

ACTIVITY REPORTS OF THE INSTITUTE OF TURKISH CULTURE STUDIES

Opening Ceremony of the Institute of Turkish Culture Studies (ITCS) at Mukogawa Women's University

The Institute of Turkish Culture Studies (ITCS) at Mukogawa Women's University (MWU) was established inside the Koshien Hall, which is a university building belonging to the Department of Architecture. The opening ceremony was held on Wednesday, July 29th, 2009. The ITCS will conduct researches related to Turkey, which is positioned on the other side opposite of Japan of the Silk Road, and provide opportunities so that Japanese and Turkish students will have more interactions through the institute. The goal of the institute is to also understand and learn about the culture and the way of life of countries located around the Silk Road. Moreover, the Research Center of Japanese Culture Studies at Bahcesehir University (BU) will be established in June, 2010, and various researches will be done through both institutes.

About 250 people, including Ryo Okawara, the chancellor of MWU, Naosuke Itoigawa, the president of MWU, Selahattin Kuru, the vice president of BU, and Burak Karacan, the cultural attache of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Japan, attended the opening ceremony, which was held in the Koshien Hall in the morning of July 29th.

Okawara greeted saying, "The first step of an ambitious plan has started, which is to encourage research and deepen mutual understanding by making this institute into a base, and to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the Silk Road region". Kuru greeted saying, "I think that Kansai and Istanbul have many common characteristics historically and culturally. We will be able to advance research on culture and architecture of both countries, taking advantage of the establishment of this institute."

Then, Ahmet Eyuce, the dean of BU's faculty of architecture and design, made the commemorative speech, "Culture and architecture: An interpretation of built environment and built form from the cultural evolution point of view".



Ribbon-cutting ceremony



Ryo Okawara, the chancellor of MWU, making a speech at the opening ceremony.