



Tsukuro! Asobo! (Asia-Pacific region)

Making Toys and Playing Together, published under the Asia/Pacific Copublication Programme



Edited by the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)

Japanese version: Published by KOGUMA Publishing Co., Ltd. in 1988

(Original version in English published by ACCU)

This book features detailed illustrations of 20 hand-made toys from the Asia-Pacific region, such as spinning tops from Papua New Guinea, beanbags from Malaysia, roller toys from Sri Lanka, stilts from Australia, bamboo toy guns from Laos, and snake toys from India. I was surprised to see these toys, which I myself enjoyed making when I was a child, are so common in the Asia-Pacific region. Old stories passed down from generation to generation in different countries have a lot of common elements. Similarly, childhood cultures might also have many commonalities, commonalities more widely and deeply shared across the world than Internet culture.



“Dad, let’s make this toy together, and this, and this!” While reading this book, I certainly had my arm twisted into making lots of the toys. Looks like I’ll be getting up extra early next Sunday!

* The book is now out of print. Please look for it at a library.

★Picture books recommended by Tanaka Naoto (Titles in Japanese)★

Koinu no Unchi (Puppy Doo-doo); Heibonsha Limited, Publishers
Suho's White Horse; Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers, Inc.

Shiroi Ryu Kuroi Ryu (The White Dragon and the Black Dragon);
Iwanami Shoten, Publishers

Osama to Kyunin no Kyodai (The King and the Nine Brothers);
Iwanami Shoten, Publishers

Five Chinese Brothers; Zuiunsha

The Very Hungry Lion; Artone Shinsha Co., Ltd.

The Princess with the Longest Hair; Artone Shinsha Co., Ltd.

Yojihan Yojihan (Four Thirty, Four Thirty); Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers, Inc.

Manhee no Ie (Manhee's House); The Sailor Publishing Co., Ltd.

Majo no Hi (The Witch's Fire); Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers, Inc.

Nigedashita Hige (The Beard that Ran Away); Kijo Picture Book Village