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# Hitotsubashi University in Seoul

**The First Academia Overseas—Bridging Japan and Korea**

On September 20, 2012, Hitotsubashi University held its first overseas Academia at the Korea Press Center International Conference Hall, located in the center of Seoul, Korea. The theme of the event was “Japan-Korea Cooperation in the Uncertain Global Economy.” This symposium marks Hitotsubashi’s first step toward global expansion.



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The Academia Symposium was held at the Korea Press Center International Conference Hall



## The “Academia” as one element of the university’s social contribution efforts

On March 22, 2008, Hitotsubashi University held its first “Hitotsubashi University Kansai Academia Symposium” in Osaka, which comprised a symposium and lectures. From 2010, a “Hitotsubashi University Chubu Academia Symposium” was launched in Nagoya as well. As a social sciences university based in Tokyo, this effort to offer those in the Kansai and Chubu regions exceptional analyses and measures to address various issues was intended to form part of the school’s social contribution efforts.

Subsequently, in September 2012, the university launched its first overseas Academia in Seoul. Korea is an important neighbor for Japan, and given that the number of Korean students studying at this university is among the highest of all coun-

tries along with China, and that the university has signed an agreement for academic and student exchanges with four Korean universities—Seoul National University, Sogang University, Sungkyunkwan University, and Pusan National University—Korea was selected as the site for the first step in Hitotsubashi’s global expansion.

On the day of the Hitotsubashi University Academia, the conference hall was nearly filled to capacity with 260 participants, demonstrating the high expectations for the event. The meeting was moderated by Associate Professor Yongseok Kwon of Hitotsubashi University’s Graduate School of Law. Professor Kwon came to Hitotsubashi as an exchange student and stayed to continue his research at the university, following which he joined the faculty.

The program for this Academia is shown in the figure below.



Associate Professor **Yongseok Kwon** of Hitotsubashi University’s Graduate School of Law served as the moderator



**Susumu Yamauchi**  
President, Hitotsubashi University

### Program

#### Opening Remarks

Susumu Yamauchi, President, Hitotsubashi University

#### Congratulatory Speeches

Masatoshi Muto, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Korea\*  
Chang-ku Byun, Vice President, Seoul National University  
Jong-wook Lee, President, Sogang University  
Jun Young Kim, President, Sungkyunkwan University

#### Introduction to the University

Eiji Ogawa, Vice President, Hitotsubashi University

#### Keynote Speech

Hiroko Ota, Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies  
“Economic Issues for Japan and Korea to Tackle”

#### Korea Report

Woosik Moon, Member, Monetary Policy Committee, Bank of Korea

#### Japan Report

Eiji Ogawa, Vice President, Hitotsubashi University

#### Question and Answer Session

\* Title as of Sept. 20, 2012



**Masatoshi Muto**  
Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Korea\*



**Chang-ku Byun**  
Vice President, Seoul National University



**Jong-wook Lee**  
President, Sogang University



**Jun Young Kim**  
President, Sungkyunkwan University

## As a ratio of population, Koreans form the overwhelming majority of foreign students

The Hitotsubashi University Seoul Academia Symposium opened with a speech by Susumu Yamauchi, President of Hitotsubashi University. President Yamauchi stressed the deep ties between this university and Korea, noting the large number of Korean students currently attending Hitotsubashi University (currently 195 out of the total of 677 foreign students at the university, of whom 117 are undergraduates, making them the largest group represented), as well as the large number of talented graduates who have returned to Korea and are now active in business, academia, government, and other sectors. He also mentioned that the fact that Hitotsubashi is well recognized in Korea, a country known for its educational zeal and for its highly ambitious students, is proof that this university offers a high level of education even when viewed by global standards. He



**Eiji Ogawa**  
Vice President, Hitotsubashi University

concluded his remarks by expressing his determination that “Hitotsubashi University will actively contribute to steadily resolving the various serious issues between our countries and will work with you to blaze a trail for the future.”

Next, then-Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Korea Masatoshi Muto and representatives of the universities with which Hitotsubashi has academic and student exchange agreements—Chang-ku Byun, Vice President of Seoul National

University; Jong-wook Lee, President of Sogang University; and Jun Young Kim, President of Sungkyunkwan University—each offered heartwarming congratulatory messages wishing for friendly relations between our nations and for the further development of Hitotsubashi.

Following that, Vice President Eiji Ogawa of Hitotsubashi introduced the origins and history of the university, its founding and educational philosophies, its organizational structure, its international exchange programs, its educational results including its graduate employment status (ranked number 1 in 2010 by the *Economist*) and passing rates for the bar exam (1st in the nation 5 out of 7 times since the shift to the new system), main facilities, the Global COE Program, the Campus Asia program, the Research Center for East Asian Policies, and other features of Hitotsubashi University.

## Keynote speech by Hiroko Ota “Economic Issues for Japan and Korea to Tackle”



**Hiroko Ota**  
Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies

In her keynote speech, Professor Hiroko Ota of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) spoke on the theme of “Economic Issues for Japan and Korea to Tackle.” After graduating from Hitotsubashi University’s Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Ota worked as an assistant professor at Saitama University and other posts before becoming a professor at GRIPS in 2001. From the





**Woosik Moon**  
Member, Monetary Policy  
Committee, Bank of Korea



following year, she was named to serve as director, then deputy director general, and later director general for economic research in the Cabinet Office. In 2005, she returned to GRIPS, but from 2006 to 2008 she was appointed once again, this time to serve as Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy in the Abe and Fukuda administrations.

In her speech, she touched on aging societies, stable growth in East Asia, and global economic crises as common issues that Japan and Korea



should tackle together. In addition, she raised three challenges facing Asia as a whole that Japan and Korea should work together to address—the construction of a free trade system in East Asia, cooperation in the field of energy and environmental issues, and the strengthening of the financial safety net—and she offered her personal views on each area. Following her speech, there was a lively question and answer session with the audience.

### Speeches by Woosik Moon and Vice President Ogawa

Next, there were speeches by Korean and Japanese participants on Japan-Korea economic coop-

eration. First, on the Korean side, Woosik Moon, a member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of Korea, spoke on the theme of “Issues in East Asian market integration and Japan-Korea economic and financial cooperation,” while from the Japan side, Vice President Eiji Ogawa of Hitotsubashi University spoke on the topic of “The global financial crisis and Japan-Korea cooperation.”

### A successful conclusion with a high-level Q&A session

The program concluded with a Q&A session with Mr. Moon and Vice President Ogawa, with about 10 audience members posing questions to the speakers. The questions posed were at a high level and served to supplement and confirm the content of the expert presentations, demonstrating just how knowledgeable the audience members were.

As a result, the 1st Hitotsubashi Seoul Academia Symposium ran about 30 minutes over schedule, but resulted in a successful and productive four-hour program. The response from participants was very positive, with a number of people expressing their hope that the Seoul Academia Symposium will be held again next year.

