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Raku-Yu

Kyoto University Newsletter

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Editor's Notes

Raku-Yu is published biannually, and is the first English newsletter published by the university. Publication began in March of 2002 and this issue marks the tenth issue. We began by introducing "human faces," such as those of researchers or foreign students, but have been steadily increasing our content to include items such as "What's Happening in International Relations" and "Features," which give updates on university activities. In addition, we have also written a number of feature columns, such as those about the corporatization process of Japanese universities, or President Oike's chat with Professor Alan Kay.

As information for the overseas audience is gradually being shifted to the digital medium, we at Raku-Yu strive to make the most of the print medium to continue highlighting activities going on at Kyoto University. Please send us your thoughts and ideas.

"Drawing of Sonjodo" : Kyoto University Library Ishin Database

In 1887, Yajiro Shinagawa fulfilled the wishes of the late Sho'in Yoshida — who had been the pivotal figure in the Son-Nou-Jou-I [revere the Emperor and repel the barbarians] movement in the closing years of Japan's Edo Period — by constructing the Sonjodo hall in Kyoto at the intersection of Takakura and Nishikikoji, close to the Nishiki market that gained a reputation as "Kyoto's Kitchen." In addition to preserving the writings, drawings, and other belongings left by Restoration thinkers and holding historical documents that are invaluable for gaining an understanding of the thought and learning of the such thinkers in the Bakumatsu period, it became the repository for the Kiheitai Nikki, a vitally important document depicting in detail the period from the dramatic fall of the Edo Bakufu to the rise of Meiji. In 1903, Sonjodo was rebuilt on the Kyoto University campus, and since 1989 it has been used by the University's Center for Archaeological Operations to preserve artifacts and hold exhibitions that present the findings of the Center's research. In 1998 it was listed by the state as a tangible cultural property. The materials that were once held in the Sonjodo are now housed in the Kyoto University Library

This drawing was produced to commemorate the Sonjodo's 50th anniversary in 1937 by Kamisaka Sekka, who had benefited from Yajiro Shinagawa's patronage. The distinctive gentle coloring and simple lines are refined but accessible, and the drawing exudes a comforting warmth. Sekka's productive years spanned from the Meiji period to the Showa period, following the Rinpa school of traditional Japanese painting, but also revealing a wide range of talents, from Nihonga artist to craft and ornament designer, producer and coordinator. His innovative designs that combined a grounding in Japanese tradition with modern design attracted international acclaim, and in 2001, the Hermes fashion brand used Sekka's Worlds of Things (Momoyogusa) series for the cover and front page of "Le Monde d'Hermes," bringing his works back into the spotlight.



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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.



Hiroshi Matsumoto Executive Vice-President for Research Promotion and Finance, Kyoto University. Born in 1942, Prof. Matsumoto received a Masters degree in engineering from the Department of Electronics at the Graduate School of Kyoto University in 1967. In 1973, he was given a Ph.D. in engineering from Kyoto University. After spending time as a visiting researcher at the NASA Ames Research Center and Stanford University, he returned to Japan and became associate professor at Kyoto University's Radio Atmospheric Science Center, and was subsequently promoted to full professor. He became director of the research center in 1992. In 2004, he became a professor and the first director of the Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere. Since October of 2005, he is serving as Executive Vice-President for Research Promotion and Finance at Kyoto University. His specialties are space radio engineering and space plasma physics. His research includes satellite observations of space plasma environment and theoretical and computer simulations thereof. He also studies the possibility of making active use of outer space as a clean energy source, including photovoltaic power generating systems and microwave energy transmission. Prof. Matsumoto has long been an observer of outer space as a researcher, but he has said, "I really wanted to go to space. I still want to go." It is a dream he has cherished ever since 1962, when as a student he met Yuri Gagarin on the occasion of the Soviet cosmonaut's visit to Japan. He has recently received the Gagarin Medal from the Russian Federation of Cosmonautics, a medal normally given to cosmonauts and limited number of excellent space scientists. This year it is hanging on the wall of the Vice - President's office.

The Three Senses of "Aya" and Human Welfare

Where is Kyoto University headed for? At this point, just two years after the university was chartered as a corporated national university, I would like to note a few things that I have contemplated while formulating the university's research strategy.

A corporation measures the worth of various strategies based on the clear objective of the pursuit of profit. So then, when we think in terms of an academic institute like Kyoto University, what are the standards of measurement? I believe that the standard is, without doubt, the creation of knowledge, but it also occurs to me that what is also needed is research imbued with the three meanings of the Japanese word "aya".

The primary meaning of "aya" is a rich and diverse palate of color. An exceptionally broad range of research is being carried out by a variety of researchers associated with our university with passion and flair for curiosity and inspiration. Another meaning of "aya" is patterned brocade woven from a warp and woof. The intellectual approaches and philosophies of a variety of researchers interact with one another, and through dialogue, they are woven together to form the whole academism of Kyoto University. It may even be appropriate to say that this should be the essential nature of a comprehensive university. Yet another meaning of "aya" in its classical and narrowest sense is "literature," but in its broadest sense, it refers to academia in general. It means carrying out education and research that is headed for fostering next generation of scholars. Of course, modern and future university must not be called an ivory tower, and I believe that such an institution must make a contribution to human welfare through open-minded attitude. It is important to be aware that we are contributing to welfare on every level of the human experience — the individual, family, workplace, ethnic group and country, and races.

Kyoto University has the good fortune of having been one

of the original centers of the Kyoto School (Kyoto "Gakuha") of philosophers. They have carried out a truly wide range of research into many areas, such as philosophical thought, grappling with new topics that transcended existing concepts, and were not imposed from authority, and creating their own methodology. One of their most widely known approaches is field science, which proceeds almost like an adventure, investigating whatever is not yet understood. It is a unique system of scholarship that proponents of this school of thought have put together in contact with the local people and their culture and environment, with the local people in mind. An approach to research that incorporates the three meanings of "aya" is an outgrowth of the research style and methodology that Kyoto University has developed throughout its history.

The original goal of our academia lies in the pursuit of harmonious coexistence within the human and ecological community on our mother planet, but today more than ever we must look squarely at the issue of what it really means to be happy and coexistence as members of a global society, because we live in an era when organizations such as the Science Council of Japan are discussing the possibility of humanity having reached a sort of historical dead end of survivability and scientific data is being used to simulate the extinction of the human race in the worst case. I hope that all affiliates of Kyoto University, including faculty, staff, and students, will honor the university's glorious heritage by pursuing research with their eyes firmly fixed on our future horizon.

Hiroshi Matsumoto

Executive Vice-President for Research and Finance
of Kyoto University

松本 紘

The Front Lines of Research in Cognitive Development

Just as a butterfly flies around looking as if it has forgotten that it was ever a caterpillar, adults have completely forgotten that they were once children. Let us recall the joys and sorrows of childhood.

