

Conference “Cultural Exchange for Peace -Culture as a Mediator in International Politics-” was Held

On Thursday, January 15, 2027, the Ritsumeikan Center for East Asian Peace and Cooperation held a conference titled *“Cultural Exchange for Peace -Culture as a Mediator in International Politics-”*

This conference was an attempt to reimagine future-oriented Japan–Korea relations from the perspective of culture, in a relationship where discussions have tended to focus primarily on politics and security.

The speakers included **Shunichi Tokura**, Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan; **Park Yang-woo**, former Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea; artists **Taku Kawai** and **Professor Yang Sung-won**, both of whom have experience performing collaboratively between Japan and Korea; **Professor Haruko Sato**, who has built an extensive record in the fields of international exchange and global governance; and **Oh Soo-young**, a chief foreign affairs correspondent at Arirang TV who has conducted long-term coverage of the Korean Peninsula, among many other distinguished participants.

With the aim of overcoming the “walls” of prejudice and fixed perceptions that often emerge in political and diplomatic arenas through the power of culture, the conference featured lively and substantive exchanges of views.

In particular, during the latter half of the conference, more in-depth discussions unfolded, including the observation that dialogue can truly take shape only when cultural activities are oriented in the same direction and grounded in shared experiences. Distinct from the Center’s previous events, which have often centered on politics, diplomacy, and security, this conference offered a refreshing and broadened perspective.

The Ritsumeikan Center for East Asian Peace and Cooperation actively promotes academic exchange with various research organizations, transcending language and disciplinary boundaries.

●Details

Date & Time: Thursday, January 15, 2026, 16:00–18:00

Venue: Ritsumeikan University, Kinugasa Campus, Soushi-kan Conference Room

Organizers: Ritsumeikan Center for East Asian Peace and Cooperation,

Supported by: Korea Foundation (KF)

●Participants

TOKURA Shunichi (Composer/ Commissioner for Cultural Affairs of Japan)

PARK Yang-woo (Frm. Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Korea)

YANG Sung-won (Prof. Yonsei University/ Cellist and artistic director)

KAWAI Taku (Agent, AOI Trio/ Producer, Japan Chamber Music Foundation)

SATOH Haruko (Prof. Osaka School of International Public Policy, Osaka University)

OH Sooyoung Jennie Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent, Arirang TV)

NAKATO Sachio (Prof. Ritsumeikan University College of International Relations/ Director, Ritsumeikan Center for East Asian Peace and Cooperation Studies)

REITERER Michael (Distinguished Prof. CSDS-VUB/ Invited Prof. Ritsumeikan University/ EU-Ambassador ret.)

CHADA Astha (Associate Prof. Ritsumeikan University College of International Relations)

日韓国交正常化60周年記念

文化はいかに 国際政治を媒介するか

—平和と信頼の構築に向けて—

2026.1.15 THU 16:00-18:00
衣笠キャンパス
創思館カンファレンスルーム
日英同時通訳あり

Speakers

都倉 俊一
文化庁長官
パク・ヤンウ
前文化体育観光部長官

Commentators

ヤン・ソンウォン
延世大学教授/チェリスト/芸術監督
河合 拓
室内楽プロデューサー
佐藤 晴子
大阪大学 大学院国際公共政策研究科 特任教授
チャダ アスター
立命館大学 国際関係学部 准教授

Moderator

オ・スヨン
アリランTV アナウンサー

Opening Remarks

ミシェル ライタラー
元EU大使／CSDS-VUB 特別教授／立命館大学客員教授
中戸 祐夫
東アジア平和協力研究センターセンター長

Program

16:00 信頼は協力から生まれる
中戸 祐夫教授
16:10 EU対外政策における文化の位置づけ
REITERER Michael教授
16:25 私たちは互いに何を学べるのか
日本から見た韓国文化
都倉 俊一長官
韓国から見た日本文化
パク・ヤンウ前長官
17:00 ディスカッション
ヤン・ソンウォン教授
河合 拓氏
CHADA Astha准教授
佐藤 晴子特任教授
(司会: オ・スヨン氏)
17:45 Q&A
18:00 終了



Photo

