

楽友
Raku-Yu

Kyoto
University
Newsletter



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Editor's notes

On April 1, 2004, Kyoto University made a smooth launch into the uncharted waters of the worldwide information age that is the 21st Century when it became a National University Corporation. This action marked a complete change in the identity that the school has had for over a century. As symbolized by the compass rose on this issue's cover, the university's new course may lead to any number of possible futures. Not all of it will necessarily be smooth sailing. It is our hope that the university will steer a course that is both adventurous and resolute.

Naoyuki Osaka, Senior Editor, The Editorial Committee of *Raku-Yu*

Portolan Chart

Sheepskin, 52.5 × 72.0cm, c. 15th- 16th Century Europe

The Kyoto University Museum boasts the finest collection of maps and cultural artifacts of any university in Japan. For this issue's cover, we have selected the compass rose from the Portolan Chart drawn on a sheepskin, one of the best exhibits from its ancient maps and globes section.

The Age of Exploration brought Europe an expanded understanding of the geography of the world, though the initial impetus was to find a shorter route for trade between the Eastern world and the Mediterranean. These charts, known as Portolan Chart, were used in such trade in those centuries. These charts are unique in that they were made after compasses propagated from the East into the Mediterranean, and were designed such that users could find the course to whichever port they wished to go to by following the lines that radiated from the compass rose drawn on the chart. The map on this particular Portolan Chart is of the Mediterranean Sea and the surrounding region, and as such, may very well have been used in actual trade in the area.

The Age of Exploration had a significant impact on Japan as well. During the 16th and early 17th Centuries, contact with Europeans gave Japanese much knowledge of navigation. "Genna-Kokaiki" (Seafaring in the Early Tokugawa Era), a book published in 1618 and located in the Kyoto University Library, contains this statement in the foreword by its author, Koun Ikeda: "Manuel Gonzalo taught navigation to me. When I asked advanced questions, however, I was told that no navigator alive could answer me. In response, I made my own measuring instruments the following year, which I now describe in this book for the use of those who are to follow." These words give a glimpse of the learned Japanese of the time, who were not content simply to learn Western navigation, but added their own improvements, thus determinedly launching themselves into the new realm of knowledge that is Western Civilization.



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A Note on Order of Names

As a general rule, names appearing in *Raku-Yu* are written in given name/family name order.



This name was taken from the assembly hall called "Raku-Yu Kaikan" that commemorated the 25th anniversary of the founding of Kyoto University.

Kazuo Oike Born in 1940 in Tokyo. Dr. Oike graduated from Kyoto University, Faculty of Science in 1963. He was an assistant professor of Disaster Prevention Research Institute from 1963 to 1973, and became an associate professor in 1973. He obtained his D. Sc. from Kyoto University in 1973, and became a full professor of Graduate School of Science in 1988. He was the Vice-President of Kyoto University from 2001 to 2003, and has been the President since Dec., 2003.

As the first president of National University Corporation Kyoto University, Dr. Oike is resolved to advance reformations at the university aimed at expanding its research and educational foundation, while also preserving its principles. The view from the office of the president is that of the beautiful Mt. Yoshida, born of the Hanaori Fault, itself part of his field of specialty, namely, seismology.



In Cooperation with Citizens of Kyoto

I am truly honored to be elected to lead this university, which has a distinguished history of more than 100 years. Our university was established in 1897 as the second oldest national university in Japan. We are proud of its level of research and education, and of our international friendship with many universities abroad. Kyoto University currently has scholastic exchange agreements with 57 universities and 3 university groups in 23 countries; more than 2200 foreign researchers visit our university, and more than 4600 researchers go abroad annually. More than 1200 students from abroad study on our campus.

Kyoto University has various programs for the international exchange of students and researchers. For example, Kyoto University International Education Program (KUINEP) for undergraduate students was launched in 1997. We promote the 21st Century Centre of Excellence Programmes of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan, in major research fields. And we collaborate with JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) for joint research and education with developing countries.

Kyoto University is now going through a difficult transition to reform its management system. It is necessary to quickly assume leadership of the president of this university in order to navigate through top research, while preserving and developing our extraordinary rich heritage of academic excellence in a very wide range of fields from basic research to practical and applied research.

My focus is on the faculty and staff and most importantly on students of this university. I have spent more than 40 years as a member of Kyoto University, during which time I have come to treasure and love this institution. I have been interested in the Earth and its nature, especially in regions constructed by the converging movements of tectonic plates. These have made the topographical features of Kyoto basin surrounded by mountains.

Kyoto basin has been constructed by the vertical relative movements of many active faults. It is a typical tectonic basin having four distinct seasons and serious natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and so on. This is the fundamental natural characteristic of the Kyoto basin. Kyoto University is located in this Kyoto basin where the old capital was established more than 1200 years ago, and Kyoto City boasts important world heritages.

Kyoto is regarded as the spiritual homeland of the Japanese people and now a cultural homeland of the people of the world. It is important for this university to protect and develop such world heritages and cultures in cooperation with citizens in the Kyoto region.

Kyoto University has the important Centennial Commemoration Clock Tower on the main campus. To maintain this important clock tower for another 100 years into the future, 80 earthquake-proof shock absorbers have been installed under the tower. This is because, Hanaori fault, a major active fault, is situated just along the eastern edge of the main campus. Such active fault movements have constructed the typical topography of Kyoto basin, which has alluvial fan delta surface created by streams from upheaval mountains. This has produced a gently sloping apron of sediment around the foot of the mountains. The main campus of Kyoto University is located on one such fan in the basin.

Japan has twelve Nobel Laureates, nine of whom work in the natural sciences. Five of them have close links with Kyoto University. Many of them say that they were able to do creative research thanks to the environment of Kyoto basin, where rich history breeds new ideas. The gentle slopes of streets on the fan delta are well suited to walking that stimulates the thinking of researchers.

There is also abundant groundwater in Kyoto fault basin. Kyoto basin is a huge water tank. This water stock makes for a lot of water-related cultures and industrial products. For example, the tea ceremony, *Sado* is now popular. Tea ceremony utensils are made from bamboo, and the most important utensil is *Chasen*: bamboo brush for tea preparation. Bamboo is also closely related to the existence of the active faults, for the local bamboo forests have been brought up along the fractured zones of these faults.

You can enjoy a wide variety of things during your stay in Kyoto City and in Kyoto University not only for your study but also among the diverse cultures of Kyoto basin. Kyoto University welcomes and encourages opinions and proposals, comments and suggestions, through the president's homepage.

URL <http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/english/etop2/e01-top.htm>

Kazuo Oike
President of Kyoto University

尾池和夫

Incorporation of Japan's National Universities – a new start for National University Corporation Kyoto University

As of April 2004, all 89 of Japan's national universities have been reconstituted in the form of independent corporations. At the same time, the 123,000-strong faculty of these universities is cut loose from their stable, protected government employee status, and reassigned to the status of employees of the independent corporation that operates the national university in question. Their situation is nearly identical with that of employees of private universities. On the one hand, this "incorporation" or rather semi-privatization is a part of the government's administrative and financial reform with the aim of improving the effectiveness of the universities' management. On the other hand, it is also true that this move allows each individual national university to opt for the best future outlook for itself, by giving these universities, which have long been under the sway of state regulations and benefited from state protection, the freedom and discretion to make their own choices regarding how they are to operate. Thus, another objective of the incorporation process is to introduce accountability into the way national universities are operated, something that is often criticized for being insular and opaque, by involving persons outside the realm of academia in the operation of these universities.