My field of research is developmental psychology, particularly intellectual development. Intellectual development is a field of research pioneered by Alfred Binet (1857-1911) and Henri Wallon (1879-1962) of France, Lev Vygotsky (1896-1934) of Russia, Jean Piaget (1896-1980) of Switzerland, and Jerome Bruner (1915-) of the United States. It uses experiments and observation to elucidate the ways in which children's perceptions, language, thinking, intelligence, and other mental traits develop as they grow older. It most often employs the scientific method of asking young children (ages 18 months to 6 years) and children (ages 6 to 12) to solve specific problems and then analyzing the ways in which the children arrive at their solutions. In this way, developmental psychologists investigate how much children understand.

In the 1980s, I was interested in studying the development of perspective-taking in young children. Piaget's "three mountains task" had demonstrated that children find it difficult to understand how something looks to a person who is in a different position from themselves. In fact, younger children exhibit a strong tendency to choose their own view when asked to indicate how an object looks to someone in another position, a tendency that Piaget called "egocentrism." I thought there are three dimensions of egocentrism (up and down, front and back, and left and right), and that children's difficulty in understanding different perspectives might be because they do not receive feedback about other people's perspectives. To test this

hypothesis, I conducted a series of experiments with kindergarteners. The task in the first experiment was to face

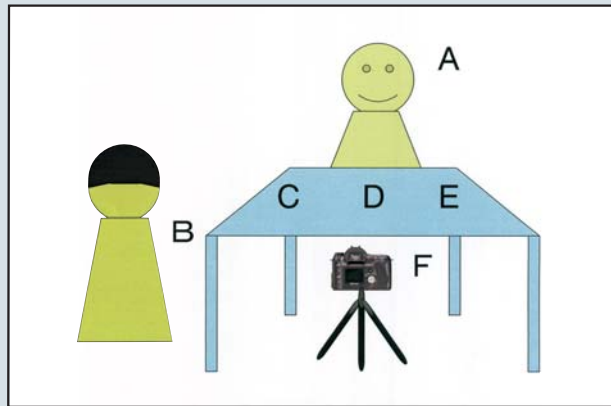


Figure 1. Experimental Situation

A: Child, B: Experimenter, C; Sample photos, D: Place to put toy animal(s), E: Three toy animals, F: Still camera or video camera

a camera set up across from them and then to arrange one to three toy animals in a way that would produce a photograph like the sample (Figure 1). Forty-three percent of the four-year-olds exhibited front and back egocentrism by placing the toy animals' backs to the camera. That tendency had mostly disappeared among the five-year-olds and six-year-olds, but it became clear that hardly any of the four- to six-year-olds could position two or three toy animals in the correct left-to-right order. In a second experiment, I used a video camera instead of a still camera and provided video feedback, showing an image

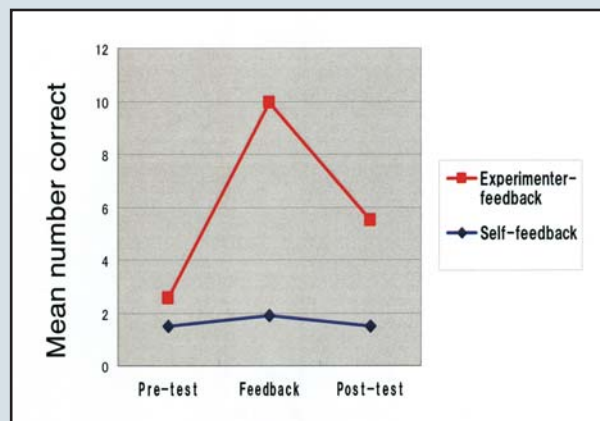


Figure 2. Mean number correct in each condition

of the toy animals as viewed from the opposite side on a color CRT monitor. In the control group, which was shown only the CRT monitor, the children were able to correct their front-back egocentrism on their own but were not informed of their errors. Even in the experimental group, which received instruction and practice in correcting left-right egocentrism, the effect on their post-test results was clearly small (Figure 2). Until the age of about seven, most children facing a teacher who says, "Let's raise our right hands" while raising his or her own right hand will raise their left hands.

Incidentally, research into perspective-taking abilities has traditionally focused on investigating how children understand other people's viewpoints, but I have noticed a serious limitation in the paradigm commonly used to study this. In the case of the "three mountains task," even if children can't directly guess the viewpoint of a person in another position, they can solve the problem by conducting a mental simulation in which they imagine that they have gone to the other person's position, or by a type of mental rotation, in which they imagine that the object has been placed on a lazy Susan and rotated to the correct position. The lack of methodological distinctions in the perspective-taking paradigm was a major problem. As I was worrying about how to think about this problem, I encountered research into "theory of mind." In particular, I spent ten months as a visiting scholar in the Department of Experimental Psychology at the University of Oxford from 1994 to 1995, where I had the oppor-

tunity to come into contact with the front lines of British research into cognitive development. After returning to Japan, I began studying "theory of mind," but at that time, hardly anyone else in the country was doing so. Without intending to, I have had to carry out the role of "missionary" in the field of "theory of mind" in Japan.

The most famous experiment in "theory of mind" is the false belief task (the so-called "Sally and Anne task") of Josef Perner and his colleagues. "Sally puts a doll in a basket. While Sally is away, Anne takes the doll out of the basket and puts it into a box nearby. Sally then returns and the child is asked where Sally will look for her doll." In general, three-year-olds can't pass this task, but they become able to do so between the ages of four and six. It has also been demonstrated that even high-functioning autistic children can't pass this task. It is odd that most young children are easily deceived by this task, which is no problem at all for adults. I have been observing the daily lives of children at a Kyoto kindergarten once a week for three years, as well as conducting developmental research, including the false belief task. As a result, I have obtained longitudinal data

on "theory of mind" (Figure 3). The data presented in this figure began with 15 children, with 4 more children transferring in at the ages of four and five, for a total of 19 children at the end. Only one child regressed from being able to pass the task to failing it, but he was a boy who became extremely nervous and made mistakes in the testing situation at age five and six. The fact that I was conducting experiments on children with whom I was in contact on a daily basis made me feel that I could interpret the results more broadly.

Currently, I am conducting cross-cultural research in cooperation with Professor Charlie Lewis at Lancaster University in the UK in order to study the development of "theory of mind" and executive functions related to maintenance of attention and inhibition of behavior. I also plan to investigate "theory of mind" as part of a 12-year longitudinal study of 1,200 children sponsored by the NHK Broadcasting Cultural Research Institute.

As you can see from the above, my research is centered on cognitive development, but I do research a wide variety of areas, including understanding of metaphors and perception of pain.



