

chuan, and other leading historians that imperial China had rested on an alliance between the territorial officials and the local gentry to the degree posited, denying or at least overlooking the capabilities and contributions of local leaders. Whilst fully aware of its general validity, it seemed to me that it required some qualification, and I had therefore suggested that this working alliance, which Professor Fairbank described as a “platform,” might, in practice, have been underpinned by another, lower but larger and—given that it was likely to have been countrywide—no less important platform of local, largely non-gentry, managers at the township, village and small lineage level, whose cooperation and support was equally necessary for the maintenance of law and order in ordinary times. (James Hayes, *The Hong Kong Region 1850-1911*, 2012, xiii.)

Dr. Hayes characterized and emphasized his discussion by referring to the concept of “indigenous,” which enables us to discuss local society from within and from very basic society, with a sort of autonomous self-reproduction by their own.

I myself think that the term “indigenous” is very important for our history studies to find dynamism of local society from within and its own new role in the globalizing world in particular.

I hope Dr. James Hayes, with his gentle smile, also agrees to our renewed emphasis of the importance of research and discussion on the historical concept of indigenous society in this globalizing world.

17 August 2023

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## Condolences for the Loss of Dr. James Hayes

Masahisa Segawa  
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I would like to offer my condolences for the loss of Dr. James Hayes.

I am deeply shocked and saddened by this news.

Although I met him only once during my stay for fieldwork in the New Territories of Hong Kong, I

have been learning a lot from his writings since I was a Ph. D. candidate of the University of Tokyo. My studies on rural villages and lineages in Hong Kong depend heavily on his findings and insights. He was such a great person as a researcher and as a mediator between east and west. I will all miss him.