英文報告

The Executive Director's Annual Report for the period of September 2017 to August 2018

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In the previous volume I reported on the Japanese Society of Christian Studies (JSCS) getting engaged in reforming itself. This year two committees have been established. One committee selects candidates for an award dedicated to young researchers in Christian studies who have published an outstanding academic book in the past 5 years. The other committee is called “Wakate Kenkyusha Initiative”, Young Researchers Committee, and its role is to get young researchers more actively engaged in the administration of JSCS. I hope that through the activities of these committees our Society will become more academic and able to correspond to the contemporary social situation by promoting further studies in Christianity. Our project of a new standard encyclopedia on Christianity in Japanese is also progressing well with the cooperation of Kyobunkwan Publishing Company.

The 65th conference of JSCS was held at Japan Lutheran College on September 29 and 30, 2017. 2017 was the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Prof. Naozumi Eto, the president of Japan Lutheran College, was the chairperson of the executive committee. A special lecture entitled “The Reformation and Ecumenism” was given by Prof. Theodor Dieter, Director of the Ecumenical Institute in Strasbourg. Prof. Emeritus Hiroshi Suzuki (Japan Lutheran College) also gave a special presentation under the title “The 97 theses: Luther and his public appearance as a radical Augustinian.” There were also 41 research presentations given in the morning. The conference ended on a successful note.

The activities of the Local Chapters in 2018 were as follows.

The Kanto Chapter held a conference on March 19 at Aoyama Gakuin University with a public lecture entitled “The Challenge of Feminist Theology”. The speaker was Kinukawa Hisako (Center for Feminist Theology and Ministry in Japan). In addition two research presentations were given.

On March 26 the Kinki Chapter held a conference at Doshisha University with a symposium under the title “the Japanese Constitution and Christianity.” The main

panelist was Prof. Itaru Fukaya of Doshisha University. Prof. Sadamichi Ashinaa of Kyoto University participated in the symposium as a commentator and Prof. Katsuhiro Kohara of Doshisha University as the chairperson. There were also 16 presentations of research results.

On March 27 the Kyushu Chapter held a conference with a public lecture entitled “The Emperor and God in Modern China”. This lecture was given by Yosuke Matsutani, a lecturer of Seinan Gakuin University. Besides this lecture 7 presentations of research results were given.

On June 16 the Tohoku Chapter held a conference. The special lecture under the title “The Spreading of North American ‘Protestantism with no reformation’ and its evaluation” by Shigeyuki Tanamura, Professor of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, was followed by 4 research presentations.

On July 16 the Hokkaido chapter held a conference and a public symposium on the subject of “The Bible Translation Project Seishokyokai - kyoudoyaku” with Mr. Katsuomi Shimazaki (Japan Bible Society), Prof. Tomohisa Yamayoshi (Hokusei Gakuen University) and Prof. Tsutsumu Abe (Fuji Women’s University).