Masuo Koyasu

- Born in Kyoto, 1950
- Specialized Research Field: Developmental Psychology
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- Ph.D., Kyoto University
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"My interest in psychology was sparked by a novel I read in high school by Morio Kita called 'Yoru to Kiri no Sumi de' ('In the Corner of Night and Fog'), a tragic story about the efforts of psychiatrists at the time when the Nazis persecuted people who suffered from mental disorders. I became fascinated by the world of the human mind."

When the Japanese Cognitive Science Society was formed in 1984, its inaugural meeting was hosted by Kyoto University. Prof. Koyasu's mentor, Prof. Takao Umemoto (1921-2002) of the Faculty of Education, chaired that conference. Since then, Prof. Koyasu has actively focused his own psychological research within the framework of cognitive science. Prof. Koyasu adopts the "modularity of mind" approach, which argues that instead of mind being a single unit, mind is divided into several modules, which function independently of each other. His current research includes experimental studies of the process by which young children and children develop an understanding of the intentions that lie behind the words and actions of others. He correlates children's development of an understanding of others with aspects of emergent thinking, such as the "perspective-taking" spatial awareness module, "theory of mind" self-other awareness module, and the "metaphor" speech recognition module. Prof. Koyasu also conducts empirical research on multimedia technology in education.

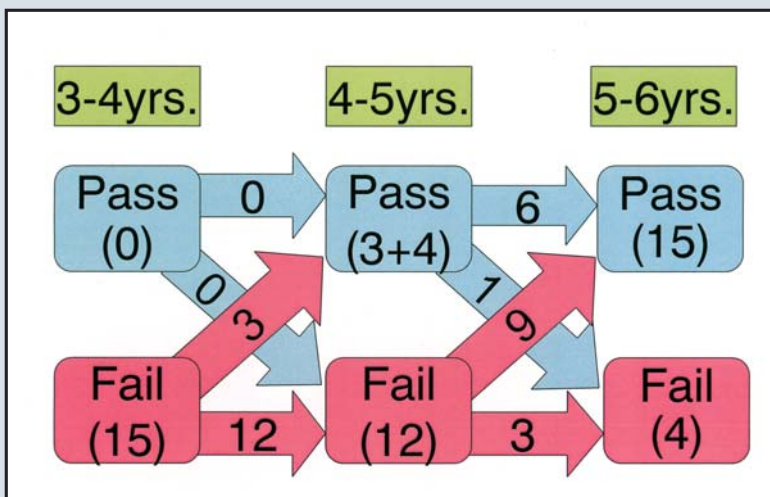


Figure 3. Results of a longitudinal study of "theory of mind"

New approaches to public health education, research and practice

The World Health Organization has defined public health as the science and art of promoting health, preventing disease, and prolonging life through the organized community efforts. In Japan, the role of the nation in promoting public health is clearly stated in the Japanese constitution, and doctors and other medical professionals learn the principles of public health as an essential part of their national qualifications. Consequently, research into education in the field of public health is extremely important. For this reason, the Faculty of Medicine in Kyoto University provides courses in hygiene and in public health, conducting both teaching and research.

When I took up my post in 1997, the work of promoting the study of public health in Japan already had the benefit of an extremely firm foundation that had been painstakingly constructed since the Meiji period, including public health administration. However, despite this foundation, not everything was straightforward and many challenges presented themselves. The challenges included actively addressing the administration's requirements, such as conducting specified research, serving on government think tanks, and participating in other organized community efforts. I also became involved in education and research in peripheral areas, such as taking a role in Japanese and international academic conferences and in the activities of organizations working in public health. Training human resources has been another substantial commitment, working through the School of Medicine, School of Health Science, Graduate School of Medicine, School of Public Health, and also through education at other universities, working to reform and improve medical and public health teaching, producing textbooks, and actively participating in the national examinations for medical practitioners. I also make a particular effort to participate in environmental issues within Kyoto University, to participate in occupational safety and health issues, and to practice and improve public health education both at

and outside the university.

Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine established its School of Public Health in 2000, training public health specialists with the skills needed for a changing society. Until recently, all training of public health specialists had been handled by the National Institute of Public Health, which was established in 1938 under the government's Ministry of Health and Welfare. In today's Japan, however, it is vital for health, medicine and welfare to be properly interlinked. To achieve this and to train people who can deal with new public health issues, it was decided to establish a School of Public Health within Kyoto University that would be based on this new approach. I was personally involved in the establishment of the School, and continue to be involved in medical education, public health education and research, with the main focus being on my specialty of Public Health and International Health.

The largest public health issue we currently face is still tobacco, although Japan has made some progress by using the Health Promotion Law to take action on passive smoking, and has ratified the WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). The economic losses incurred by Japan are significant. (See table for 2002 figures.) The nation's total medical expenditure was approximately 31 trillion yen, but reports estimate that direct excess medical expenditure due to smoking accounts for 1.3 trillion yen of that total. Our findings demonstrated that stopping smoking is effective at reducing medical expenditure, and provided the basis for 2006 revisions to the treatment fees received by medical institutions under Japan's national health insurance program. As a result, doctors are now paid for managing nicotine dependence by giving guidance to smokers and managing attempts to give up smoking. With this change in the fee structure, guidance

on giving up smoking is now available at medical institutions. Another important event that has happened in 2006 is the establishment of Japanese Association for Smoking Control Science. The Association conducts scientific studies related to stopping smoking, and has the objective of securing a position for Smoking Control Science as an academic discipline.

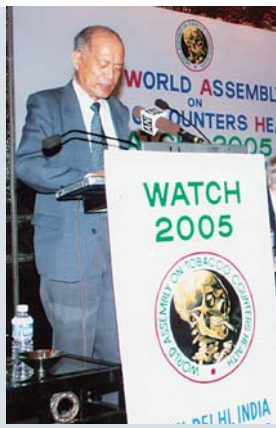
From a practical perspective, health promotion is regarded as one of the most important approaches for public health worldwide, but in international health terms, there are suggestions that health promotion needs to be fused with primary health care, the principle behind public health work for developing countries. Local governments including Kyoto City and Kyoto Prefecture sought advice on this topic when creating their local versions of the Health Japan 21 guidelines for health promotion. The School is now collaborating with these local authorities to create such guide-



lines and evaluate their effect.

