

## Exploring International Team Research and Collaboration for Next-generation Nichibunken Scholars

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Under its Third Mid-Term Plan (2016–2021) the National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU) has placed Nichibunken in charge of “Coordination between Projects to Make Effective Use of Research Results” of the Network-based Projects: Japan-related Documents and Artifacts held Overseas. As part of efforts for functional enhancement of the project, Nichibunken has also been assigned to promote the Japanese Popular Culture Research Project and serve as secretariat for the Consortium for Global Japanese Studies. These tasks seemed a bit too heavy for a small organization of “fifteen professors” (at the time of Nichibunken’s founding) but the extraordi-



Engaged in lively discussion at the Hirado International Symposium (Hirado Dutch Trading Post, February 9, 2019).  
平戸国際シンポジウムでの熱気を帯びた総合討論の様子（平戸オランダ商館、2019年2月9日）

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narily capable staff has proved capable of fulfilling the tasks.

I took charge of the “Overseas” promotion office. This work is not of the sort that can be fulfilled by Nichibunken alone. I felt keenly the necessity to continually update the network in various parts of the world for best utilization of documents and human resources. Our collaboration with the city of Hirado, for instance, has produced a migration and cultural exchange program based on its history of 500 years. We reported on the results of the program at the 2017 meeting in Lisbon of the European Association for Japanese Studies and the XXII Congress in Macau of the International Comparative Literature Association, and saw the possibility for achieving a new break-through in the conventions of global Japanese studies. The experience brought into clear focus the increasing importance of interactive and cross-cultural networks of academic cooperation and systems for interdisciplinary study in order to carry out further objectives of research.

In view of the likely further tightening of the government fiscal situation, how should we achieve those objectives? First, we need to organize team research meetings on line that will utilize the advances of the Internet as well as the resources Nichibunken has accumulated over the last three decades. This will allow both cost reduction and enhanced international cooperation. Second, an active policy should be adopted to place Nichibunken-hired researchers from overseas at the core of team research. Nichibunken’s team research projects as a whole should be first and foremost international. Third, we propose that, as a springboard for team research reforms, a consortium be formed for multifaceted exchange between global Japanese studies institutes in Japan and networks of researchers of Japanese studies overseas, as well as for international organizational consolidation. The prospect for the future rests upon whether we can propose feasible plans that, combining several sources of funding (including competitive funds) and involving overseas research and educational institutes, will lead to [the next] six-year mid-term plan. Nichibunken’s future will be determined by whether we, while watching Hong Kong, Zhuhai, Macau, and Singapore and with a view to the year 2050, will be able to present a bright multinational intellectual outlook of “Maritime Asia” through Trans-Pacific academic migration networks—this we should do instead of only following in the path of government-issued administrative guidance.

## 日文研次世代の国際共同研究・研究協力への模索

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日文研は第3期中期計画で、人間文化研究機構から、「日本関連在外資料調査研究・活用」事業の「プロジェクト間連携による研究成果活用」という総括業務を委託された。またその傍らでは、機能強化の一環として「大衆文化研究プロジェクト」の推進と、「国際日本研究」コンソーシアムの運営を求められた。もとより教授定員15名（発足時）の零細企業には荷の過ぎた任務だが、並外れた力量の構成員によってかろうじてその責めを塞いだ。

筆者は、「在外」推進室の責任者を務めた。もとよりひとり日文研のみで達成できる業務ではない。だが資料や人材活用において、世界との network 形成を不断に更新する必要性を痛感した。平戸市との協力関係からは、500年の世界史を踏まえた移民文化交流が具体化した。リスボンでのEAJS（欧州日本研究会）やマカオでの ICLA（国際比較文学会）でその成果を発信し、従来の国際日本研究からの脱皮の可能性を体験した。双方向・多国籍の学術協力網、特定の専門分野を横断した学際的研究系の必然性、が次なる研究目標を具体的に浮上させる。

行財政状況の悪化を見越して、これらをどう実現するか。ひとつには30年間の資料の蓄積とinternet

の発達を活用する virtual研究会の募集と運営。経費節減と国際的な協働を一挙に実現する方策である。ふたつには海外から雇用する客員研究員を共同研究の中核に位置付ける積極策。日文研の共同研究は、おしなべて「国際」を旨とするのが当然だろう。3つめに、共同研究刷新の足場として、国内の国際日本研究諸機関と国外の日本研究者網との多角的な交流の consortium運営基盤への脱皮と国際的統廃合。競争資金を含む複数財源を組み合わせて、海外の研究機関や教育施設をも巻き込みつつ、次期中期6年計画に先鞭をつける企画を提唱できるか否かが、将来の明暗を分かち。香港や珠海、澳門や新嘉坡にも目配せしつつ、行政指導の後追いではなく、2050年を視野に、「海洋アジア」の多国籍的展望を、環太平洋に拡がる学術移民交易網によって実現できるか否かが、日文研の将来を決することだろう。



Panel discussion at ICLA meeting, titled “Marine Vessels and Roads as the Socializing Vehicle: Experiences Enroute, Transnational Encounters and Exchanges” (University of Macau, July 31, 2019).

ICLA（国際比較文学会）でのパネルディスカッション（マカオ大学、2019年7月31日）