



international access to stabilize. As the serving Director-General, after assuming office April last year, I have gone publically and privately four times to attend international conferences and other functions in Italy (Genoa), Indonesia (Jakarta), Germany (Heidelberg), and Taiwan (Taipei). At these destinations, more than I had expected, I met researchers and experts who unanimously praised and showed gratitude for JACAR. Likewise, I have found that among Japanese experts, use of JACAR has become quotidian. Moreover, initial doubts from various Asian nations regarding JACAR's facilitation have been extinguished. I believe JACAR ought to be considered something of "an international public good," which has been made possible with ten years of fruitful efforts.

We have been preparing to commemorate our tenth anniversary since the end of last year. Our main preparations are for hosting a commemorative symposium and a commemorative publication. The symposium will follow a National Archives of Japan sponsored East Asian Regional International Council on Archives (EASTICA) conference, after which, on Friday November 18th, we will take the opportunity to hold our commemorative symposium at Waseda University. I believe that holding this international symposium will bring awareness to JACAR's international evaluation. Moreover, the commemorative publication, which will be a record primarily of the symposium, will serve to make salient the history of JACAR's data usage over the past ten years.

#### «« This Year's Undertakings »»

In addition to the tenth anniversary, JACAR's chief plans for 2011 notably include, system updates, office relocation, participation with a panel at the annual Association for Asian Studies Conference (AAS) held in Honolulu, and to increase links with more domestic and international websites.

#### < System Update Preparations >

JACAR's contemporary data archive's lifeline is our hardware system, including our server that we uniquely possess. The system is supposed to be updated every five years, and 2011 falls on a year set for updates. We have already started the necessary update procedures, which can be found written in an announcement on the National Archives of Japan website. Serving as an international institution, it is essential for JACAR to maintain apt functionality, so it is my hope to introduce a new, improved system, optimized in accordance with government policy.

#### < Relocation Plans >

In response to public institutional demands for cost reduction, this autumn, coinciding with our system update, we will move out of our current location in Tokyo's Hirakawacho. Another reason for our move is that our researchers, the core of JACAR's efforts, have increased slightly in number over the years, making JACAR's workspace cramped. We should thus acquire an office site that takes into consideration the convenience of our researchers as well as visitors from abroad, while also being located for easy transport to the three sites we

gain data from—the National Archives of Japan, the Diplomatic Record Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Military Archival Library of the National Institute for Defense Studies.

<Participation in the AAS Conference>

JACAR members will participate in the annual Association of Asian Studies Conference from late March to early April this year. While every year JACAR partakes in relevant international archival conferences to introduce our services as an overseas public relations activity, I have been advised to further and widely make known the utility value of JACAR's services so that it reaches more experts. Thus, at this year's AAS Conference to which leading researchers from around the world gathers, delightfully, our panel discussion that I organized and applied for as the Director-General of JACAR has been accepted. The theme of the panel is "Digital Archives and the Study of Japanese Foreign Relations," which will include presentations by four expert discussants who will demonstrate how to utilize JACAR's data offerings within their research disciplines. The four expert discussants include JACAR advisory panel members Prof. Kanji Akagi and Prof. Takeshi Hamashita, National Institute for Defense Studies Research Fellow, Dr. Ken Kotani, and Oberlin University Associate Professor Robert Eskildsen (who was selected by means of an international appeal to the public).

<Idea for Supporters of JACAR; Friends of JACAR>

We have the idea for a group called "Friends of JACAR." Essentially this means that we hope individuals, like you, who are familiar with JACAR, will help promote the organization. We would be delighted if this serves as a channel for users to proffer advice.

««Getting JACAR on the Global Standard of Digital Archives»»

Not only in Japan but also abroad, a great deal of attention was paid last year to archives and released archival data. Foreign archives and libraries, one after another, have embarked on digitizing holdings. In such processes, JACAR's name comes up again and again as a model for digital archives. It is thus no exaggeration to say that JACAR leads the international movement of digital archiving. Nevertheless, there are not enough links on related internet sites. We hope to contribute to the promotion and fulfillment of historical research through expanding the linking of archives, so that in the near future, there will be an international digital archive network. Today JACAR seemingly is at the vanguard. We were recently deemed by Mr. Todaka Kazushige, in the book *Kaisen kara mita nichirosensō*, as "one of the finest cultural activities conducted by the Japanese government" (2010, page 177, Kadokawa Group Publishing). We take pride in how we are regarded. I would just like to add that we are committed to further enhancing our services. We thank you for your continued support and appreciate your guidance.

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◇From editors:

Next issue will be delivered in the middle of April, 2011.

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