

Editor's Preface

It is our great pleasure to present to you the second volume of our annual journal, the *Journal of the Asia-Japan Research Institute of Ritsumeikan University*.

We humbly apologize for the delay of its publication for a few months, due to the conditions caused by the spread of COVID-19. This pandemic is still on-going globally, and we are facing the challenges of this unprecedented situation, which most of us have never experienced directly before. Educational and academic institutions all over the world are striving to keep their missions, and we, in Ritsumeikan University, are doing our best to accomplish both protecting our students, graduate students, and teaching and administrative staff, while keeping up with our education and research duties as much as possible.

The leadership of our university invited all faculty and research members to formulate how we can contribute to the global society during what we may call the “with-Corona Era”, or an era when we must live with COVID-19 or live being constantly aware of, and ready for, similar medical-risk situations. Our Institute also envisions our academic and intellectual obligations to contribute to such a societal mission through research and scientific endeavors.

While this volume contains the research output before the outbreak began, we anticipate papers related to the mission in coming volumes. It goes without saying that, not only for this mission but also for all other important fields of academic and social concerns, we continue to strive in our Asia-Japan research.

We would like to request your kind support and encouragement for this *Journal*. It is an academic media with a strict double-blind peer review system, open to all researchers in studies on Asia, Japan and Asia-Japanese relations. Your prospective contributions will be greatly appreciated.

Prof. Yasushi Kosugi
Director of the Asia-Japan Research Institute
And Chair of the Editorial Board