

Current Studies of **Diversity** and **Pattern** in World Prehistory



In Commemoration of the *Suyanggae* and Her
Neighbours for the Last Quater Century

In Dedication to Prof. Yung-jo LEE's 60 Years of
Prehistoric Archaeology



Edited by

Chief editor **Kidong BAE**

Co-editor **Jong-yoon WOO**

Ju-yong KIM



Institute of Korean Prehistory

DR. E. G. DEVILET,
with my best wishes

July, 2021

Tung-jø CEE, Prof. Em. and Ph.D.



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Prologue : Invitation to SUYANGGAE

Yung-jo LEE

President, Institute of Korean Prehistory (IKP)

Chairperson, Suyanggae International Symposium Executive Committee (SISEC)

1. Background of Suyanggae International Conference

My first encounter with Suyanggae felt nothing short of destined. When our team first arrived at the site, we were met with an unrelenting downpour—nearly 750 millimeters of rain soaked the landscape. Undeterred, we pressed on, exposed to the heavy rainfalls as we surveyed the area that would soon vanish beneath the rising waters. It was during this survey that we stumbled upon a remarkable find: an abundance of stone tools crafted from dark, glossy jade-like stones and layers of shale. The moment our weary team—exhausted after two grueling days in the rain—laid eyes on those artifacts is etched into my memory as one of the most exhilarating experiences of my career. This sense of destiny, combined with the sheer joy of discovery, carried us through four rigorous rounds of full-scale excavation. In the end, we documented a remarkable 1,250 square meters of archaeological remains before the site was permanently submerged. Fortunately, the national newspaper Chosun Ilbo recognized the importance of our discovery and published an article that raised public awareness. Their call to establish a "prehistoric education center" deeply resonated with me, and it became clear that sharing our findings at an international level would be the most meaningful way to realize this vision. That opportunity came in May 1989, when I was honored to represent Korea at the "World Summit Conference" organized by Professor R. BONNICHSEN of the University of Maine. It was there that I had the privilege of meeting Professor Xinzhi WU from China and Rector Nikolai DROZDOV from the USSR—an encounter that would open many new doors. These connections soon led to a series of invitations to prestigious international conferences: the "60th Anniversary of the Peking Man Excavation" in Beijing (October 1989), the Novosibirsk Conference in Russia (August 1990), the "200th Anniversary of the Opening of the Port of Sapporo" in Japan (June 1992), and the Vladivostok Conference in Russia (March 1994). At each gathering, I presented the discoveries and significance of the Suyanggae site, gradually helping it gain international recognition as a site of considerable academic value. These experiences also inspired us to host our own conference. In October 1996, we held the "20th Anniversary International Conference of the Durubong Excavation." It was after this event that I met Mr. Jae-Ho KIM, then President of the DanYang Cultural

Center (Munhwawon). Our shared vision laid the foundation for what would become the Suyanggae International Symposium.

2. The Inaugural Symposium and Expanding Horizons: The 1st and 25th Symposia

The inaugural Suyanggae and Her Neighbors symposium, held from October 25 to 28, 1996, became a reality thanks entirely to the bold vision and generous dedication of Mr. Jae-Ho KIM. His leadership continued with the successful organization of the second symposium, which took place from September 20 to 30, 1999. The third installment was held in celebration of my respected mentor, Professor Jia Lanpo—an esteemed academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences—on the occasion of his 90th birthday. This landmark event was co-organized with the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. It was during this symposium that we officially adopted Suyanggae and Her Neighbors as the permanent title of the series. Supported by a grant from the Korea Research Foundation, the conference was recognized even by our Chinese colleagues for its significant academic contributions and for elevating the standing of Korean archaeology within the global research community. The 4th through 7th symposia, as well as the 10th, were hosted a total of six times by Danyang County under the dedicated leadership of Governor Geon-Pyo LEE. These events reflected not only the county's pride in its heritage but also its deep commitment to raising the scholarly stature of the Suyanggae site. Visiting scholars from around the world continue to commend Danyang as the proud home of Suyanggae, acknowledging its lasting contributions to the study of prehistory. In contrast, the 8th symposium was brought to life through the timely and heartfelt support of Professor Masao AMBIRU of Meiji University in Japan. A longtime participant of previous Suyanggae events, Professor AMBIRU deeply recognized the importance of the site in relation to Japan's Paleolithic heritage. He played a key—perhaps even fateful—role in co-hosting the conference and curating a special exhibition at the Meiji University Museum in May 2004. This exhibition featured artifacts from the Suyanggae site, including materials from Durubong and Gunang Cave, and offered a comprehensive