Why have national universities to be incorporated at this time?

The answer to this question is in three parts. First of all, these universities have become a gigantic business, accounting for some 2.8 trillion yen in public monies annually. Second, social and economic expectations of these universities have increased dramatically, given that they bear the important task of transmitting, creating, and disseminating knowledge, as we enter the 21st Century, which has been referred to as the "century of knowledge." And third, national universities either have not fully lived up to the expectations placed on them in this regard, or else have done so only in inefficient ways.

How will Kyoto University change as a result of "incorporation"?

First of all, as a state-run agency, Kyoto University labors under all manner of restrictions. Incorporation will emancipate the university from these. The university is now responsible for fulfilling the obligations expected of a national university, to wit, the maintenance and advancement of scholarship, nurturing of people with talents demanded by society at-large, provision of equal opportunity in higher education, and contributions to the betterment of local culture. Kyoto University is determined to give its all to ensure that it fulfills its mission to an even greater degree than we have at any time in the past.

Secondly, the state bestows significant financial authority upon Kyoto University through incorporation. Under the leadership of President Kazuo Oike, the lump-sum Government subsidy for operating expenses will be allocated in a focused, strategic manner, to further advance research and education at the university, without need for specifying from the state where exactly such allocations are to be made.

Thirdly, Kyoto University is now able to formulate its own faculty and staff policies. The university is embarking on the drafting of flexible personnel policies that will allow faculty to engage in research and education in more flexible ways, and to make contributions to society at-large on a greater scale, than was previously possible. Authority with regard to the appointment of administrative staff, including executives and directors, has also been transferred from the government to the university, which plans to recruit capable and experienced persons from the private sector and private colleges for positions that require specialized skills, including but not limited to executive administration, IT, and knowledge management. The university will thus build a high-quality infrastructure for the



The Clock Tower, a symbol of Kyoto University, was renovated.

support of its research and education activities.

Fourth, Kyoto University is both strengthening its relations with other institutions of higher education, a great many businesses and governmental bodies, both domestic and international. The university is also planning to build associated research and education facilities across Japan and around the world. Whereas up to now, field work done abroad by Kyoto University researchers has recorded accomplishments in the humanities and the social and natural sciences, particularly primatology and ecology, that rank it among the world's top research institutes, the university aims to take advantage of merits resulting from the "incorporation" to forge stronger ties with institutions both domestic and international, and thus further develop its store of knowledge.

Fifth, Kyoto University receives nearly 20 billion yen annually in competitive funding, from various sectors of government as well as the private sector, including 26 research programs that have been designated to receive nearly 4 billion yen by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology for forming research and education centers of excellence at the global level. The university will also work to develop not only more external funding sources, but also to acquire personnel, knowledge, and technology from wider ranges than before by taking maximum advantage of de-regulation of personnel and financial regulations resulting from the "incorporation".

Sixth, Kyoto University remains a "national" university even after its "incorporation", which means that taxpayers' monies will continue to constitute the majority of its revenues. In this regard, the university will turn its efforts to making itself fully accountable and open to society at-large. It will be proactive in giving a detailed account of its research and education activities, their accomplishments, and how it is dealing with the various problems facing mankind and society.

Kyoto University is tasked with the drafting of medium-term objectives and operating plans for not only research and education but also overall operation and management every six years. The extent to which it achieves these mid-term objectives is assessed by the Committee on National University Assessment, whose findings will be reflected in the next medium-term subsidy disbursement. In a sense, these represent its "contract" with society at-large, and as such, it will be painstaking in implementing them. As shown in the organization diagram below, the university is also inviting persons

from many different walks of life to serve as members of the administrative council, whose task it is to advise the university president on important managerial matters. The university fully expects "outside" members of the council to bring in new perspectives on, for example, student services and efficient and effective management. Furthermore, the university has appointed Dr. Hara, former President of Kobe University of Mercantile Marine, and Mr. Saeki, an attorney as university auditors.

With more than 100 years of history and tradition behind it, Kyoto University will undergo tremendous changes as a result of "incorporation". This campus, which sets great store by its liberal academic culture and student freedom, has contributed to Japan and the world at-large by fostering creative scientists, teachers, doctors, skilled bureaucrats, leading politicians, and journalists. Now, it is taking this opportunity, the greatest policy reformation since World War II, to transform itself radically, so that it may achieve even greater leaps forward.



Kyoto University ran this ad in the April 1, 2004 edition of the International Herald Tribune. Beginning with the title, "We're Turning Higher Education on Its Ear," the ad promotes the university's new, post-incorporation attitude to people and institutions outside Japan. The use of traditional Japanese paper in the background and the printing of the English text in the vertical style of Japanese writing were used to emphasize the "Japaneseness" of the university.



Masao Homma

- Born in 1948.
- Joined the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports & Culture (Monbusho) in 1971, upon graduation from Nagoya University
- 1974-76: Post-graduate work at London School of Economics (M. Sc., International Relations)
- 1983: First Secretary, Japanese Embassy in France
- 1999-2001: Director-General for Policy Co-ordination at Monbusho
- 2001-04: Director-General, Administration Bureau, Kyoto University
- Appointed Vice-President, Kyoto University in April 2004

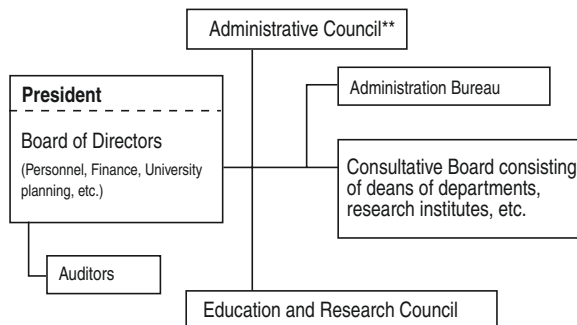
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- **Members of the Board of Directors**
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Hirohisa Higashiyama Vice-President for Education and Student Affairs, Kyoto University
Kojiro Irikura Vice-President for Facilities, Research and International Affairs, Kyoto University
Masao Homma Vice-President for General Affairs, Personnel, Public Relations and Administration, Kyoto University
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Bunzo Tsuji Vice-President for Finance and Information Infrastructure, Kyoto University
Yoshiyasu Sako* Member of the Board of Directors for Hospital Management, Kyoto University
- **Auditors**
Kiyoshi Hara Former President of Kobe University of Mercantile Marine
Terumichi Saeki* Attorney at Law, Kitahama Law Office
- **Special Advisor to the President (part-time)**
Norio Hirai Special Advisor, OMRON Corporation
- **Vice-Presidents**
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Kazumi Matsushige Director, International Innovation Center, Kyoto University
- **Members of Administrative Council (Excluding the members drawn from the faculty and staff of Kyoto University)**
Yoneo Ishii President of Inter-University Research Institute Corporation National Institutes for the Humanities
Masataka Ide Director, International Innovation Center, Kyoto University
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Chairman, Kyoto Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Osamu Yoshida President of Nara Medical University

