

Musashi Journal of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Words on the launch of the Journal by the Chairperson of Musashi Association of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Ken Togo*

March, 2023.

The world always has its share of problems, but recent years have seen some particularly eye-opening ones. Abroad, Russia has invaded Ukraine by force. In Japan, a former prime minister has been assassinated in broad daylight in front of many people, in an incident that turned out to reveal the extent to which a cult group had infiltrated the ruling party in Japan. This relationship has been whispered about for years; but the mass media seems to have turned a deliberately blind eye and, even now, reporting remains sparse. Furthermore, the government has made major changes to its defense policy without first holding discussions in the Diet. The country's economic stagnation has been going on for the past 25 years: the days when Japan was heralded as No. 1 seem so distant as to have been an illusion.

What can academics do in such a situation? Is it enough for us merely to follow our own interest in conducting research? Isn't there a demand for research that benefits the world? We would like to build a society in which each and every human being enjoys the freedom to enrich his or her life, in peace.

The School of Liberal Arts and Sciences (SLAS) has started with two programs: the Economics and Management Program, and the Global Studies Program. Naturally, the research fields of faculty members cover a wide disciplinary range. The Musashi Journal of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the academic journal of the Musashi University Association of Liberal Arts and Sciences, comprised of the faculty members of SLAS; it collects together research papers from various academic fields.

Therefore, the aim of this journal is to share research results among different disciplines: for example, economic research utilizing statistical methodologies may be used to inform research in the humanities; likewise, findings from historical research may suggest new perspectives for research in business administration. We believe that such sharing of research results across different academic fields provides a stimulus that greatly benefits the research of all members of the society.

In this spirit, rather than focusing solely on technical questions, I hope members of the society will also use this journal to introduce their research and its significance. It is my heartfelt wish that, over the coming decades, this journal will continue to provide a forum for such interdisciplinary exchange and thus will contribute, in its own way, to the emergence of a society in which each and every one of us will be able to enrich our lives, in freedom and in peace.

* I had help from Prof. Paul Minford for the English sentences. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him. Of course, all content is my responsibility.