

## Preface

Let me take this opportunity to present the origin of the Society for Cultural Interaction in East Asia and its mission. In his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of Kansai University's Institute for Cultural Interaction Studies (ICIS), held on October 4, 2007, Princeton University Emeritus Professor Ying-shih Yu, recipient of the 2006 John W. Kluge Prize (often described as the Nobel Prize in the humanities) compared the theories of civilization of Arnold J. Toynbee (1889–1975) and Samuel P. Huntington (1927–2008). He also encouraged the launching of a society to promote research on cultural interaction in East Asia, since the proposed new academic research field of cultural-interaction studies attempts to transcend the analytical units of national and ethnic bonds and to explain the total state of cultural interaction from a diverse and synthetic viewpoint. At the ceremony, the ICIS proposal was also well received by distinguished guests from Academia Sinica, Fudan University, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Huazhong Normal University, the City University of Hong Kong, the National University of Singapore, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Sapienza University of Rome, the University of Erlangen, the University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, Osaka University, Nishōgakusha University, and the Shibusawa Ei'ichi Memorial Foundation.

Afterward, we gradually established ICIS liaison offices in Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, and Seoul, and took opportunities such as the international symposia at Fudan University (held by the National Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies in December 2007 and by the Institute for Chinese Historical Geography in December 2008) to exchange opinions with a wide range of interested parties on how the society should function. We finally reached the following consensus.

First, the Society for Cultural Interaction in East Asia (SCIEA), as we are calling the society, aims to carry out creative research activities that bring together perspectives from around the globe. Its research focus is cultural interaction in East Asia, which we conceive as including cultural interaction between East Asia and the rest of the world and cultural interaction between the various regions of East Asia. In addition, rather than analyzing such cultural interaction (generation, contact, conflict, transformation, and integration) from one-to-one perspectives, such as between two countries or two regions, we propose conducting analyses from the perspective of many-to-many, in other words, as among as many countries and regions as possible.

Second, to achieve the aforementioned goals, we will hold research meetings of the society each year to exchange research results and promote

critiques of methodologies and the sharing of resources. These annual meetings will be held in different countries and regions on a rotating schedule, which will enable us to listen to the views of researchers in those countries and regions.

Third, regarding organization, the society will be run mainly by an Executive Committee and Council according to the articles of the society. The Secretariat in charge of the daily operations of the society will be located at Kansai University for the first three years, and we also plan to establish an Editorial Committee to edit the society's journal.

Here I would like to illustrate our research mission again, as I did when delivering my presidential address at the founding congress of the Society for Cultural Interaction in East Asia held at Kansai University on June 27, 2009, by quoting a few lines from an article titled "On the Culture and Civilization of Nations," written by the prominent Japanese historian Naitō Konan (1866–1934) for the Osaka *Mainichi Shinbun* newspaper after his research trip to England and France in late 1924 and early 1925. "The goal of a nation's existence is not for accumulating wealth, but for creating a culture that can raise the level of people's wellbeing all over the world." "The culture of a nation does not mean the nation's wealth and power, economic organizations, the development of industries, and the improvement of people's life, but rather means the nation's cultivation and dignity shaped during the course of some five hundred or a thousand years." "People cannot live a true cultural life just by subjugating the natural world or the physical world. That is not the highest level of a nation's life. Cultural life can only become true to form when people pay attention to protect the natural world and live in the natural world with the resources that the natural world provides." I like these lines because I truly believe that the mission of this academic society lies not only in describing how the cultural interaction of the world has occurred and developed to date, but also in finding and imaging, through our transnational research, a better way of life and new rules of the game for the future. If Naitō was then concerned that excessive pursuit of material life would degrade the people and nation, we have more reasons to be concerned about the same thing and, moreover, to worry about the danger of undermining the physical basis of human life with excessive development, because our planet has now become so weak and small and has reached the limits of human exploitation.

De-min Tao  
Director, ICIS  
President, SCIEA  
January 1, 2010

## **The First Annual Meeting of the Society for Cultural Interaction in East Asia**

Theme: New Approaches to Multicultural Interaction

Centenary Memorial Hall, Kansai University, Osaka, Japan  
June 27, 2009

The first annual meeting of the Society for Cultural Interaction in East Asia (SCIEA) was held at Kansai University on June 27, 2009. It was organized by the Institute for Cultural Interaction Studies (ICIS) of Kansai University. More than 300 participants gathered on that day, and 20 papers were presented in five special panels. The program of the first meeting was as follows:

### **The first general assembly of the society**

De-min Tao, Presidential Address

### **Congratulatory messages**

**Hirano Ken'ichirō**, Director, Center for Area Studies, National Institutes for the Humanities; Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo; Professor Emeritus, Waseda University; University Professor, Waseda University