* Part-time

Organization Diagram

(As of April 2004)



** 24 members, 12 of whom are faculty and staff of Kyoto University, the rest recruited from outside the university, e.g. industries, private universities and local government

The Grand Opening of the Kyoto University Clock Tower Centennial Hall: A New Interface for the Cultivation of Exchange

The Clock Tower standing over the front gate of Kyoto University is the best-known structure on the campus. Built in 1925, the Clock Tower has been a beloved symbol of Kyoto University for nearly 80 years. Having recently been restored, as part of the Centennial of the university's founding, the Tower had its Grand Re-opening, under the new name of the Kyoto University Clock Tower Centennial Hall, in December 2003. Its historical Secession-style exterior remains the same, while being outfitted with a brand-new convention center and an Exhibition Hall devoted to the university's history. In this manner, the Clock Tower has been reborn as a place for exchanges that will spur new kinds of creation of knowledge, while also symbolizing the history and traditions of Kyoto University.

Focus of Academic Exchange and Connections to Society At-Large

Since it was built, the Clock Tower has been the centerpiece of the university. The office of past presidents was located here, as

well as the Great Auditorium, which served as a ceremonial hall, and the Administration Bureau, at various times. The restoration now remakes it into the place most open to society at-large on the entire campus. There are extensive convention facilities, including the Centennial Hall, which, with seating for 500, can be used for holding international academic conferences, the International Conference Hall, decorated in the elegant style of the aforementioned Great Auditorium period, and the Conference Room, which is suited for a wide range of uses. In addition, it also has a full complement of restaurants, lounges, and other places for rest and relaxation, enabling Kyoto University's academic and international exchanges, as well as its links to society at-large.

From the Tower to the Halls within, the Clock Tower has started keeping a new beat.

Continuity of History and Tradition

The Clock Tower was designed by Goichi Takeda, the first professor of the School of

Architecture, Faculty of Engineering. Its unique exterior was the pride and joy of students at the time. The restoration has adopted an earthquake-resistant structure for the foundation, using the latest technology, while preserving and recreating the exterior and interior design as closely as possible to the way they were when the Tower was built. In this manner, the historical value of the building has been balanced with its long-term survival. With facilities such as the Exhibition Hall, in which materials depicting the history of Kyoto University are on display, and the University Lounge and Office of Professors Emeriti, which bring university faculty together, the Clock Tower Centennial Hall both proves and presents the history and traditions of Kyoto University, maintaining their continuity in a timeless place of meeting and exchange.

Keeping time without missing a beat: this, too, is expected of the newly restored Clock Tower.



The Centennial Hall is equipped for simultaneous interpretation in two languages. When spring comes, cherry blossoms can be seen clearly on the trees that are visible behind the stage. The glass wall there was designed and built partly with this effect in mind.

The Guest Room preserves the old President's Office.



The West Face of the Clock Tower Centennial Hall

The History of Kyoto University (Permanent Exhibit)

The History of Kyoto University, an exhibit organized and operated by the Kyoto University Archives, is on permanent display in the first floor Historical Exhibition Room. Photos, documents, and preserved materials, all collectively researched by the Archives, showcase the history of Kyoto University from its earliest days to the present. One particularly impressive part is the model restoration of the Main Campus, circa 1939. The exhibit recreating "geshuku", an old style student dormitory, also attracts visitors. Future plans call for surrounding booths that will have presentations of exhibit, as well as video footages, among other ideas. The archives' documents on history of Kyoto University are available for reading to the public.

■ Hours: 9:30-17:00 (Closed on Monday. The Reading Room is open on Wed, Thurs, and Fri.)



The Grand Opening of the Katsura Campus: The Inauguration of "Techno Science Hill," a New Center for Union and Exchange

Kyoto University's third campus, the Katsura Campus, saw the completion of the first phase of its planned migration in October 2003, when it commenced full-fledged post-graduate natural science research and education. The Yoshida Campus proceeded to migrate eight electrical and chemical departments in Graduate School of Engineering to the Katsura Campus as well, which commenced classes as of October 1. The migrations have created a "Kyoto University Knowledge Triangle," whose sides are comprised of Yoshida, Uji, and Katsura. Located within Kyoto, the thousand-year old ancient capital, and the living, breathing tradition and culture therein, the foundation has at last been laid for the strategic knowledge concept that the university will strive for by even greater leaps and bounds in the 21st Century: the "Excellent University" concept.

Where Technology and Science Come Together

The Katsura Campus has advanced the forms that natural science research should take, focused on engineering and information technology, and all based on new philosophies,

on the one hand, and the concepts that seek out the most suitable organizations and facilities for same on the other. The result is the creation of "Techno Science Hill," a dynamic place for academic research that drives the union of technology and science to launch new fields of academic inquiry, free from existing frameworks for areas of research. The core of this facility is the "Katsura Int'tech Center," consisting of five open laboratories and an advanced research institutes. The interdisciplinary research approach takes on the resolution of various social concerns, and itself represents a gigantic experiment with cutting edge technology, going hand-in-hand with industrial-academic partnerships and international exchange.

The campus itself is one huge experiment: such is the dynamism of the Katsura Campus.

Meeting and Mingling with Nature and Local Society

The basic concept of the Katsura Campus, to wit, "Union and Exchange," is not confined to research and education, either. Relations with both its natural surroundings and local society are also reflected here in an evenhanded way. In addition to striving to be

open to local society, with the addition of cafeteria and other facilities that unaffiliated persons can also use, the campus is also working toward securing ISO 14001 certification, by working actively to reduce the burden it imposes on the environment. Links between industry, government, and academia, of which the "International Center for Creation of Unions" is the core, are bringing about coexistence and shared prosperity between the university and local society by creating a prime knowledge cluster right in Kyoto itself.

A full-access campus, that moves in harmony with man, nature, and local society: this is what makes the Katsura Campus so nice.



Sitting high on the hill, the General Research Buildings at Cluster A symbolize the Katsura Campus.



The Katsura Monument uses the same design as that for the Clock Tower on the Yoshida Campus. The Katsura Campus logo, made of characters taken from the "Collection of Stories Past and Present," a Japanese National Treasure maintained by Kyoto University.



A bird-eye view of perspective of the Katsura Campus
A: Cluster A, B: Cluster B, C: Cluster C, D: Cluster D

Schedule for the move to the Katsura Campus

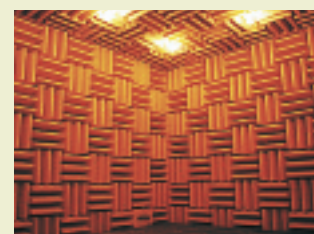
Oct. 2004	Architecture Departments, Graduate School of Engineering (C) Administrative Office of Katsura Campus (E)
2005	Common Faculties Zone are scheduled to be completed (E)
Aug. 2006	Global Engineering Departments, Graduate School of Engineering (C)
To be decided	Engineering Science Departments, Graduate School of Engineering (C) Graduate School of Informatics (D)



The campus cafeteria

The Katsura "Int'tech Center"

The purpose of this facility is to foster the creation of interdisciplinary technology that will stand up to international scrutiny, by bringing together knowledge and intelligence on an interdepartmental basis. The facility, which is the heart of "Techno Science Hill," will conduct leading-edge strategic research.



