



Dialogue
Creating the Next 60 Years

Project Report

June 10th, 2014

ICU 60th Anniversary Project

“Simultaneous Interpreter Mariko Nagai Talk Show”



60th Anniversary Project

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



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On June 10 (Tues.), which turned out to be a respite from the rainy season, a talk aimed at students, “Simultaneous Interpreter Mariko Nagai Talk Show,” was held. ICU welcomed Mariko Nagai, an alumna (CLA11) who is highly acclaimed worldwide as the foremost figure of conference interpretation.

Ms. Nagai is known for being requested by both domestic and international key figures in politics and business to do simultaneous interpretation in all areas, not just politics and business; to do interpretation at press conferences; and to serve as a personal interpreter, all in internationally important settings.

The chairs were arranged in a radial fashion, and when Ms. Nagai stood at the linchpin position of the novel, fan-shaped layout and began to talk, the Dialogue House International Conference Room was packed with people like never before and many were standing.

Ms. Nagai began by vividly reflecting on her four years at ICU long ago, which was like a “toy chest” that filled her with excitement. To take an interest in everything without hesitation and to take on challenges – this was ICU culture



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at that time. The starting point of Ms. Nagai, who is active on the international stage, was the four years that she spent at ICU. Later, when a second year, she experienced interpreting at the Tokyo Olympic Games, and interpretation became her lifelong career.





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Ms. Nagai's life as an interpreter, which began when she became affiliated with interpretation company pioneer Simul International, was by no means smooth. Ms. Nagai spoke of how she experienced many mistakes, learned from important encounters, and internalized such learning. She also spoke of how her passion for work, to continue exploring until satisfied, made her what she is now. Her 30-minute talk, delivered in a smooth and sonorous manner, was a resounding success.

At the end, Ms. Nagai responded to questions in an interactive manner and concluded the talk with the following golden words to her juniors: the "secret of communication" lies in three points i.e. communicating what you want to communicate or "CONTENT" with "SKILLS" that you've honed as well as "PASSION." The time after the end of the talk show was also available for further questions, and the sight of lingering students who continued to surround Ms. Nagai was impressive.

Calmly looking out over the conference room with wonderful eye contact at all times and grabbing her listeners' hearts, Ms. Nagai was indeed the epitome of a "communication" professional.