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## Opening Address

It is my great honor and pleasure to address at the opening of the Eleventh International Conference of Global COE HERSETEC. This conference is given a title of “Between Philology and Hermeneutics”. As a medievalist, I would say that I am rather familiar to both disciplines. I have been practicing, on everyday basis, readings and interpretations of historical texts written in Latin as well as in several modern European languages. According to Ferdinand de Saussure, the philological activities are “to fix, to interpret and to comment the text”. This definition by the famous renovator of the modern linguistics gives an impression that the discipline is quite clear and simple. However, if we go back about a century, we encounter a German philologist, Friedrich Ast who thinks about the discipline to be more complex. He considered it as being consisted in a sort of purification, or rather distillation, from the temporality, the accidentalness and the subjectivity, to get to primordial identity of human spirit concealed in a text. Ast was not the sole example among philosophers and philologists we consider to be scholars on boundary between the philology and the hermeneutics. So the conference we are to attend for two days starting from today a precious chance reexamine the two disciplines combined like a Siamese twins in theoretical respect. Daringly setting the theoretical target on the problem of relations between philology and hermeneutics, I believe that the organizer of this conference, Professor Matsuzawa has a vast academic ambition to reveal the unknown dimension of the hermeneutics, and I look forward very much to the results of this meeting.

Upon the opening of the conference, I would like to thank, first of all, three keynote speakers: Dr. François Rastier from France, Professor Simon Gatrell from United States and Professor Karel Fiala, resident of Fukui Prefecture now, but originally from the Czech Republic. I would like to express as the head of this program, my sincere gratitude to them for their generousities and collegueship. I would also thank to Professors Kiyoko Myojo of Saitama University, Takayuki Kamada of Shinshu University and Sanae Uehara of Nagoya University. These three musketeers of literature shall challenge to the problems of interpretation on worldly famous works of literature and their theoretical aspects. My thanks go as well to Professors Shinya Shigemi and Claire Fauvergue, of Nagoya University. They will show us each in his or her own way, examples of philosophical approach upon respective subject.

Last but, of course, not least, I would express my gratitude to my colleague Professor Kazuhiro Matsuzawa and his staff, to have organized and prepared this important conference.

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