

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Open Lecture

—hosted by the Center for Comparative Japanese Studies &  
Support Program for Improving Graduate School Education

Date: January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 (Wednesday) 9:30-11:00AM

Place: Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences Bldg. 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rm508 (SCS Hall)

Subject: "How to Teach Japanese Literature Abroad in the Age of Globalization — A Plan for Practicum of Comprehensive Japanese Language Education"

Lecturer: Hiromi Tsuchiya-Dollase (Assistant Professor, The Department of Chinese and Japanese, Vassar College, USA)

Moderator: MORIYAMA, Shin (Director, the Center for Comparative Japanese Studies, Ochanomizu University)

The first open lecture with the help of a video-conference system took place on January the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The meeting of this type was held for the first time as an attempt to make routine use of the global network of Japanese Studies. As part of a research project of the Center for Comparative Japanese Studies, "Comprehensive Japanese Language Education in the Age of Globalization" (Project Manager: MORIYAMA, Shin), we invited Professor Hiromi Tsuchiya-Dollase, one of our overseas researchers for the project, to deliver a lecture in the meeting.

It has often been pointed out in the context of Japanese language education that it is of vital importance to understand foreign cultures. Given today's fluid cultural situations, however, it will be necessary to review the traditional cultural education in Japan, and further consider introducing approaches of a novelty in teaching new generations. In the lecture, Professor Tsuchiya-Dollase, by paying close attention to some works from Japanese literature, explained how to utilize literary works for cultural education and thereby illustrated the significance of literature education as part of comprehensive Japanese language education.

Though the meeting started early in the morning on a snowy day, there was a good turnout and the hall was soon filled with people. The participating professors were Professor SASAKI, Yasuko in Japanese Language Education and Professor KAN, Satoko in Japanese Literature both from Ochanomizu University and two professors from Dalian University of Technology, while many graduates students attended from a variety of fields such as Japanese Language Education, Japanese Language and Japanese Literature. After the lecture, the Japanese audience posed questions on diverse issues such as on Japanese Literature and Japanese Language Education; on the other hand, Professor Tsuchiya-Dollase asked them for their own opinions on these issues – the meeting demonstrated to the fullest the greatest advantage of a satellite system which connects countries in real time; also its sound was so clear that we did not feel that the system was connecting two remote locations on the earth.

This success of an open video-conference lecture over the satellite system will not only open up the possibility of the teaching by those overseas instructors normally inaccessible to our students, but also provide the opportunities for the exchanges between researchers. That will certainly make a most remarkable contribution to Japanese cultural studies in the future.

(MORIYAMA)