



The Southeast Asian Ceramic Society invites you
to a talk by Dr. SAKAI Takashi

Friday, 15 July 2022
7:00 pm SGT

**Indonesian Archaeological Finds of Japanese Hizen Ware
by the 17th-18th Centuries**



Since the 1990s, my colleagues and I have held a significant number of joint excavations at such archaeological sites as Banten Lama, Tirtayasa and Trowulan in Java, and Fort Somba Opu and Fort Wolio in Sulawesi. Additionally, we have done surface observations in ancient port sites in Sumatera (Aceh, Lampung etc.) and other archeological sites or historical monuments. We can currently count at least 22 archaeological sites where we have found Hizen ware in Indonesia.

The last target of these activities has been a broader study of Asian ceramic trade history, however, our first motivation was the archaeological search for Japanese Hizen ware found in the Banten Lama site, Java. The trade of Hizen ware for this capital port of a powerful Islamic sultanate had not been recorded, and its discovery came as a shock for those Japanese who had known only of the Dutch export of Hizen ware to Europe (well-known as Imari ware in the antique world for its porcelain).

From the results of about 30 years joint investigation as well as information from our scientific personal exchanges and such Southeast Asian archaeological sites as Hoi An in Central Vietnam, we can now describe the role the trade of Hizen ware played in Asia's total ceramic trade—as well as the characteristics of its traders.

Dr. Sakai's background includes extensive experience beginning in the 1970s in Bandung, and the 1980s in Java and Sumatera. In 1991, he established the Japanese study group of the Banten site working with Indonesian archaeologists in the field of ceramic archaeology until 2007. During 2007–19, he was a permanent teacher in National Taiwan University, where he taught Southeast Asian archaeology and cultural history for Taiwanese and foreign students, and organized scientific journeys to Southeast Asian and other Asian historical sites with Taiwanese young graduate students. Today he is retired but continues as an adjunct professor at the National Taiwan University and continues doing archaeological research in his home country of Japan. His most recent publication is *Hizen wares excavated from the Royal Capital Sites in Indonesia—Trowulan and other sites* (Tokyo: Yuzankaku).