Turning to the system for implementing public health, we have been investigating and considering how local authorities and public health centers in municipalities around Japan should cooperate under the Community Health Act. Health education by local authorities and public health centers is important in helping people to live healthy lives, and this role is performed in Japan through the implementation of legislation such as the Law of Health and Medical Services for the Aged. Our studies have investigated the prevention of life-style diseases (hypertension, diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidemia, osteopor-

osis, etc.) and also examined smoking, HIV/AIDS, etc. With regard to cigarette smoking, first of all we discovered from surveys of students that smokers were already well aware of the health risks from smoking, and that the majority of smokers wanted to quit. Furthermore, our surveys of action taken against smoking by hospitals, companies, etc. found that 57.2% of hospitals had anti-smoking education programs for patients, that 30.1% of hospitals were taking action on smoking by hospital employees, and that 84.1% of companies were taking some sort of action against smoking. In contrast, as many as 65% of hospitals still permit smoking in doctors' rooms, demonstrating doctors' relative lack of concern about smoking. Surveys regarding the health education programs implemented by public health centers and local authorities showed that public health centers give more guidance on stopping smoking. Methods of education also differed, with 28% of public health centers offering lectures and 29 offering health classes (an average of 2.8 sessions per class) with about 26 people attending each session. Sessions sometimes incorporate practical elements, with for example, 48% of health classes measuring the concentration of carbon monoxide in the breath of each class participant. Telephone follow-ups on the effectiveness of the educational pro-



grams were conducted by 15% of the public health centers. We have also analyzed health education from a social marketing perspective with the aim of discovering even more effective methods. Regarding interrelationships with administrative entities and other organizations (hospitals, schools, etc.) on health education, 60% of public health centers had a clear grasp of health education programs provided by the local authority, but only 40% of public health centers demonstrated a grasp of programs conducted by other organizations, indicating the need for establishing a greater level of cooperation between the entities that are working to achieve widespread health education. I am also active internationally, working as President for the Northern Part of Western Pacific in the International Union of Health Promotion and Health Education, a position from which I am involved in enhancing links and information exchange in the field of health promotion between the countries of East Asia.

These sorts of surveys and investigations on the practical aspects of the study of public health are generally focused on health promotion, and their findings form the basis of guidance given to the public health administration. One current change in Japan is a growing concern about metabolic syndrome, a composite life-style disease that includes diabetes mellitus, obesity, etc. Another change is the increasingly substantial participation by insurance authorities such as the national health insurance program in maintaining and improving health, an area where public welfare authorities have played a particularly large role to date. Meeting this sort of change in circumstances, we are investigating a wider range of methods for enhancing public health; we are aiming to establish more effective and more efficient methods; and we intend to encourage the application of those methods in the community.



Toshitaka Nakahara

- Born in 1949
- Specialized Research Field: Public Health and International Health
- Graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Kyoto University. Master's degree in Public Health, School of Hygiene and Public Health, Johns Hopkins University
- M.D., Ph.D. in Medicine (Nihon University), M.P.H. (Johns Hopkins University)
- Professor, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University
- URL:http://www.med.kyotou.ac.jp/J/grad_school/introduction/3114/ (Japanese only)

"Public health has not always been seen as a big issue in Japan, but it does have a long history. When schools of medicine were first established in the Meiji era, the study of hygiene was treated as a subject in its own right and given a status alongside surgery, internal medicine, pathology, and physiology. The concept of public health reached Japan from the United States after the World War II".

Prof. Nakahara graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Kyoto University in 1974 and got his medical license later that year. He chuckles when he says, "Although I do perform the occasional checkup, I have done almost nothing as a doctor in the area of medical treatment." Since graduating from the Faculty of Medicine at Kyoto University, he has worked for the government in the fields of maternal and child health, industrial health, health management, healthcare of the aged, building hygiene, water services, waste management, environmental conservation, and health insurance at the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and for Yamanashi and Kagoshima prefectures. In 1979, he went to study at Johns Hopkins University where he went on to get a masters degree in public health. He subsequently worked as a public health expert and researcher. In 1992, he was appointed Director of the Department of Public Health at the National Institute of Public Health, and, in 1997, he took up his current position as a Prof. at Kyoto University's Graduate School of Medicine. Prof. Nakahara's research topics have been very diverse, but he is particularly well known for a paper published about ten years ago examining the cost to society of smoking - how much has to be paid in extra medical costs due to smoking, and how much medical costs would be reduced by promoting non-smoking. Restrictions on smoking in Japan had lagged behind the West until this point, when Nakahara's report triggered a change in attitudes that resulted in Japan finally taking the smoking issue seriously. Another milestone has been passed in 2006, with a revision of the health insurance medical fee reimbursement system to ensure that hospitals and clinics are paid for their work in encouraging smokers to give up.

Total Social Loss By Smoking(2002) billion yen

direct loss	increase of medical fees	1339.1
indirect loss	loss by admission	19.6
	loss by transportation for outpatients	?
	loss by death	3336.6
	loss by fire(properties)	12.1
	loss by fire(death)	8.6
	loss by fire(injury)	0.2
other loss		?
total		4716.2
National Medical Fee		31323.4
Overload Medical Fee By Smoking (%)		4.28

New Research Center Explores Innovative Approaches to Area Studies

The Center for Integrated Area Studies (CIAS) is a new academic research center established at Kyoto University in April 2006. CIAS has 14 faculties that represent a disciplinary mix of historians, political scientists, anthropologists and environmental specialists.

So why this interdisciplinary grouping within a single center? The new CIAS aims to conduct and promote integrated research on specific areas. Academic sciences are usually organized along disciplinary lines, such as mathematics, economics or sociology. Since the 1960s, however, universities have established research and teaching groups that focus interdisciplinary academic research on specified geographic areas. These became the so-called area studies centers. The Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) and the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS) at Kyoto University, for instance, are part of this academic tradition.

Traditional area studies focused on geographically delimited regions, subjecting them to inter- and multidisciplinary research. Modern world forces, however, are changing the nature of regions typically of interest to area studies centers. Geographic and political boundaries and cultural similarities used to define their focus, but today communication from one corner of the world to the other is instantaneous. Po-



litical reforms have re-located the centers of power and reshuffled the power holders. Economic integration undermines state boundaries everywhere, and cultural homogenization is replacing cultural diversity. This calls for a new approach to area studies. CIAS' research will maintain the focus on local details, but capture their dynamics resulting from the wider forces of globalization.

A diversity of tasks

Within the frame of conducting and promoting integrated area research, CIAS has a diverse portfolio of tasks. These tasks are reflected in the organizational structure of the new center along three divisions. The division of 'integrated area research' implements research but also aims to promote the new approach to area studies in collaboration with other area studies centers in Japan. A number of these centers have already



started cooperation through the establishment of the Japan Consortium of Area Studies (JCAS). CIAS has assumed coordinating responsibility to further the objectives of the consortium and promote intense collaboration between Japanese centers for area studies.

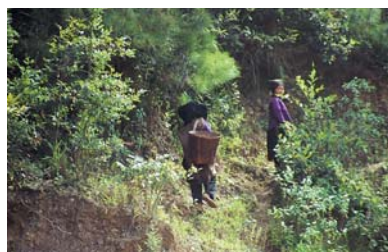
CIAS' second division of 'information and knowledge' has the task of compiling and cataloging research material coming out of research carried out by the center or its partners, and making it widely available for consultation and use. CIAS holds a copy of the British Parliamentary Papers (BPP), a large collection of books on politics, economics, society and culture from throughout the world since the early 19th century. This valuable area studies resource will be made available in innovative ways for wider use.

