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Preface

This publication is compiled based on a panel discussion at the 12th meeting of JAWS (Japan Anthropology Workshop) held between March 10 and 14, 1999 at the National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka. During this meeting, a panel discussion was held on both March 10 and 11 under the theme “The Anthropology of Japanese Organisations”, where I myself and Dr. Mitchell Sedgwick (Oxford Brookes University) respectively served as coordinators. I took charge of the sub-panel discussion entitled “Gendai Nihon no Shaen Bunka (The Culture of Association and Associations in Contemporary Japanese Society)”, and we had asked a broad range of people for their participation in advance. In response to our invitation, eight reports were contributed in total, which, except for the paper of Prof. Timothy Tsu, are included in this publication. On each report, the following discussants, Prof. Toshinao Yoneyama, Prof. Timothy Tsu, Prof. Kōichirō Hioki, Prof. Kenji Ishii, and the floor audience made comments and had intensive discussion. Since Prof. Yoneyama’s remarks are closely interrelated with the origin and the development of the key term in this publication, *shaen* (associational ties and associations), his remarks appear immediately after the introductory section. In the meantime, it is highly appreciated that Prof. Tsu investigated the Japanese cemetery in Singapore after this meeting, and contributed a paper on his research to this publication.

Papers on another sub-panel discussion, “Informal Activity in (Formal) Japanese Organisations”, coordinated by Dr. Sedgwick, will be published in English as an independent issue.

Thanks to the organisational support given by the National Museum of Ethnology, the generous financial contributions made by The ITOH Scholarship Foundation, The Kajima Foundation, Nisshō Iwai Foundation Wenner-Gren Foundation, along with the coffee service of the UCC Coffee Museum, The 12th meeting of JAWS enjoyed great success. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all the parties concerned.

Last but not least, let me extend my sincere appreciation to: the publication committee of the National Museum of Ethnology; Dr. Mitchell Sedgwick and Mr. Ian C. Stirk for their kind initiative in proofreading our English text; to Ms. Naoko Kawada, Ms. Akemi Kosaki, Ms. Mihoko Oka, Ms. Chisako Omoso for their efforts in secretarial work at the meeting and in editing; to Ms. Sugako Yamashiro, for her assistance in editorial work.

Hirochika NAKAMAKI
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