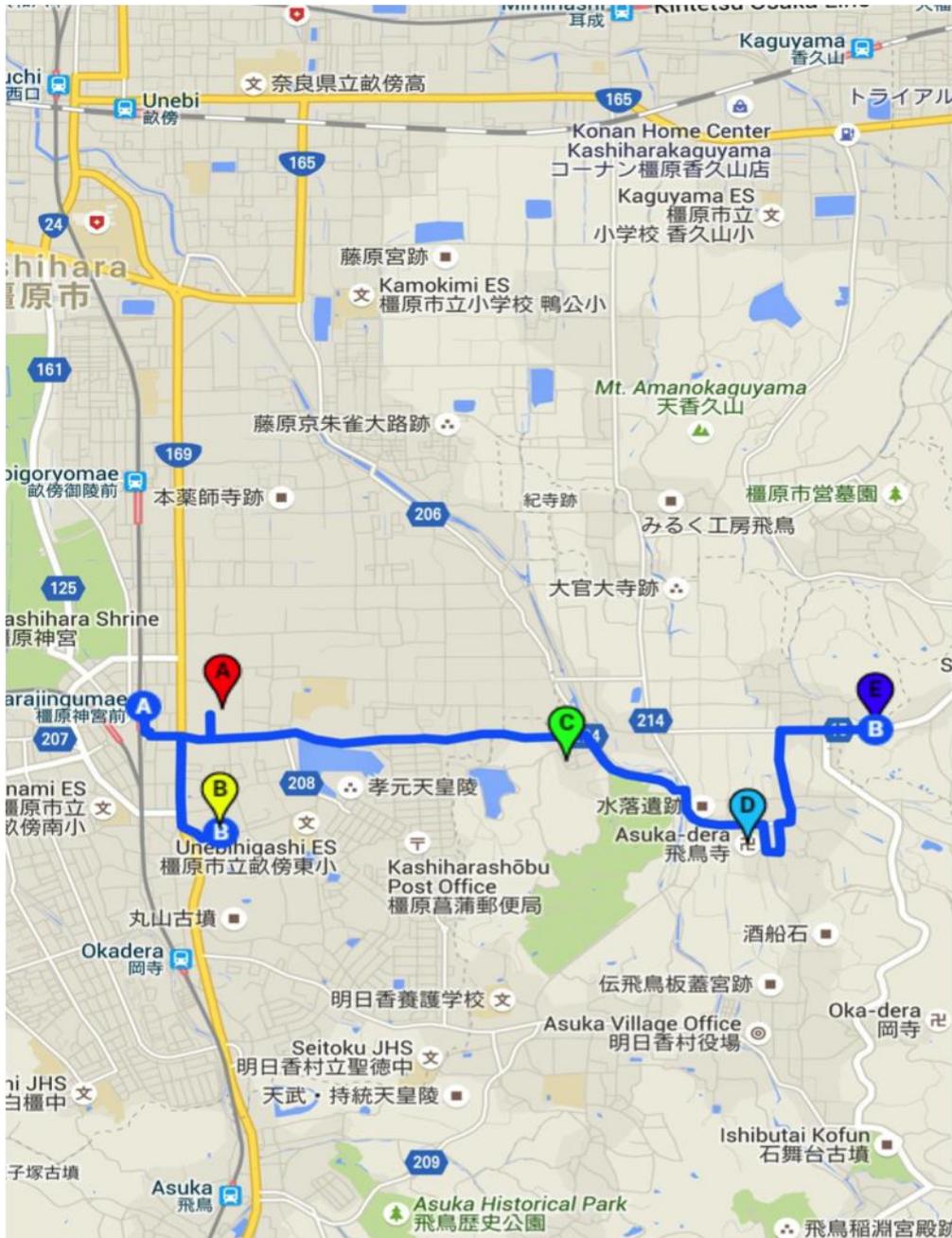


FOREIGN RELATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN DURING THE ASUKA PERIOD



Sightseeing Map



A→Umayasaka

B→Kasuga Shrine

C→Kogenji

D→Asukadera

E→Asuka Historical Museum

ACHIKI (阿直岐) <A>

In the 15th year of the Emperor Ojin's reign (404 A.D.), in autumn, in August, the King of Baekje dispatched Achiki and offered up two good horses as a tribute to Japan, along with him. Then, they were reared in the stable (*umaya*) atop the hill (*saka*) of Karu. And, Achiki was entrusted to raise them. Therefore, the place where the horses were raised was called Umayasaka. Achiki also read the Confucian classics well. Then, Prince Uji-no-Waki-Iratsuko took him as his teacher. Now, the Emperor inquired to Achiki, saying, "Is there any scholar superior to you?" He replied, "There is a man called Wani. He is excellent." Then, the Emperor dispatched Aratawake and Kamunagiwake (a male oracle), who were ancestors of the Kamitsuke-no-Kimi clan, to Baekje, to summon Wani. This Achiki is the progenitor of the Achiki-no-Fubito clan.

