

## *Preface*

---

This booklet is a report on the International Symposium “The Possibility of Making Japanese Philosophy an Academic Discipline,” held on August 2, 2010 at UTCP. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Research Institute for Oriental Cultures (RIOC) at Gakushuin University. RIOC generously offered UTCP an opportunity to have a joint symposium on Japanese Philosophy with three visiting scholars invited by RIOC, that is, Viren Murthy (University of Ottawa), Ching-yuen Cheung (The Chinese University of Hong-Kong), and Wing-keung Lam (The Hong Kong Institute of Education). Professors Cheung and Lam also gave talks on the meaning of Kitaro Nishida in a broader context, on July 29 before the symposium. It is these two professors who proposed the idea of a symposium to explore the possibility of Japanese Philosophy as a coming academic discipline. In other words, we are now trying to understand Japanese Philosophy as a challenge to think of our world differently. We don’t want to stabilize Japanese Philosophy in an established department, but to use it as a tool to intervene and shake the academic apparatus as it exists in the modern university system.

Besides these three visiting scholars, I asked two professors to join the symposium: Nobuo Takayanagi (Gakushuin University) and Makoto Tokumori (University of Tokyo). Professor Takayanagi is a steering member of RIOC and played a major role in the invitation of the three visiting scholars. Without his help and advice, it would have been difficult to have the symposium.

Henceforth, UTCP will continue to organize and host various activities on Japanese Philosophy. We welcome any suggestions or proposals for “making Japanese Philosophy an academic discipline.” UTCP is an

open platform for any activity or challenge based upon Japanese Philosophy.

Takahiro NAKAJIMA

UTCP

January 29, 2011