



Taylor, Paul Michael

First International CUA (Caucasus University Association) Conference on Endangered Languages

Ardahan University, Ardahan, Turkey

October, 2014.

PAUL MICHAEL TAYLOR, a research anthropologist at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, is Director of that museum's Asian Cultural History Program, and serves as Curator of Asian, European, and Middle Eastern Ethnology. He has written or edited twelve books and numerous scholarly articles on the ethnography, ethnobiology, languages, and art (or material culture) of Asia, especially Indonesia. He has also curated twenty-one museum exhibitions (including five on-line virtual exhibitions), and served as the Director of Ethnographic Film Development for Essential TV (Overseas) Ltd producing twelve documentary anthropological films. During his studies of rural social, ecological, and poverty-alleviation issues, and his work on documentary films, he lived for over four years in small tribal or rural villages of Southeast Asia. The recipient of numerous international grants and awards, he has served on the Board of Directors of the Association for Asian Studies, and has been a longtime member of the Smithsonian's Asian-Pacific American Heritage Committee. He has worked closely with many individuals and community organisations to establish "Heritage" projects at the Smithsonian. Each such project, including the Smithsonian's Korean, Philippine, Thai, Taiwanese, Sikh, and other Heritage projects, has hosted regular performances, lectures, exhibitions, and other public programs.

Taylor served as Principal Investigator of a major research and museum training program for Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey, funded by BP, and as the primary author of the resulting online publication (www.agt.si.edu). He has also published a web-based, peer-reviewed, multimedia edition of source materials and critical interpretations of a historic 1926 joint Smithsonian-Dutch expedition to western New Guinea (Papua, Indonesia). The publication, *By Aeroplane to Pygmyland: Revisiting the 1926 Dutch and American Expedition to New Guinea*, looks at the 1926 expedition from today's perspective through interpretive essays by Taylor, and includes photographs, film footage, and previously unpublished diaries from the expedition, in a searchable, annotated format (see: www.sil.si.edu/expeditions/1926). He is now preparing another online publication of the edited field notes and correspondence of Smithsonian scientist W.L. Abbott (1860-1936).

Aside from his Smithsonian position, Paul Taylor serves as Senior Consultant for Social and Resettlement Issues for the World Bank Inspection Panel, and has participated in investigations of social and environmental safeguards on development projects in China, Paraguay/Argentina, and Cambodia.