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To the Members of the Press:

ICU Hachiro Yuasa Memorial Museum
Special Exhibition "Palaeolithic Period along Midstream Nogawa"

ICU Hachiro Yuasa Memorial Museum, the university museum of International Christian University (ICU; President: Shoichiro Iwakiri; Mitaka, Tokyo), holds the special Exhibition "Palaeolithic Period along Midstream Nogawa" from September 10 to November 14. This exhibition is jointly organized by ICU and Mitaka city, as one of the initiatives of their Comprehensive Partnership Agreement.

Mitaka city is home to many Palaeolithic sites. This is because the area has stable sources of spring water such as the Inokashira Pond, the Senkawa River and the Nogawa River even though the city is located on the Musashino Plateau, which is essentially poor in water resources. The Nogawa River basin, in particular, is known for having one of the highest densities of Palaeolithic sites in Japan. The high plateau of the Kokubunji Bluff Line, the spring water beneath the bluff, and the plains of the Tachikawa Terrace provided a favorable environment for many animals. The area was thus equally attractive to Palaeolithic people, whose main occupation was hunting.

The 1970 excavation of the Nogawa site, located on what was once part of the International Christian University campus, was an epoch-making breakthrough in the field of Palaeolithic survey methods. Until then such surveys had been conducted only within a limited area of trenches; the full-scale 1970 survey took advantage of a cross-section method called stratigraphic excavation. As a result, it became clear that stone tools with different features were excavated in several clusters or concentrated areas in each layer of the Tachikawa Loam, and this led to a dramatic advance in the study of the chronology of stone tools. Together with the Tsukimino site in Yamato city, Kanagawa prefecture, which was investigated around the same time, the Nogawa site marked a milestone in Japanese Palaeolithic research, known as the "post-Nogawa and Tsukimino" period.

This exhibition focuses on the sites from the campus of the International Christian University to the Hanesawadai site, corresponding to the midstream of the Nogawa River. It is surprising that a rich collection of stone tools from almost all ages of the Palaeolithic period in Japan have been excavated in this 3-km stretch of the Nogawa River. This indicates that our migratory ancestors, *Homo sapiens*, repeatedly used this area as a place to live and included it in their migratory routes.

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