

## Editor's Preface

It is our great pleasure to deliver to you all the third volume of our annual journal, the *Journal of the Asia-Japan Research Institute of Ritsumeikan University*.

Despite our hopes to overcome or at least accommodate the utter uncertainty caused by the spread of the COVID-19 on a global scale, the difficult conditions are still ongoing, and we are all bearing the burdens of dealing with its challenges. Meanwhile, we have found digital transformation (DX) to be one of the solutions to the problems brought by these conditions. Holding international research meetings via online applications instead of traveling abroad and meeting face to face in a conference location has already become a normal part of our academic lives. We at the Asia-Japan Research Institute are grateful that all of our publications are digitalized, published online first and as hard copies later, so that the COVID-19 difficulties have little impact on its production.

It seems that DX sometimes stands for the accelerated technological development of digitalization. However, we should be mindful that this rapid digitalization is bringing about transformation in our societies. Therefore, we should not only be developing technological innovations ourselves but also focusing on the resulting social transformations in our research. Thus, DX is applicable for the methodologies and methods of research and also as the contents of such research.

If you are interested in any aspect of DX, or already engaged in such a topic, your contribution to our journal will be most welcome. We are also striving to continue our activities through more conventional, traditional, “onsite” methodologies. How to combine both aspects is another task we have to tackle. In addition, this digitalization of our lives certainly calls us to investigate what is analog, that is things that are being taken for granted and so not being consciously discussed, in our daily lives and in our research.

We ask for your kind support and encouragements for our journal. It is an academic media with a strict double-blind peer review system, open to all researchers in studies on Asia, Japan and Asia-Japanese relations. Your prospective contributions will be greatly appreciated.

October 2021

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