Once the BPP and other sources of knowledge and information become available, CIAS also hopes to promote their use in collaborative research that brings together scientists from other area studies centers, and to undertake collaborative research projects that address themes that are of common interests. Within Kyoto University, CIAS will collaborate closely with ASAFAS and CSEAS.

A third CIAS division of 'area informatics' aims to use modern information processing and representation technologies in traditional area studies approaches. Using remote sensing and GIS



Traditional lifestyles are influenced by nature, ethnicity and culture. Photograph Abe Ken-ichi



in historical research on areas, for instance, is one example of the kind of work that this division will undertake.

■ The CIAS program

CIAS scientists have chosen one theme that links several of its research projects on integrated area research: The role of the “state” in the 21st century. The changing role of the state affects many areas in the world. This calls for new research on areas that are often located across the boundaries of nation states, include regions within nation states that have traditionally had very low state presence, or encompass several countries that for economic or geopolitical reasons have become interconnected. In all these cases, the role of the state is being modified because of the integration process. This makes the link between integrated area research and the new role of the state a highly relevant theme for CIAS.

The CIAS research program is to be complemented by a proactive publication plan. Just recently, the first volume of the newly launched series ‘Frontiers of Area Studies’ was published by Kyoto University Press. This series is to be the

spearhead of CIAS’ research output. All information on CIAS facts and features can be found at its website: www.cias.kyoto-u.ac.jp.



Integrated area studies tries to capture local complexities and how they are influenced by non-local forces, like international markets for timber. Photograph Abe Ken-ichi



Koji Tanaka

- Born in 1947
- Specialized Research Field: Southeast Asian area studies and tropical agriculture
- Master's degree from the Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University
- Director/Professor, Center for Integrated Area Studies, Kyoto University

In April 2006 Prof. Koji Tanaka moved from the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and became the new director of the Center for Integrated Area Studies. Prof. Tanaka has conducted extensive fieldwork on Southeast Asian agriculture, work that started when he still was a young researcher. His studies that elucidate pioneer farmers of Indonesia agricultural frontiers, and on the formation of migrant villages and related social changes, are particularly well known.

His life's work, however, is his research on Asia's rice growing regions. He reinterprets Asian agriculture, history and culture from a traditional rice growing technologies perspective. Recently Prof. Tanaka has also engaged in research on broader natural resource management, including tropical forest management. The conservation and sustainable use of tropical forests are now global concerns. Southeast Asian governments increasingly try to protect forest lands, and Prof. Tanaka has taken an interest in the conflicts this has caused with local people.

These days, when training the younger generations of area studies researchers, Prof. Tanaka offers the following advice: "You can't understand other areas without first understanding Japan. And, in addition to knowing the area you are researching, you must also have a good grasp of one other area, as well as of Japan. Always make these three areas the basis of your knowledge and conduct research that brings you back to them." Prof. Tanaka calls this the triangulation method.



Opening ceremony of CIAS

International Conference on Opencourseware 2006 in Kyoto

The first International Conference on Opencourseware(1:OCW) in Japan was held on April 20 at Kyoto University's Clock Tower Centennial Hall.

OCW Consortium members attending the conference included higher education institutions in Spain, France, the United States, China, Thailand, and Taiwan. Japan was represented by all the members of the newly-formed Japan OCW Consortium — Hokkaido University, Keio University, Kyoto University, Kyushu University, Nagoya University, Osaka University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, the University of Tokyo, and Waseda University.

In addition to these institutions, the conference drew people from research institutions interested in media education, companies, and higher education. The audience included 252 university staff and others involved in higher education.

The day began with a media briefing by representatives of the nine universities and OCW originator MIT to announce the establishment of the Japan OCW Consortium. The Conference then commenced with an address by Kyoto University president Kazuo Oike, after which Dr. Anne Margulies, executive director of the MIT OCW Core Team, spoke about OCW at MIT. Dr. Margulies explained how the idea came about and how MIT implemented its OCW, then evaluated its impact and described how the movement developed, sharing her vision of how education will fit into society in the future.

Lunch was held in the International Conference Hall, and during the lunch break there were demo sessions of opencoursewares from around the world. In



Presentation by Dr. Anne Margulies, MIT's OCW Executive Director



addition to demos by the Japanese universities, Utah State University presented both its opencoursewares and its 'eduCommons(2)' OCW software; Johns Hopkins University and Tufts University presented opencoursewares; and there was a demo of MIT's OCW Consortium website. Almost all of the participants viewed the demos and took the opportunity to discuss them with the demonstrators. There was particular interest in a new OCW approach where course materials are podcast to iPods, making the lectures viewable almost anywhere.

In the afternoon, a panel discussion focused on Japanese OCW, including a look at current issues and problems as well as considering how it is likely to grow. Panelists represented each of the universities in the Japan OCW Consortium.

For the second panel, Shigeru Miyagawa of MIT moderated a discussion between Mary Y. Lee (Tufts University OCW), Majid Daci (Paris Tech), Pedro Aranzadi (Universia), David Wiley (Utah State University), Andrew Lane (The Open University UK), and Fun-Den Wang (China Open Resources for Education), which examined OCW around the world in terms of four topics:

- How OCW fits the mission of institutions/organizations
- Goals of the project (all courses, exemplary courses, etc.)
- Status of the project (number published and number to be published)



Kyoto University President Kazuo Oike
Welcome Participants

-Unique challenges and features of implementation

The panel made a particularly strong impression on everyone who attended.

Buzzing with excited interest all the way to the networking session in the evening, the International Conference on OCW was a great success, giving leaders in the opencourseware movement around the world the chance to meet off-line, to learn, and to talk over their ideas for the future.

(1) Opencourseware: A free and open educational resource for faculty, students, and self-learners around the world. OCW supports the mission to advance knowledge and education, and serve the world in the 21st century.

(2) eduCommons is an Opencourseware management system designed specifically to support OpenCourseWare projects.

Meeting of Kyokyo-Kai (Kyoto University Alumni Association in Beijing, China)

Kyokyo-kai, which began as an informal gathering of Kyoto University alumni living in the Beijing area, held its first meeting after becoming an official Kyoto University overseas alumni association on April 27, 2006.

The reunion, attended by Executive Vice-President Nishimura, Vice-President Matsushige, and many others from Kyoto University, took place in a relaxed atmosphere. Participants, who came from various backgrounds including those residing in Beijing for business/public appointment, private

business owners, and Chinese alumni, were busy catching up and sharing student memories. Some expressed surprises at the dramatic changes Kyoto University has undergone recently, while former overseas students who had experienced financial struggle during their student years appealed for more generous funding toward scholarships.

