



VYTAUTO DIDŽIOJO  
UNIVERSITĖS  
MCMXXII

**VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY  
JAPANESE STUDIES CENTRE**

Vaižganto g. 30, Kaunas LT-44229, LITHUANIA  
Tel./Fax: +370 37 331323; E-mail: [darbuotojai@jc.vdu.lt](mailto:darbuotojai@jc.vdu.lt)

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Symposium and publication  
Japan as Images: Crossing Viewpoints of Europe and Japan  
October 15-16, 2009**

Despite the easy access to vast information sources, which contemporary societies exploit in the present era of globalization, Japan is still often perceived by Europeans as mysterious and “just too distant”. During the modern contemporary period when the self and the world are conceptualized under the influence of globalization and media development, it seems that contemporary images of Japan are constructed not only by the Japanese, but also by the foreign viewpoint. Therefore, in order to understand this Japan, it is necessary to examine it both, from the internal and the external perspective.

Taking into consideration these problematic issues, we organized two international conferences and publications on the topic of Japan image in the West in 2007 and 2008 sponsored by Toshiba International Foundation. This year, building on these scientific activities and thanks to the subvention of Japan Foundation, we intend to organize the symposium “Japan as Images: Crossing Viewpoints of Europe and Japan.” This conference is going to express two points of view: *The Image of Japan seen from the Japanese Perspective* and *The Image of Japan seen from the European Perspective*. We intend to publish the selection of articles based on the conference papers in March, 2010.

We invite you to discuss the current problems or achievements in cross-cultural communication among the Japanese people and Europeans, as the proper understanding of other nations and cultures is now admitted to be the key to success in any political, economical or cultural relations on the international level. **Despite the fact that this conference is focused mainly on Japan, we encourage the participation of researchers working on the topics related to other Asian countries, as they could provide interesting comparative perspectives.**

**Organizer:** Vytautas Magnus University (VMU), Japanese Studies Centre

**Date and place of the conference:** October 15-16, 2009, VMU Japanese Studies Centre, Vaižganto g. 30, Kaunas

**Language of presentations:** English

**Registration:** please fill in the registration form attached and send it by e-mail until June 20, 2009 to Japanese Studies Centre of Vytautas Magnus University: [conference@jc.vdu.lt](mailto:conference@jc.vdu.lt).

**Intended schedule:**

June 20, 2009: Deadline for registration, submission of the title and abstracts (up to 300 words)

By July 6, 2009: Announcement of selection results to candidates (permission of participation in the conference)

and the proposal for publication of papers)

September 30, 2009: Deadline for the paper submission (up to 5000 words) to be selected for publication

October 15 and 16, 2009: Conference

By November 15-16, 2009: Sending reviews to authors

December 15, 2009: Deadline for the definitive paper submission

March 2010: Publishing the journal

### **Scientific Committee**

Herald Fuess, Professor of University of Sheffield. Great Britain

Takashi Kitamura, Professor of Osaka University, Japan

Kyoko Koma, Research fellow of Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

Sepp Linhart, Professor of University of Vienna, Austria

Algis Mickūnas, Professor of Ohio University, USA

Tomoyo Nakao, Assistant Professor of Okayama University, Japan

Rein Raud, Rector and Professor of Tallinn University, Estonia

Cécile Sakai, Professor of Paris 7 University, France

### **Organization Committee**

Aurelijus Zykas, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

Kyoko Koma, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

Ieva Kudirkaitė, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

### **Notes:**

1. We provide the researchers with the possibility to make an e-presentation via *Skype*, in case the actual presence at the conference is too complicated. Please indicate your choice in the registration form.
2. Even though we cannot provide the presenters with the financial support, regarding journey or accommodation expenses, we can offer you any organizational support that you need (finding and booking hotels, sending maps, transport timetables, etc.)

**Yours sincerely**

**Aurelijus Zykas**

Project Director

Head of Japanese Studies Centre

**VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY**

**JAPANESE STUDIES CENTRE**

Vaižganto g. 30, Kaunas LT-44229, LITHUANIA

Tel. /Fax: +370 37 331323

E-mail: [conference@jc.vdu.lt](mailto:conference@jc.vdu.lt)