

PROFILE

Professor Noboru Karashima was born in Tokyo and grew up in Kamakura, Kanagawa Prefecture. The experience of being under American occupation after World War II drove him to study about Asia where people shared similar experiences. He majored in Indian history at the Department of Oriental History, Faculty of Letters, the University of Tokyo. When he was enrolled at the graduate school of the same university, Professor Karashima became one of the few Japanese exchange students to South India, and studied at Madras University. After returning home, he has devoted himself to research and education at the Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies as well as at the Faculty of Letters, the University of Tokyo. There are many researchers and students who have received Professor Karashima's training. Meanwhile, Professor Karashima has promoted international collaborations in South Asia area studies with scholars at Madras University and Epigraphist Office, Archaeological Survey of India, Government of India. Domestically, he has also played a major role among many scholars in organizing and promoting academic circles in area studies on South Asia. Since he retired from the University of Tokyo in 1994, Professor Karashima has been teaching at Taisho University and serving to create a new base for South Asian area studies.

Based upon scrupulous reading and analyzing materials on Tamil inscriptions and the statistical processing of collected data, Professor Karashima has developed studies on the history of South India in Japan. His academic achievements in this field have been highly evaluated not only in India, but throughout the world. In 1980, he received the Best Publication Award from the Dravidian Linguistics Association. The 1985 appointment to presidency of the Epigraphical Society of India and the activities he has demonstrated since his 1989 inauguration as President of the International Association of Tamil Research illustrate how highly he has been evaluated. In January this year, the 8th Conference of the International Association of Tamil Research was held and its success is attributed to Professor Karashima who is one of the world's leading scholars and an excellent organizer. In addition to these academic accomplishments, Professor Karashima has edited and published general books of high standards such as *Introducing India* (1977) and *The Dravidian World* (1994), thus contributing to Japanese people's understanding of South Asia.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

- 1933 Born in Tokyo
- 1958 Graduated from the Department of Oriental History, Faculty of Letters, the University of Tokyo
- 1961 Obtained M. Litt. degree from the Human Science Course, Graduate School, the University of Tokyo
- 1964 Left the same school in the mid-course
- 1964-67 Research Assistant, Faculty of Letters, the University of Tokyo
- 1967-71 Lecturer, Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
- 1971-74 Associate Professor of the same institution as above
- 1974-81 Associate Professor, Faculty of Letters, the University of Tokyo
- 1980 Awarded the Best Publication Award by the Dravidian Linguistics Association
- 1981-94 Professor, Faculty of Letters, the University of Tokyo
- 1985 President, Epigraphical Society of India
- 1989- President, International Association of Tamil Research
- 1993 Obtained D. Litt. degree from the University of Tokyo
- 1993 President, Historical Society of Japan
- 1994 Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo
- 1994- Professor of Indian Studies, Taisho University
- 1995 Elected Honorary Fellow of the Epigraphical Society of India

MAJOR WORKS

- A Portrait of India*, (co-author), Kawadeshobo-shinsha, Tokyo, 1975
- Studies of Village Communities in Indian History*, (ed.), University of Tokyo Press, Tokyo, 1976
- Introducing India*, (ed.), University of Tokyo Press, Tokyo, 1977
- A Concordance of the Names in the Cola Inscriptions*, 3 vols., (co-author), Sarvodaya Ilakkiya Pannai, Madurai, 1979*
- The Indus Civilization*, (co-author), NHK Books, Tokyo, 1980
- South Indian History and Society: Studies from Inscriptions AD850-1800*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1984*
- Historical Image of the Indian World*, (ed.), Yamakawa Shuppansha, Tokyo, 1985
- Indus Valley to Mekong Delta: Explorations in Epigraphy*, (ed.), New Era Publications, Madras, 1985*
- South Asia*, Asahi-shinbunsha, Tokyo, 1992
- Towards a New Formation: South Indian Society Under Vijayanagar Rule*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1992*
- Cyclopedia of South Asia*, (ed. in chief), Heibonsha, Tokyo, 1992
- Historical Dimensions of State and Society in Southeast Asia*, (ed.), University of Tokyo Press, Tokyo, 1992
- The Dravidian World: Introducing India II*, (ed.) University of Tokyo Press, Tokyo, 1994
- South Indian Society in Historical Perspective*, I (The Age of the Cholas AD850-1300), Tamilaga Tolliyal Kalagam, Thanjavur, 1995 (in Tamil)
- Titles with asterisks are published in English.