

## **Towards the Establishment of Integrated Humanities**

**MUTA Taizo**  
President  
Hiroshima University

Along with graduate school departmentalization of the Faculty of Letters and the Graduate School of Letters at Hiroshima University, the Department of Integrated Humanities has been created through re-organization of the graduate school. It aims to unite Philosophy, History and Literature.

Often with re-organization there is a lot of enthusiasm for establishing a new major and making it prominent. During the planning stages of re-organization those associated dream of how learning in the new major should be put into practice and elaborate on their ideas with great passion. Shortly after the re-organization of the graduate school has been completed, the enthusiasm of those attached to the new major dies down. Contrary to expectation they confine themselves to their own specialist areas, make little effort to unite with others and their dreams do not come true. This kind of situation is sometimes seen in other places. At the Department of Integrated Humanities naturally this kind of situation will not occur and I expect the ideal will be realized.

I am from the field of natural science. Therefore, I do not feel that I can comment on learning in the field of arts. However, as a layperson I can express my opinion.

Long time ago, I read "Kong Yiji" by Lu Xun and was very moved. Among Lu Xun's novels there were no places in particular where it stood out and it was an ordinary short composition. It was the story of a man who often came to drink at a bar in a small town in China. This man had attempted the examination for Chinese Government Service (keju) many times, but had been unsuccessful. He was a highly proud, good for nothing lazybones. When this man was short of money, he would steal. Strangely, what he stole was books. One day he was caught stealing and his legs were broken, but, despite this, he came to the bar crawling. No one knows whether he died in the end or not.

Perhaps, by writing this short composition, Lu Xun was expressing his deep grief about the state of affairs in China at the time. Or maybe he was writing about his own difficulties.

I wonder why this short composition made such an impact on one person's heart. It may depend on the reader's circumstances, but I was very moved by the universality of literature, that can make such an impression, despite differences in country and environment.

In the field of natural sciences people try to control the external world of human beings, while in the field of arts they try to move the inner side of human beings. I expect that learning, which looks at the inner side of human beings, without division into Philosophy, History and Literature, but under the wider frame of Humanities, will be formed and continue to develop. I look forward to the genuine development of the Department of Integrated Humanities and for a fruitful unification.