

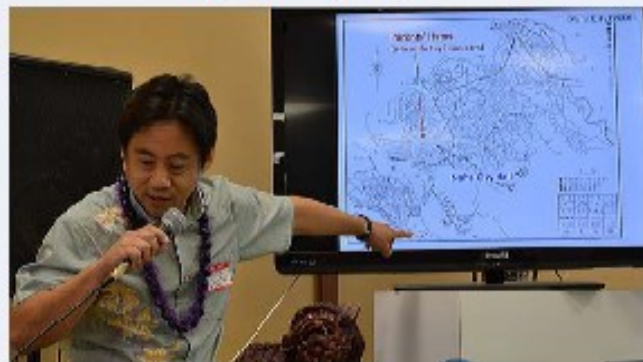
**FEBRUARY 2018 OGSB PHOTOS**  
 Photos by Curtis Shinsato



OGSH Early Birds Touring the nearly Completed Hawaii Okinawa Plaza



Nancy Y.



Discussing the "Father of Okinawan Studies"



Guest speaker Prof. Masato Ishida  
 Director of the Center for  
 Okinawan Studies lectured about  
 Ifu, Fuyu



Sally T.



Mark H.



Sachiko I., COS Librarian &  
 OGSB Member



Donna N.



Curtis, Joyce, Thom, Amy, Dorothy, Theresa, Sally, Dawn & Ron. Missing: Mark Higa

**SAVE THE DATE**

Okinawan Festival  
 Labor Day Weekend  
 September 1-2, 2018  
 New Location: Hawaii Convention Center

OGSH 25th Anniversary  
 New Date: November 3, 2018  
 10am, HOC Legacy Ballroom

Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii  
 c/o HUOC  
 94-587 Ukee Place  
 Waipahu, Hawaii 96797  
 OGSBnews@gmail.com

**Membership Meeting Notice**

Saturday, March 17, 2018  
 9 a.m.—12 p.m.  
 Serikaku Chaya

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Guest Speaker:  
 Ms. Chihiro Ishii,  
 From the Japanese Consulate
- III. Secretary and Treasurer's Report
- IV. Committee Reports
- V. Announcements
- VI. Discussion: OGSB
- VII. Research and Committee Work

February 24, 2018

Attendance

Members: 52

Visitors: 4

Treasurer's Report

Income: HUOA Festival Scrips, Short  
 Stories, Guide Books, Bonenkai,  
 Donations, Dues

Expense: Bonenkai, Printing

Secretary's Report: Newsletter

Transcribed by David R.

Photo Gallery by Theresa T.

Photos by Curtis S.

## Ifa Fuyu

### Father of Okinawan Studies

March 15, 1876-August 13, 1947



Speaker: Dr. Masato Ishida, Professor of Philosophy, University of Hawaii

Thank you for giving me this opportunity this morning. I worked at the Philosophy Department at UH. People don't usually know what to say when they hear that. I am very philosophical but when it comes to Okinawan studies, I do something different or related, but quite different. I am willing to offer you a brief introduction to an outstanding individual from Okinawa. Ifa Fuyu is regarded as the Father of Okinawan Studies. Without him, there would be no Okinawan studies at UH or Center of Okinawan Studies at UH. I have to say, not everyone agrees with him, but without him, there would be no Okinawa studies. He visited Hawaii in 1928.

He was a very prolific scholar. In 1911 he published Ko-Ryûkyû ("Ancient Ryukyu"), his most famous work. He's very heavy into history. His last book, Historical Story of Okinawa, was published in 1947.

He was born in Naha in March 15, 1876. His family dates back to at least 1654. His ancestors probable came from southern China. To keep things in a historical framework, the annexation of the Ryukus to mainland Japan was a multi-year process that was completed in 1879, when Ifa Fuyu was 3 years old. He served as director of the Okinawa Prefectural Library.

He fondly remembers his grandfather. "He was my only educator and passed away when I was 5 years old, as if he was going to sleep on a March day. I am all that I am today because of him."

In 1906 he becomes the first Okinawan to earn a degree from Tokyo Imperial University in the area of linguistics. Immediately after graduation, he returns to Okinawa to give public lectures and to collect and preserve historical documents. He devoted himself in the study of Omoro Soshi, the compilation of ancient poems, songs, and oracles. People didn't know what those documents were saying. It needed modern linguistics skills to interpret them. His findings have been largely been accepted today by practically all historical linguists. He made a number of discoveries that linked the Ryukyu language to Japanese language. He accumulated evidences that the Ryukyu language contains a wealth of features that belonged most distinctively to old Japanese, a view that is held today by many historical linguists. He stated that the Japanese and Ryukyu languages were sister languages. He didn't say they were one and the same language. That would be wrong.

He makes a remark on the Ryukyu language. Observe how well language of a country changes under the influence of another country. First the vocabulary, then the idiomatic use. One can tell how the language has changed over the last 40 years. A 60 or 70 year old cannot understand the language used by the youth today. The Okinawan language is on its way to extinction. Now you need to speak mainland Japanese to get employment.

A brief summary of these points: He assembled thousands of historical documents as the first director of Okinawa Prefectural Library, established himself as a progressive humanist and social reformist willing to guide the people of Okinawa, and the first scholar to publish a monograph on the history of Japanese women. His history of Okinawan women in 1919 predates the very famous work of Takamura Itsue by almost 3 decades. You can see how brilliant he was when no one was paying attention to women's rights or women's history. So he was really in my opinion, brilliant. He was interested in education for children and women.

### Hokuzan, Chuzan, Nanzan

In the fourteenth century, Okinawa controlled three kingdoms, Hokuzan, northern mountain, Chuzan, middle mountain, and Nanzan, southern mountain. This was called the Sanzan Period or Three Kingdom Period.

A couple years ago, OGSN President Rodney divided the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii members into three groups by your last name. If you last name is or in between Abe, B. to Koga, L., the Hokuzan group. Kohagura, R. to Shinsato, C., the Chuzan group. Shinsato, F. to Yoshimoto, S., the Nanzan group.

This was done to give every member an opportunity to help with planning OGSN activities. The activities are rotated every year among the three groups. The activities are 1.) Creating an OGSN display at the Okinawan Festival, 2.) a miscellaneous project, and 3.) planning the Bonenkai (year end party).

This year Hokuzan is in charge of the display, Chuzan's miscellaneous project is to print a commemorative booklet for the 25<sup>th</sup> year celebration, and Nanzan is planning the Bonenkai.

Your time to help to make the activities successful is enjoyed by many people.

If you are able to help in other ways, please let us know. You may email to [OGSNnews@gmail.com](mailto:OGSNnews@gmail.com).



The Nanzan group gather together to plan the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.