In the 16th year, in spring, in February, Wani had come. Then, Prince Uji-no-Waki-Iratsuko took him as his teacher, learned various classics under him and there was nothing he didn't become thoroughly acquainted with. This so-called Wani was the progenitor of the Fumi-no-Obito clan.

UMAYASAKA (厩坂) <A>

A geographical location in the "Chronicles of Japan". It is conceived to be Kashihara Castle in Kashihara City, Nara Prefecture. According to Emperor Oijin, in the 15th year of August, King of Baekje dispatched Achiki and offered up 2 good horses to raise at Karusakanoue, which is believed to be around Ogarucho today.



WANI (王仁)

Wani is a semi-legendary scholar who is said to have been sent to Japan by Baekje of southwestern Korea during the reign of Emperor Ojin. He used to be associated with the introduction of the Chinese writing system to Japan. He was influential to the Asuka Culture.

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Emperor Ojin's Imperial Palace was called Karushima no Toyoakira no Miya. A stone monument with the carving that states, Emperor Ojin's Imperial Palace currently resides at Kasugadera.



GWALLEUK (觀勒)

Gwalleuk was a Korean Buddhist monk from the kingdom of Baekje who lived during the time of Wideok of Baekje. In 602, he travelled to Japan and is known for helping to spread the teachings of Taoism and Buddhism to Japan. He is also said to have brought books containing knowledge of the calendar, astronomy, geography, and onmyodo (yinyang-based teachings). He is mentioned several times in Buddhist records in Japan, where he was known as Kanroku, the Japanese reading of his name.^[1] Kanroku also came from Goguryeo, and was a tutor to Prince Shotoku, counseling him politically.

TAMJING (曇徴)

Tamjing invented paper making and coloring to Japan and also carried ink and the technology of water-mills there.

TORI BUSSHI (鞍作鳥) <D>

Tori Busshi's first known work is a bronze Shaka image of Asukadera, Asuka, Nara Prefecture, which he finished in 606.

Asukadera, also known as Hoko-ji, is a Buddhist temple in Asuka, Nara Prefecture. Asukadera is regarded as one of the oldest in Japan. Following the transfer of the capitol from Asuka to Heijo-kyo, the buildings of Asukadera were also removed from the original site in Asuka to Nara in 718 CE, and developed into a huge temple under the name of Gango-ji. The main object of worship at Asukadera is the bronze Great Buddha, which is a designated as an Important Cultural Property.



ROOF OF THE ASUKADERA (瓦博士) <D>

The tiles which ornamented the roof of the Asukadera date from the end of the 6th century and are the oldest roof tiles known in Japan. They were made under the direction of tile craftsmen despatched from the southwestern Korean kingdom of Paekche (Kudara). The round roof-edge tiles (noki maru-gawara) as well as the “rafter-end tiles” (tarukisaki-gawara) added later in the 7th century are identical to similar roof tiles used during the same period in Korea. Curved roof-edge tiles (noki-hiragawara) had not yet been developed so ordinary curved tiles (hiragawara) were employed.

According to “Chronicles of Japan (Nihon Shoki),” it is said that temple engineers, Roban experts, tile experts, etc., came from Baekje in 588 and started the construction of Asuka-dera Temple, the first full-fledged garan.



HYEJA AND HYECHONG (慧慈と慧聡)

Hyeja was the first priest who came across the sea from Goguryeo to Japan in the Asuka Period, 595. He was a tutor of Buddhism to Shotoku Taishi. He propagated Buddhism in Japan. He lived at Hōkō-ji, currently Asuka-dera, with priest Hyechong who came from Baekje. They were called "Sanpō no Tōryō", the leader of three treasures.

MIMASHI OF BAEKJE (味摩之) <C>

The oldest record of “Gigaku” was actually performed in Japan, it’s stated in the “Nohon Shoki” entry in May 612, saying that it was introduced by Mimashi of Baekje and he gathered young boys to teach it in Sakura, Nara Prefecture. According to “Nohon Shoki” (The Chronicles of Japan), Mimashi of Baekje introduced “Gigaku” to Japan from Wu of Southern China during the reign period of Empress Suiko in 612.

“Gigaku” is a masked dance performed in silent mime to the accompaniment of music. The flute, waist drum (hip drum/kuretsuzumi) and shoban, a type of gong, were the 3 instruments used.

Momument for Mimashi of Baekje currently resides at Kogenji.



ASUKA HISTORICAL MUSEUM <E>

The Asuka Historical Museum is a historical museum in Okuyama, Asuka, Nara Prefecture. The museum was founded in 1975 and is a unit of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties. The museum primarily preserves and exhibits materials from the 6th to 8th centuries, specifically from the Asuka period of Japanese history. Its collection also includes materials from the late Kofun period and Nara period. Unlike other regional museums which house well-known materials from the early periods of Japanese history, Asuka Historical Museum exhibits materials from recent, local excavations. The museum is a repository of materials excavated by the Department of Imperial Palace Sites Investigations of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties. It's collections center on materials from the Asuka-Fujiwara and Heijo palaces.



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