



# HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

Title	Opening Remarks by the Director of the Slavic Research Center
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Citation	Acta Slavica Iaponica, 5
Issue Date	1987
Doc URL	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2115/7963">https://hdl.handle.net/2115/7963</a>
Type	departmental bulletin paper
File Information	KJ00000034119.pdf



## **Remarks by the President of Hokkaido University**

Distinguished scholars and all participants of the Seminar, I would like to express my hearty welcome to all of you and, as the representative of Hokkaido University for this marvellous occasion, I hope you will spend successful two days here on the campus of Hokkaido University.

Because of our geographical proximity and historical circumstances, people in Hokkaido are keenly interested in our neighbor, the Soviet Union. And it is no accident that the Slavic Research Center, which is the only research institute in Japan on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, is located on our campus.

Therefore, this might be a good reason to have a United States-Japan seminar on the Soviet Union at Hokkaido University inviting the distinguished scholars on Soviet Studies from the United States and all over Japan for this conference.

As a result of the enthusiasm and hard work of the staff members of our Slavic Research Center and thanks to the assistance of the American Center in Sapporo directed by Mr. Spector, we are now hosting the Second Sapporo Summer Slavic Studies Seminar here. I hope this tradition of exchange between Japanese and American scholars will further continue.

I am honored to have the world's greatest specialists on the topic today, and I am fully confident that the Seminar will be very productive and pave the way for further development in Soviet studies in Japan as well as in the United States.

Dr. Mikio Arie  
President,  
Hokkaido University

## **Opening Remarks by the Director of the Slavic Research Center**

President Dr. Arie, distinguished scholars, guests and participants from the United States, the P. R. C., the R. O. K., and Japan, dear colleagues, and ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great honor and privilege for me to welcome all of you to the two-day seminar. This is the second Sapporo Summer Slavic Studies Seminar, the first seminar being held here, at our Center, at about the same time last year.

This seminar has, in my view, several salient features, including the following :

First, this is a Japan-US joint symposium. Although we did hold in the past an international conference, inviting American, French, and scholars from other foreign countries four years ago, this conference is a gathering, consisting mainly of participants from the United States and Japan.

The second characteristic, which stems almost automatically from the first, is that

the official language of our symposium is English. This is a sort of a special favor to be extended by the Japanese and participants from other countries to the American participants. Since we are all specialists on Slavic affairs, we could use, for instance, Russian, the third language, as a common language to communicate with each other. But the Japanese and other participants have generously agreed to use English at this symposium, probably because they are self-confident enough to do so and they believe that content and substance of the discussion is more important than languages. Yet, having in mind this handicap of the non-American participants, I would greatly appreciate if the American participants would speak as slowly and clearly as possible, and will also be patient and tolerant so that the Japanese participants are encouraged to speak out even in imperfect English.

The third point I would like to emphasize is the title of the Seminar of this year: "The Soviet Union Faces Asia : Perceptions and Policies." In contrast to the European part of the USSR the Asian part of the Soviet Union has been a long neglected area. There is no need to say that this defect ought to be corrected as soon as possible. And in order to do so, it is highly desirable for Western, Asian and Soviet scholars to cooperate with each other. Our Slavic Research Center has been making such efforts, inviting such experts in this field as John Stephan, James Gibson, Stuart Kirby, Leslie Dienes on individual basis. Yet, this symposium is the first attempt by our center to organize the entire seminar so as to address solely and exclusively the Asian affairs of the Soviet Union. In this regard, we are extremely fortunate that such respected specialists on the subject as Professors Treadgold, Rozman, Shabad, and Ha have agreed to come to join us in this seminar.

Fourth, I would like to call your attention to the fact that this symposium provides an excellent opportunity to exchange not only our academic views but also more practical information concerning the means to develop our studies further. More concretely, who in the world are currently being engaged in this or that kind of studies? And to what extent? Which institutions and libraries are the best place to obtain this or that kind of research materials? With respect to fulfilling this kind of so-called "latent function" of academic conference, this seminar will be particularly useful, because such professors as Treadgold, Rozman, Shabad, and Ha are all not simply the leading academic authority in each field but also the key figures of Slavic studies in the United States. They are either the heads, directors or editors of the institutes, programs or organs of the Soviet-East European studies of their own affiliated institutions or national organizations. In this regard as well, the Japanese and other participants are extremely fortunate. In social hours, such as coffee breaks, banquets, and dinner parties, I am quite sure, all the participants will take full advantage of this opportunity to exchange both academic views and practical information. Then this symposium will prove to be not just a one-time conference, but will mark the beginning of our further contact with American colleagues.

Last, but certainly not the least, I cannot fail to express our profound gratitude to the generous assistance extended to us by the United States Information Agency (USIA) in general and particularly by the staff of the American Center in Sapporo headed by Mr. Brooks Spector. They have provided financial aid which has enabled us to bring to Sapporo American speakers from all over the United States and several Japanese

specialists from Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka, and Kobe. Moreover, they are helping us tremendously with their devoted work, without which I believe this symposium would not have been made possible. And yet, the USIA and Sapporo American Center have not intervened at all in the substantial aspects of the conference. When it came to the selection of the American participants, the title of the papers, not to mention of the general topic, they let us do whatever we liked. Thanks to this generosity, we can claim that our academic freedom and the free exchange of opinions are completely secured.

Hiroshi Kimura  
Director  
Slavic Research Center