look at my own research journey. It proved pivotal in introducing my work to a broader international audience and led to further collaborative invitations from institutions abroad. That event marked the first time an international conference was held alongside a special exhibition—an impactful precedent that bore significant fruit. One of Professor AMBIRU's students, now Professor Kaoru OTANI, later pursued graduate studies at Chungbuk National University and conducted research with our institute. She earned her doctorate from Meiji University and now serves as a vital link between Korean and Japanese Paleolithic scholarship. Her continued academic growth is highly anticipated, and I look forward to the important contributions she is sure to make in the years ahead. The 9th symposium marked the second occasion supported by my own research funding. It was held in conjunction with the 5th World Archaeological Congress (WAC-5) in Washington, D.C., where more than 120 symposia were hosted by scholars from around the globe. The Suyanggae session included a presentation on the excavation and radiocarbon dating of rice grains discovered at the Sorori site in Cheongju. This breakthrough received international acclaim when *Archaeology*, a leading American quarterly, named it the "Excavation of the Year." Dr. WHITEHEAD's subsequent article, *World's Oldest Rice Found*, brought the discovery into the global spotlight. It was later included in *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice* by C. RENFREW and P. BAHN (4th to 7th editions, 2004-2020), under the distinguished section titled "First Domestication: Rice." The 11th through 19th symposia were held in rotation through the enduring friendship and collaboration with Rector Nikolai DROZDOV of Krasnoyarsk State Pedagogical University (Russia), Director Lucyna DOMAŃSKA of the Institute of Archaeology at Lodz University (Poland), and Deputy Director Xing GAO of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP), Chinese Academy of Sciences. Professor Xing GAO notably hosted the Suyanggae Conference on four separate occasions. Thanks to their sincere cooperation and unwavering dedication, the Suyanggae International Symposium was able to continue growing and developing over the years, earning the deep respect and recognition of all those involved. The subsequent event, the 20th(1) in the series, was held in Haifa, Israel, in celebration of the 80th birthday of Professor A. RONEN. This gathering offered a rare and valuable

opportunity to visit world-renowned archaeological sites. It was followed by the 21st, held for the second time in the United States at the University of Wyoming under the direction of Professor M. KORNFELD. A highlight of this event was the visit to the Hell Gap site, famous for its Paleoindian remains, where participants could examine the full stratigraphy and observe the development and transformation of projectile point technology. A particularly memorable moment was the presentation of a plaque of appreciation to Professor G.C. FRISON, the most senior and esteemed scholar in American Paleoindian archaeology, in recognition of his ongoing contributions to the field. Participants also had the opportunity to visit other major excavation sites, gaining a deeper appreciation for the labor and significance of fieldwork. Notably, the conference and its full scope were featured prominently on the front page of the *Star Herald*, a leading newspaper in the central United States. The 22nd Suyanggae International Symposium was held for the third time in Russia, in Sakhalinsk, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Professor A. VASILIEVSKY. This meeting offered participants the opportunity to study archaeological sites and artifacts from the Russian Far East alongside the remarkable experience of observing live salmon in their natural habitat. The following 23rd event, held in Malaysia, was organized through the efforts of Professor M. SAIDIN of University Sains Malaysia. It proved to be a significant event, shedding light on the formation of the Lenggong site—shaped by volcanic activity—and its relationship with handaxe industries. The 24th Suyanggae Symposium, held in Beijing in 2019, was organized and hosted by Professor X. GAO under the theme "Zhoukoudian and Suyanggae" to commemorate both the 90th anniversary of the discovery of the first Peking Man skull and the late Professor Abraham Ronen. Notably, the Suyanggae session was elevated to a global-scale symposium, consisting of three sessions that featured five keynote lectures, eight papers on Neighbours in Eurasia, and six papers on Suyanggae and Neighbours in Asia. A highlight of the event was a visit to the Zhoukoudian Peking Man Site Museum, which showcases fossils of *Homo erectus* estimated to be as old as 700,000 years. From 2020 to 2022, the global pandemic caused a temporary suspension of the Suyanggae Symposium. In 2022, the 25th Suyanggae Symposium was held at the Institute of Korean Prehistory to commemorate the 80th Birthday of Professor Yung-

