

## Foreword

This collection of essays is one of the products of a three-year collaborative research project. During the academic and fiscal years 2003, 2004, and 2005, faculty members of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) in Kyoto joined with scholars from universities in Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam, and a few other Japanese institutions to examine the theme "Globalization, Localization, and Japanese Studies in the Asia-Pacific Region: Past, Present, Future" in three symposia. Altogether more than a hundred scholars made presentations or acted as discussants over the course of the project. The present volume contains some of the work originally presented in the first year.

Earlier versions of the essays in this volume were presented and discussed at an international symposium from 30 September through 4 October 2005. Co-organized by the International Research Center for Japanese Studies and the Department of Japanese Studies of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the event took place on the campus of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Professor Mito Takamichi of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (at the time of the event; he has since moved to a position at Waseda University), the late Professor Sonoda Hidehiro of Nichibunken, Associate Professor Timothy Kern of Nichibunken, and I were the persons most heavily engaged in the early stages of planning for the symposium.

Professor Suzuki Sadami deserves prominent mention, and our warmest appreciation, as the author of the original proposal for this project during his tenure as Director of Nichibunken's Office of Research Exchange in the academic years 2000 through 2002. After the proposal was approved, I served for one year and Sonoda Hidehiro served for two as chairman of the Nichibunken committee that was responsible for planning and executing this Center's activities in the series of symposia.

Katakura Motoko, Director-General of Nichibunken, and Fong Kwok Pui, Professor and Head, United College, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, delivered opening remarks and took part in discussions. Welcoming greetings were also offered by Wood Hung Lee, Professor and Chairman, Department of Japanese Studies, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Kitamura Takenori, Consul-General of Japan in Hong Kong. The symposium organizers wish to thank all of them once more for their help in making the Hong Kong event successful.

I am pleased to express gratitude also for the support of Inoki Takenori, now the Director-General of this Center and at the time of the Hong Kong Symposium Director of the Office of Research Exchange, who provided valuable advice to the organizers. Nakanishi Takeshi, a Co-Ordinator on the staff of the Research Cooperation Division at Nichibunken in 2004, was responsible for managing the administrative matters that have to be taken care of in order to move scholars from several nations to a conference location, to arrange for their lodging, and to see to copying and other details of preparation for the academic presentations that now appear in another version in these pages. I want also to thank Kinoshita Atsushi, then Chief of the Research Cooperation Division, Kosaka Yoshimi, then Chief of the General Affairs Division, Masuoka Takeru, Specialist in the

General Affairs Division, and Ogawa Naoko, then a research assistant for Nichibunken Professor Yamada Shōji's team research project (all of Nichibunken) and Zoe Luk and Jeff Wood, Professor Mito's assistants for this event at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. All of them contributed to the smooth implementation of conference plans, ensuring that not only our academic sessions, but also meals and extracurricular activities were on schedule and enjoyable for all participants.

Finally, sincere thanks also are due to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, which supported this three-year project with a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research, and to United College of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Japanese Consulate General of Hong Kong, and the Nichibunken Zaidan. This volume offers to readers some of the results made possible by this funding.

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\* The affiliation shown below the author's name on the first page of each essay is as of the time of the symposium. For updated information, please see the Notes on Contributors at the end of this volume.