Since 2011, Mukogawa Women’s University has held the lecture series “The Preservation and Restoration of Our Country’s Modern Architecture” at the Industry Club of Japan, located in front of Tokyo Station. The new lecture series “Silk Road Culture and Architecture,” begun in 2015, is also being held in the same location.

The first lecture meeting, entitled “World Heritage Silk Road and Islamic Architecture,” was held on February 28 (Saturday), 2015. Kazuya Yamauchi (Head, Regional Environment Section, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo) gave a lecture entitled “The World of the World Heritage Silk Road.” Next, Naoko Fukami (Adjunct Researcher, Organization for Islamic Area Studies, Waseda University) gave a lecture entitled “Islamic Architecture of the Silk Road.” Finally, Chalpasah, an Afghan music unit, performed traditional music from Afghanistan.

The second conference, entitled “The Gandhara Buddhist Ruins and Silk Road Merchants” was held on May 30 (Saturday), 2015. Masaya Masui (Professor of the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University) gave a lecture entitled “Investigating and Preserving/Restoring Ghandara Buddhist Ruins.” Next, Yutaka Yoshida (Professor of the Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University) discussed “The Identity of Sogdian Traders Who Supported the Silk Road.” Finally, Ryohei Terada (Tuvin music
performer and throat singer) performed the traditional music of the Republic of Tuva.

The third lecture meeting was held on February 27 (Saturday), 2016. Entitled “Shaping of the Silk Road West-East Connection,” the conference began with Kosaku Maeda (Professor Emeritus of Wako University), who gave a lecture entitled “Journey of Heracles: Encounter between East and West.” Next, Yasuyoshi Okada (Professor of the Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq, Kokushikan University) gave a lecture entitled “Comparative Dome Architecture Theory: Rome and the Silk Road.” Finally, Pouri Anavian (performer of santur, a traditional Persian dulcimer) and Dalia Anavian (Persian cultural ambassador and Persian music and history guide) performed traditional Persian music.

On June 6 (Saturday), 2015, a special lecture was held by Mukogawa Women University’s Department of Architecture and Architecture Major. Tomoyuki Masuda (Professor of the Faculty of Letters, Arts and Sciences, Waseda University) gave a lecture entitled “Byzantine Art and Architecture.” It provided a good opportunity for the audience to reconsider the value of mural paintings, which have become forgotten in modern architectural space.

As in previous years, ICSA in Japan 2015 was held. On June 23 (Tuesday), 2015, Mukogawa Women’s University welcomed ten students and vice Dean Murat from Bahcesehir University’s Faculty of Architecture and Design in Turkey. Second-, third-, and fourth-year Turkish students sat next to students of the university’s Department of Architecture and participated in design exercises and field trips together.

On July 27 (Monday), 2015, Associate Professor Mehrdad Hejazi of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Isfahan, located in the ancient capital of Isfahan, visited Mukogawa Women’s University. He had also visited in the previous year. To conduct comparative research of Japan’s five-storied pagodas and Iran’s minarets, he exchanged information with Associate Professor Hiroyuki Tagawa. Afterwards, he observed a final-jury of
The Graduate School of Mukogawa Women’s University held its entrance ceremony on September 15 (Tuesday), 2015. Two students from Turkey entered the Architecture Major. About 50 students and faculty members participated in the ceremony. The two Turkish students graduated from Bahcesehir University. During their studies there, they participated in ICSA in Japan, and decided to study architecture in earnest at Mukogawa Women’s University.

The Institute of Turkish Culture Studies hosts a series of seminars every year at Koshien Hall. The theme is the Silk Road and the cultures, histories, and architectures of countries involved in that trade network.

Three seminars were held this year. All the events were deeply fascinating.

For the first seminar on June 4 (Thursday), 2015, Kazuya Yamauchi (Head, Regional Environment Section, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo) and Hiroki Yamada (Associate Fellow, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo) gave a lecture entitled “Iranian Architecture and Culture.”

For the second seminar on January 8 (Friday), 2016, Professor Yasuyoshi Okada of Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq, Kokushikan University, gave a lecture entitled “Ancient Dome Architecture of Western Asia.”

For the third seminar on February 24 (Wednesday), 2016, Lecturer Shunpei Iwai of Ryukoku University discussed “Layout of Ancient Buddhist Temples in Central Asia.”

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