Acknowledgements

First, my gratitude goes to the IRCJS's staff. The core staff members, YASUI MAKOTO, IKEUCHI Hiroe, and HONDA Tomoko, and the administrator, KOTOURA Kayoko, efficiently provided all the necessary assistance throughout the symposium under the leadership of KITA Yoshifumi, chief of the International Cooperation Unit. MORITA Misao and KITA Eriko, staff members, and YOSHIDA Yasuhiro, chief of the Research Projects Unit, oversaw the public conference in cooperation with the staff members of the Information Division. Overall management was provided by SAITŌ Natsue, deputy head, and KIRIYAMA Motonori, head of the Research Cooperation Division.

The closed seminars were conducted directly in English without interpretation, but the public lecture was supported by professional simultaneous interpreters. My thanks go to NAKAMURA Setsuko and SHIMADA Ayako who seamlessly translated the highly technical discussions. Without the dedication and devotion of all these persons, the symposium could not have been successful. After the symposium, SHIRAISHI Eri and GOTŌ Mikako made invaluable contributions to the editing. Their tactful handing enabled the publication of the proceedings on time. Last but not least, my sincere thanks to all the participants, commentators, chairpersons, and observers who enthusiastically cooperated in the rich and animated discussions during the three days of intensive exchanges of ideas.

My special thanks also go to Dr. Mitsuyo WADA-MARCIANO as well as to Professor Patricia FISTER for their generous support in the editing.

Let me finish with an unforgettable experience. It was during the research field work, on the beautiful morning of the 11th of November. Professor ÕHASHI Ryōsuke's initiative enabled the invited guests to make a special visit to the Bôsen tea house, designed by Kobori Enshū, located at the Kohōan subtemple in the precinct of the Daitokuji Monastery. This famous tea house has not been open to public at least for the last ten years. Thanks to this delightful invitation, for which we are all most grateful, Professor Michael MARRA's long cherished dream finally came true. Professor Manfred SPEIDEL, a specialist of Bruno Taut, served as an excellent guide, joyfully conversing with the abbot on every detail as if they were old friends for the last fifty years. In their conversation were summoned all the historical figures who had taken a cup of tea in the room since almost four hundred years ago. Indeed, their spirits were vividly present.

INAGA Shigemi

Organizer and Chair of the 38th International Research Symposium Kyoto, January 7, 2011