The Anechoic Experiment Lab

Embryonic Stem Cells in Regenerative Medicine

Embryonic Stem Cells and Embryonic Development from Fertilized Ova

How are our bodies formed? Cell division commences within a fertilized ovum. When it has become a spherical early embryo, it implants itself in the lining of the uterus. There, it shapes itself into a fetus, builds many different tissues and organs, after which it grows and is born into the world. When it implants itself, the ovum is a blastocyst, consisting of some 100 cells. All organs that make up the body of the fetus are created by a group of cells known as the inner cell mass (ICM), which are the ultimate stem cells. By adopting special methods to extract and culture these cells, we can establish cell lines that continue to divide. The amazing thing about this is that we can proliferate them indefinitely, while preserving them in an undifferentiated state, thus creating what are known as embryonic stem cell (ES cell) lines (Fig. 1).

Potentials for Regenerative Medicine Using Embryonic Stem Cells

Given the unlimited capability for proliferation in embryonic stem cells, the focus is on the application of them for regenerative medicine. These cells possess not only the ability to proliferate themselves in tremendous quantities, *ad infinitum*, but also to differentiate into all the cells and tissues that form the human body, thus making it possible to supply all types of cell, in quantity, to

repair damaged tissue. It is this combination of unlimited proliferation and ability to differentiate that make them so attractive across a wide range of medical applications (Fig. 1).

Examples include new and breakthrough treatments for such disorders as Parkinson's disease, in which dopamine secreting neurons die off; damage on the spinal cord by accidents or other reasons, wherein nerve fibers are severed; diabetes, wherein the Islets of Langerhans do not secrete insulin properly; cirrhosis of the liver, wherein liver cell function declines; and myocardial infarction, wherein heart muscle cells dying off. In other words, this method of cellular treatment--of restoring organ function by transplanting healthy cells that function normally to where they are needed--is the core of regenerative medicine. Large quantities of human cells that perform desired functions are needed to bring about cellular treatment, which are not obtained by the traditional tissue donation. The goal, therefore, is to differentiate embryonic stem cells into desired cell types, once they have been proliferated in quantity in their undifferentiated, pluripotent state. Having done so, we then gather the differentiated cells that perform the required function, and use them in transplant therapy for patients.

Establishing Human Embryonic Stem Cell Lines

Several years ago, we succeeded in efficiently establishing embryonic stem cell lines from the blastocysts of crab-eating macaques

that were used for experimental purposes. At the Kyoto University Institute for Frontier Medical Sciences, expanding this success, we are conducting the research to establish human embryonic stem cell lines, which are not made in the other laboratories in Japan. The objective of this

effort is to establish cell lines with superior pluripotential quality and with no concern about viral contamination, that can then be distributed far and wide to Japanese researchers, who can then use them without fear of restrictions such as intellectual property issues. According to Japanese government policy regarding establishment and use of human embryonic stem cell lines (Table 1), agencies that have received government authorization for establishment of cell lines are obligated to distribute the stem cells they create, either for free or at cost, to research agencies that have themselves received government authorization for stem cell use and research. By distributing high-quality human embryonic stem cell lines to research agencies nationwide, we are establishing a system that will contribute to the advancement of research into regenerative medicine using stem cells in our country.

Human embryos that would be used for the establishment of embryonic stem cell lines are limited to those with strict conditions as follows. They were produced from the infertility treatments and kept frozen, but later they were determined not to be used for that purpose. Explaining thoroughly the research purpose to the donors and related persons, we would receive consents from them to use embryos to establish embryonic stem cell lines. Upon receipt of authorization for our cell line establishment project by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in April 2002, we at the Institute for Frontier Medical Sciences proceeded cautiously with a process that would lead to offers of frozen embryos, and were at last able to commence thawing and experimenting in January 2003 on frozen embryos that were thus given to us (Fig. 2). While we did face the difficulty of having a very small number of frozen embryos available to us, we have been fortunate in being able to successfully establish three cell lines as of November 2003 (Fig. 3). These human embryonic stem cell lines are proliferating steadily, and differentiating into neurons and other cells in culture dishes (Fig. 4). They also have the ability to differentiate into

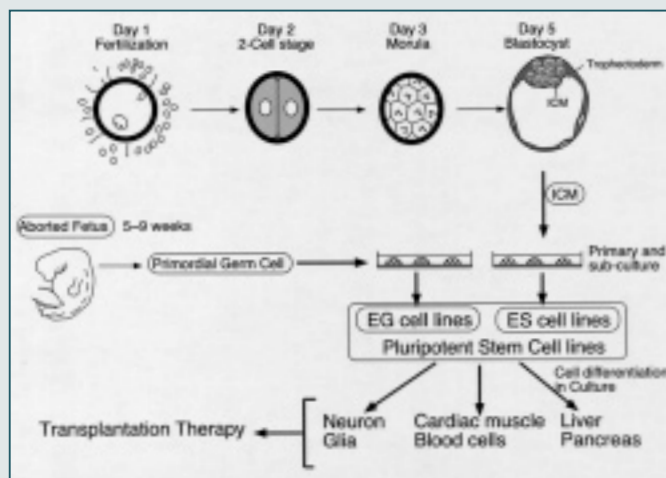


Fig. 1 : Establishment ES cell lines from blastocysts and utilization for cell therapy in regenerative medicine. Abbreviations: ICM, Inner Cell Mass; EG, Embryonic Germ cell; ES, Embryonic Stem cell

all types of tissue when transplanted into immunodeficient mice. We commence stem cell distribution to domestic researchers in March 2004.

The Need for Human Cells in Medical Research

While the importance of embryonic stem cells for cell transplanting is drawing attention, human cells of all types are in fact essential in medical and pharmaceutical research. There is a particularly great need for human cells for use as research material in drug development, as well as drug safety and toxicity tests. For example, liver cells are the most appropriate matter to administer new drug candidates to examine the way how these substances are metabolized and to test their toxic-

ity and safety, because they are at the center of the metabolism of drugs. There is a tremendous difference, between the way substances are metabolized by humans and laboratory animals that makes testing on human liver cells essential. There are, however, serious restrictions on the supply and acquisition of human tissue cells. With embryonic stem cells, however, we can produce the cells that we need, after proliferating them in quantity. Furthermore, we can also produce cells with modified genes, for specific testing purposes. Why are embryonic stem cells referred to as omnipotent? The answer lies in the fact that they have both unlimited proliferating ability and can also differentiate into practically any and all cell types.



