

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

Broad Section A



Title of Project : The Interdisciplinary Study regarding Conserving and Utilize Methods of the Mongol Shipwrecks

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Research Project Number : 18H05220 Researcher Number : 40150627

Keyword : Mongol Invasion, Mongol shipwrecks, Conserving Artifacts, trehalose

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

The members of this project have been involved in conducting studies focusing on field research methodologies, conservation of raised artifacts, and *in situ* preservation of an underwater archaeological remains at Takashima Underwater Site (at Nagasaki Prefecture, Matsumura City), the archaeological site closely associated with the Mongol Invasion of Japan. Prior projects at the site were successful in locating two Mongol vessels, and in identifying a number of locations with anomalies likely to be a sunken vessel.

To better preserve the underwater site, both of the discovered Mongol shipwrecks are being preserved *in situ*. However, there is almost no related case studies, and thus the methodology to best preserve the site underwater is still being developed. Although there is a strong voice that the hull should be raised and utilized for the public benefit, the site is covered and cannot be seen by the public.

Considering the current environment, this project aims to develop a proper method for preserving the discovered Mongol shipwrecks, raise a wreck if an important discovery were to be made, and invent techniques to conserve and to display the remains for the public to view.

【Research Methods】

This project is to conduct systematic studies on discovered shipwrecks and all excavated artifacts from Takashima Underwater Site. Specific goals are set for the project: 1) establish methodology for preserving the Mongol shipwrecks *in situ*, 2) collect information regarding the discovered hull remains and study the methodology for dissemination, 3) invent methodology for conserving artifacts raised from previous research.

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

Currently, Japanese Government (The Agency for Cultural Affairs) has organized a committee to discuss how Japan should manage Underwater Cultural Heritage within the country. The study of

Underwater Cultural Heritage in Japan has been limited to sporadic or isolated projects, conducted by individual researchers from various fields. Including studies of particular underwater sites by researchers interested in underwater archaeology, analysis of acoustic images for identifying an underwater site by marine scientists, investigation of new methods for conserving waterlogged artifacts by conservators, and investigation by historians or archaeologists of artifacts from underwater sites and historical documents related to historical events such as the Mongol invasions.

This project focused on the study of the Mongol Shipwrecks - establishing methodologies for preserving the site *in situ* and the conservation techniques of large remains of waterlogged wood, and the creation of various contents for dissemination for the public - will be the leading examples of the field. The successful publication of this project will illustrate to the world how underwater cultural heritage is being managed and research in Japan.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

Ed.Makoto Sato "History of the Underwater site"
Yamakawa Shuppansha Ltd 2018

【Term of Project】 FY2018-2020

【Budget Allocation】 82,600 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】

In progress