

Editorial Note

This is the twentieth volume of collected papers of the Mediterranean Studies Group at Hitotsubashi University. Up to the twelfth volume, the series was called *Studies in the Mediterranean World. Past and Present* and many of the articles were written in Japanese. From the thirteenth volume, the title of the series, now composed of papers in European languages, was changed to *Mediterranean World*. Volumes are published every two or three years.

The Mediterranean Studies Group was first organized at Hitotsubashi University in 1973, in order to carry out interdisciplinary research on the Mediterranean world. At that time, few studies on the Mediterranean area were undertaken in Japan, in comparison with studies on other areas of the world. Since it was founded, the Mediterranean Studies Group has held monthly seminars, offered special lectures by both Japanese and non-Japanese scholars, and organized field surveys in the Mediterranean countries concerned. We are greatly indebted to the Japanese Ministry of Education, Science and Culture for a number of grants-in-aid which have enabled us to conduct these research activities and publish the series.

This volume contains some papers being based on the field researches by the members of the Mediterranean Studies Group under the title of “On the Methodology for the Maritime Area Studies: Microecological Systems of the Islands and their Connectivities in the Mediterranean” and two papers presented at the workshop, held on 24 January, 2010 at Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo, inviting researchers from Tunisia.

Five overseas colleagues have contributed papers to this volume; they are collaborators with our group and participated in the 5th International Workshop, which was sponsored by the Mediterranean Studies Group and in collaborations with Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (CERES), titled “Connectivity and Micro-Region in the Mediterranean”, held on 25 March, 2009 in Tunis, Tunisia. This workshop could not have been realized without the generous help of CERES, especially its Director, Dr. Hassen El Annabi, to make a comfortable atmosphere of friendship. To them we express our heartfelt thanks.

Tokyo, June 2010

The Mediterranean Studies Group
Hitotsubashi University

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