

接任「東亞研究型大學協會」(Association of East Asian Research Universities, AEARU) 會長致詞

President Chen, President Matsumoto and all my dear colleagues:

It is a great pleasure, indeed, a high honor of mine that I will have the opportunity to serve you as the Chair of our association in the next two years, starting on January 1, 2012.

Since its establishment in 1996, AEARU has developed and become one of the most active organizations that brought together the leaders of elite research universities in East Asia; provided us with a network through which we communicated and cooperated with each other.

Looking back, we can say that all of us have invested a great deal of our time and effort to cultivate and strengthen cooperative spirit within our Association. We not only met

periodically to discuss and share our ideas on the management, as well as the promotion of AEARU; member-universities have also volunteered their time and expertise to organize and sponsor workshops, seminars that allowed our faculty members to exchange their research findings and explore the possibility for joint research endeavors. Moreover, we have also provided opportunities, through various programs for our students to meet, interact and learn from each other. In short, collectively we owe a big thanks to all who have served as officers of our association previously. It was due to their devotion and efforts that we can sit here today and reflect on what we have accomplished with a smile and a sense of satisfaction.

While we might all be very happy with what we have done so far, may I also take this opportunity to invite you to think about what else we can do in the future. What can we do as a group that will further strengthen our organization and provide more opportunities to a larger and larger number of our colleagues and students for them to collaborate and learn from each other?

For example, can we think of some ways that will allow us to keep all our colleagues and students better informed on the new academic programs, research initiatives and accomplishments that are developing in all of our campuses? Many, if not all of us have bilateral student-exchange arrangements with other member-universities, but, is it desirable for AEARU to design a program through which students from one university can easily enroll and study for a semester or so on other AEARU campus? Shall we promote an AEARU open courseware program? Is it beneficial to establish an AEARU Lectureship so that the chosen scholars can get together to hold an Academic Festival on significant occasions?

I don't mean to layout new agenda for the years to come. What I really wish to do is simply offering some examples that we can ponder, as a group, and find additional mechanisms that will allow us to better serve our colleagues and students alike.

I look forward to working with you. Together, I am sure, we can

further enhance our Association in the years to come.