

Explanatory Notes

1. This report compiles the outcomes of the “International Expert Meeting on Paradise and Gardens in Eastern Asia” (hereafter “International Meeting”) organized jointly by the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties and the Agency for Cultural Affairs from May 19 to 21, 2009, at the smaller auditorium of the Nara Palace (Heijō-kyū) Site Museum, in Japan.
2. The International Meeting was organized as part of the “Research of Gardens Associated with Ancient Capital Ruins,” as set forth in our medium-term plan by the Department of Cultural Heritage of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, upon consultation with the Monuments and Sites Division of the Department of Cultural Properties of the Agency for Cultural Affairs. The Department of Cultural Heritage of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties served as Secretariat for the International Meeting, and the Site Management Research Section of the Department of Cultural Heritage assumed the responsibility for the operation of the Secretariat, assisted by the Landscape Research Section of the same Department.
3. In principle, the Japanese language was used as the working language of the International Meeting. The papers submitted by the lecturers written in Chinese and Korean were translated into Japanese, and English translations of all the papers were distributed among all the participants. In the question-and-answer and discussion sessions, remarks were basically made in the speakers’ respective mother tongues, and then translated into Japanese by interpreters. In this report, we have used “ ^ ” (circumflex accent) to express long vowels of the proper nouns in Japanese.
4. This report consists of three sections: I. Conclusion of the Meeting; II. Papers for the Meeting; and III. Appendix. Sections I and II constitute the core of the report, while section III contains outline information and reference materials from the meeting. To be more specific, section I, “Conclusion of the Meeting,” contains the text of the conclusion that was finalized by the eight round table members and others, who revised the terms, expressions and other details of the draft text discussed and generally agreed upon during the final session of the meeting held on May 21, 2009. Section II, “Papers for the Meeting,” puts together the manuscripts of the lectures and reports delivered, along with comments given during the International Meeting. Section III, “Appendix,” collects outline information about the International Meeting, namely, “Outline of the Meeting,” “List of the Participants,” and “Summary Record of the Sessions,” as well as “Structure and Chronology of Pure Land Gardens in Japan” as a reference.
5. The text contained in the “Summary Record of the Sessions” in the section III “Appendix” was finalized by HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi who summarized the text transcribed from the audio tapes of Japanese remarks and Japanese translations of the remarks made during the International Meeting. The English translations of the remarks have been checked by the respective speakers. The phrasing of some remarks may have been changed, however their meanings have not essentially altered.
6. Congress Corporation undertook most of the translation of the handout materials distributed in the International Meeting and of the texts contained in this report, and the interpreters’ service during the meeting.
7. This report was edited by HIRASAWA Tsuyoshi, assisted by AWANO Takashi. Each writer holds copyright of each original paper on this book, and Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties holds editorial copyright of this book.