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PREFACE

I was delighted when requested to write a preface to this volume by Akira Takada because it would give me the opportunity to thank all who assisted in this project. Akira Takada and I began this research project for the Center for African Area Studies, Kyoto University, entitled “Network formation for reconstructing the paradigm of African Area Studies in a globalizing world” in 2015 with a subvention from the “JSPS Program for Advancing Strategic International Networks to Accelerate the Circulation of Talented Researchers.” However, since I retired from Kyoto University in March 2016, Takada predominantly shouldered most of the work such as coordination with foreign universities and research institutes, dispatching young scholars abroad, managing the budget, etc. Without his strong sense of responsibility and meticulous effort, this vast project would not have attained completion.

The papers contained in this volume are fruits of the cooperative research conducted by Japanese and foreign scholars. I am gratified to see their successful realization. The only regret I feel is that I have not contributed here. Nevertheless, the fact that our young scholars worked enthusiastically with their foreign counterparts in this globalized world—the objective intended by JSPS—fills me with joy.

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