



HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

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Preface

Our international workshop on higher education, entitled by "New Horizon of Higher Education and Assessment of Teaching" took place in the 3 days from September 25th to 17th, 1997. It was organized by the Research Division for Higher Education, at the Center for Research and Development in Higher Education, Hokkaido University, to discuss aspects of general education, strategies for reform of the curriculum, of teaching skills, and of methods of assessment. This journal publishes the papers presented at this workshop. We translated the papers originally written in English into Japanese and these Japanese versions have been added to this journal for the convenience of Japanese readers. By reading through all the papers in this journal, we become aware of the present situation of higher education and the directions of reform progress all over the world.

The most radical educational reform since the second war is ongoing in Japanese universities. We added the subtitle "Where will Japanese universities go?" to this workshop. The last sessions of this workshop, which were open to members of the public, entitled as "Arts in Universities", to consider the new relationships that is emerging between universities and citizens, and how universities may contribute to the culture of society at large. The last session also focused on the importance of general education in research universities.

The workshop was held at the amphitheater in the School of Medicine Hokkaido University; this is a newest lecture room in Hokkaido University, having about 200 chairs and modern multimedia teaching equipment including a computer connected to the Internet, an image projector, a video player, a 35mm slide projector and overhead projector; I was lucky enough to be involved in all stages of planning of this building. About 250 participants were registered for this workshop from all Japan including many top leaders of universities and colleges. They included both speakers and delegates from abroad and about 70 members of the public.

We were privileged to have speakers from Japan and around the world who have taken a leading part in the reform of higher education. The speakers, 10 from United States, England, Australia, Russia, and Korea and 11 from Japan introduced diverse aspects of educational reform in the world.

This workshop was the result of the 2 year activity by the Research Division for Higher Education, Center for Research and Development in Higher Education. The Center, which consists of Division of General Education to provide general education curriculum, Research Division for Higher Education, and Research Division for Lifelong Learning was established in 1995. Both research divisions have several faculty members leading the educational reform in our university; and this combination of two such research divisions with faculty members is unique among all universities in Japan.

Every year, the Research Division for Higher Education invites a guest professor from abroad for three months or more, to contribute to the improvement of higher education in our university based on the existing situations in other countries. This international workshop was planned from this international exchange program. Professor Henry Rosovski, one of the speakers in this workshop, who was intended to be a guest professor in our division but was unable to come, worked as dean of Harvard University for about 10 years, publishing a famous book, "The University, An Owner's Manual" that has been translated into many languages including Japanese, and he has been awarded a prize from the Japanese government for educational contribution. Professor Michael Reardon is the Provost of Portland State University, sister school to our university. Portland State University is

distinctive in the United States due to unique educational reform to developing a university-community partnership. From Massachusetts University, another sister school of our university, we had two speakers, Professor Marcellette Williams, Deputy Chancellor, and Professor John Jenkins, Deputy Director of the Fine Arts Center. Massachusetts University is a land-grant university of the longest history, which is extensively developing a new curriculum to prepare students for leadership in the 21st century as a research university with liberal arts. Professor Mark Tennant, who was previously the Dean of Faculty of Education, the University of Technology Sydney, was our guest professor in 1995; he had worked for the institutional assessment to improve the quality of teaching in Australia. Michael Burrage is a lecturer in London School of Economics and he was our guest professor in 1997. In addition, we welcomed Suwako Watanabe, Associate Professor of Portland State University, Park Maeng-Su, Professor of Yongsanwon Buddhist University in Korea, Piotr Shalimov, Lecturer of Russian Academy for Economics, and Joseph Tomei, Lecturer in our own university.

The workshop opened with a presentation about universities in the 21st century, by our President Norihito Tambo. Professor Henry Rosovsky began his presentation by asking the audience "What are the proper standards of the academic profession?". Then presentations by many speakers from abroad introducing the realities of educational reform in universities of different cultural background were followed by presentations by Japanese speakers, and exciting discussions were exchanged after every presentation, which was very suggestive and impressive for us.

Though the precise contents of each presentation will be shown in this journal, I would like to make a brief comment about the last two. The title of the last session of this workshop provided a surprise for our President Tambo. Noting the present situation of no national universities with a faculty of fine art in Japan, Yasuo Harada, President of Hiroshima University, the second last speaker, explained the history and present system of art education in Japan. In addition he introduced his carrier as an opera singer, though his academic field is medicine. At the end, he sang a Italian song, "O Sole Mio", vibrating the wall of the amphitheater and the hearts of the audience. The last speaker, Professor Jenkins belongs to the Department of Music and Dance; he is a leader of curriculum reform for general education in Massachusetts University as well as an accomplished trumpet player. His presentation to emphasize the importance of general education in research universities very much impressed the faculties in our university, which is changing to a graduate school university. It was a very attractive presentation in a rhythm using video tape, music, and 35 mm slides to show activities of art education for special and general students. Thus, the program for 3 days finished on an exciting note for the audience.

This was one of the first large international workshop on higher education organized by a university in Japan; Japanese society for higher education was first established in 1997. We noticed both how plentiful the contents of this workshop were and that university educational reform taking place in Japan is an international concern. We have noticed differences in higher education between Japan and other countries and we have noticed that effective reform will be brought about by practical solutions of the problems.

Through this workshop we were able to consider higher education in Japan from a global perspective, thereby focusing the direction of educational reform. In this way we are better equipped to prepare students for the world they will face in the 21st century. We believe that the issues raised at this workshop will be of great relevance at the institutions of each of the participants. In addition, we expect that this journal will become a source of ideas for institutions of higher education, not only in Japan but all over the world.

We are very pleased that this workshop was successful after our concentrated arrangements over several months. Each member of the organizing committee played important roles during the arrangements and the workshop. It was my pleasure to be able to design several posters and leaflets as

well as the workshop itself. We are grateful to each of the speakers, the chairpersons, the audience, and administration staff and students in assisting us. I am pleased and honored to be able to introduce the members of Organizing Committee and Advisory Committee who made this workshop so successful (see the members of the organizing committee, p. iv).

Kazuhiro Abe

Chairman of the Organizing Committee of
the International Workshop on Higher Education