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## Kijimun' s Monologue

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Fukusei Gokokuji no Kane**



Monument of "Shuri no Mori"

Hi, everyone! In this month, I'm going to talk about "Shuri no Mori," "Kaigaku no Kane," and "Fukusei Gokokuji no Kane." Here we go!

#### **\* \* Shuri no Mori (Grove of Shuri) \* \***

Monument of "Shuri no Mori" is a monument standing in a green space between Administration building and the University of the Ryukyus Library. On the back of this monument, there is an inscription in Japanese. English translation is as follows;

The University of the Ryukyus was established on May 22nd, 1950 by U.S. Military Government to contribute toward postwar reconstruction and development of Okinawa which had been devastated by World War II and to train people who could develop a new democratic society. In July 1966, its administration was transferred to the Ryukyu Government, and then it became a national University of Japan following the reversion of Okinawa to Japan in May 1972.

This "Shuri no Mori" was made by relocating "Kaigaku no Kane" and trees in Shuri Campus to remember 30 years at Shuri Campus where was a historical and venerable site and also to commemorate the completion of the relocation.

The Monument of "Shuri no Mori" was established to remain the relationship between the University and former Shuri Castle and turbulent history of postwar reconstruction. It was Alumni Association of the University of the Ryukyus who donated this monument on May 22nd, 1989. This Alumni Association started on December 4th, 1954, it also has a history of 60 years. You can check the history and activities of the association on a website of the University.

#### **\* \* Kaigaku no Kane (Opening Bell) \* \***

There is an inscription in Japanese on a monument of "Kaigaku no Kane", English translation is as follows;

This Opening Bell had been a used gas cylinder of U.S. Army, and we hung it as a time bell at the opening of the University on May 22nd, 1950. In March 1987, relocation of this Opening Bell to Senbaru campus was finished. It is preserved as a symbol of peace. We hope that everyone knows why this Opening Bell was preserved and thinks about what peace is. (The picture on the right is "Kaigaku no Kane.")



#### **\* \* Fukusei Gokokuji no Kane (Replica of Gokokuji Bell) \* \***

In 1854 when Commodore Perry arrived in Ryukyu, a Treaty of Amity between the Ryukyu Kingdom and the United States was concluded. Shō Tai, who was King of Ryukyu at that time presented a Bell of Gokokuji temple to Commodore Perry in commemoration of that. Then, on July 20th, 1960, USCAR presented a replica of the Bell to the University and Ryukyuan people for the 100th anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty. At the time of relocation to Senbaru campus from Shuri campus, the Bell was also removed. (The picture on the left is "Replica of Gokokuji Bell.")

In next month, I will show you a history of a relationship between the University of the Ryukyus and other Universities. I know it's worth waiting!