

Publication of the “Special Issue”(No. 56) of the *Daigaku Ronshu*

As you all know, the Research Institute for Higher Education (RIHE) at Hiroshima University celebrated its 50th anniversary last May. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the many researchers in higher education, including the colleagues, who have participated in the RIHE's activities over the years. On this auspicious occasion, we have asked our predecessors, who have supported higher education research since its early days, to contribute to this special issue of the *Daigaku Ronshu*. The content of the essays is intended to be freeform and synoptic. We have asked the eminent scholars included to write their broad reflections about higher education and higher education research.

We are confident that the manuscripts themselves are a great treasure for higher education research. We are planning further special issues of this type, so we hope you will look forward this growing body of reflections from eminent scholars in our field.

Postscript:

We were surprised to hear of the passing of Dr. Ryoichi Kuroha, a contributor to this special issue, as we had been in correspondence regarding his contribution until just before his death. The manuscript contributed to this issue of the journal is the last article by Dr. Kuroha. We would like to offer our sincere prayers for him and his family, and may he rest in peace. We dedicate this volume to his memory.