

Tokai University European Center

International Symposium

November 13-14

“Civilization Dialogue between Europe and Japan”

- Responsibilities of Academic Research in an Era of the ‘Clash of Civilizations’ -



The international symposium “Civilization Dialogue between Europe and Japan” was held at Tokai University European Center (TUEC) in Copenhagen on November 13-14, 2015.

The purpose of the symposium was to re-examine and compare the fundamental values inherent in European and Japanese civilizations, respectively, concerning human existence, society and nature.

The organizing body of the symposium was Tokai University’s Institute of Civilization Research (ICR). ICR was established in 1959 and has since its inception promoted the academic study of human civilizations throughout the world. In 2015, a research project bearing the title “Trans-Disciplinary Humanities” was launched for the purpose of conducting comprehensive research on contemporary civilization. TUEC, co-organizer of the recent symposium, has since its opening in 1970 acted as a hub for academic relations in Europe. Over the years, TUEC has conducted countless international symposia, seminars and workshops covering a wide variety of academic topics, and in doing so has accumulated a considerable network of contacts within academia and research environments in Europe.

The symposium was held as a two-day event featuring speakers including Mr. Peter Groennegaard of the Danish National Agency for Higher Education, Professor Peter Pantzer of the University of Bonn (Germany), Professor Luca Tateo of Aalborg University (Denmark), Dr. Denis Francesconi of the University of Verona (Italy) and Dr. Nana Miyata of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Representing Tokai University, speakers included Professor Yoichi Hirano of the School of Letters (vice-chancellor of Tokai University), Professor Nobutaka Kutsuzawa (director of ICR), Professor

Shogo Tanaka and Mr. Toru Hattori, lecturer at the School of Tourism. During the paper session on the second day, graduate students from Tokai University also contributed with presentations.

The symposium was open to a select local audience in Denmark comprising just over 20 interested guests over both days. These participants, who contributed to stimulating the debate, were mainly from Copenhagen Business School, the Denmark-Japan Society and students of Japanese language and culture.

Upon completion of the symposium program, ICR director Professor Nobutaka Kutsuzawa, satisfied with the successful outcome and convinced of the importance of continuing to examine the theme of civilization dialogue between Europe and Japan, expressed the intention of following up with a second symposium next year. Tokai University Institute of Civilization Research is also has plans to apply for funds from the 'Jean Monnet Program' which is aimed at supporting education and research institutions outside of the EU engaged in Europe-related research activities.