

**Graduate School of East Asian Culture, Faculty of Letters, Senri Campus,
Kansai University (January 19, 2017)**

Professor Matsuura Akira's Last Lecture Held

After graduating with a major in Oriental History in the History Department in the Faculty of Letters at Kansai University, Professor Matsuura was in the first group of students to graduate in Oriental Cultural History in the Japanese History Department of the Graduate School of Letters. Subsequently, he started teaching as a full-time lecturer in the Faculty of Letters at Kansai University. After becoming Assistant Professor, he attained the status of full Professor in 1988. In his long career, he has been Dean of the Graduate School of Letters, Director of the Center for the Study of Asian Cultures, head of the steering committee for the G-COE project, Director of the Institute of Oriental and Occidental Studies, and has held many other important positions.

Professor Matsuura pioneered many previously unexplored fields in Ming and Qing period history and in the history of East Asian maritime cultural exchange. He has garnered worldwide attention for his many publications not only on cultural exchange concerning China, but also with Japan, Taiwan, Southeast Asia, Korea, and the Ryūkyū Islands. The title of his last lecture was “Tracing the History of Cultural Interaction Studies: Reminiscences on Fifty Years of Research.” Professor Matsuura related that when he was an undergraduate student, he heard a lecture on books transported from China to Japan in the Edo period by the late Professor Oba Osamu, and became fascinated by the topic. Professor Matsuura reminisced about how his lifelong research projects had begun with this lecture. He captivated his audience as he discussed his research on ships that harbored in Nagasaki at the end of the Tokugawa period and his encounter with Chinese junks, as well as providing anecdotes on the difficulties he faced collecting materials on shipwrecks, logbooks, and newspaper articles.

He also touched on his activities in recent years on large-scale projects such as CSAC, G-COE, and CSAC II, as well as his mentoring of many graduate students, who have become full-fledged academics in their own right. Humble about his myriad achievements, he also seemed satisfied with his long and productive academic career. The venue for the grand occasion, the seminar space on the fourth floor of the Ibunkan Building, was filled to capacity with well over one-hundred in the audience. As the lecture drew to a close, Professor Matsuura stated, “I want to continue my research,” thus conveying his character as a lifelong student and his enthusiasm for scholarship.

