

Editorial

Yasushi Maehira

It is indeed my great pleasure to see the publication of the first issue of *Lifelong Education and Libraries*.

This journal is published by the financial support of the lifelong education division at Kyoto University. However, it is open to all the people who wish to participate as its contributors and readers not only from Japan but of the world. Its editorial board also consists of specialists from different parts of the world.

Although the title *Lifelong Education and Libraries* derives from the specialties of our division, the domain it covers is vaster than that. We hope that this journal will serve as a forum for all researchers wishing to elucidate the various difficulties that a person encounters in the process of self-formation by multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches and publish their findings.

A distinguishing feature of this journal is that it is based on multilingualism. The readers will find in this first issue alone papers in Asian languages (Chinese and Korean) as well as in European languages (English, French and German). However, this does not necessarily mean that we welcome only papers written in the writer's native language. It is our wish that more and more people from different cultures and languages will participate in making this journal.

This issue contains nothing in Japanese - which might surprise readers as it is published in Japan - but all papers are printed just as they are contributed without being translated: nor did we put the original text and its translation on two opposite pages, as it is often done (this kind of basic technical issues are still to be discussed). We do not mean to offer simple choices between East and West, or the British-American language and Japanese, neither to simply export products made in Japan. Even in this age of globalization, communication at the grass-roots level is not so easy. However, the important thing is that people from different parts of the world discuss frankly what are at issue at the global, national and local levels today.

I will be very pleased if contributions from all over the world, in particular from those who have had fewer opportunities to publish their achievements, bring undiscovered questions to light or help us alter our present frames of reference, making this journal an open forum for discussions.