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Foreword

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Foreword

The 23rd International Congress of the International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology was held in the city of Nagoya, Japan, from July 30 to August 3, 2016. A total of 1,056 scholars from 57 countries and regions participated in this meeting, and 751 presentations in various categories were made. This included 303 symposium presentations in 85 sessions, 387 individual oral presentations (including 136 rapid papers), and 279 posters. These numbers, all record-high in the history of IACCP, seem to reflect the growing recognition of the importance of studying the role of culture in the volatile situations that we have recently found across the globe. Indeed, as was illustrated in the Presidential Address by Patricia Greenfield, the analysis of the interaction between social change and the cultural bases of people's minds is expected to provide a key to resolve the difficult problems that today's societies world-wide are confronted with. This mission of cross-cultural psychology was presumably a chief motivation for the record attendance to the Nagoya Congress. The contributions assembled in this volume are a showcase of those works presented at the Congress, especially those in the format of individual papers.

While these numbers are impressive, we – the Organization Committee and Editorial Team – also recognize that a true achievement of the meeting was not only in its quantitative aspect, but also, or rather, in the high quality of academic exchanges that took place at the venue. The Scientific Committee, organized and managed by the core members of Masaki Yuki (Chair), Keiko Ishii, and Yukiko Uchida, invited speakers from diverse areas of cultural and psychological sciences in an unprecedented manner, and made their best effort to accommodate submissions from various fields. The uniquely wide range of the program was well exemplified in the line-up of four keynote speakers. The first was by Ed Diener on universal as well as culture-specific aspects of psychological well-being, followed by Peter Richerson on the role of symbolic markers of group identities in the processes of cultural evolution, and by Ying-yi Hong on positive and negative impacts of multi-cultural identity. The series of keynotes was closed by Junko Tanaka-Matsumi, a long-time central figure of the IACCP, with her review on the 100-year history of cultural-clinical psychology.

The line-up of invited presentations extended to other charming lectures such as a joint talk by Hazel Markus and Shinobu Kitayama. The year of 2016 coincided with a silver anniversary of their seminal *Psychological Review* paper on cultural self-construals, and they touched on the process of making their original work and also nicely demonstrated how the ideas evolved into their currently and respectively ongoing research. There were also award lectures by Sylvia Chen (Early Career Award) and Ji He (Harry and Pola Triandis Doctoral Thesis Award), both of which clearly projected the bright future of the field that these and other young scholars have already started to cultivate and harvest. The grand finale of the congress was the Walter J. Lonner Distinguished Invited Lecture by Laurence Kirmayer, who presented a number of paradigmatic challenges for the current state of cross-cultural psychology, displaying the astounding width and depth in his achievement in the research of cultural psychiatry.

In the midst of intellectual excitement and academic companionship, the congress participants also had an opportunity to solemnly remember past colleagues. Especially

notable was a tribunal session for late Kwok Leung. Colleagues, students, and family members that he left stood up one after another and shared with other attendants their experiences with Kwok as a diligent scholar, an organizational leader, a fun-loving friend, and a gentle husband and father.

Other unique characteristics of the 2016 Congress were exhibited outside of the main venue and timetable as well. This year's Summer School was held at the Tokai Inter-Collegiate Training Center in Nakatsugawa hills. This low-budget facility was chosen in part for the purpose of encouraging young scholars from developing countries and regions to participate, but it was also expected to provide all participants with a unique cultural experience that even Japanese society has long lost and forgotten. The boot camp-style center apparently promoted a true sense of communality among the instructors and students.

The biennial International Congresses have traditionally been preceded by pre-congress workshops, and the present meeting was not an exception. Two workshops were organized, with one entitled as "Teaching cross-cultural psychology: Course design and learning activities" (Organizers: Beth Morling & Benjamin Cheung) and the other as "Cultural-neuroscience: Accomplishment so far and future directions" (Organizer: Shinobu Kitayama). Both sessions received over-capacity attendances.

A high moment on the cultural side was the performance of *Taiko* (classic Japanese style of drums) and dances by *Onbu*. This team of Nagoya University students has developed their repertoire based on thorough research in folklore festivities, typically preserved in rural areas of Japan, and their own interpretations added from a modern viewpoint. Their enthusiastic show received sizable plaudits and camera clicks from the audience. The conference dinner(s) was another cultural exhibition in some ways. The 2-part BBQ and grills gathering at a "beer garden" with more than 400 guests for each session was extraordinary in its size on the Japanese standard, where dining facilities ordinary take the segmented form of *Izakaya* style. A sudden and heavy thunderstorm brought another unforgettable moment, though only for those attending the first part of the dinner. The roaring drums of the thundergods supposedly residing in the dark clouds, according to traditional Japanese folktales, were as memorable as the *Taiko* in the *Onbu* show.

Last, but not the least, on behalf of the Organizing Committee, the Scientific Committee, and the Editorial team, we would like to thank all of the volunteers who devoted time to this whole enterprise, including the student staff who gave directions to participants both inside and outside of the congress venue, the presenters who chaired their own session, panel discussants in the workshops, and, particularly notably, the reviewers who evaluated the submissions. This volume, too, owes itself to the full dedication shown by the reviewers for the present submissions. We also like to acknowledge the work and effort by the editorial assistant Hannah Hunter, who ensured that the format and language of these published papers are correct. Thank you all!

The Editorial Team

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