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## On the Sixth Conference of Japanese and Korean Theologians

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“The Sixth Conference of Japanese and Korean Theologians—A Theological Symposium,” sponsored by Seigakuin University (Ageo, Japan) and Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary (PUTS; Seoul, Korea), was conducted on November 18, 2016. The symposium was part of a program based upon an agreement between Seigakuin University and its General Research Institute and PUTS that was signed on March 10, 2013. This time the symposium was held at the Seigakuin University campus, reflecting the agreement made that the location of the annual symposium would alternate between the two campuses of our respective institutions.

The Seigakuin University General Research Institute implemented this international academic exchange as the special research activity under the auspices of its Center for Cultural Studies (Research Chairs: Mitsuharu Akudo and Masayuki Shimizu), one of three research centers created in the General Research Institute’s reorganization in fiscal year 2016.

The theme for this conference was “Confession and Forgiveness: Formation of a Theology of Reconciliation.” The keynote addresses were given by Professor Naozumi Eto (President, Lutheran University and Seminary, Tokyo) from the Japanese perspective, and Professor Youn, Chul-Ho (PUTS) from the Korean viewpoint. The keynotes were followed by commentary from Associate Professor Baik, Chung-Hyun (PUTS) on the former and Professor Junzo Sekine (Seigakuin University Graduate School) on the latter.

Due to the subtleties of the international situation between our two countries, a theme such as the one selected was not easy to deal with, but the professors who gave keynote addresses and the commentators, while taking extreme care, were able to deepen the understanding of the theme theologically, biblically, ethically and philosophically. The scholars not only called the audience’s attention to the wide range implied in the theme, but also proposed

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various realistic ways through which true reconciliation could be achieved. In the meanwhile, the keynotes and comments made exhibited an underlying “tension” between the two sides that should be dealt with further, but the symposium actually seemed to become more appealing because of this “tension.”

The theologians’ academic conferences and theological symposiums our institutions have been conducting have been getting better every year, and, as a result of our cumulative experience, this time we could enjoy an unprecedented level of candidness in the exchange of opinions.

“The Seventh Conference of Japanese and Korean Theologians” will be held in Seoul. We trust it will be a time of productive research conducted in a closer and even more fervent atmosphere.