

**The North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources
Meeting of January 11-12, 2008
University of California, Berkeley**

**Report from the Library of Congress
Eiichi Ito
Representing the Chief of Asian Division
eito@loc.gov**

LC-wide activities and Fiscal Year 2008 budget:

The Library has issued its library-wide strategic plan for 2008-2013, which is available at <http://www.loc.gov/about/mission/StrategicPlan07-Full.pdf>. Currently, the strategic goals and action plans of the Library Services, of which the Asian Division is a part, is in the process of being developed.

The Library continues to face a serious funding problem due largely to the government-wide budget cut. Fortunately, funding for library acquisitions is protected with an inflation adjustment in fiscal year 2008. Money for staffing, office supplies, and traveling, however, is extremely restricted.

Changes in the Asian Division:

Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, our current Chief of the Asian Division, will retire on February 29, 2008. This will be Dr. Lee's second retirement after his first one in September 1999 from Ohio University where he was the Dean of University Libraries. The Library of Congress will soon conduct a nation-wide search for his replacement.

Mr. Thaddeus Ohta will retire from his position as the Coordinator of the Japanese Area Team in January 2008. He has been working for the Library for the last 38 years after serving two years of active duty with the U.S. Military in Germany. Among other achievements, he published *Japanese National Government Publications in the Library of Congress* (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1980), and organized the *Symposium on Japanese Cultural Treasures at the Library of Congress* in March 2007.

Beginning on January 1, 2008, Mr. Eiichi Ito will serve as the Coordinator of the Japanese Area Team.

Asian Pacific American Collection:

The Asian Division hosted the *National Conference on Establishing an Asian Pacific American Collection in the Library of Congress* on October 4-5, 2007, at the Library. The conference was co-organized with leaders in Asian American studies programs in major universities and some key Asian Pacific American (APA) communities and organizations. At the conference, participants discussed the need for the Library to provide a strong leadership in building a

national Asian Pacific American collection in cooperation with other interested organizational partners.

A new position of Asian Pacific American Collection Specialist has been created and Ms. Reme A. Grefalda has been selected for the position after a nation-wide search. Ms. Grefalda will start her new position on January 7, 2008. Currently, a major fundraising effort is underway to create a permanent APA Collection Endowment Fund in the Library of Congress.

Holdings of the Japanese collection:

The Japanese collection had grown to 1,164,198 monographic volumes and 5,883 active serial titles by the end of FY 2007 on September 30, 2007.

Serial online check-in project:

As part of a Division-wide project, holding card records of 5,539 Japanese serial titles were converted into the Library's integrated library system (ILS) records in September 2007. As a result, library users can access the holding records through the Library of Congress Online Catalog (LCOPAC) via the Internet. The holding records of another 350 Japanese serial titles will be converted into ILS records soon. In addition, an automated system has been set up to input all incoming issues of current serial titles.

Transfer of Japanese materials to Ft. Meade:

The Asian Division has been transferring a part of the Japanese collection and other Asian collections to a remote storage facility in Fort Meade, MD in order to accommodate shelf space for new acquisitions. These materials include monographs and bound serials for a total of 47,820 volumes, 3,985 linear-feet of shelf space. The transfer of bound Japanese serials was completed in October 2007.

New acquisition:

The Asian Division acquired 西洋文学移入資料集成 評伝編. *Seiyō bungaku shiryō shusei, Hyōden hen* (2003), a multi-volume microfilm set which had been a candidate for an NCC MVS grant but which could not be funded in MVS 2006-07.

Article on Japanese collection published:

Dr. Elizabeth Oyler of the University of Illinois, who spoke at the Symposium on Japanese Cultural Treasures at the Library of Congress in March 2007, published her paper "Japanese Cultural Treasures at the Library of Congress: Digitization of the Rare Books Collection," in the *Journal of East Asian Libraries*, No 143 (October 2007), pp.11-22.

New appointment:

Dr. Mari Nakahara began her new post as Reference Librarian, Asian Division on October 1, 2007. She holds a Ph.D. in Architectural History and Design from Tokyo Metropolitan University, and received a Fulbright Fellowship as well as a Cultural Affairs for Japanese Government Grant to study archival methods and practices of architectural documentation in the U.S. in 1996-97. Her professional experience consists of in working with different library and archive collections in the U.S. including the New York Public Library's Spencer Collection, the Skyscraper Museum, The Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture of Columbia University, and the Octagon Museum's Prints and Drawings Collection.