

Editor's Preface

It is our great pleasure to deliver to you all the second volume of our online academic bulletin: *Asia-Japan Research Academic Bulletin*.

As the name of the Bulletin indicates, we would like to make this bulletin for “Asia-Japan Research” in the global context, not only for our Institute. However, since this naming is our own, “Asia-Japan Research” may not easily find researchers who would identify themselves with this field of research. Even so, we all know that “a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step,” and we are determined in this journey.

It would be worthwhile on this occasion to briefly explain what we mean by “Asia-Japan Research”. Japan is a country of Asia, so Asia-Japan indicates Asia, which includes Japan. The reason Japan is singled out from Asia, even though connected by a dash (-), is that Japan has rediscovered, or has once more confirmed its Asian-ness as actual communication and academic collaboration has increased with other Asian countries in the recent decades.

It is important to emphasize here that we are not talking about Asia in separation from the rest of the world. During recent decades globalization has connected all countries in the world but even more so Asia in general and Japan in particular.

Accordingly, we intend to focus on Asia and Japan globally, regionally, and locally. Studies on Asia as a whole or on individual Asian countries, studies on Japan as well as Asia-Japan relations, relations between one Asian country and another, Asian regional integration studies, and more, are all welcome. While Asian studies from Asian perspectives are welcome, Asian studies from other viewpoints, and Asian researchers' works on non-Asian societies are also welcome.

Since our research activities are interdisciplinary, we welcome submissions on all disciplinary studies with particular specialties as well as interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary research on Asia-Japan.

We ask for your kind support and encouragement for this nascent academic *Bulletin* as well as your prospective contributions, within the range of the research fields stated above.

We promise to strive to promote research on and in Asia, including Japan as its part, with our full strength continuously.

Prof. Yasushi Kosugi
Director of the Asia-Japan Research Institute
and Chair of the Editorial Board