Norio Nakatsuji

- Born in 1950.
- Graduate of the doctoral program, Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University
- D.Sc., Kyoto University
- Professor, Institute for Frontier Medical Sciences, Kyoto University
- URL <http://www.frontier.kyoto-u.ac.jp>

"As a scientist, choosing to do research in creating human embryonic stem cell lines was a major decision."

Professor Nakatsuji has something of great personal value: a bundle of letters from critically ill patients. All of them learned of the results of his research primarily through newspaper articles, and found a flicker of hope therein. Unlike the glowing media reports, however, the Professor's research becomes a lot less glamorous once he has formulated the techniques for culturing stem cell lines. Most of his work after that point consists of repetitive processes. The benefits to medical research as a whole of stable supplies of embryonic stem cells are incalculable. From the standpoint of the scientist, however, who constantly desires to search for new truths, such is by no means an ideal choice of path. What keeps him going in this way is "a sense of duty to contribute to society," he says. And it is his personal treasure, a bundle of letters, that gives him that sense.

In describing himself as a basic scientist, the Professor says that he is supported by society, which is why he puts his heart and soul into how to deal with that society in good faith. His attitude is warm and invigorating, and informs us all as to what foundation to use in building relationships of trust between science and society.



Prof. Nakatsuji talks about the experiments with students in the laboratory.

Table 1. Japanese Guidelines on Derivation and Research Usage of Human ES Cell Lines	
(1) Human embryos that can be used for derivation of ES cells:	
- Proven embryos produced for fertility treatments	
- After decision made by genetic parents not to be used for uterine transfer	
- Informed consent from donor couples with 1 month waiting period before use	
(2) Research institute to establish ES cell lines:	
- Enough experiences in establishment of animal ES cell lines	
- Obligation to distribute ES cells to other institutes with approved research plans	
(3) Research institute to use ES cell lines:	
- Research for advancement of life science, medicine and human health	
- Scientific necessity to use human ES cells in research plans	
- Guidelines for clinical usage are now under formalization by the Ministry of Health	
(4) Reviewing and approval of research plans:	
- Proposal of derivation or usage of human ES cells must be approved by the institutional review board and also by the government committee	

Table 1



embryo after 1 day



ICM (Inner Cell Mass)

60 μm

Blastocyst after 3 days

Fig. 2: Development of human embryos which are cultured after thawing. ICM will be further cultured to establish embryonic cell lines.

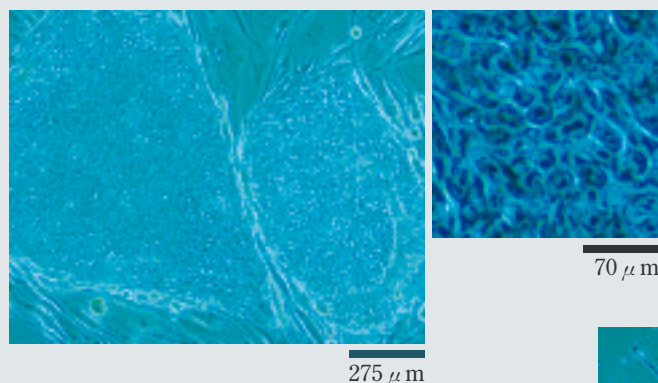


Fig. 3: First human ES cell line established in Japan (May 2003)

70 μm

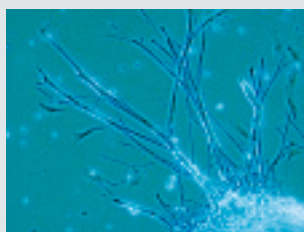


Fig. 4: Neural cells produced by differentiation of human ES cells in culture

Experiences of the Twentieth Century: Writing a social history of an Indonesian village through longitudinal fieldwork

One afternoon in December of 1984, I was chatting over tea in a Sumatran village in Indonesia. I asked my companion about rubber-tapping, the major livelihood of local men, and conditions of village life in general during the Dutch colonial period. Datuk Unut, the owner of the house where I stayed, thought back to the 1930s when he was a young and rising village merchant and rubber prices were once more increasing some years after the Great Depression. He said with a feeling, "It was an unusual and extravagant period. Even the old were rejuvenated!"

Starting in the year when the above conversation took place, I have visited the village of Koto Dalam practically every year, sometimes for one and a half months at any given visit but oftentimes for a shorter stay. Through the longitudinal study, I hope to observe and follow, as a more or less contemporary and *in-situ* eye-witness, social changes in Koto Dalam over the twenty-five years around the turn of the century and also to reconstruct a social history of the community which covers the greater part of the twentieth century.

The research project has haphazardly and gradually taken its present form despite the facade of good planning. In order to understand its origin and development, I have to tell a little bit about my research career.

After conducting sociological

research on four villages in Sumatra for my dissertation in 1972-73 and, for a change, on migrant associations in Jakarta in 1980-81, I got stuck academically. Fieldwork in a city was far more difficult than in a village and I was not sure what I would study next. That was the main reason why I was in Koto Dalam in 1984. I wanted to get back to village studies and see if anything interesting might turn up. I bought a motorcycle for the convenience of mobility and rode it around the countryside, visiting many villages and talking to village elders; this also had been my *modus operandi* during my previous research in Sumatra before I stumbled onto my dissertation topic. I spent six weeks in Koto Dalam because I wanted to re-immense myself in village life. My academic sponsor at Riau University introduced me to Datuk Unut in his native village.

I still remember the date of what turned out to be the most fateful encounter in my personal and academic life. It was December 1st of 1984 that I met Tino Sanah, Datuk Unut's wife and my "*femme fatale*." Tino literally means "grandmother" and she was about sixty years old when I first met her.

In our everyday life, we get along with some people but not with others. Sociologists and anthropologists seldom admit it, but fieldwork replicates real life. For some reasons, I jibed

with Koto Dalam right from the moment of setting foot there and took an immense liking of Tino Sanah who was short, slim, and exuberant with her "wo-fu-fu" laughter. She laughed this laughter because she liked betel-chewing and often laughed with her mouth full of *sirih* (betel). It is a matter of only slight exaggeration if I say I ended up going back to Koto Dalam every year to see if Tino Sanah was doing fine and to listen to her old stories.

In Koto Dalam, I usually talk to village elders, asking their recollections of village life and its changes over the last several decades. I am hoping to reconstruct a "lived history" in a more nuanced way through interviews and plain chatting in addition to written documents.

For example, the following stories seem to show changing attitudes of the "locals" toward Europeans better than ordinary written history. Tino Gondi, one of the oldest women I met in Koto Dalam who remembered seeing the total eclipse observed in central Sumatra in 1901, once told me the impression when she saw a white man for the first time in her life. She said, "his nose was as big as half of his face and his skin reddish white." Her comment suggests to me that she found the white man very unattractive. This comment is very different from that of



Farewell group-photo with Tino Sanah in the front row, second from the left (December 1990).



Researcher going back to Bukittinggi from fieldwork with fruits of research, durians (December 1994).

Tino Sanah, a few decades younger than Tino Gondi, who found a Dutch lady she saw as a girl attractive as "her nose was shaped like a pointed hood of a European car [old Chevrolet]."

