



Dialogue
Creating the Next 60 Years

Project Report

May 28, 2015

Lecture by Dr. Yasuyuki Owada



60th Anniversary Project
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



Dialogue

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Instructor : OWADA, Yasuyuki
Professor Emeritus and Member of the ICU's First Graduating Class

On May 22, ICU conferred an honorary doctorate in the humanities to Dr. Yasuyuki Owada, a member of the first graduating class of ICU. On May 28, he spoke as guest lecturer at 60th Anniversary Memorial Professor William M. Steele's Modern Japan and ICU course. He spoke passionately about his student life at ICU, blending in the historical background of the time and his personal life.

Dr. Owada studied at the Language Institute, the forbearer of ICU, and graduated from the university in March 1967. He continued his studies first at the ICU Graduate School and went on to receive his M.A. degree in 1959 and an Ed. D. degree in 1966 from Teachers College at Columbia University. After he returned to Japan, he taught at ICU for six years as assistant to the President, contributing greatly to building the basis for liberal arts education at ICU in the founding years. From 2002, he served at JICUF for 13 years, promoting faculty and student exchange, as well as supporting the design and construction of the Kiyoshi Togasaki Memorial Dialogue House and three new dormitories in his capacity as Trustee and Chair.



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His lecture started from stories about his life. He was born to Japanese parents in Manchuria in 1934, the year Pu Yi was crowned Emperor of Manchukuo. His father, a Japanese bureaucrat there, took the character 康 from the Emperor's reigning title 康德 (Kangde) to name his son. Owada spent his boyhood in cultural diversity there with White Russian and Italian friends. He learned about ICU from his Christian mother during his senior high school days in Fukushima. She was an active church member, and had received a newsletter about fund raising for the establishment of ICU from her Christian zoologist uncle Masamichi Oshima.

Students were riveted by stories of the founding days at ICU, about faculty who lived on campus with their families; his friend's nervous breakdown from having to use the western toilets; another friend slipping and breaking bottles when delivering milk on a bicycle from the ICU farm to professors' residences; and, the creative tension at the Bible classes attended by faculty and students.

After the lecture, he eagerly and thoroughly answered students' questions.