

Special Issue: Dialogue between Civilizations

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The world today holds all kinds of risks. Human society, on the one hand, suffers from natural threats such as earthquakes and eruptions, and on the other hand, is unable to break out of the chaos of human rights violations, while widening disparities between rich and poor, and ideological and religious conflicts. At the root of such situations lies in the fact that science and technology that supports the civilization today does not always function for the peace of the human race but furthers human desires. At present, it is critical to note that the human race examines the future of the civilization on a global scale both individually and collectively.

With this background, the 3rd International Symposium was held at Tokai University European Center under the joint auspices of Tokai University Institute of Civilization Research (March 8-9th, 2018). The theme of the symposium was “Dialogue between Civilizations” with the view to discuss the problems of civilizations from a broader perspective. Although the past two symposia were titled “Civilization dialogue between Europe and Japan,” we decided to change its title as above. Historically, Japan and Europe have their own characteristics and this in itself makes it meaningful to examine the differences between the two and the influences on each other. However, it is also a fact that the situation in Japan has itself undergone significant changes in the 150 years since the Meiji Restoration. At present, Japan too has committed itself to westernization given the wave of globalization. Therefore, whether it is Japan or Europe, it is now desirable to consider Civilization Studies on a global scale. Further, it is necessary to examine not the framework of region or country, but to study the value consciousness of the individual or the group towards civilization, and the ideal individual culture that supports that value consciousness. Here in this special issue, we included eight original papers that were presented in the symposium.