

## FOREWORD

The international workshop of Research Institute for Higher Education convened at the Higashi Hiroshima campus, Hiroshima University on November 5, 2015. The theme was “Global University Rankings and Improving International Competitiveness of Japan’s Universities.” Hiroshima University is currently one of the “Top Global University Project” universities and received funding provided by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). The purpose of the Top Global University Project was to improve educational and research activities, to promote internationalization of certain Japan’s universities and to make them world class.

After receiving funding, Hiroshima University has endeavored to be ranked among the top 100 universities. The theme of the workshop reflected the goals of the Project to contribute to strengthening competitiveness and enhancing education and research achievement of the University.

There were three presentations in this seminar: first from Professor Nian Cai Liu of Jiao Tong University, Shanghai who examined the academic ranking of world universities and the performance of east Asian universities; the second presentation was made by Mr. Ben Sowter, QS Intelligence Unit, who presented observations, lessons, and trajectories about universities in Japan and east Asia; finally Mr. Robert J. Morse discussed the U.S. News Best Global Universities Rankings – how they work, their impact, the importance of the rankings for east Asia universities – especially those in Japan, China and Korea. All these presenters referred to Japanese universities so that the audience, especially from Hiroshima University, paid special attention to what each had to say. There was also a guest speaker from MEXT, Mr. Hideto Matsumoto who addressed world university rankings and internationalization of Japanese universities from the point of policy development and implementation. Finally Professor Futao Huang of RIHE briefly summarized the four presentations before Professor Katsuichi Uchida, Waseda University, commented on three presentations and one special speech.

There were quite a few participants who were academics, administrators,

URA staff, and graduate and undergraduate students both from inside and outside Hiroshima University. I thank all those who participated in the workshop and joined the discussion and the reception party after the seminar.

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