Table 1 List of annual organizing and hosting country for the Suyanggae and Her Neighbours International Symposium

Abroad	No.	Duration	City / Country	Nations	Papers
	1	'96. 10. 25~28 (4)	Danyang / Korea	4	5
	2	'97. 9. 21~30 (10)	Danyang · Cheongju / Korea	4	14
●	3	'98. 11. 24~28 (5)	Beijing / China	3	19
	4	'99. 11. 7~13 (7)	Danyang · Cheongju / Korea	3	6
	5	'00. 12. 7~13 (7)	Danyang · Cheongju / Korea	3	9
	6	'01. 12. 9~15 (7)	Danyang · Cheongju / Korea	5	9
	7	'02. 7. 14~21 (8)	Danyang · Cheongju / Korea	7	17
●	8	'03. 6. 21~26 (6)	Washington DC / USA	4	9
●	9	'04. 5. 14~18 (5)	Tokyo / Japan	5	11
	10	'05. 11. 6~13 (8)	Danyang · Cheongju / Korea	7	16
●	11	'06. 9. 17~24 (8)	Łódź / Poland	8	16
●	12	'07. 8. 7~15 (9)	Krasnoyarsk · Kurtak / Russia	5	27
●	13	'08. 12. 5~10 (6)	Miyazaki / Japan	6	16
●	14	'09. 10. 19~23 (5)	Beijing / China	9	19
	15	'10. 5. 21~28 (8)	Danyang · Cheongju / Korea	8	19
●	16	'11. 8. 14~21 (8)	Yangyuan / China	13	30
●	17	'12. 7. 4~13 (10)	Krasnoyarsk · Kurtak / Russia	12	28
●	18	'13. 6. 25~7.1 (7)	Yinchuan / China	9	23
●	19	'14. 6. 22~7.1 (10)	Łódź / Poland	9	25
●	20-1	'15. 6. 21~28 (8)	Haifa / Israel	7	28
	20-2	'15. 11. 1~8 (8)	Danyang / Korea	10	27
●	21	'16. 7. 26~8.3 (9)	Wyoming State University / USA	11	27
●	22	'17. 7. 5~12 (8)	Sakhalin / Russia	9	32
●	23	'18. 7. 1~8 (8)	Penang / Malaysia	12	35
●	24	'19. 12. 1~8 (8)	Beijing / China	8	19
	25	'22. 9. 22 (1)	Cheongju / Korea	1	1
* Korean Domestic 10 times and Abroad 16 times. Total 188 days of the symposia			* Total 182 participating countries and 487 papers presented during the symposia		

jo LEE. During Professor LEE's presentation on *Suyanggae Prehistory Studies and Its Internationalization*, a proposal was put forward to establish an editorial board dedicated to collecting and reviewing papers from the Suyanggae Symposia, and organizing them thematically for publication in an English-language volume.