**Tsuchida Kenjirō**, Vice-President, Waseda University

**Kojima Tsuyoshi**, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, University of Tokyo; Representative of the international project "Maritime Cross-Cultural Exchange in East Asia and the Formation of Japanese Traditional Culture"

**Pei-kai Cheng**, Professor and Chairman, Chinese Civilisation Centre, City University of Hong Kong

**Choi Gwan**, Professor and Director, Center for Japanese Studies, Korea University

**Nguyen Cao Huan**, Professor and Director, Department of Science and Technology, Vietnam National University, Hanoi

**Rudolf G. Wagner**, Co-director, Cluster of Excellence, "Asia and Europe in a Global Context," Heidelberg University

### **Memorial lecture**

"The Making of the New East Asian Cultural Zone and the Role of Academic and Cultural Exchange," Aoki Tamotsu, Commissioner for Cultural Affairs; Professor Emeritus, Osaka University; cultural anthropologist

**Plan for the 2010 Annual Meeting**

Huang Chun-chieh, Dean, Institutes for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Science, National Taiwan University

**Plan for the 2011 Annual Meeting**

Zhu Ying, Director, Institute for Modern Chinese History, Central China Normal University

**Ceremony for Conferring an Honorary Doctorate and Memorial Speech**

Introduction, Kawata Teiichi, President, Kansai University

“A Transnational Moment,” Iriye Akira, Professor Emeritus, Harvard University

“Cultural Interactions with Japan: A Personal View,” Martin Collcutt, Professor of East Asian Studies and History, Princeton University

**Keynote speech**

“Some Observations of the Study of the History of Cultural Interactions in East Asia,” Huang Chun-chieh, Dean, Institutes for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Science, National Taiwan University; Center of Excellence Visiting Professor, Kansai University

**Introduction of Eminent Libraries**

Harvard-Yenching Library, Ma Xiao-he, Librarian for the Chinese Collection, Harvard-Yenching Library

Kansai University Library, Tao De-min, Director, Institute for Cultural Interaction Studies, Kansai University

**Round table 1**

“The Potential of Linguistic and Literary Research as Cultural Interaction Studies”

Chairperson, Uchida Keiichi, ICIS, Kansai University

Federico Masini, Sapienza University of Roma

Zhang Xiping, Beijing Foreign Studies University

Kizu Yūko, Kyoto University

Kin Bunkyō, Kyoto University

Choe Yong Chul, Korea University

Commentators

Zhou Zhenhe, Fudan University

Takekoshi Takashi, Aichi Prefectural University

**Round table 2**

“The Potential of Historical Research as Cultural Interaction Studies”

Chairperson, Tao De-min, ICIS, Kansai University

Matsuura Akira, ICIS, Kansai University

Ge Zhaoguang, Fudan University

Huang Yi-long, National Tsing Hua University

Li Changsen, Macao Polytechnic Institute

To Wing-kai, Bridgewater State College

Commentators

Wang Fan-sen, Academia Sinica

Nakami Tatsuo, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

**Round table 3**

“The Potential of Intellectual and Religious Research as Cultural Interaction Studies”

Chairperson, Azuma Juji, ICIS, Kansai University

Rudolf G. Wagner, Heidelberg University

Ha Woo Bong, Chonbuk National University

Horiike Nobuo, University of Tsukuba

Jang Woncheol, Gyeongsang National University

Lee Cheuk Yin, National University of Singapore

Commentators

Kim Tae Chang, Kōkyō Tetsugaku Kyōdō Kenkyūsho (Institute for Cooperative Research in Public Philosophy)

Sawai Keiichi, Keisen University

**Round table 4**

“The Potential of Research on the Periphery in Cultural Interaction Studies”

Chairperson, Fujita Takao, ICIS, Kansai University

Nguyen Cao Huan, Vietnam National University, Hanoi

Noma Haruo, ICIS, Kansai University

Oda Yoshiko, ICIS, Kansai University

Kumano Takeshi, ICIS, Kansai University

Inoue Mitsuyuki, ICIS, Kansai University

Commentators

Itō Toshikatsu, Aichi University

Lu Yan, University of New Hampshire

**Round table 5**

“The Potential of Japanese Studies as Cultural Interaction Studies”

Chairperson, Harada Masatoshi, ICIS, Kansai University

Choi Gwan, Korea University

Wang Min, Hosei University

Machi Senjurō, Nishōgakusha University

Willy Vande Walle, Catholic University of Leuven

Kate Wildman Nakai, Sophia University

Commentators

Yan Shaodang, Beijing University

Tsujimoto Masahi, Kyoto University