The association's chairperson, secretary-general and officers were all selected this day from the alumni who ranged widely in age. It is the hope of the University that Kyokyo-kai will help

to expand the network of Kyoto University alumni in the Beijing area.



“Science Café” at Shinshindo Café

“Science Café,” an event in which scientific experts meet and talked about science with the general public over a cup of coffee, was held in Shinshindo Café, a coffee shop near the Yoshida Campus on April 22, 2006.

“Science Café,” held to coincide with Science and Technology Week (April 17 to 23), is jointly organized by the Science Council of Japan, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and some 20 other organizations across the nation. Kyoto University’s “Idobata Science

Laboratory,” a group of Graduate School of Science students, was in charge of organizing the Kyoto area event.

Prof. Kiyotaka Okada from the Graduate School of Science gave a lecture on “What determines the shape of a flower?” employing photographs and an easy-to-understand explanation about the genes that determine the shapes of flowers. After the lecture, participants attempted to recreate the structure of a flower using a model. They were free to ask questions of the graduate students

posted at each table.

Participants ranged from secondary school students to homemakers; from time to time, serious amateur gardeners among them took over for the Prof. to answer questions on the care of familiar plants.

Although the duration of “Science Café” by the Science Council is limited to Science and Technology Week, the Idobata Science Laboratory hopes to continue its involvement in similar programs.



“Science Café” on the patio of Shinshindo Café



Participants examine flowers

Carl Becker



Carl Becker

- Born in 1951, Chicago, Illinois.
- Specialized Research Field: Ethics, Religions, and Thanatology
- Ph.D. in Asian/Comparative Philosophy & Religion, University of Hawaii
- Professor, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University

"I came to Japan to learn Japanese values of life and death. Originally, I researched old texts, but when I came to visit hospitals treating terminally ill patients and observed the way in which modern Japanese die, I was shocked by the gaps between their cultural ideals and their medical realities."

In the course of researching how Japanese patients receiving terminal care wish to die — in other words, their "ideal of death" — Prof. Carl Becker has become increasingly interested in environmental causes of death, since cancer, strokes, heart disease, and diabetes are closely related to diet, water, and the air. Also, Japan is now more interdependent on other countries than ever before. China's waste pollutes Japan, as Japan's waste pollutes the Pacific. Japan's imported foods contain toxins forbidden in Japan. Japanese who fail to recycle plastics, paper, and batteries fill their own air with dioxin and their own water with carcinogens far exceeding international safety standards. Prof. Becker comments that his "study of life and death has gone beyond academic research of literature to encompass issues of our modern lifestyle."

Prof. Becker immigrated to Japan 30 years ago because he believed that its traditions of sustainable recycling, its self-effacing society, its peace constitution and non-nuclear policies could lead the world not only economically but also morally and spiritually. He voices concern that Japan is losing its traditional work ethic, dignity, and humility: "Japan had the wisdom to sustain a dense population without wars for three centuries. The whole world can learn much from that Japanese history and tradition. If the Japanese destroy Kyoto, it will be a loss to world culture, but if the Japanese forget their history and values, it will be an irreplaceable loss to human civilization".

Sustainable Happiness? A View from History and Social Ethics

Only a saint or a fool dare pontificate about happiness. I know not your happiness, nor you mine. However, we live in a welfare state wherein everyone's health and behavior affects all others. If smokers contract lung cancer or alcoholic mothers bear defective babies, everyone must pay their medical bills; when crimes or suicides occur, everyone must pay for trials and jail costs or police investigations. Others' happiness may not make us happy, but others' unhappiness certainly infringes on us all.

Media images of happiness feature traveling to tropical beaches, dining on exotic foods, wearing gold jewelry, enjoying climate-controlled homes and cars. All pollute the atmosphere, exacerbate global warming, and consume irreplaceable resources. Neither the unseen laborers in Chinese sweatshops, tropical plantations and African gold mines, nor even our own progeny will appreciate our depredations of this earth, but it is easy to place temporary gratification above fair trade and sustainable lifestyles. Those completely "happy" in such fashionable images are at least myopically ignorant, at worst unconscionably self-centered. The more responsibility we take for our activities, the more humbly restrained become our self-assertion and consumption of resources.

It was Thomas Jefferson who first elevated "pursuit of happiness" to a human "right" (limited to educated white land-owning males). Jefferson's happiness depended on the suffering of multitudes of slaves, indentured servants, laundresses, cooks, liverymen and

housekeepers, impoverishing his family and heirs, not to mention the lands of native peoples he bought and sold. Surely pursuit of happiness should entail not diminishing others'. Jefferson's vision did not even reach his own household.

As Abraham Maslow noted, a drowning man wants air and a starving man food, but when air and food suffice, they desire far more than their basic needs. There are limits to life and health, money and resources, but no limits to human desires for life and health, money and resources. As long as our desires exceed our limits, we shall never be "happy." This leaves us the choice of vainly trying to adjust our resources to our desires — depriving others of the same — or learning to adjust our minds to be grateful for what resources can be sustained, as East Asian religions have long advocated.

A deeper kind of happiness may be had through fulfilling our responsibilities. This happiness is not "fun," nor "doing as we please, when we please," but rather the quiet inner satisfaction of knowing that we do what a sustainable world demands of us. Saints and philosophers have long held that the greatest happiness is to be found in selfless action for the sake of others; in contemplating or participating in the good, true, and beautiful; in loving and giving rather than desiring or receiving. My interviews of dying Japanese elders reinforce this impression.

I am no saint, so please forgive my foolishness in asking that we try to minimize the "happiness" we derive from others' suffering.



Producing the human genome map poster

In March of 2006, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) produced a large poster showing a map of the human genome. Part of MEXT's efforts to enhance peoples' understanding of science and technology, the poster was titled "A human genome map for every home: What we know about the human genome" ("Ikka ni ichi mai hito genomu mappu: Koko made wakatta!! Hito genomu"). The ministry sent 40,000 posters to elementary, junior high, and senior high schools throughout Japan, and another 60,000 posters to 331 science museums nationwide, where they are given away to people who are interested. A large proportion of the work in producing the poster was handled by Kei Kano, a graduate student at Associate Professor Kazuto Kato's Laboratory of Science Communication and Bioethics at Kyoto University's Graduate School of Biostudies. Kano and fellow researchers took about five months to complete the poster. With its colorful and intelligible depiction of cutting-edge genome research, the human genome map poster has received tremendous acclaim from the public. The following is an interview with the young researcher.

■ What was the purpose of making the human genome map poster?

When the sequencing of the human genome was completed in April 2003, the term "human genome" was all over the newspapers and media. But most people didn't really understand what had happened - only that something really huge had been decoded. In fact, they didn't even have a sufficient understanding of the term "genome" itself. Terms such as chromosome, gene, DNA, and protein have come to be associated with one another in the public's mind, but not genome. So the purpose was to make sure that people had a proper understanding of genome as a fundamental scientific concept.

