

## Presidential Report on the GIGE Activity in 2023

*Activities of the [GIGE](#) Main Office during the 2023 fiscal year (January-December 2023) are given below. The [monthly activity record](#) (in Japanese) and an account report are given separately in other files, the former is linked above, and the latter will be disclosed in March on the [GIGE](#) homepage.*

### 1. Student Himalayan Field Exercise Program

(1) Preparation for the 11<sup>th</sup> Student Himalayan Exercise Tour (SHET-11) (January-February).

(2) Implementation of the SHET-11 (3<sup>rd</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March): Number of participants was 15, including 11 Japanese students from 6 universities, 2 Nepalese and 1 Chinese students, and 1 mountain photographer. Japanese and Nepalese teachers one each guided the tour and thus the tour team was composed of 17 people. The tour course was Kathmandu-Pokhara-Muktinath -Pokhara-Lumbini-Narayangath-Kathmandu, same as that in the last tour. One small bus was used throughout the tour including the tour in mountain areas. The weather was mostly fine during the tour and fantastic Himalayan view blessed the tour at various places. The team returned Japan safely on the 18<sup>th</sup> March.

(3) New regulation of the Nepal Government for the geological field survey in Nepal and bring samples to other countries was in effect in 2023. The SHET-11 could complete the application forms in consultation with TU staff and was successfully provided permissions by the Nepal Department of Mines and Geology.



*SHET-11 team with Dhaulagiri peaks on the back, on the east terrace of Kagbeni, Kaligandaki valley*

(4) Reporting SHET-11 (March-May): [Report of the tour outline](#) was disclosed on the GIGE home page (March) and also published as [a full report book](#) “*Traversing the Himalayan Orogen 2023 – A record of the 11<sup>th</sup> SHET in March 2023*” (PDF version, Field Science

Publishers, 231 pages) was published in May.

(5) Preparation for the SHET-12 (May – December): The advertisement of publication of the report book of SHET-11, along with the [program](#) and [recruit of SHET-12](#) were sent to earth science-related departments of 72 Japanese universities in May and also, delivered on Internet, personal SNSs of some past participants, Sokuho (Quick Newsletter) of The Association for the Geological Collaboration in Japan (Chidanken), etc.

Those having hoped to join the SHET-12 reached to 31 students from 10 Japanese universities and 3 Japanese citizens by late December. 4 students of the Tribhuvan University (TU) will be invited to join the tour and so the total number of people forming the SHET-12 team will be 44 including 2 Japanese and 2 Nepalese leaders/teachers.

(6) [Crowd funding for SHET-12](#): During the SHET-10 and SHET-11, it was found that prices of various matters in Nepal especially in mountain areas increased and further, the airfare also increased drastically because of the stop of all Chinese airlines. The practical expenses for a student in the SHET-11 was 238,331 JPY, which was reduced to 215,601 JPY by the crowd funding support of 22,730 JPY per head. It is not easy for a student to pay such amount of some 200,000 JPY. To keep the participation fee of a student less than about 200,000 JPY for the SHET-12, it is found necessary to collect some amount by a crowd funding. Thus a new crowd funding program, “Let students to Study in the Himalaya” started in May in 2022 and hoped to collect 500,000 JPY every year to support student to join the SHET of each year.

## 2. Publication of Papers and Books by the President

(1) [[Traversing the Himalayan Orogen 2023](#) - Report of the 11<sup>th</sup> Student Himalayan Field Exercise Tour in March 2023, *GIGE Misc. Pub. 40*](in Japanese and English, edited by M. Yoshida, Field Science Publishers) was published in May (ISBN978938925475).

(2) [[Geology and Natural Hazards along Kaligandaki and Highways Kathmandu-Pokhara-Butwal-Mugling: Guidebook for Student Himalayan Exercise Tour, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, GIGE Misc. Pub. 41](#)], edited by M. Yoshida, P.D. Ulak and B.N. Upreti], Field Science Pub. 159 pages was published in August (ISBN9784938925482).

(3) [[Snow patches and glaciers in Japan](#): Commentary on definition and classification of glaciers, by M. Yoshida] appeared in September in *Geology, Earth and Marine Sciences*, vol. 5.

(4) [[A Gigantic Continent Existed on the Earth 600 Million Years Ago: Assembly and Breakup of Gondwanaland and Growth of Asia](#)](M. Yoshida, in Japanese, Tohshindo, Tokyo, 156 pages) was published in December (ISBN 9784798918006). Some details of the book are given below.

(5) [[Student Himalaya Field Exercise Program 10 years](#)] (M. Yoshida and Student Himalayan Field Exercise Project, in Japanese) appeared in *Kyokuchi(Polar News)* No. 116 in March.

Several minor reports on the SHET program and the [IAGR conference report](#) appeared in memoirs or newsletters of the Geological Society of Japan (GSJ), Kansai Association of Hokkaido University Graduates, Academic Alpine Club of Hokkaido (AACH), Osaka City University Alpine Club, etc.

## 3. Participation to academic conventions

The president of GIGE attended the following 4 academic conventions and presented several reports related to the SHET program.

August: 77<sup>th</sup> Convention of The Association for the Geological Collaboration in Japan, in Chichibu.

September: 130<sup>th</sup> yearly convention of GSJ in Kyoto.

October: 2023<sup>rd</sup> yearly convention of the International Association for Gondwana Research (IAGR) and 20<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Gondwana to Asia, in Niigata.

November: 14<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Polar Sciences, Tokyo.



*Debris flow from a small valley above reached to the Hakuba branch (K mark). Photo by the Hakuba Village.*

#### 4. Other Activities and events

(1) June-December: Digitalization and uploading of some papers published so far by the president on the Research Gate.

(2) December: There happened a debris flow disaster in Hakuba in middle December and the GIGE Hakuba branch was slightly damaged. The branch, therefore, will be closed for some time in early 2024.

#### Addendum

The newly published Japanese book authored by the president, *A Gigantic Continent Existed 600 Million Years Ago: Assembly and Breakup of Gondwanaland and Growth of Asia* is the long-awaited work of the president. Since his field survey in 1968 in Antarctica, the central of East Gondwanaland, he has been engaged in by himself and encouraging of the science world of the study of Gondwanaland. The book is the fruit of his life history, and consists of the following contents.

- I. Continental Drift Theory and Plate Tectonics
- II. Gondwanaland and Pangea are proved to have existed
- III. Recognizing the movement of continents
- IV. Birth and growth of Gondwanaland



Cover image of the book

## V. Birth and breakup of Pangea and growth of Asia

Eight color pages in the opening give a good briefing of the of the book, and references, glossary, and indexes given at the end of the book are for the readers' conveniences.

A5 size 156 pages plus 8 color pages in the opening.

Publisher: Tohshindo, Tokyo

Price: ¥2200 JPY (plus tax)

Distribution: Major bookshops in Japan and Webs (Amazon, Rakuten, GIGE, etc.)

*December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023*

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