

Tainan Science Park Archaeological Project Receives Award at Shanghai Archaeology Forum

An archaeological project conducted at the Tainan Science Park (TSP) led by Academician and Distinguished Research Fellow Dr. Cheng-hwa Tsang, and Research Fellow Dr. Kuang-ti Li both of the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, recently received the Field Discovery Award at The Second Shanghai Archaeology Forum (SAF) 2015. The SAF, hosted by the Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Shanghai Municipal People's Government was held between December 14 and 17. The TSP rescue archaeology project received the award for its efforts and achievements in saving Taiwan's precious archaeological heritage. The work of this project, with its long history, great use of manpower, and its wide area of excavation, is unprecedented in the history of archaeology in Taiwan.

Academician Dr. Cheng-hwa Tsang and Dr. Kuang-ti Li and their archaeological team have conducted archaeological investigations at the TSP since December 1996. To date, 58 archaeological sites have been discovered and large scale excavation is being conducted on 34. These sites date back to the prehistoric time period of Taiwan, covering a time span of 300 to 5,000 years B.P. and have been chronologically divided into six cultural strata (from the oldest stratum to the most recent stratum). Over the 15 years between 1995 and 2010, five major stages of survey and excavation were carried out that covered 3,000 hectares of land as well as neighboring lands that were developed later.

Major faunal remains discovered include pottery, stone tools, jades, bone and antler objects, iron objects, bronze, glassware, and other artifacts, as well as plant seeds, animal bones, and other ecofacts. Features include architectural features, ditches, trash pits, and others, among which were over 2,000 burials. In the middle of August this year, the archaeological team announced discovery of the ancient millet of 5,000 years ago, which was later named by the media as "The First Millet of Taiwan". The great diversity of the archaeological materials and their variation through time and space offer concrete data for the history of human development in the Tainan region, and also much crucial evidence for the development of cultural prehistory across Taiwan and the Southeast Asia and the Pacific regions.

The Shanghai Archaeology Forum, founded in 2013, is a global initiative dedicated to promoting the investigation, protection and utilization of the world's archaeological resources and heritage. It serves as an international platform for the illumination of archaeological research and its significance and relevance to the world today. The forum is fully committed to excellence through innovation and cooperation, and to the sustainable development of human society. This year, a total of 93 nominations from throughout the world were reviewed and adjudicated by the SAF Selection Committee, comprising 38 international experts from 16 countries, and, through two rounds of ballot, a total of 21 nominations were selected for the 2015 SAF Awards, including 10 Field Discovery Awards, and 11 Research Awards during the second round of adjudications. The research team has sent a letter to correct the name of the country on the website as soon as possible.

More information, please visit:

http://www.kaogu.cn/en/Special_Events/dierjieshanghailuntan/2015/1222/52517.html