

Preface

The purpose of this international symposium is to shed new light on the cultural characteristics of various regions in East Asia with reference to Daoism. Daoism constitutes the basic structure of the East Asian culture have focused on Buddhism and Confucianism. Therefore, an in-depth consideration of Daoism with regard to thought, literature, folklore, history and archaeology is required in order to perceive the basic structure of East Asian cultures. Such an approach is also necessary for discussing the formation of Japanese culture.

Our basic premise is that Daoism, originating in China, had considerable influence on other regional cultures in East Asia. By focusing on Daoism, we may distinguish similarities and differences among these regional cultures and so put these cultures into a broader historical and geographical contexts. Ultimately, we hope to identify factors that link the variety of East Asian cultures.

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