Koto Dalam has no electricity or running water. An unpaved road finally reached it in 1998. What would a longitudinal, fixed-point study in a remote Sumatran village tell us? I hope it would tell us a great deal. Firstly, it hopefully will help us better understand the nature and direction of rapid and drastic changes many societies in Asia and Africa have been undergoing in the process of "development" in the last few decades. Secondly, I hope it will help us better empathize with the kind of experiences, encompassing their similarities as well as differences, our parents' and grandparents' generations, irrespective of their countries of origin, must have gone through during the course of the twentieth century. Koto Dalam to me is a window through which to gaze at a wider world.

Take a look at an advertisement published in an Indonesian magazine in Jakarta in 1929. We see here a tennis racket, bed, novels, football, pajamas, shoes, gramophone, hats, wristwatch, pencil, and so on seemingly raining

down on the Dutch East Indies. And despite the lack of direct road connections, many of these western and "strange things" (*barang ganjil*) were already available in Koto Dalam during the 1930s. In this sense, Datuk Unut and Tino Sanah are very much contemporaries of my parents' generation. That is why I think stories of their life would have ramifying implications in understanding experiences of the twentieth century in general.

Datuk Unut unfortunately passed away in 1987 and Tino Sanah last May. Yet, I plan to keep going back to Koto Dalam for several more years in the future. Come August this year, I will rent a motorcycle in Bukittinggi, the home base of my first fieldwork, and make a 1500 km round trip to Koto Dalam. Over the years, the trip has in many ways become a sort of pilgrimage, that is, traveling back to my graduate-student's days when I first started fieldwork in Sumatra in the early 1970s. I had little wealth and status, yet lots of hopes and energy then. It is as if I became rejuvenated every year even though the unusual and extravagant period in Koto Dalam disappeared a long time ago.



Tsuyoshi Kato

- Born in 1943.
- Graduate of the doctoral program, Graduate School of Social Science, Cornell University
- Ph.D., Cornell University
- Professor, Graduate school of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University
- URL <http://asafas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/>

"I seem to be a different person when I'm doing fieldwork in Southeast Asia. My students are always telling me I look like I'm having a good time."

Professor Kato says that he first came to be a scientist because he wanted to remain on campus for just a little while after graduating. It was breakfast with a renowned scientist that led him to research on Southeast Asia. A fateful meeting with Old Woman Tino led him to 20 years of ongoing investigations of the village of Koto Dalam. It was all the result of happy chance meetings, all being on the same wavelength—"unforgettable connections" that the professor treasures.

Though field research is part of both humanities and natural sciences, the methodologies and viewpoints are fundamentally different in each case. Whereas ecological field researchers primarily walk around through the natural world, Kato used the research method of staying in one place and observing the people therein. He currently dedicates himself to combining the two at the Graduate School of Asian and African Studies. The power that comes from different people working on the same thing—the organizational energy to which diversity gives rise—is the wavelength to which Professor Kato is currently aligning himself.



An advertisement of a "department store" in *Bintang Hindia* (February 1929).

Culture and Society Today

Geoffrey P. Moussas



Geoffrey P. Moussas

Born in New York, U.S., in 1963.

Graduate of master's program, Graduate School of Architecture and Planning, MIT

Lecturer (part-time), Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Kyoto University

Enchanted by modern Japanese architecture, Mr. Moussas first came to Japan a decade ago. His affections came to encompass traditional Japanese architecture by degrees, culminating in his move from Tokyo to Kyoto five years ago, where he studied traditional Japanese methods of building structures with wood. He was amazed to find that the lifestyles of the two cities were completely different. At present, he operates primarily from his home, a traditional Kyoto wooden house (machiya) that he personally renovated, and which also serves as the offices of his design firm.



Mr. Moussas engaged in discussion with staff in his design firm's offices, which occupy the second floor of his home.

Having been fortunate enough to give lectures and attend student reviews from high school to university level all across Japan, I have found one common trait amongst the younger generation: an ignorance of their own culture. Unfortunately, it seems the younger the students, the more ignorant they are. In architectural reviews at some of the most prestigious universities in Japan, I hear students using certain words over and over again, thinking that this is sufficient to evoke culture. Yet when I ask more detailed questions about their own culture, I receive only blank stares. Culture is far more than words; it is a characteristic of people, and of the land they come from and interact with. Since architecture is based upon culture, when I design a building in the United States, it is much different than one I design in Japan.

I have just returned from a trip to China where I was struck by the extent to which Japanese culture is derivative of Chinese culture. However, unlike Japan, China is so vast that culture varies greatly between regions, and cultural identities run strong. I was able to visit a small town near the border of Tibet called Lijiang, a unique place where the local Naxi culture has been preserved for centuries while accommodating progress. This has been accomplished by a people able to recognize the virtues of the town's natural attributes - such as the canals that even today supply clean fresh mountain water throughout the old town - while understanding the necessity of progress. A series of careful decisions by the townspeople has led to a peaceful

coexistence of the two.

Certain existing natural features have also helped, such as a hill that delineates the boundary between the new and old parts of the town. Moreover, a large earthquake in 1996 destroyed most of the new town while leaving the traditional architecture and culture of the old town largely untouched: a testament to the quality of traditional building techniques that have been developed over the centuries. Since this event, the local government has mandated that any concrete structures that had managed to infiltrate the old town and had survived the earthquake were to be replaced by buildings with the same construction techniques of the surrounding traditional architecture.

Unfortunately, in ten years of living in Japan I have yet to find a similar example here. Instead, the traditions that had been continuously passed down through the centuries in Japan seem to have become severed following WW II, resulting in a generation that is out of touch with its own culture. It is a generation that has accepted technology indiscriminately, and technology has flourished in turn, while Japanese traditional culture pays a heavy price. This is not to say that technology is not a part of culture, but it alone does not constitute culture. Maybe Japan, and Kyoto in particular, can once again look to China as an example of how to advance as a nation and a city, without sacrificing the tradition that had been the basis of all advancement up until the 20th century.



Lounging on the veranda. Moussas gives attention to the way the machiya is lit in order to bring out the beauty in the play of shadows on their structures.

Phan Vinh Long

How the Streets of Kyoto and Kyoto University Combined to Make Aspirations Toward Natural Science Come Alive

Some 1200 foreign students from all over the world come to study at Kyoto University. One of these students, Phan Vinh Long, from Vietnam, has a rather unique history. The path that brought him to his present work as a researcher in applied physics is of great interest.

■ We understand that you studied trade in the economics department at the University of Hanoi

I've liked mathematics and physics since I was a child. I liked it enough to win top prize in the Vietnamese Math Olympics. When I went to university, however, I went into the economics department, partly because that's what my father wanted. At the time, I guess I didn't really understand the difference between mathematics and economics. I got top grades in my first year, which is why I was awarded a scholarship to study abroad.

■ Was that how you came to Kyoto University?

No, there was no direct university exchange between Japan and Vietnam at the time. So I started by attending a trade school in Osaka for the travel industry, where I studied for two years. I just could not give up my dreams where mathematics was concerned, though. So I decided to take the university entrance exams. I happened to take a trip to Kyoto around that time, and the town enchanted me. I had a strong desire to go to university there.

