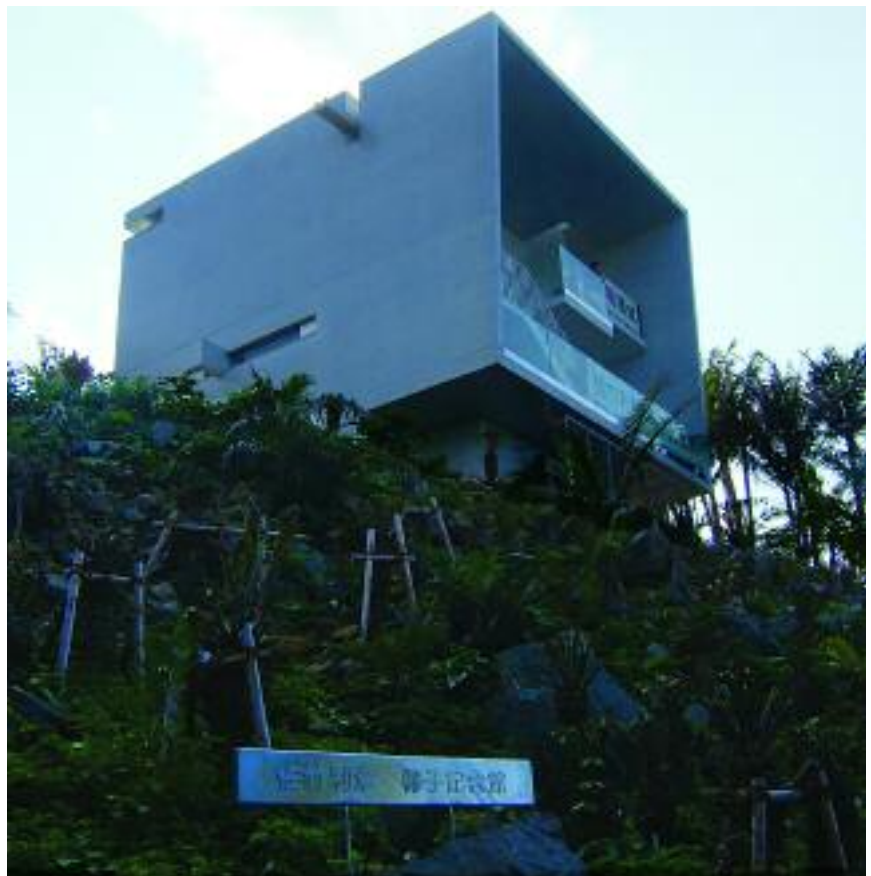


The Toshihiko Satake Memorial Palm Museum, Ishigaki Island, Okinawa, Japan

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(Editors Note: the following is an edited version of the official press release announcing the opening of the Toshihiko Satake Memorial Palm Museum).

The new museum sits among new planting of *Satakentia likiuensis*.



A new palm museum (Fig. 1) dedicated to Dr. Toshihiko Satake has opened in Japan.

The name Toshihiko Satake is commemorated in the generic name of one of the most elegant palms of the western Pacific, *Satakentia likiuensis*, native to the Ryukyu Islands at the south of the Japanese archipelago. Dr. Satake (Fig. 2), a leading industrialist in Japan and second President of the Satake Corporation, had a passionate and deep interest in palms and was a frequent correspondent of Professor Harold E. Moore. It was Hal Moore who recognized that the palm described as *Gulubia likiuensis* by Hatusima, did not belong to *Gulubia* but represented a distinct genus. In naming it *Satakentia*, Hal Moore paid homage to a great student of the palm family.

When Dr. Satake was 23 years old, he was given a young specimen of *Livistona* by a friend. He was attracted by the appearance of the palm and thus began his life-long interest in the family. At the time, no one in Japanese academia was studying palms, and he was astonished at how little literature was available. The open field encouraged him to study further.



2 (above). A bronze bust of Dr. Toshihiko Satake. 3 (below). The main room of the Satake Museum has educational exhibits of palm artifacts, palm literature and palm ethnobotanical collections. The museum focuses on *Satakentia likiuensis* but includes information on the entire palm family.





4 (top) and 5 (bottom). The museum has exhibits of palm fruits and seeds.



4 (top) and 5 (bottom). Different views of the palm exhibits.



8. The glass case contains a rare original edition of Martius' *Historia Naturalis Palmarum*.

After World War II, he formed a friendship with Professor Moore. At the age of 52 in 1962, Dr. Satake announced a new classification of the palms, with 11 subfamilies, 29 tribes, 253 genera and 3,333 species. Dr. Satake received honorary doctorates from Tokyo University of Agriculture in 1993 and from Hiroshima University in 1995. His collections include 78 species, 230 plants of palms and cycads, seed samples from approximately 500 different palm species and valuable literature.

On 27 January 2005, the Satake Technical Foundation (Chairperson: Dr. Toshiko Satake) established the Toshihiko Satake Memorial Palm Museum on Ishigaki Island, Okinawa Prefecture in Japan, the very site of *Satakentia liukuensis*, and held an opening ceremony. The Foundation was established with a donation of 30 million Japanese Yen on 6 March 1984 with the aim of promoting and supporting research and development activities, to encourage human resource development and to support botanical research in Japan. At present, the Foundation is supporting university laboratories in Japan and grants scholarships for overseas students at Hiroshima University and other universities in Japan.

The museum, one of the very few to be devoted to the palm family, was established to contribute to regional promotion and the development of botanical research, in memory of the late Dr. Toshihiko Satake (1910–1998). Dr. Satake was a leading authority in palm research and was instrumental in recognizing the distinctness of the palm *Ryukyu Yaeyamayashi*, later to be named *Satakentia liukuensis* by Professor Moore.

The museum is a two-storied, reinforced concrete building with a total floor area of nearly 190 square meters. The exhibition room on the second floor comprises eight zones (Figs. 3–8): 1) Introduction to Dr. Satake, 2) Ecological distribution of palms in the world and over 100 kinds of palm seeds (Figs. 4 & 5), 3) Exhibition of *Satakentia liukuensis*, 4) Exhibition of various products made from palms (Figs. 6 & 7), 5) Introduction of the Imperial Palm (*Roystonea oleracea*) from Joinville, Brazil, similar in appearance to *Satakentia liukuensis*, 6) Introduction to other palm museums in Japan, 7) Video display on a 50 inch plasma television screen, and 8) In the center of the exhibition room, a display of rare and valuable palm literature such as the incomparable *Historia Naturalis Palmarum* of



9. The rooftop offers a vista of *Satakentia likiuensis* in the wild.

Martius (Fig. 8). The cases also include valuable items such as coconut pearls, palm fossils and palm postage stamps that Dr. Satake collected from a variety of international sources in his lifetime.

On the rooftop of the museum, visitors can enjoy wonderful panoramic views of the East

China Sea and the natural habitat of *Satakentia likiuensis* (Fig. 9).

The museum opens every day except Tuesday. Admission is 300 Japanese Yen per visitor (free for children younger than elementary school age). The museum expects to receive approximately 30,000 visitors in 2005.