ACTIVITY REPORT

The 2nd AEARU Symposium on the Culture of Chinese Characters

December 9, 2013
National Tsing Hua University

Overview
The 2nd AEARU Symposium on the Culture of Chinese Characters was organized by National Tsing Hua University and held on December 9th 2013. The symposium was held on the campus in conjunction with the AEARU 19th Annual General Meeting and 33rd Board of Directors Meeting, which were held on December 8th.

Following the 1st symposium in Kyoto University in 2011, this symposium continued to discuss Chinese characters, “kanji”, and its influence on East Asian culture and education, as well as to enhance the understanding of calligraphy art. Speakers included specialists in Chinese language studies, philosophy, Japanese studies, East Asian civilization, anthropology, electrical engineering, letters and history. The event attracted over 100 students and faculty members who participated throughout the day.

The symposium included 4 sessions and each session is followed by a discussion session.

Session 1: The Translation of Science and Technology
In this session, two scholars presented topics on the characteristics of Chinese science in the Qi Dynasty from a historical comparative point of view as well as the research on the accurate answer to Needham’s Grand Question.

Moderator: Prof. Kuan-Yun Huang; National Tsing Hua University
Speaker: Prof. Kuang-Tai Hsu; National Tsing Hua University
Prof. Shyang Chang; National Tsing Hua University

Session 2: Origins and Early Development
This session examined five topics on the interactions between writing, society and history in early China as well as the evolution of Chinese characters, the invention of writing tools in China.

Moderator: Prof. Chung-Min Chen; National Tsing Hua University
Session 3: Modern Challenges
This session discussed various topics on the problems of simplified Chinese characters and the encoding of Chinese characters in digital databases.

Moderator: Prof. Asuka Nabeshima; National Tsing Hua University
Speaker: Prof. Pei-jung Huang; National Taiwan University
Prof. Yoshihiro Nikaido; Kansai University

Session 4: Beyond Chinese Writing
This session talked the culture Chinese writing, information technology and Chinese characters, homographs in Chinese, Japanese and Korean, as well as Taiwan’s creativity and dreams of Chinese culture.

Moderator: Prof. Ying-Chun Tsai, Dean of College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Speaker: Prof. Liming Zhao; Tsinghua University-Beijing
Prof. Wataru Inoue; Peking University
Prof. Koetsu Sato; Tsukuba University
Prof. Rur-Bin Yang; National Tsing Hua University
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