

CISMOR VOICE no. 28 (October 2018 ~ March 2019)

It is our pleasure to bring to you the summary of CISMOR's activity for the period of the Fall Semester of the academic year of 2018, between October 2018 and March 2019. The activity included symposia, public lectures, workshops (especially two advanced workshops for young scholars) and taking part in the international conference held in Cairo by three scholars of Doshisha University and CISMOR.

The activity ranged from the study of ancient religions, including the Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near Eastern cultures exposed via archaeology, through Judaism and Christianity in Late Antiquity and the Modern Era, as well as Islam in historical perspective, and especially in the current political and cultural stance, with lectures on Saudi Arabia and Iran.

After starting in the previous semester to encourage the Center's young scholars to initiate and take part in workshops, two successful workshops took place this semester during December. To the details of these activities please refer to the content of this issue no. 28. Apart from those, we held two seminars with the participation of visiting scholars from abroad, interacting with scholars from Japan. In October we held a seminar on the Dead Sea Scrolls and Jewish-Christian historical manuscripts, with the participation of Prof. Emanuel Tov, who was invited based on the long-standing collaboration of CISMOR with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Faculty of Humanities. The seminar in November concerned the Christian scholar Meister Eckhart, held in the framework of a new collaboration between Doshisha University and Tübingen University, with participation of visiting scholar Prof. Johannes Bractendorf.

We have marked the retirement of one of CISMOR's most active research fellows in Jewish Studies, Prof. Hiroshi Ichikawa, in a workshop organized by his previous students, many of whom are current research fellows of CISMOR. During the semester we also held a seminar on Holocaust survivors as interpreted through a film shown and discussed by Dr. Rinah Dudai. A symposium open to the public in February continued the topic of research of this academic year on "Food Prohibitions and Restrictions in Christianity, Judaism and Buddhism". This symposium gathered a large audience in attendance.

The activities that took place in this year were already partly published in the volumes of *JISMOR* 14 (<http://www.cismor.jp/jp/series/jismor/>) and *WMR* 10 (<http://www.cismor.jp/jp/series/monotheistic/>), the leading journals of the Center, and some of the lectures and papers presented during this fall activity are to see light in the coming volumes of *JISMOR* 15 and *WMR* 11. In March 2019 we also managed to publish a special issue of the proceedings of the third international conference which was held in Jerusalem in August 2018 (<http://www.cismor.jp/uploads-images/sites/2/2018/07/0fadde4f3ea7bb76fc441505f5142db9.pdf>).

Closing the activities of this year by the center young fellows, a group of four scholars joined the project of the Japan Foundation in a study tour to the West Coast of the USA learning of the historical and contemporary life of Jewish communities in the San Francisco and Los Angeles area. The current issue reports in detail of this half year's continuous activities of the research center CISMOR.

The Director of CISMOR
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