3. Summary

In Summary it is a great joy to take a closer look at the Suyanggae Symposia through a visual overview to understand their scope and accomplishments better. As shown in the table, the Suyanggae International Symposium has been held ten times in Korea and sixteen times abroad—five times in China, twice in Japan, once in Malaysia, once in Israel, twice in Poland, three times in Russia, and twice in the United States—spanning three continents, eight countries, and fifteen cities. In total, the symposia have taken place over 188 days, with scholars from 182 countries presenting 487 papers. We plan to classify and compile these papers by topic and publish them in both print and e-book formats, with the goal of contributing further to the advancement of global scholarship. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the many SISEC members and the Suyanggae family, who have shared in this journey of friendship and academic collaboration across borders for more than 25 years.

Lastly, I extend my deepest gratitude and heartfelt admiration to Professor Kidong BAE, Chair of the Editorial Committee, who led the creation of this outstanding volume despite challenging circumstances. I also offer sincere praise and warm thanks to Vice Chairs Director Jong-yoon WOO and Dr. Ju-yong KIM, whose wholehearted dedication greatly contributed to this work.

I am equally grateful to the editorial board members—Professors Heon-jong LEE, Gi-kil LEE, and Hyeong-woo LEE—and President N. I. DROZDOV, Professor L. DOMAŃSKA, Professor Xing GAO and Prof. Masao AMBIRU for their valuable contributions and tireless efforts.

Dear Professor Lee Yung-jo

Nicolay Ivanovich DROZDOV

Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor,
Honored Scientist of the Russian Federation,
Honorary Doctor of Chungbuk National University and
Honorary Citizen of Danyang County, Republic of Korea

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations on the 60th anniversary of your distinguished scientific career in the study of the Paleolithic era, not only in the Republic of Korea but also across the world.

Your colleagues, students, and friends take immense pride in your legacy as a world-renowned scholar and an exceptional individual—kind, compassionate, and a dedicated advocate for archaeology. Your contributions as a researcher, organizer, and popularizer of archaeological science are truly remarkable. Among your many achievements, you have established four archaeological museums, with the Suyanggae Museum in Danyang standing out as the most renowned.

Your excavations and research at the Suyanggae Paleolithic site have earned you global recognition, making significant contributions to the field not only in Korea but also among Paleolithic archaeologists worldwide.

One of the most extraordinary discoveries at the Suyanggae site, particularly at Loc. 6, is the world's oldest tanged points. A particularly fascinating find is a 40,000-year-old polished river pebble of the roller type, marked with what appears to be a star map and counting signs. This unique artifact demands deeper scientific and interpretative analysis—not only by archaeologists but also through artificial intelligence.

Your groundbreaking research on the Early Late Paleolithic has been published in monographs and esteemed scientific journals across Russia, the USA, China, Poland, Japan, France, Malaysia, and beyond.

You also founded the Suyanggae and Neighbors international research symposium—first under the auspices of the prestigious Chungbuk National University and later through the Institute of Korean Prehistory, which you established. Under your leadership, the Suyanggae and Neighbors conferences have been successfully held in Krasnoyarsk, Novosibirsk, and several other countries.

In recognition of your invaluable collaboration with Krasnoyarsk State Pedagogical University, named after V.P. Astafiev, you were awarded the title of Honorary Doctor of Archaeology. As a distinguished representative of global science, you have frequently lectured on Korean archaeology, leaving an indelible mark on scholars and students alike.

Your warmth, wisdom, and unwavering support have earned you the affectionate nickname “Papa Lee” among your students—a testament to the deep respect and admiration they hold for you. This, I believe, is the highest praise one can receive for their dedication to education and mentorship.

Another lasting legacy of your career is the establishment of your own archaeological school. Over the years, you, along with your students, master's candidates, and doctoral researchers, have explored numerous Paleolithic sites in Korea. Many of your students have gone on to become esteemed scholars in the study of Korea's ancient history. Together, you have also created a remarkable archaeological museum at Chungbuk National University—an invaluable institution that serves as a landmark for both the university and the city.

