

## Summary of the NASSS 2010

FUJIMOTO Hiroshi

NANZAN UNIVERSITY

The events of NASSS 2010 were again held at Nanzan University and the Nanzan Seminar House from July 24 to 27. The annual theme of NASSS 2010 was “Toward a Common Memory of Our Past.” One of the main objectives for scholars, especially in the fields of social sciences and humanities assembling at NASSS, is to jointly search for the way to solve a series of problems commonly confronting Asia-Pacific countries in an increasingly globalized world. However, differences in perception on historical issues such as World War II between Japan and the U.S., or Japan and other Asian countries have from time to time become controversial. The main purpose this year is to provide a forum for considering how to achieve reconciliation between nations of the Pacific Rim and shape a common memory based on shared historical facts.

The first half of the four-day program was the Professional Conference consisting of the Plenary Session on Saturday, July 24 and three-separated Sectional Conferences on Sunday, July 25. The number of total participants in the Plenary Session was nearly 230, almost as much as the number of participants of the past three NASSS sessions.

The three Keynote Speakers were as follows: Dr. Robert J. MCMAHON, Professor of History, Ohio State University, for the Politics and International Relations section; Dr. Lisa YONEYAMA, Associate Professor of Literature, University of California, San Diego, for the History and Society section; and Dr. Marianna TORGOVNICK, Professor of English, Duke University, for the Literature and Culture section. Unfortunately, Professor Yoneyama was forced to cancel at the last minute and was not able to attend this year. However, she prepared a twelve-minute message on the crux for the Plenary Session on July 24, and her paper, which we received earlier, was read by one of our staff members on her behalf.

After the presentations by the speakers in the Plenary Session which was chaired by Professor YUI Daizaburo, Tokyo Woman’s Christian University, three Japanese distinguished scholars, Professor KAN Hideki, Seinan Jo Gakuin University, Professor TAKAHASHI Hiroko, Hiroshima City University, and Professor KONDO Takahiro, Nagoya University, took the role of commentators for three keynote speeches. Professor Yui’s skillful management as a moderator contributed greatly to smooth progress of the overall dialogue. This was on top of appropriate remarks by three commentators to each speaker which induced a

lively discussion, as well as fielding questions from the floor. In fact, the Plenary Session had to be extended by 20 minutes.

It is noteworthy that the audience of the first-day Session ‘open to the public’ included not only pre-registered prominent researchers from all over Japan and from abroad, but thanks to the *Chunichi Shinbun* (*Chunichi* Newspaper)’s article on NASSS, many local enthusiastic citizens also showed up. We believe that participation of local people will contribute to deepening their trans-Pacific understanding between the United States and Japan, which is one of the main objectives of the NASSS.

The three-separated Sectional Conferences were held on July 25, the following day. We also invited three distinguished foreign scholars from Asian-Pacific countries as discussants for each of the three section conferences: from the Philippines, Dr. Ricardo T. JOSE, University of the Philippines, for the Politics and International section; from India, Dr. Kousar J. AZAM, Osmania University, for the History and Society section; and from Taiwan, Dr. LEE Yu-cheng, Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica, for the Literature and Culture section. The presenters, commentators, and MC’s are as follows:

Morning Session

Politics and International Relations

Presenter: FUKITO Masami, Nanzan University

Commentator: ITO Yuko, Asia University

MC: LEE Jong Won, Rikkyo University

History and Society

Presenter: KAWAGUCHI Yuko, the University of Tokyo

Commentator: Kousar J. AZAM, Osmania University

MC: Sven SAALER, Sophia University

Literature and Culture

Presenter: INOUE Mayumo, University of the Ryukyus

Commentator: LEE Yu-cheng, Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica

MC: TAKETANI Etsuko, University of Tsukuba

Afternoon Session

Politics and International Relations

Presenter: MA Xiaohua, Osaka Kyoiku University

Commentator: Ricardo T. JOSE, University of the Philippines

MC: NAKAO Tomoyo, Okayama University

History and Society

Presenter: WAKABAYASHI Chiyo, Okinawa University

Commentator: AKIBAYASHI Kozue, Ritsumeikan University

MC: SUGITA Yoneyuki, Osaka University

Literature and Culture

Presenter: MIURA Reiichi, Hitotsubashi University

Commentator: MISUGI Keiko, Kobe College

MC: ASO Takashi, Waseda University

From the evening of Sunday, July 25 to the evening of Tuesday, July 27, the International Graduate Student Seminar (IGSS) was held with 23 graduate students participating: 12 from Japan, 9 from the United States, and one from India and the Philippines respectively. The two-day program was as follows:

Evening of July 25: Orientation: lecture on the development of American Studies at Nanzan and another lecture on NASSS and its predecessors, and the kick-off dinner party.

Morning of July 26: Plenary Session: Discussions on “How to succeed in academic life”, followed by each graduate student giving a 2-minute presentation on his or her research project.

Afternoon: Excursion to downtown Nagoya (Osu-kannon Temple), Inuyama Castle and Joan Tea House, in Inuyama.

Morning and Afternoon of July 27: Three-separated Section Conferences on review of current research projects of each student.

Evening: Farewell Party and Final Free Discussion Time.

Morning of July 28: Departure of participants

We would like to point out the fact that, as last year, we adopted again for this year an open application system for selecting IGSS participants and as a result we received many more applications than expected. 24 graduate students were selected: 12 from Japan and 12 from overseas respectively (unfortunately, we had a student from Taiwan withdrawing on July 22). What was exceptional about this year’s IGSS was the whole-hearted participation of Japanese students who were able to overcome the communicative disadvantage with their knowledge and extraordinary enthusiasm to discuss their projects with other students and professional researchers. We believe that this year’s IGSS surely succeeded in providing a valuable networking forum for promising young researchers, and hope that they will further strengthen the bond among them.

We are quite sure that the four seminars so far have greatly enhanced the future relationship between the United States and Japan. After finishing all five seminars next year, we are also certain that not only our bilateral relationship, but also an intercultural understanding as a whole, will be greatly deepened through exchanging ideas among the younger generations of “scholars” who participated in graduate student seminars. We also hope that these young scholars will help build up a new ethics that we will be able to share in the future beyond our national differences.

We cordially ask for your continuing support for the final year of our fifth NASSS project in 2011.