

The Digital Museum Project for the Languages and Cultures of Ryukyu: The Case of Ikema Ryukyuan

Professor Yukinori Takubo
Kyoto University

4pm – 5:15pm, 4 October 2010

Seminar Room
McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research
Downing Street, Cambridge
All are welcome

Ikema is an endangered dialect of Southern Ryukyuan spoken on Miyakojima Island, Japan. The community is deeply concerned that the younger generation is not acquiring Ikema and has imaginatively tackled this problem by, among things, creating a vernacular musical titled *Nishihara Muradate* 'The making of the Nishihara village'. The musical, depicting the migration to Nishihara from their ancestral island, was filmed and made into a DVD.

Using such recordings of Ikema as a springboard, Professor Takubo will discuss the development of the Digital Museum Project, a web-based three-layered digital storage space for endangered languages. The first layer provides open-access exhibit space; the second provides password-protected access for specialist researchers while a third layer contains raw data only accessible to the research group. This talk will conclude with a demonstration of the resource.

Dr Yukinori Takubo is Professor of Linguistics at Kyoto University, Japan. He has written extensively on Japanese as well as on endangered languages spoken in Japan, and currently serves as an editorial board member for Nihongogaku - Studies in Japanese Language.



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