

FRANCE JOINT SEMINAR “l’Université Paris Diderot (Paris 7) and Ochanomizu University: An Attempt to Reconstruct Japanese Studies” SUMMARY REPORT

Professor NAKAMURA, Toshinao (Ochanomizu University)

Dates: January 14 – 15, 2008

Place: l’Université Paris Diderot (Paris 7), Ecole Pratique des Hautes Études (at l’Université Paris-Sorbonne), Collège de France

Participants: FURUSE, Natsuko (Professor, Ochanomizu University), NAKAMURA, Toshinao (Professor, Ochanomizu University), Laure SCHWARTZ-ARENALES (Associate Professor, Ochanomizu University), NISHIOKA, Aki (Academic Assistant, Ochanomizu University), MOROI, Ayako (Doctoral Student, Ochanomizu University), SUZUKI, Tomoko (Doctoral Student, Ochanomizu University), BAN, Yurina (Doctoral Student, Ochanomizu University), NODA, Yukiko (Research fellow), YAGOSHI, Yoko (Doctoral Student, Ochanomizu University), SHIGETA, Kasumi (Doctoral Student, Ochanomizu University) (Total of 10 participants)

The first Joint Seminar took place at l’Université Paris Diderot January the 14th, 2008. The University had entered into an exchange agreement with Ochanomizu University last fall. Holding this joint seminar between the two universities is quite meaningful in that respect.

First, Professor Annick HORIUCHI (l’Université Paris Diderot) and Associate Professor SCHWARTZ-ARENALES both made a remark on the significance of this joint seminar. It was followed by the presentation sessions by five Japanese and three French participants in the morning and in the afternoon, chaired respectively by Professor HORIUCHI and Professor Cécile SAKAI (l’Université Paris Diderot). The French participants, who were master’s and doctoral students studying at the Japanese Studies Section of L’UNIVERSITE PARIS diderot, gave their presentations in perfect Japanese. Their topics covered diverse fields such as literature, history, philosophy, folklore, and sociology. Each presentation was succeeded by a lively question-and-answer period. The sessions were also attended by other French teachers and students from l’Université Paris Diderot, among whom were the experts of Japanese Studies at l’Université Paris Diderot, Assistant Professor Daniel STRUVE and Lecturer Arnaud BROTONS. Professor FURUSE concluded the seminar with his general comments on the sessions, also expressing his gratitude to l’Université Paris Diderot for hosting the joint seminar.

The presenters in the joint seminar were (in order of appearance): NAKAMURA Toshinao, MOROI, Ayako, NISHIOKA, Aki, Gerald PELOUX (doctoral student, l’Université Paris Diderot), SUZUKI, Tomoko, Coline SELMO (master’s student, l’Université Paris Diderot), Tristan BRUNET (doctoral student, l’Université Paris Diderot) and BAN, Yurina.

After the seminar at l’Université Paris Diderot, five Japanese participants (FURUSE, NAKAMURA, NODA, YAGOSHI and SHIGETA) went to l’Université Paris-Sorbonne to attend the two classes with other students taught by Professor Charlotte Von VERSCHUER from Ecole Pratique des Hautes Études. The topic of the first class was “Shukei-Ryo-Shiki” Vol.1 of *Engi-shiki*, while the second *Miyoshi-Kiyoyuki Iken Juni-ka-jyo*; they found the attendance to be quite a fruitful experience.

Meanwhile, the rest of the participants stayed at l’Université Paris Diderot so as to see the school’s collection of books on Japanese Studies.

Later in the evening, the teachers and students from the two universities strengthened further mutual understanding while dining together at a local brasserie in the Quartier Latin (Latin Quarter).

On the following day, January the 15th, with Professor Von VERSCHUER as a guide, we saw the collection of books on Japanese Studies owned by the Institut des Hautes Études Japonaises at Collège de France.

Later, the second Joint Seminar was held, chaired by Professor FURUSE and Professor Von VERSCHUER. In the seminar, three participants from Ochanomizu University (NODA, Yukiko, YAGOSHI, Yoko and SHIGETA, Kasumi) gave their presentations on the ancient history of Japan, all of which were highly appreciated by the audience. Also present at this joint seminar were some experts on Japanese Studies such as Sekiko PETITMENGIN-MATSUZAKI (Director, Institut des Hautes Études Japonaises, Collège de France), Michel VIEILLARD-BARON (Professor, I.N.A.L.C.O.), Estelle LEGGERI-BAUER (Assistant Professor, I.N.A.L.C.O.).

After the seminar, we appreciated French cuisine in a restaurant decorated in the Art Nouveau style in the Quartier Latin, which helped all the members relieve the weariness of the two-day seminar.