

# Why an Asia Education Symposium?

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## **Major:**

Psychology and Educational Studies

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1964 B.A., Kyoto University

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1998—2004 President of Kyoto Notre Dame University

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## **Publications:**

絶対評価とほないか, 2004, 小学館

新しい大学教育を創る, 2000, 有斐閣

意識としての自己, 1998, 金子書房 他



## **Summary**

It is not the case that “Asia is one.” However, the four countries which have assembled in Hyogo for this event—China, South Korea, Vietnam, and Japan—share a common destiny on a number of points.

(1) The histories and cultures of South Korea, Vietnam, and Japan have developed through relationships over a long period of time with the governments of the plains of China, and the four countries basically fall under the same cultural umbrella. [Cultural sphere based on Confucianism]

(2) The four countries were all impacted by the Asian penetration of western European countries starting in the Age of Geographical Discovery which began at the end of the 15th century, and by the Asian penetration of the U.S. in and after the 19th century, and each country had to accept a large impact on its history and culture in modern times. [The conflict between collaboration with and resistance to Europe/America, The rapid influx of alien Western culture and the deterioration/destruction of traditional culture]

(3) As we move from the present into the future, there is an unavoidable movement toward a regional community in terms of politics, economics, and culture, with these four countries occupying the central position. [Mutual influx of capital and international division of production, Mutual influx of consumer culture]

Under these conditions, mutual influence is likely to grow stronger regarding methods of educating children. For example, issues like the following may require close collaboration and cooperation between these four countries in the future:

(1) Jointly developing a math and science curriculum which has a high degree of intrinsic commonality.

(2) Jointly developing education programs to advance mutual understanding within the region regarding the history of our own countries.

(3) Sharing ideas and experience on how to continue and develop traditional culture in our own countries through education.

We hope, at this symposium, to deepen mutual understanding regarding the aforementioned problems, while firmly maintaining a stance of mutual respect and orientation toward the future.