■ The term is certainly one that many people only have a fuzzy grasp of.

Genome is a generic term that refers to the complete set of genetic information for an organism. Chromosome refers to a concrete object that holds that information. Another way

to phrase it would be to say that the genome is a complete set of all of an organism's chromosomes. Chromosomes are made up of double helix molecules called DNA. Genes are the part of DNA that hold the information for producing proteins. There are also non-coding regions that are interspersed between genes. The proteins that are produced by genes are responsible for the functions necessary for maintaining our lives. Genes account for about 30% of a chromosome, with the remaining 70% being made up of non-coding regions.

■ Why do you call it a "map"?

There are approximately 26,800 genes in the entire human genome. It would be impossible to depict all of them. In fact, a map of the world doesn't show all of the cities on earth, but it is nevertheless an indispensable tool for understanding the world. That's why we came upon the idea of producing a map of the human genome made to scale.

■ To what scale?

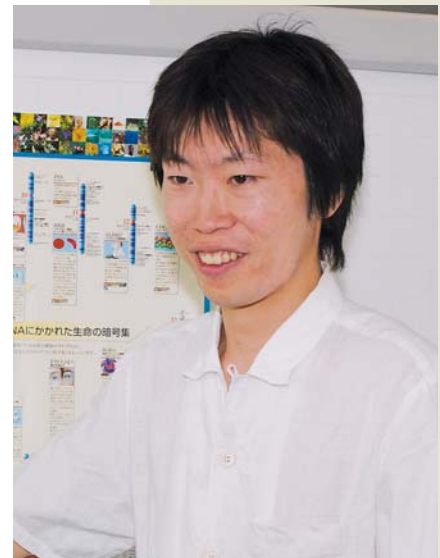
To a scale of 1:100. We selected one one-hundredth of the approximately 26,800 genes, positioned them on the map like landmarks, and gave them aliases that lay people could understand. We also added detailed descriptions of 10% of those genes. The aliases and descriptions were checked by asking the opinions of a number of researchers.

■ Are there similar posters in other countries?

There are lots of different posters, but most are just lists of terms. A poster was included as a supplement in NATURE, but it listed all the genes with the aim of impressing people with how huge the genome is. I suspect ours is probably the first poster in the world to go as far as including explanations of gene functions.

■ The genome map poster is being distributed to everyone from fifth graders in elementary school to adults, but don't you think you'd have to be at least a junior high student to understand it?

Perhaps. But genomes aren't on the curriculum at junior high school either, so elementary schoolers are at the same starting point in that sense. Our initial aim is for people to become acquainted with the term genome from an early



Kei Kano

- Born in 1980.
- Graduates from Faculty of Science at Kyoto University in 2003.
- Studies aging of the nematode *C. elegans* at the Laboratory of Signal Transduction (Prof. Eisuke Nishida's Lab), Graduate School of Biostudies, Kyoto University. Obtains master's degree.

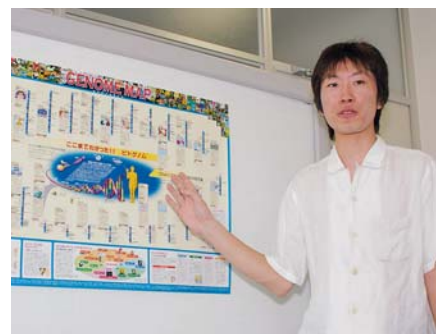
age through the use of illustrations and pictures. We also want them to gain a firm understanding of the relationship between chromosomes, genes, DNA, and proteins.

■ Is there an English version?

Our lab plans to begin work on one this winter.

■ Please tell us about your doctoral research and your dream for the future.

My doctoral research is on the study and practice of life science education. I am studying the current status of life science education in Japan, so the educational effect of this genome map poster is one of the things I'm looking at. I'm interested in education, so I aim to become a science educator.



Kyoto University Opens Liaison Office in Tsinghua Science Park

Kyoto University opened a Kyoto University Liaison Office in Tsinghua Science Park, based on the academic exchange agreement with Tsinghua University in Beijing, China. The office is located in front of Tsinghua University's main gate. A ceremony was held to mark the opening on April 27, 2006.

Based on the general memorandum of academic exchange, signed between Kyoto University and Tsinghua University in 1998, another agreement was signed in November 2004 between Kyoto University's International Innovation Center (IIC) and Tsinghua University's International Technology Transfer Center. This agreement covers all aspects of cooperation between industry, academia and government. According to this agreement, both universities are to work in cooperation with local governments and businesses to create international joint programs involving coalitions of academia, industry, and government. Both universities have also agreed to provide each other with a place to base their activities, and to send visiting professors. Kyoto University will create Tsinghua

University's Kyoto Office within its Rohm Plaza on the Katsura Campus, which is also home to the International Innovation Organization (IIO) and International Innovation Center (IIC). Preparations are also underway to accommodate guest professors. It is anticipated that the opening of Kyoto University's Liaison Office in Tsinghua Science Park will further boost Kyoto University's activities in Beijing.

The day also saw the long-awaited signing of a joint research contract between Rohm Co., Ltd. and Tsinghua University. The signing marks an important first step for the partnership with industry by the two universities jointly.

The day's program included a "Water Forum" for discussing possible solutions to an environmental issue that has strong relevance to both

institutions, and for deepening the two institutions' partnership with industry.

The grand ceremony was attended by many including Kyoto University's Executive Vice-President Shuzo Nishimura, Vice-President Kazumi Matsushige, Director-General of IIC Keisuke Makino, Tsinghua University's Vice-President Chen Jining, and Dr. Song Jun, Director of the International Technology Transfer Center, Tsinghua University and Chairman of Tsinghua Holdings.



Students and Teaching Staff from Kasetsart University visit Kyoto University

Fourteen students and two teachers from Kasetsart University, with which Kyoto University has a student exchange agreement, visited Kyoto University from May 9 until May 23. In addition to attending lectures by professors, the group participated in various activities, including visits to a primary school, a taxi company and different research centers.

This two week trip was organized as a part of the International Exchange Program which started last year. The program is designed to send young students abroad in order to deepen their international experience.



A Thai student plays a Thai song for pupils of the Daiyon Kinrin Primary School



Students attend a lecture by Prof. Toshio Yokoyama, Vice - President of Kyoto University, about things that can be learned from traditional Japanese wisdom at Sansai Gakurin ('Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies').



Thai students wearing Kimonos for the first time.

President Oike attends the 4th Japan-China University President Conference

President Kazuo Oike attended the Fourth Japan-China University President Conference hosted by Xi'an Jiaotong University from May 9 to May 11. Presidents from Hokkaido University, Tohoku University, the University of Tsukuba, the University of Tokyo, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Hitotsubashi University, Nagoya University, Osaka University, Kobe University, Hiroshima University, Kyushu University, Waseda University, Keio University, and Ritsumeikan University also attended the conference in Xi'an.

