museums, whether supported by federal or local governments or universities, should play multiple roles as hubs for conducting research

and maintaining collections, as well as for education and outreach. Networking among museums should play an important part in strengthening these roles. We hope that everybody will join our symposium in order to develop ideas for enhancing and invigorating the activities of museum networks.