

Thermoluminescence dating on iron smelting furnaces at Buriram Province, northeastern area of Thailand

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During the excavation works at Ban Saitho 7 and Ban Khao Din Tai archaeological sites located at Buriram, northeastern province of Thailand, iron smelting furnace ruins were found. Dating of these objects was very important to reveal the historical and archaeological aspects of these significant sites. Thermoluminescence dating (TL) is one of absolute dating method and the most accurate for dating archaeological finds. Iron smelting furnace walls were collected and prepared for measurement using this dating method. The results showed that the iron smelting furnace walls from Ban Saitho 7 and Ban Khao Din Tai sites were dated back around to 1000–1200 and 1100–1200 years before today, respectively. Our results hence indicate that the iron activity in these investigated sites occurred at about 800–1000 CE, in the Dvaravati period.

***Acknowledgments:** This work was funded from the Graduate School of Kasetsart University. Authors kindly thank the Faculty of Engineering and Resource Science at Akita University, Japan, for providing the expertise team, and Prof.Dr. Isao Takashima for supporting the TL instruments.*