

# Foreword

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It gives me great pleasure to announce the publication of the first issue of the journal *Global Perspectives on Japan* that is dedicated to the 25th International JAWS 'Technology and Nature' conference September 1-4, 2015 held in Istanbul at Bogazici University including Panels 'Facing Crisis and Rapid Social Change in Turkey and Japan' and Round Table on Japanese Studies in Turkey that was the joint organization of JAWS, the Japan Anthropology Workshop and JAD, the Japanese Studies Association of Turkey/ Japonya Arastirmalari Dernegi. This first issue is dedicated to a selection of papers of the conference will is published in the first special issue of the new international Journal of Japanese and Asian Studies in Turkey titled *Global Perspectives on Japan* that is published by JAD in Turkey. The Conference brought together Japan anthropologists from around the world to discuss their most recent research on social issues and changes in Japan.

JAD, Japanese Studies Association of Turkey founded in 1993 is the major NGO in Turkey that has been very active in fostering academic research on Japan and strengthening Japanese Turkish intellectual and cultural exchange by organizing over 30 major events which have resulted in numerous publications. For the past

30 years, JAWS has been a very important organization, fostering particularly younger Japan anthropologists and providing a social network and 'home' for dispersed members. JAD and JAWS organized the 25<sup>th</sup> International JAWS Conference in Istanbul with the additional aim of expanding the academic exchange and network of Japanese Studies in Turkey with the global experience of JAWS.

As a result, the two organizations also agreed to support the launching of the *Global Perspectives on Japan* first international journal on Japanese Studies in Turkey that is published by the JAD organization of Japanese Studies. The conference was supported by the Asian Studies Center at Boğaziçi University, and the Japanese Studies Association in Turkey (JAD); the venue will be at Boğaziçi University, in collaboration with the Ankara University Faculty of Letters Japanese Language and Literature Program.

The Conference included a Special Panel dedicated to 'Facing Crisis and Rapid Social Change in Turkey and Japan' and a Round Table on Japanese Studies in Turkey. Notwithstanding many differences, the two countries Japan and Turkey also share a lot. Both have interesting geopolitical position between 'east' and 'west'. They are at the 'beginning' and 'end' of the silk road and both countries have an impressive historical heritage. Both have dealt with threats of earthquakes and with social and economic differences between urban and rural areas as well as with rapid social changes. The background is conducive for original comparative perspectives on facing crisis and rapid social change in Japan and Turkey in recent years.

The papers in this special issue of *Global Perspectives on Japan* reflect the complex comparative context to the Japanese and Turkish experiences in dealing with crisis and social change through the original interesting research of an international group of scholars. We sincerely hope that this special first issue will open the way for the *Global Perspectives on Japan* in becoming the venue for Japanese Studies scholars on developing a global

perspective on the study of Japan and Asia. The journal encourages interdisciplinary, inter-regional and transnational approaches, with special interest on the interaction in Turkey and Asia with a Japan focus. The Journal aims to be a venue for scholarship in Turkey and neighboring regions. It especially encourages scholars from the Middle East, Balkans, Central Asia and the Mediterranean but also welcomes scholars from other parts of the world.

*Global Perspectives on Japan* invites papers in the fields of history, humanities, and social sciences including topics of the past and present. In addition to articles, the journal publishes occasional article size translations, book reviews, and surveys of current trends in Japanese and Asian Studies. *Global Perspectives on Japan* is a peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary academic journal on Japan related topics, published on a yearly basis. Language of publication is English. The journal will have both hard-copy and digital versions and will be distributed worldwide.