■ Given the many universities in Kyoto, why did you choose Kyoto University?

A friend of mine recommended it, saying that Kyoto University is the place to go to university in Kyoto. So I did some checking on my own. Kyoto University has a terrific track record in natural science, what with having a high level of mathematical research and having produced numerous Nobel Prize winners in physics and chemistry. So I felt that it would have the environment in place for me to research my favorite subjects.

■ What are you working on currently?

I'm researching stability of fluids, under Professor Masato Nagata. The simple

description is that I'm analyzing the structural changes in fluids, from their initial equilibrium state to turbulence, by means of various parameters that can be brought to bear by the environment. It's primarily basic research, though it does have a wide range of applications, from analyzing planetary movements to weather forecasting. The basic portions of the mechanisms behind the generation and movement of typhoons will be in this research sector, for example.

■ Does it make for interesting research?

There are 11 of us in all working here, with fellow researchers coming to our lab from Germany and England. Everyone is enthusiastic about his studies, and the lab environment is very satisfying too. In the past six months, we've been able to find a three-dimensional solution for a physical phenomenon that none of our predecessors managed to find, which made us very happy indeed.

■ You've been living in Kyoto for some three years now. Has your image of the town changed?

No, it hasn't. The longer I'm here, the more I appreciate Kyoto. I really like the changing of the seasons, that I can't experience in Vietnam, with the beauty of the cherry blossoms in Spring and of the leaves in Fall. And the International Students' House, which is where I live now, really feels like my own home. About 30 residents come from 15 countries, and we all get along, just like a family.



Phan Vinh Long

Born in Hanoi, Vietnam in 1976.

Presently in the first year of master's program at the Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University

■ It seems as though you might put down roots in Kyoto for the rest of your life. Why don't we finish up with some words about your future plans?

First, I plan to go on to my doctorate, and then travel to various countries and experience their cultures. Ultimately, I want to go back to Vietnam and teach the things I've learned here. When all is said and done, I want to contribute to the advancement of my country.

The "Kyoto International Students' House," where Phan Vinh Long is a boarder, has the longest history of any foreign student residence in Kyoto. The relaxed atmosphere makes residents feel at home. They prepare meals from their respective countries, as well as their personal specialties, in succession on alternate Fridays. Friends and guests are also invited, making for shared dinners that bring everyone closer together.



Good Samaritan Club



Ryohei Hamanaka
The leader of Good Samaritan Club
Presently in the second year of the Faculty of Law,
Kyoto University

Helping Out Foreign Tourists with the Good Samaritan Spirit

Of all Japan's cities, Kyoto retains the most "Japanese" atmosphere. For over 1000 years, it served as the heart of politics and culture in Japan, from the time the nation's capital was located here in 794 C.E., to the relocation of the capital to Tokyo in 1869 C.E. Thus, it is no exaggeration to say that the majority of what is considered "traditional Japanese culture" was cultivated in Kyoto. The city's extensive store of culture is reflected in the many temples, shrines, and other landmark buildings and historic ruins. Foreign tourists visit Kyoto in large numbers every year, making it an international tourist destination. And Kyoto University, located in that selfsame tourist locale, has a group called the "Good Samaritan Club," which provides volunteer tour guides and interpreters for these very foreign tourists. As its name suggests, the club has aided foreign visitors to Kyoto for 40 years, in the spirit of the Good Samaritan. We spoke with Ryohei Hamanaka, the club's current leader, to find out what their feelings are as they go beyond the framework of the university and its campuses to operate in tourist locales, which might be considered the front lines of international relations.

■ Your club has a distinctive name. Where does it come from?

I'm told that the name comes from the club's policy of helping out foreign travelers in need, as did the Samaritan in the New Testament parable of the same name (Luke 10).

■ Describe the makeup of the club.

Right now we have about 80 members, some of whom come from other colleges in the city, including Doshisha University and Ritsumeikan University, in addition to Kyoto University. Most of what we do involves individual members serving as tour guides and interpreters. Once a week, however, we have study groups in our club room, where we review information about tourist sites and practice our English to improve our abilities in this regard. During peak times, we get as many as 40-50 requests for tour guides a month. And as our services are basically provided in English, many of the tourists we work with are from the U.S. and elsewhere in the English-speaking world.

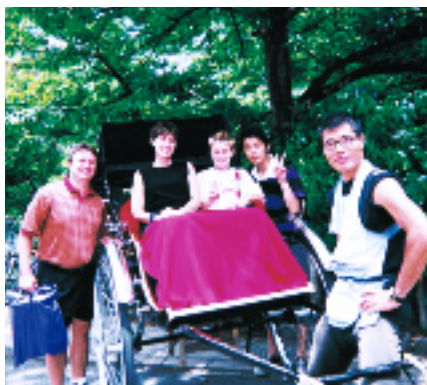
■ We understand there is an interview process for prospective members.

Yes. There are two reasons for this: first, we have to limit to number of club members to ensure that everyone gets a chance to be a guide/interpreter. Second, we provide our services through government agencies, which means our work takes on an aspect of social responsibility, and thus, we need club members who share that sense of responsibility to keep it going. We also want people with strong communication skills, given the nature of the work itself, as visitors' impressions of their visits are largely affected by their guides. And the most important thing of all is enthusiasm. Fluency in English isn't that big an issue.

■ Tell us about the club's most memorable experiences in providing tour guide services.

Speaking for myself, that would be the time I acted as a tour guide for a group of wheelchair-bound Canadian tourists, 33 in all, who were here to take part in a wheelchair basketball tournament. Just getting from place to place was a challenge. Kyoto didn't have many buses equipped with wheelchair lifts, and we chose subway and train stations that had elevators. And Kyoto has hills, too, which meant that we needed help just to get around on the streets in some cases. Tourist sites also have varying levels of handicapped access, meaning that we had to pass on visiting a number of ancient temples and other sites. I really think that Kyoto needs to do a little more to promote handicapped access in general. We'll be working with the city beginning in April 2004, and we plan to tell city tourist agencies what tourists really think, as well as give advice from the standpoint of actual working tour guides. I want to work with the municipal government to make Kyoto an even more attractive tourist destination.

Even though they may be doing it as a hobby, tour guides and interpreters have a very responsible task, that of representing their country to foreigners. Many of the club's members intend to work in international organizations in future. It seems that the spirit of the "Good Samaritan," that of asking oneself what one can do to help those in need, forms the basis for relations between people everywhere.



Photos of club members and foreign tourists. The club members say that guides and tourists become close friends, and even go and visit one another. One club member who worked as a tour guide to a novelist became a character in that writer's book at one point, we're told.

The Fourth Kyoto University International Symposium : "Self, Cognition, and Emotion"

December 6-7 2003, The University of Michigan, USA.

