

**Screening of *Indigenous Peoples and Borders*
at the Pascua Yaqui reservation in Arizona, USA**

In December 2011, Professor Koji Yamasaki (member of the Global COE Program “Reshaping Japan’s Border Studies” organizing committee; Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies) and I visited the Pascua Yaqui reservation in Arizona to present the film *Indigenous Peoples and Borders*. This film was produced by the Global COE program from two museum exhibits, “World of the Yaqui People” and “Ainu and Border,” held at the Hokkaido University Museum from fall 2010 to spring 2011. The event, entitled “Japanese Meet the Yaqui Culture & History”, was hosted by the Dr. Fernando Escalente Community Library & Resource Center of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Education Division. The Pascua Yaqui Tribal Chambers, where the event was held, were filled with Pascua Yaqui community members.

On December 14, I started my day by appearing on a radio show hosted by KPYT, a radio station run by the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. On the 45-minute show, I talked about the museum exhibit, my research, and issues regarding the Ainu people in Japan. The show’s host, Mr. Oscar Hernandez from the Dr. Fernando Escalente Community Library & Resource Center, was interested in Japanese culture and society. On the show, he asked me questions about recent news concerning Japan, such as the earthquake and the recent world cup victory of the Japan women’s soccer team.

The presentation was held that same evening. Arizona is having a colder winter than usual this year, with a great deal of rain, and several main roads around the reservation were closed due to flooding. As a result, many people could not attend the event due to transportation problems. Still, more people than I imagined showed up in spite of the bad weather. Below are some comments from the attendees.

“I was very impressed on how well the Yaqui people were presented.”

“I am very happy to know that our Yaqui is in a museum overseas.”

“Welcome to our Yaqui community and for presenting tonight’s theme. You are representing our cultural traditions well, as well as other indigenous people presented.”

Presenting the Yaqui culture in Japan and showing the Yaqui community my progress have been my passion for years. I believe there is more to be accomplished through collaboration with the Yaqui people, and I hope to continue this good relationship with them for a long time. Last but not least, I thank Global COE

“Reshaping Japan’s Border Studies” for all the support provided.



Giving the radio interview on KPFT



Introducing the film at the Dr. Fernando Escalante Center
Yuka Mizutani
(Postdoctoral Researcher, Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies
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