

Opening Remark

Takayasu Okushima, LL. D.
President
Waseda University

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Waseda University.

Representing Waseda University, I would like to express our warm gratitude and welcome to the professors who came all the way from Taiwan to participate in this academic forum.

We are proud to be one of the oldest universities in Japan, and the year 2007 will be our 125th year since starting in 1882. Waseda, established by Shigenobu Ohkuma with an educational concept of “independence in learning” and “progressive spirit”, is one of the leading private universities in Japan.

Now, Waseda is aiming to become a “Glocal University” of the 21th century under my leadership. And towards planning and materializing the grand design, literally, every one related to Waseda is contributing and making efforts in achieving this goal.

Holding an academic forum with an unified topic of “The Educational Philosophy of Universities and Professional Ethics” at such a time is very significant, not only for Waseda but for all educational organizations in Japan, and also in terms of being able to study the ethics of specialists graduating from universities in an international society. Therefore, I am happy and proud to be a representative of an organization hosting this forum.

As part of “Glocal University” conception that I mentioned previously, Waseda University is now aggressively proceeding to form an academic exchange agreement with leading universities around the world. The number of schools has already reached 134 as of the end of November. And surprisingly, we had just concluded an agreement with Chung Yuan Christian University, the co-sponsor of this forum, this April. Therefore, we are proud for being able to hold this forum, the first academic exchange between our universities since concluding the agreement, so quickly. It has also become a wonderful opportunity for President Chang and I to reunite. Thank you very much, President Chang. Furthermore,

Waseda University formed an agreement with Taiwan University some time ago. Professor Chun-Chieh Huang, the chairman of the board of directors of the CAGE, teaches at Taiwan University. Looking from these facts, I feel that this forum has also become a good opportunity to acknowledge the old and new “relationships” between Taiwan and Waseda University.

I am confident that the discussions that will be held during this two-day forum will offer intellectual exchanges in an international scale for the participants.

Finally, I would like to conclude my speech by thanking the staff members of IRBA and to all those who contributed in making this forum possible.

Thank you very much.