In his "Greetings" for the Program of the Symposium, Dr. Makoto Nagao, President (now former president) of Kyoto University, wrote: "The 21st century has been considered 'the century of the mind.' A large number of people in the world suffer from psychological and/or psychiatric problems caused by the rapid change of human-to-human relationships in highly industrialized, rapidly urbanized, and highly information-oriented society....Therefore, understanding the human mind as well as how to improve human mental health are crucial issues for upcoming research. In order to solve these issues and better understand the human mind, psychology must play an important role."

Following the suggestions, the Fourth Kyoto University International Symposium, Kyoto-Michigan Collaboration in Psychology, was entitled "Self, Cognition, and Emotion." The Symposium was held at the East Hall of Department of Psychology, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA, from December 6-7 2003. It was organized by those who are engaged in the 21st

Century COE program, i.e., academic staff and graduate students of Graduate Schools of Human and Environmental Studies, of Letters, and of Education at Kyoto University and by the Psychology Department of The University of Michigan.

The Symposium consisted of five themes: "Attention and Cognition," "Emotion," "Development of Self," "Comparative Cognition," and "Socio-Cultural Psychology of Globalization." More than 220 people participated, including 55 from Kyoto and 130 from Michigan and from other institutions. About 90 poster sessions were conducted by both graduate students and academic staff. Nineteen papers on the themes were read; they were all extremely well prepared, very perceptive, intriguing and provocative. Discussions after presentations were so full of passion and enthusiasm that it looked as if the Symposium venue (East Hall) had been transformed into a medium through which cultural and intellectual energy

was circulating beyond the national borders.

It should be noted that prior to the Symposium a ceremony was held at the President's Office in Michigan where Dr. Mary Sue Coleman, President of The University of Michigan, and President Nagao signed the "General Memorandum"; this is to further promote intellectual exchanges and collaborations between the two distinguished institutions in every academic field.

Indeed the Symposium marked the dawn of joint research activities for both universities that promise to become more fruitful, producing excellent academic achievements in the future.



Scene from the symposium venue



The signing ceremony of the academic exchange memorandum

Visitors from Abroad

Kyoto University receives official visits year-round, whether from universities with which the university has academic exchange memorandums, foreign research laboratories, or through the various embassies in Japan. The university received visitors from 20 countries and 44 agencies between April 2003 and March 2004. Visitors spoke with the President, the Vice President, and professors, engaging mainly in lively discussions regarding promoting academic exchanges between their own organizations and Kyoto University. The list at right covers the most notable visitors.

In this manner, Kyoto University's chief international relations work consists of welcoming prospective visitors from all over, especially North America, Europe, and Asia, promoting itself to them, while also treating these visits as an opportunity to take the first steps toward greater mutual understanding and personal contact, through the abovementioned lively conversations with these visitors.



Kyoto University holds conference with Swedish chancellors' group.

Visitor List

- Ambassador Moshe Arad / The Vice President of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel) / April 2003
- Prof. Abdel-Malik Mohamed Abdel-Rahman / The Vice Chancellor of the University of Khartoum (Sudan) / April 2003
- Dr. Roberto Peccci / The Vice Chancellor for Research, UCLA (U.S.A) / July 2003
- Prof. Dr. Reinhard Putz / The Vice Rector of Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich (Germany) / September 2003
- Prof. Mohamad Akbar Popal / The President of Kabul University (Afghanistan) / September 2003
- Prof. In-do Kim / The President of Dong-eui University (Korea, R) / September 2003
- Dr. Marc Fumaroli / A Representative from the Académie Française (France) / October 2003
- Prof. Andrew Barde Gidamis / The Executive Secretary of African Institute for Capacity Development (Kenya) / October 2003
- H.E. Mr. John McCarthy / The Ambassador of Australian Embassy in Japan / October 2003
- H.E. Mr. Kasit Piromya / The Ambassador of Royal Thai Embassy in Japan / October 2003
- Prof. Karega Mulahi / The Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (Kenya) / October 2003
- H.E. Mr. Mario Bova / The Ambassador of Italian Embassy in Japan / October 2003
- A group of 21 Swedish university presidents led by Dr. Bo Sundqvist, the President of Uppsala University (Sweden) / October 2003
- Prof. Claire Dupas / The Director of the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Cachan (France) / October 2003
- Prof. Chen Jia'er / A senior member of National Natural Science Foundation of China (China, P.R.) / November 2003
- Dr. Yuan T. Lee / The President of the Academia Sinica and the Distinguished Research Fellow of Institute of Atomic and Molecular Sciences (Taiwan) / November 2003
- Mr. Alexander Almasov / The Consul General of the United States Osaka-Kobe / February 2004
- Prof. Ahmad Ansori Matjijk / The Rector of Bogor Agricultural University (Indonesia) / February 2004
- Prof. Numyoot Songthanapitak / The President of Rajamangala Institute of Technology (Thailand) / February 2004
- Prof. Daryl Le Grew / The Vice Chancellor and the President of the University of Tasmania (Australia) / March 2004



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P R O M E N A D E

京都逍遙

哲学の道

Philosopher's Path

Site for Contemplation that Gave Rise to the "Kyoto School" of Philosophy

Ginkakuji temple, a designated National Treasure, lies nestled in the lush green peaks of Higashiyama, about a 15-minute walk east along Imadegawa Street from the Kyoto University Yoshida Campus. If you turn right off that road, just before you reach the entrance to Ginkakuji, you will find a path, known as "Philosopher's Path," that runs south for about 1.5km along the creek, a branch of the Lake Biwa Canal, at the foot of Higashiyama mountains. Despite its unusual name, this little path appears completely ordinary. Appearances to the contrary, however, this site is one of the most famous tourist sites in Kyoto. The reasons for this are twofold: first is the spectacular cherry trees planted along the roadside. Whether it is the blooming of the cherry blossoms in spring, the green leaves of summer, the turning of the leaves in fall, or the dusting of snow in winter, these trees look beautiful in any season, providing comfort to those who walk under them.

Second is the reason for the path's name. Prior to the Second World War, Kyoto Imperial University gave rise to a group of talented academics known as the "Kyoto School." The story goes that its leaders, particularly the philosopher Professor Kitaro Nishida and the economist Professor Hajime Kawakami resided in this neighborhood, and would walk this path frequently, lost in thought. Nearly all professors at that time lived near the university, creating a place where they could meet and mingle without regard for their respective specializations. At the same time, there was a place close at hand where they could go to be by themselves, and just think. Western philosophy began in the forums, while Nishida's philosophy was born on a street. Who can say what sort of sites for exchange and contemplation will give rise to the next change in Kyoto University's knowledge paradigms?



"Philosopher's Path" is famous for the flower tunnel during the cherry blossoms season. Many tourists come here each year, including many Kyoto University students, who come for "hanami" (cherry-blossom watching parties), including parties held to welcome incoming newcomers.



Kitaro Nishida's memorial: Kitaro Nishida (1870-1945) was one of Japan's premier philosophers, author of such books as "Zen no Kenkyu" (The Study of Goodness). This memorial is engraved with his own philosophy of life, which roughly translates as, "You are you, and I am I, and I will live as I believe."



The entrance to Honenin temple, along the "Philosopher's Path" trail. Renowned academics who taught at Kyoto University are buried here, including Hajime Kawakami and Konan Naito.