

1st International Conference on Archi-Cultural Translations through the Silk Road

Date : March 16-18, 2011

Venue : Bahcesehir University, Istanbul

The 1st international conference on Archi-Cultural Translations through the Silk Road was held at Bahcesehir University (BU) in Istanbul from March 16 to 18, 2011 under the auspices of iaSU and BU. iaSU, which is short for the International Association of SILKROAD UNIVERSITIES, is an association of universities mainly organized by BU and Mukogawa Women's University (MWU), which are located at different ends of the "Silk Road." The organization aims to encourage exchanges among the universities located on and near the "Silk Road".

On March 16th, an official announcement of the establishment of iaSU was made, and the conference's opening ceremony was held. Murat Dundar, a representative of BU's steering committee, Ahmet Eyuce, the dean of BU's faculty of architecture and design, and Enver Yucel, the president of BU's board of trustees, announced the objectives of this conference from their respective points of view. Congratulations were conveyed from Ryo Okawara, the chancellor of MWU, to the participants: "I wish both universities, together with iaSU member universities, success in contributing to global peace in the future through encouraging exchange of an academic research and the cultures of the Silk Road region." Furthermore, Shigeyuki Okazaki, the director of the Institute of Turkish Culture Studies (ITCS) and the department chairman of MWU's architecture department, gave an opening speech entitled, "What can we gain through intercultural exchange?" Then a welcoming reception was held.

On March 17th and 18th, researchers from 12 countries worldwide, including Turkey and Japan, presented papers on such topics as architecture, cities, landscapes, and environmental art. Six researchers from the ITCS of MWU also presented their studies. Furthermore, on the evening of 17th, Okazaki gave an invited lecture, "Symbiosis between Man and Nature in Japanese Architecture and Garden."

This conference was held over the three days and was a great success. The 2nd international conference on Archi-Cultural Translations through the Silk Road will be held at MWU in 2012. We are looking forward to more active participation at the next conference in Japan.



The opening speech given by Dr. Okazaki, the director of ITCS



Presentation given by ITCS's researcher