

[Postscript]

We are pleased to present *The Journal of Social Science No. 48*.

In this issue we have four articles, a commentary and two summaries of open lectures, all of which, of course, speak to various problems of our world.

In his article, Prof. Ishio presents an empirical research to test the validity of the "iron triangle" model in policy-making process analysis. At the time of prospective revision of the method of the Estimation of Private Corporations Capital Stock, Prof. Ishiwata deals with the method that has hitherto been used to discuss these problems. Prof. Mikanagi's article in this issue is the continuation from the previous issue and it is now complete. It is one of the small amount of literature written by Japanese researchers in English on the issue of the "Comfort Women". This article is accompanied with a commentary by Prof. Katharine H. S. Moon, also included in this issue. This is our first attempt to include a commentary to an article published in *The Journal of Social Science*. We hope that such a dialogue will deepen our understanding of the issue. Ms. Aiko Takahashi, a Ph. D student of the Graduate School of Public Administration, discusses the concept of "Staatsräson" in the light of new tension between state power and moral dictum.

In his research note Prof. Takezawa takes on a new issue of share buybacks in Japan, which became possible after the revision of Japanese Commercial Code in 1997 and Keidanren's suggestion in 1998, and presents empirical data.

Prof. Sung Jin Kang of University of Tsukuba spoke under the title of "Identification of Vulnerable Groups and Coping Strategies in Korea," presenting how vulnerable households reacted to the period of economic difficulty in South Korea. Hon. Wakako Hironaka, member of the House of Councilors and former Minister for Environment, spoke on the significance of the *Earth Charter* and argued that its basic claims are common to all religions and that by reading it we will remember our obligation and responsibility to global issues regarding sustainable development.

Hon. Hironaka expressed her hope that people will remember our basic obligations and responsibility to the world and how the world might change. It is hoped that this issue will be of some use in considering issues that confront the world.

Roger Buckley