

## Tokai University European Center (TUEC)

### Japanese Language Education Workshop Fall 2013



A two-day Japanese language education workshop was held at TUEC on the weekend of November 2-3. The workshop was the eighth, so far, in TUEC's series of Japanese language education workshops aimed at Japanese language teachers in the Nordic countries, and commenced in the spring of 2010. The workshop series targets institutions offering Japanese language education, with the primary focus being on universities with Japan studies programs.

Listening comprehension was the theme of the fall 2013 workshop. Effective listening exercises are integral and necessary in order to attain proficiency in a foreign language. Under the title, "Listening Comprehension Material as Spoken Language Audio Input Material: Considering Application and Instruction Methods," the workshop examined and discussed teaching methods in Japanese language education from the perspective of listening comprehension.

Ms. Sachie Miyagi, professor at Tokai University's Institute of Global Education and Research (TIGER), featured as main speaker. Ms. Miyagi's lecture dealt with the function and role of audio input from the perspective of cognitive psychology and second language acquisition, and proposed that listening exercises at the beginner and intermediate levels should focus on developing learner ability to process audio information in a process of so-called 'automatization', building on techniques such as 'shadowing' and 'repeating'. The lecture was followed up by two work sessions on the effective use of listening comprehension materials, class planning and instruction methods.

In addition to the main lecture and its work sessions, the workshop also included five presentation contributions by participants. The first, by Ms. Miho Inaba of Lund University (Sweden), followed up on a presentation given at the previous spring 2013 workshop, by presenting fresh feedback results and reflections on project work involving the production of videos as language learning exercises; the second presentation, by Ms. Maki Sakakibara of Stockholm University (Sweden), introduced current research being conducted into the development of phoneme consciousness in bilingual children; the third presentation, by Mr. Jesper Beckman of

Frederiksberg Adult Education Center (Denmark), expounded on the importance of understanding basic Japanese grammatical structures, and presented a grammatical strategy for effective text comprehension; the fourth presentation was given by Assistant Professor Jiro Tomioka and Mr. Yuri Anzai of Aarhus University (Denmark) and described the current state of Japanese language education at this university; and the fifth and final presentation, by Ms. Kaori Maezono of the Institute of Adult Education in Helsinki (Finland), introduced the Japanese language teacher seminars held in Alsace, France, as joint-endeavors between the Japan Foundation and the European Centre for Japanese Studies in Alsace (CEEJA).

The workshop gathered participants from various institutions, including the University of Copenhagen, Aarhus University and Copenhagen Business School in Denmark, Lund University and Stockholm University in Sweden, as well as from language schools in both Finland and Denmark.

TUEC is currently in the process of producing the workshop proceedings, which will report in more detail on the content of the workshop (please direct any inquiries in this connection to TUEC). The proceedings will be made available on TUEC's website upon completion ([www.u-tokai.dk](http://www.u-tokai.dk)), alongside all previous Japanese language education workshop proceedings already available online.



*Ms. Sachie Miyagi.*



*Work session.*



*Group photo of workshop participants.*