The conference began on May 10 in the newly opened Great Tang Dynasty Lotus Park with the opening message from President Zheng Nanning of Xi'an Jiaotong University, followed by speeches from Zhang Xinsheng, the Chinese Vice-Minister of Education, and Vice-

Minister Shinji Kondo of MEXT. Presidents from both Japanese and Chinese universities presented their views on: 1) mechanisms and methods for carrying out full cooperation between Japanese and Chinese universities as globalization and Asian regional cooperation progresses; 2) mechanisms and methods for jointly strengthening the development of high-level human resources in the two countries; and 3) mechanisms and methods for strengthening scientific cooperation and academic exchange between Japanese and Chinese universities. Active discussion followed each session.

On May 11, Kyoto University signed a General Memorandum for Academic Cooperation and Exchange with Nanjing University. The signing ceremony took place between President Oike and Chan-

cellor Hong Yinxing of Nanjing University. So far, the two universities have exchanged scholars/students and performed joint research at the faculty/research institute level. With the signing of this memorandum, Kyoto University plans to attain an even higher level of scientific research and training, as well as boost its educational activities through new joint research and symposia with Nanjing University.



Reviewers from OECD Thematic Review of Tertiary Education visit Kyoto University

Five reviewers from the OECD Thematic Review of Tertiary Education visited the Katsura and Yoshida campuses on May 19, 2006. The group consisted of David Breneman, Dean of the Curry School of Education, University of Virginia, Thomas Johannesson, the former President of Lund Institute of Technology, Peter Maassen, professor in the Faculty of Education, University of Oslo, Sir Howard Newby, the former Chief Executive for England's Higher Education Funding Council, and Thomas Weko, an analyst in the Education and Training Policy Division of the OECD's education directorate. At

Katsura, the group met Executive Vice-President Masato Kitani, Vice-President and Dean of Graduate School of Engineering Sei-ichi Nishimoto, Professors Tetsuo Sawaragi, Kiyoshi Kobayashi, Hajime Kita, Shigeru Takami, Associate Professor Tsutomu Kaneko, and graduate school students. The group then paid a courtesy visit to President Kazuo Oike. Executive Vice-Presidents Masaki Maruyama, Hiroshi Matsumoto, Shuzo Nishimura, Masato Kitani, and Vice-President Toshio Yokoyama were also present. Discussion with the President and faculty members

revolved around the effect of privatization on university operations and the obstacles preventing students from studying abroad. Discussion with graduate students focused on education financing, their goals for higher education, and their future plans.



Kyoto University signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)

Kyoto University President Kazuo Oike and Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) Chairman Umar Anggara Jenie signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen cooperation through academic exchange, joint hosting of symposia, and international joint research on March 17, 2006. The signing is part of Kyoto University's work to address global problems facing all mankind from an academic perspective by strengthening collaboration with high-level research institutes around the world. LIPI is the highest government research institution in Indonesia, overseeing national science and technology policies of the country. Top ranking Indonesian natural and social science researchers

work at LIPI.

The agreement is expected to strengthen Southeast Asian Studies' research network and expand its overseas research base in Southeast Asia. It is the culmination of 30 years of academic exchange between Kyoto University centers and research institutes and LIPI. The University has 69 MOUs with universities around the world, but this is the first with an advanced research institute. The signing marks the start of a new comprehensive partnership between the two institutions. Until now, joint research between Kyoto University and LIPI has been limited to interdisciplinary area studies in the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences, and to

research on wood resources in Southeast Asian tropical forests. Through joint research and symposia, Kyoto University hopes to achieve an even higher level of academic cooperation.





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P R O M E N A D E 京都逍遙 桂離宮

Katsura Rikyu — A place to think about "beauty" A garden for contemplation built around a lake

Katsura Rikyu is situated close to the Katsura River, about 2.5 km to the east of Kyoto University's Katsura campus, and has the oldest remaining stroll garden in Japan. The center of the garden is a lake, formed by diverting water from the Katsura River. The teahouses, pavilions, and other buildings around the lake are in wonderful harmony with it, transporting visitors to another world.

"Rikyu" means "detached palace" or "villa", gaining its name from the Imperial Villa constructed by Emperor Goyozei's brother, Prince Toshihito, who was the first of the Hachijo-no-miya family. The Katsura area had long been a popular location for the aristocracy to build retreats and villas, and was the location for the villa belonging to Fujiwara Michinaga that was probably the model for the Katsura villa in the Heian Period classic, *The Tale of Genji*. When Prince Toshihito, a man of great learning, took possession of this site, it was no surprise that he attempted to recreate a world reminiscent of this classic culture.

Work on the garden started in about 1616. In the second half of the 16th Century and the first half of the 17th Century, political power had long since shifted to the samurai, and the rise of the ornate luxury of the Momoyama Culture was beginning, but among the Kyoto nobles and the upper strata of the townspeople there remained a great deal of interest in the imperial culture that had been favored by the Heian nobility.

To the nobles who were no longer at the forefront of history, it was more than anything the tasteful imperial culture that held their attraction. Prince Toshihito described the simple teahouse he built during this period as "a little teahouse in a melon patch." This is said to have been the original form of the Old Shoin, the central building of Katsura Rikyu. Later, under the prince's son, Toshitada, the villa went through a second and third phase of construction and modifications, taking 50 years to reach completion.

The site covers a total of 69,000 square meters. In addition to the famous Shoin pavilions, other buildings around the lake are four teahouses with different appearances, named the Shokin-tei, Shoka-tei, Shoiken, and Geppa-ro, plus the Onrindo Buddhist hall, but it is the way that the natural parts of the garden change from season to season that completes the scene. A guide from the Imperial Household Agency, which now administers Katsura Rikyu, describes it as a garden without a back and a front. Wherever you stand, and whichever angle you look at the garden from, the scene is close to perfection.



The way that the individual buildings line up like geese in flight conveys a beautiful lightness and simplicity, and the architecture has an ageless attraction as classic examples of Sukiya and Shoin design. There is beauty in the unique proportions resulting from raising the floors as a precaution against the Katsura River overflowing.



The modernness of the geometric lines and blue-and-white checker pattern is striking. Bruno Taut, who introduced Katsura Rikyu's beauty to the outside world, explained the sudden appearance of this pattern as an embodiment in architecture of the small waterfall nearby.

The Shin Goten, added to the Shoin pavilions to accommodate the retired emperor Gomizuno, includes Katsura-dana shelves that are said to be one of the best three sets of shelves in existence.



The kuromoji hedge (on the right in the photo) that continues to the Middle Gate gives off the distinctive, refined fragrance of Kuromoji when subject to rain. This is a special treat only available if you visit the garden on a rainy day.