

## Preface

In recent years, a growing number of challenges have emerged that threaten world peace. Since its inception in 2000, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) has embraced as its basic ideals “freedom, peace and humanity,” “international mutual understanding,” and “shaping the future of the Asia Pacific region.” The Center for Language Education, which supervises APU’s language education, aims to not merely offer education that develops language knowledge but also cultivate language users who will play a central role in shaping the future of the Asia Pacific region. Interpersonal communication is essential to support the free movement of people across borders. We believe that engaging in education related to language, which is the principle tool for communication, contributes to the pursuit of mutual international understanding and the creation of genuine world peace. Because we live in an age of growing international activity, our ambition is to continue exploring the contributions that can be made by language education.

The opening pages of this third issue of APU Journal of Language Research carry a research article contributed by APU’s third President. Under the leadership of President Shun Korenaga, APU has leveraged the unique qualities of its multicultural environment that is unrivaled in Japan, and achieved substantial growth as a university that has promoted internationalization in Japan. As a scholar of Chinese literature, particularly Chinese poetry, President Korenaga is well-versed in language education, and he has attentively watched over the Center for Language Education. Because of his support, which has been grounded in a deep understanding of our mission, we have been able to dedicate ourselves fully to our work duties in a friendly and comfortable atmosphere. While fulfilling the important responsibilities of his office, President Korenaga has retained his inquisitiveness as a Chinese poetry scholar. He has continued to embody the spirit of research and consistently demonstrated to us the significance of practical application and of letting one’s knowledge shine through in research.

We feel honored that President Korenaga, who will retire at the end of 2017, has contributed the opening research article of this third issue of APU Journal of Language Research. The fact that he did is further testament to his ongoing commitment to being a pure researcher even as he was shouldering other important responsibilities.

The APU website has posted the following message from President Korenaga.

“We at APU aim to be a university that can contribute, now and forever, to the realization of a future where the Asia Pacific region can develop as a peaceful and harmonious society. For this to happen, we can’t afford to be complacent about our current position, but instead we must continue to further improve our ongoing contribution to education, research and society.”

Equipped with the resolve expressed in these words by President Korenaga, we wish to continue exploring the contributions that can be made by language education in the context of realizing a future in which the Asia Pacific region can develop as a peaceful and harmonious society, and accordingly do our utmost to move toward the realization of an ideal society. The cover of this journal carries the name of the APU Journal of Language Research drawn with a brush in Japanese calligraphy style by Professor Korenaga. Let this be a reminder for all of us to work hard and ensure this journal remains aligned with his vision.

In recognition of the many achievements of President Korenaga to date and filled with appreciation for his contributions, I hereby present the third issue of the APU Journal of Language Research.

HONDA Akiko  
Director of Center for Language Education