It has been nearly 40 years since our first meeting at an international conference at the University of Maine in Orono (USA). Since then, we have been as close as brothers—one Korean, one Russian—united by our shared passion for archaeology and a lifelong friendship. Over the years, our bond has grown into a true family connection, and it brings me great joy that our children and grandchildren continue this cherished friendship.

Dear Professor Lee Yung-jo, I wish you good Siberian health, new discoveries, and many more years of scientific achievement.

With deepest respect, and from Russia with love

Congratulations

Lucyna DOMAŃSKA

Professor, University of Lodz, Poland

On behalf of the Institute of Archaeology at the University of Lodz, Poland. I am honored to extend my warmest congratulations to Professor Lee Yung-jo on the remarkable milestone of 60 years of academic excellence and the successful organization of 25 conferences in the prestigious Suyanggae and Her Neighbors series.

Professor Lee Yung-jo has dedicated his research and teaching career primarily to two esteemed Korean institutions – Yonsei University and Chungbuk National University. In addition, he has served as a Visiting Professor at several universities in the United States (University of Illinois, University of California) and in Russia (Krasnoyarsk State Pedagogical University). His outstanding contributions to scientific research and education have been widely recognized. Notably, he was awarded the title of Honorary Doctor of Archaeology by Krasnoyarsk State Pedagogical University in 2004, and in 2006, the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, honored him with the title of Honorary Doctor of Science.

Professor Lee has played a pivotal role in leading numerous scientific organizations and continues to do so as Honorary President of institutions such as the Asian Paleolithic Association, Goyang Gawaji Rice Museum, Korean Paleolithic Association, and Korean Museum Studies Association. In 2005, he became Director of the Institute of Korean Prehistory and later assumed the role of President, overseeing its research activities and initiatives.

Among his many contributions, his fieldwork at the Suyanggae sites holds particular significance. His research began under the Chungju Dam Submerged Area Research Group Program (1983–1985) and has continued through various subsequent scientific programs. Excavations at Suyanggae have yielded numerous Upper Paleolithic workshops, where blades, blade cores, and various flint tools were produced. These discoveries have significantly advanced our understanding of blade technology and its origins in Southeast Asia.

In 1996, Professor Lee Yung-jo founded the international conference series Suyanggae and Her Neighbors, creating a global platform for scholars to discuss Stone Age archaeology. Under the leadership of the Suyanggae International

Symposium Executive Committee, which he chairs, these conferences have been hosted by leading scientific institutions in Asia, Europe, and the United States. The Institute of Archaeology at the University of Lodz had the privilege of organizing this esteemed conference in 2006 and 2014. Over the years, the Suyanggae and Her Neighbors series has become a key forum for global discussions on Paleolithic archaeology.

Professor Lee is the author of 10 books, 555 articles, and 45 field research reports, as well as the co-editor of 42 additional books. The majority of his works focus on Paleolithic archaeology, and his scholarly contributions have profoundly shaped our understanding of the earliest periods of human history. His research has provided new perspectives on the origins of Eurasian settlement, the development of blade technology in Southeast Asia, and the interactions between Paleolithic hunter-gatherer groups in Siberia, China, and Japan.

The Institute of Archaeology at the University of Lodz has enjoyed over 20 years of fruitful collaboration with Professor Lee Yung-jo. Our partnership has led to significant scientific advancements, and Professor Lee has become a trusted friend of our university. More broadly, he has played a key role in promoting Polish archaeology in international academic exchanges. In 2014, in recognition of his outstanding contributions, he was invited to join the distinguished group of scientists honored by the University of Lodz Senate as special friends of the university. The university leadership is deeply grateful for his unwavering support and commitment to strengthening our institution's connections with major research centers in the Far East. The Rector of the University of Lodz particularly acknowledges Professor Lee's invaluable role in promoting our university and fostering relationships with leading scholars in the region.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration, further expanding academic exchanges between archaeologists from Korea and Poland, and deepening our shared commitment to the advancement of Paleolithic research.

We extend our best wishes to Professor Lee Yung-jo for continued scientific success, groundbreaking discoveries, and many more years of scholarly excellence.