

Professor Ronald P. Toby Received the First NIHU Prize in Japanese Studies in 2012



Ronald P. Toby, Professor of University of Illinois, received the first NIHU Prize to Japanese Studies Laureates for his contributions to the study of early modern history of Japan and to the promotion of Japanese studies in the United States. The award ceremony was held at the Japan Academy on January 11, 2012. After the ceremony, Professor Toby gave a memorial lecture on “Japan’s Borderless Early Modern Period.”



Prof. Toby was congratulated by Prof. Donald Keene, his former teacher at Columbia University.



Prof. and Mrs. Toby with Prof. Hayami Akira 速水融 (right) at the dinner party.

Photos by De-min Tao

The NIHU Prize in Japanese Studies recognizes the achievements of outstanding Japanese studies by scholars from overseas. At a time when the presence of Japanese studies has lost some of its former momentum in other countries, the prize was established in 2011 with the support of YKK Corporation in order to encourage and promote Japanese studies overseas. It is presented to researchers for outstanding achievement in scholarship on literature, language, history, folklore/ethnology, culture, the environment or other fields relating to Japan.

About NIHU

The National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU) is a comprehensive research hub for the humanities. Transcending traditional academic lines and incorporating the perspective of the environment, it brings together scholarship in the various fields of the human sciences with the aim of developing new paradigms of research for tackling the many difficult problems of the twenty-first century resulting from the complex interaction of the history of human affairs with the natural world.

NIHU serves as the umbrella organization for six inter-university joint-use institutions engaged in research in diverse aspects of the human sciences: The National Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku, located in Senri, Osaka); the National Museum of Japanese History (Rekihaku, in Sakura, Chiba); the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken, in the Katsurazaka neighborhood of Kyoto); the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN, in the Kamigamo neighborhood of Kyoto), the National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL, in Tachikawa, Tokyo), and the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL, in Tachikawa, Tokyo). Each of the institutes has researchers specializing in diverse fields, and each has developed a distinctive style of research. The institutes consider it their shared mission to achieve synthesis across different research fields, excellence in research and education, advancement of shared use and collaborative research functions, and promotion of close linkages with and contributions to society. They are all now engaged in efforts to build new paradigms for the human sciences.

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