

## Session Three: Indigeneity and the Ainu

### Abstract

In this session, we will examine the situation of the Ainu of Japan from the points of view of genetics, policy, Indigenous movement and representation. The historical and contemporary circumstances of the Ainu at times coincide with those of North America, but also at times greatly differ. There is still much debate concerning whether Hokkaido was colonized or not. Also, there were neither treaties nor other legal measures taken specifically toward the Ainu until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. How these circumstances strongly affect the social and political situation of the Ainu today and what measures are being taken to improve present conditions is to be the focus of this session.