

Preface

Since June 2008, the University of Tokyo Center for Philosophy (UTCP) has held a lecture series on Japanese Intellectual History. The majority of the presenters were not Japanese but researchers from around the world who produced excellent studies on Japanese philosophy. We at UTCP are very honored that they are all interested in our activities and that they gave such rich lectures. I'd like to express my hearty thanks to all of the participants, listed below in chronological order (the sessions marked * are those published in this booklet):

June 10, 2008. Michel DALISSIER (International Research Center for Japanese Studies, Kyoto [Nichibunken]), “MIKI Kiyoshi's *The Logic of Imagination*”

* July 7. Thomas P. KASULIS (Ohio State University), “Writing a History of Japanese Philosophy: What I have learned”

* July 10. Viren MURTHY (University of Ottawa), “Overcoming Modernity and Capitalism: On HIROMATSU Wataru”

* July 15. KIMOTO Ken (Cornell University), “TOSAKA Jun's Philosophy of Technology”

* July 21. Christian UHL (Ghent University), “Between Nietzsche and Evolutionary Theory: LU Xun's Contradiction Revisited”

* November 28. Michael MARRA (UCLA), “Aesthetic Categories: Past and Present”

* December 2. Michael MARRA, “Italian Fireflies into the Darkness of History”

December 9. SHIMAMURA Teru (Joshi University of Art and Design), “The Crab Ship Revisited and Its Global Trend: How Students at the University of Tokyo Read It”

December 16. NISHIYAMA Yuji (UTCP), “MARUYAMA Masao: Save the Name of Democracy”

* January 9, 2009. Eddy DUFOURMONT (University of Bordeaux), “The Spirit of Parody: NAKAE Chōmin on ‘Philosophy of Joy’”

* January 27. John MARALDO (Professor Emeritus, University of North Florida), “The Promise of Japanese Philosophy I: Autonomy versus Dependency, Agency versus Passivity: an Alternative”

* January 29. John MARALDO, “The Promise of Japanese Philosophy II: Fact versus Value, Descriptive versus Normative: an Alternative”

On July 24, 2008, two young professors specializing in Japanese philosophy, Prof. LAM Wing Keung (The Hong Kong Institute of Education) and CHEUNG Ching-yuen (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) visited our center. Their visit was part of their planning of an international conference on the relationship between Chinese and Japanese philosophy. Thanks to the great efforts of these two young colleagues, this epoch-making conference indeed took place on December 13 and 14, 2008, in Hong Kong, under the title “Envisioning Japanese and Chinese Philosophical Potentials in the 21st Century”. The conference brought together scholars of Japanese and Chinese philosophy, including our two guests here at UTCP, John MARALDO and Michel DALISSIER, one of our Collaborative Research Fellows, KIM Tae-ho, and myself. It had assumed the ambitious challenge of launching a new type of study on Japanese philosophy, namely of placing the study of this philosophy in an international context, and of pursuing contemporary problems through its re-reading. Following the success of this conference, LAM and CHEUNG further intend to establish an international association for Japanese philosophy.

We are now being called upon by many overseas scholars in the field, who often feel isolated and disorganized, to serve as an international platform for Japanese philosophy, and to promote such enterprises as an International Society for Japanese Philosophy, an International Research Center for Japanese Philosophy, and an International Journal for Japanese Philosophy. As the title of this con-

ference shows, Japanese philosophy has a chance to develop its potentialities so as to offer a new framework for this critical moment of the world. The ball is now in our hands. The door of UTCP is always open for collaboration with foreign researchers in this field.

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