

## Ocha/SOAS Joint Symposium

January 2007, London, UK

The theme of the Symposium: "Japanese study as common magnetic field of research"

The Joint Symposium with the SOAS (University of London) was carried out in period of four days from January 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The student exchange agreement with SOAS University started in 1999 and since then has been constantly continued for already eight years. Yet this kind of academic exchange is done for the first time.

At this four-day symposium every day a different topic was discussed. The subject of discussions greatly differs from those registered so please do acknowledge the difference between the discussion titles in the programme and in the submitted reports.

At the first day the topic of the symposium was the starting point of the Japanese Studies- the study of China. I personally asked for the non specialists in this field to take part in this session and Professor. Ikezawa, a present scholar of SOAS University, gave a presentation, which combined very well with the topic and made the session inevitably interesting and pleasant.

During the second day we had a very entertaining session on the study of Japan from the different angles of modern world such as history, art, and music. Since this session is related to the last day's session on the Myth of Emperor, Professor Kanda's report covers all the arguments and results of this session.

The third day we had an overbearing session on Shakuhachi (bamboo flute) and Mishima, which followed by the session of Professor Dodd. The report which covers the same topic characterizes this session. The comparison of the Japanese research style with SOAS research perspective was in fact, the reason for opening of this kind of joint seminar.

The last day by collecting reports on treats of the Emperor, I tried to combine 'The myth of Emperor' session into this Symposium. Although this session was not planned in advanced, both sides engaged in the argument mutually.

As a whole, I strongly felt that in the research of the Japanese studies this kind of exchange meeting can reveal the real value of the study. From the professional perception a magnetic field, which could not be predicted, was discovered and the fact that reporters themselves unexpectedly pulled each other is a very valuable experience.

Still, I reconfirm that the Japan studies is a research field of the meeting (both of the researchers and themes). I myself have participated in similar kind of joint seminars and I myself shared a great excitement. I guess that numerous participants of this joint seminar with SOAS University shared the same kind of feeling.

It was also a very rich joint symposium in the sense of the reports (presentations).

In the end, I would like to state that the strong cooperation of the SOAS Japan Research Centre is the reason for the success of this symposium and on this occasion I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Head of this Centre Professor Dr. John Breen.

(KOKAZE, Hidemasa)