



HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

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PREFACE

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On the 1st of October 1989 I resigned from my position as the Director of the Research and Clinical Center for Child Development, Faculty of Education, Hokkaido University which was established on the 1st of April 1978. I am going to retire from Hokkaido University on the 31st of March after working for more than 36 years.

The establishment of RCCCD had been my long-cherished dream which was finally realized in 1978. One of the reasons why I believed it necessary to found an institution like the one we now have was that I had been ambitious to launch out a series of studies of infant and young children which would be highly significant both theoretically and practically. My short visits to the Institute of Human Development, University of California, Berkeley in 1964, and Fels Research Institute for Human Development, Yellow Springs, Ohio in 1965 were extremely useful in making my dream more realistic.

On returning to Hokkaido University in 1965 after staying one year at Harvard as a visiting scholar, I started my first longitudinal research on infancy and early childhood in collaboration with several researchers and clinicians in the fields of developmental psychology, pediatrics, and nursing. I was just like a fool rushing in where angels fear to tread. Things we could do in that research were just home observations, controlled observations in an insufficiently equipped room, developmental testings, and maternal interviews.

More than 10 years had passed before we finally succeeded in persuading the Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture into making a decision to establish an institution for child development research at Hokkaido University.

RCCCD was officially established on the 1st of April 1978 as a research institute affiliated to Faculty of Education, Hokkaido University, and the building covering a floor space of 581m² was completed toward the end of the same year. Feeling strongly the necessity of having an adequate space for the execution of a high quality international collaborative research project on infants with several different researchers in the U. S., I again tried hard to persuade the university authorities as well as the Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture into making an enlargement of the space of the building. They responded to my proposal positively after carefully examining my planning of cross-national research projects. As a result, the extension work was completed in January 1983, and the building space was enlarged to 1047m².

Among the questions I wanted to ask at that time were cross-cultural differences and similarities in infant temperament, attachment of the infant to her/his mother, and

the effects of ecological conditions on the development of behavior. Since 1980 I have been lucky enough to receive grants-in-aid from several different funding agencies including the Toyota Foundation, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, the Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture, and the Ministry of Public Welfare. These grants enabled us to not only purchase various kinds of laboratory equipments, but also conduct a series of longitudinal studies by using converging experimental operations in addition to naturalistic home observations.

Moreover, we were honoured by the visits of several first-class foreign psychologists to the Center. Among them are Jerome Kagan (1978), Joseph J. Campos (1983, 1988, 1989), Urie Bronfenbrenner (1983, 1987), Michael Lewis (1982, 1984), Alan Fogel (1984), Michael Lamb (1985), Marc Bornstein (1986), John Kirkland (1986), Klaus & Karin Grossmann (1988), and Meng ZaoLan (1989).

In July 1987 a pre-conference workshop "New Directions for Infancy Research" of the Biennial Convention of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development was held under the auspice of RCCCCD, in which the following fifteen foreign scholars participated:

Z. Ashkenazi, R. Q. Bell, E. K. Beller, L. D. Bradshaw, G. Butterworth, A. Cohen, A. Fogel, K. E. Grossmann, K. Grossmann, P. Hwang, L. Lipsitt, G. Morgan, H. Papousek, M. Papousek, and M. Stevenson.

I believe that the international exchange activities stated above have done much for stimulating the members of RCCCCD intellectually.

Those who are interested in learning what kinds of research activities have been done in these 12 years may refer to the back issues of Annual Report, Research and Clinical Center for Child Development.

Professor Kunio Wakai has succeeded me as director already in last October. From the bottom of my heart I hope that RCCCCD will continue to be an unique research institute for the study of infancy and early childhood in Japan, and that it will play an important academic role in ensuring the continuation of international cooperation on research issues of the highest theoretical and practical significance.