PREFACE

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This year, in an effort to extend chieftaincy, ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) occupied many cities in Iraq and Syria, killing two Japanese and declaring that Japanese citizens might now be targeted in terrorist attacks. This has made travel to Turkey hazardous.

Therefore, we participated in the “3rd International Conference on Archi-Cultural Interactions through the Silk Road” (March 25-27, 2015), held at the Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, via video conference.

Although the opening ceremony began in the evening in Istanbul, it was at the midnight here in Japan, because of a seven hour time difference between the two countries. I spoke the opening ceremony. And over the course of three days, all of our staffs joined the conference at night following a full day of teaching and studying, in order to present their papers.

The video conference system is, in general, effective for the exchange of architecture design practices and lectures, but not between two countries with a seven hour time difference. The next conference, “The 4th International Conference on Archi-Cultural Interactions through the Silk Road”, will be held at our university at the end of June 2016.

The Inter Cultural Studies of Architecture (ICSA) in Japan commenced as usual; 10 Bahçeşehir University students and Vice-Dean Murat Dundar visited our Department of Architecture at Mukogawa Women’s University on June 24, 2014.

例年の通り ICSA in Japan 2014 を開催した。トルコ・バフチェヒル大学建築デザイン学部の学生10人とムラト副学部長が6/24(火)に来校した。3、4年生のスタジオで武庫川女子大学建築学科の学生と機を並べて設計演習やフィールドワークに励んだ。

今年、シリアでは ISIS が多くの都市を攻撃し、支配地域を拡大した。その ISIS が日本人二人を殺害した。そして今後、日本をテロの標的にすると宣言した。

そのため、イスタンブールのバフチェヒル大学で開催（2015/3/25-27）された第3回「シルクロードを通して見た建築と文化」国際会議に、こちらはテレビ会議形式で参加した。

開会式はイスタンブールの夕刻から始まった。時差が7時間なので、こちらでは真夜中から始まった。真夜中の国際会議で開会式の挨拶をした。先生方の論文発表も、昼間にこちらの授業や設計演習をこなして夜中に行われた。これが三日間続いた。

テレビ会議システムは建築設計演習や授業の交換に利用すると有効であるが、トルコとの間の交流は時差が大きな問題である。第4回は2016年の6月、第2回に続いて、また本学で開催する予定である。
During this period, Dean and Prof. Dr. Sema Soygeniş of the Faculty of Architecture and Design of Bahçeşehir University joined the ICSA in Japan. She participated in the Jury of Design Program for third-year students and the Jury for fourth-year students, and gave the lecture “Architecture and the city: memory walks in Istanbul”.

The ICSA in Istanbul was also conducted as usual; 13 students from the Master Course visited Bahçeşehir University from October 9 through October 25 with Associate Professor Sugiura and Assistant Hongo. Not only Istanbul and its surrounding ancient cities; such as Bursa and Edirne, but also southern Greek cities; such as Bergama and Ephesus, were visited.

Six archeologists concerned with the protection of cultural properties and administration on three from the Kyrgyz Republic and three from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan visited our Department of Architecture on July 10.

Activities of the Architecture Major and the Architecture Department, such as design practices in the studio, architecture projects by students and faculty, and the laboratories for structural and environmental experiments, were introduced. Lectures on the culture and traditional architecture of each country were presented and a courtesy visit paid to Chancellor Okawara.

The next day, in Kyoto, the huge timber framework of Goei Hall in the East Honganji Temple, the renovation site of a town-house, and some sites of the Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings were visited.

Dr. Mehrdad Hejazi, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Isfahan (located in Isfahan, the old capital of Iran, as Kyoto is of Japan), visited Mukogawa Women’s University’s Department of Architecture on September 1. After exploring the campus and meeting with Chancellor Okawara, he visited the world’s largest 3-D full-scale earthquake testing facility, E-Defense, at the Hyogo Earthquake Engineering Research Center (in Miki-city) of the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention. He expressed his hopes for international exchange with Mukogawa Women’s
The Institute of Turkish Culture Studies (ITCS) organizes several seminars each year at Koshien Hall with themes related to studies of the culture, history and architecture of the countries surrounding the Silk Road, where the histories of the rise and fall of intercommunicating cultures have been repeated since ancient times. However, in modern history, many of these accounts are apt to be forgotten. The Silk Road should not be understood as merely a simple method of trade.

This year the ITCS shared the following three remarkable seminars. The first seminar, held on Friday, December 19 was entitled “Garden as a paradise in the arid region: an observation based on architecture of Persian origin” by Dr. Naoko Fukami (Adjunct Researcher, the Organization for Islamic Area Studies of Waseda University).

The second seminar, “Hellenism the opening to a new and diverse world” by Dr. Kosaku Maeda (Professor Emeritus of Wako University), was held on Thursday, February 19.

The third seminar, held on Friday, March 6, was “Archaeology in Jerusalem—its developments and tasks”, by Dr. Tomotoshi Sugimoto (Professor of Keio University’s Faculty of Letters).