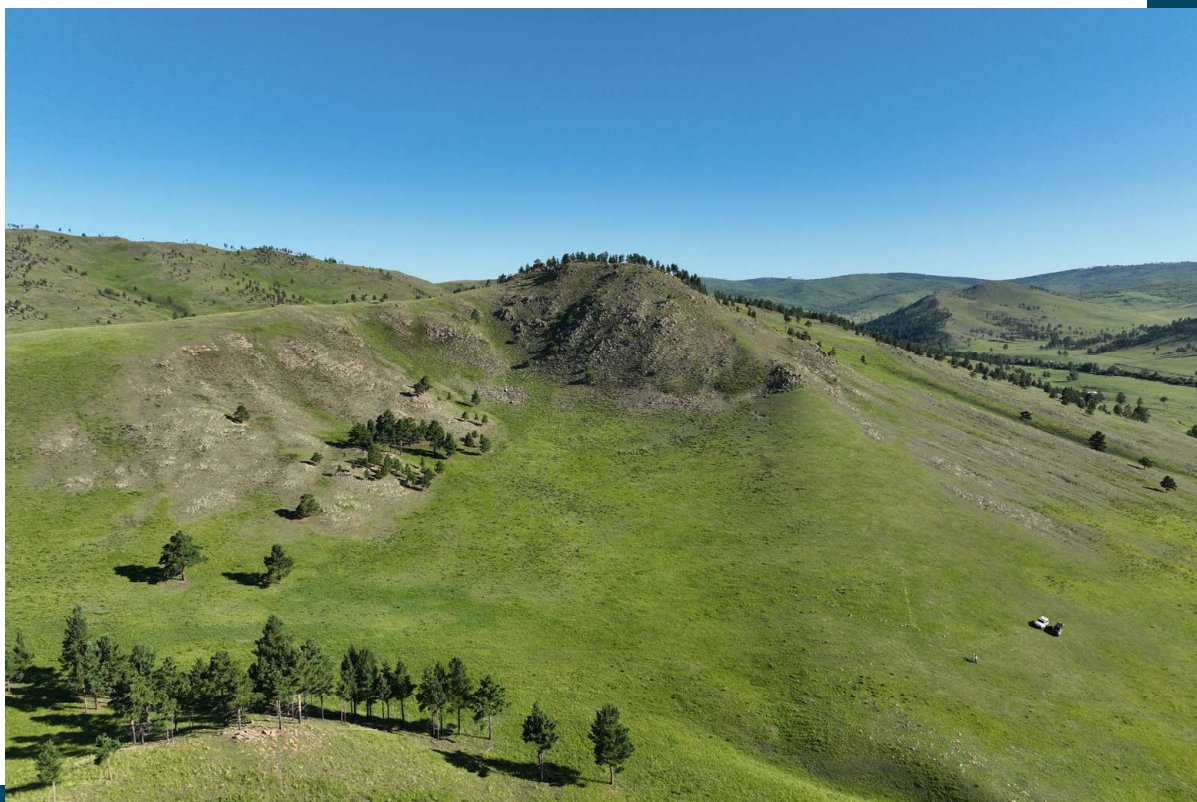


Excavation Report of the Ulaan Bulag Site in Mongolia

(Japanese-Mongolian Joint Excavation in 2022)



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January 2025

Foreword

The Institute of Archaeology of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, in collaboration with Kyoto University, Japan, has been implementing the project “Research on Xiongnu Society and Relations between the Xiongnu and the Han Dynasty Based on Archaeological Findings” since 2021. Within the framework of this project, we are successfully conducting research on the preservation and restoration of archaeological sites, as well as focusing on the survey and excavation of Xiongnu monuments.

It is planned to publish the field research reports conducted as part of an annual series and make them publicly available. At this time, we are presenting the results of the excavation conducted in 2022 at the Ulaan bulag site in Yöröö soum, Selenge province, where archaeological excavations were conducted.

Selenge province is a relatively understudied archaeological area, and there is ample evidence that during the historical period of the Xiongnu Empire, people affiliated with the empire settled in this region and engaged in agriculture, crafts, and manufacturing in the northern region of Mongolia. Russian archaeologists have been attempting to confirm the written records with archaeological evidence by excavating the Ivolga settlement on the banks of the Selenge River. However, research materials on the Selenge River basin, which is part of our country, are scarce, and many questions remain unanswered and poorly understood, such as the position of this region in society during the Xiongnu Empire and its role and participation.

Understanding the above situation, the Institute of Archaeology of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences set a goal to study ancient sites along the Selenge River basin in sequence. Within this framework, a joint Mongolian-Japanese research team conducted field surveys and excavations in the region. In 2022, the joint research team undertook a comprehensive documentation and mapping initiative at the Ulaan bulag site, resulting in the identification of over 120 new monuments. This work also included the excavation of three graves associated with the Xiongnu period. As a result of exploration and research in the surrounding area, the remains of a large settlement dating back to the Xiongnu period were discovered in the Enkhiin Tal (Khandgait River) area of Yöröö soum, and research has begun, making a significant contribution to archaeological research in the region.

The results of the joint research project in Selenge province are expected to significantly contribute to the region’s archaeological materials and advance the study of Xiongnu archaeology.

It is important to express our deep thanks to all members of the Mongolian-Japanese joint project team for their efforts to share their research with the public. We wish them success in their future work. We also hope this publication will be a useful resource for scholars and help expand understanding of Xiongnu archaeology.



Eregezen Gelegdorj

Professor, Ph.D
Director of the Institute of Archaeology,
Mongolian Academy of Sciences

< Note >

1. This excavation report reports the results of the excavation conducted during the summer season of 2022. The excavation funding was provided by the Hakubi Center, Kyoto University. A part of the analysis was conducted with support from the JSPS KAKENHI Grant, Grant-in-Aid for Early-Career Scientists, Number 20K13230.
2. With the exception of the animal bones, all unearthed objects were restored and researched by the Japanese side.
3. The planning and editing of this report were done by Ikue OTANI. The excavation section (Chapters I–IV) was also written by Ikue OTANI. The contributors to the analysis section were the author of Analysis I–V.
4. The PDF of this report is registered in “KURENAI: Kyoto University Research Information Repository”. The address for open access is as follows: <http://hdl.handle.net/2433/292259>

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