Changing Perceptions in Japan: The Rise of Indigeneity through the Fissures of Cold War Asia
Scott Harrison, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

Japan has shifted its image from a pluralistic empire to a postwar homogeneous society and then slowly toward an expansion of the concept of “Japanese” that now includes indigenous peoples. The position and perceptions, both external and internal, of Ainu in Japan has shifted along with these and other international trends. One of the earliest international exposures for Ainu to reconceptualize their identity and their place in Japan and their connection to global indigeneity occurred in relation to Communist China at a time when Cold War relations in Asia were in a period of flux. Over the course of about a decade beginning in 1974, Communist China repeatedly extended invitations to Ainu delegations. This paper will look at how this often overlooked history of Japan-China Cold War era relations played a crucial role in Ainu-led initiatives to transform their own identity as well as radically challenge Japanese society.

Senkaku-Okinawa: Revisiting Government Records
Kimie Hara, University of Waterloo

The dispute over the sovereignty of Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands came to surface in the 1970s, but the post-World War II territorial problem between Japan and China itself had started earlier, over a larger area of Okinawa/Ryukyu. In both cases, the problem did not emerge strictly within the bilateral framework. Involvement of third countries, particularly the United States, played critical roles. Reviewing key government documents disclosed so far in Japan, China, and the United States, this paper will revisit the origins and developments of the Japan-China island problems. Questions addressed will include (but are not limited to): To what extent was the principle of “no territorial expansion” respected among the concerned states? How was the Senkaku/Diaoyu treated in their post-World War II planning? How have the development of regional international dynamics influenced government policies of the concerned states over the years? How are the Japan-China problems related to the other territorial problems, e.g. Kurile Islands, in the region? Several concession ideas found in the early government documents of Japan and China may possibly provide valuable hints in searching for mutually acceptable solutions to the parties concerned.

Too Foreign for Here, Too Foreign for Home: Zainichi Koreans and Ethnic Korean Schools (Chosen Gakko) in Japan
Naomi Hyunjoo Chi, Hokkaido University