

The 36th Dokkyo International Forum 2025

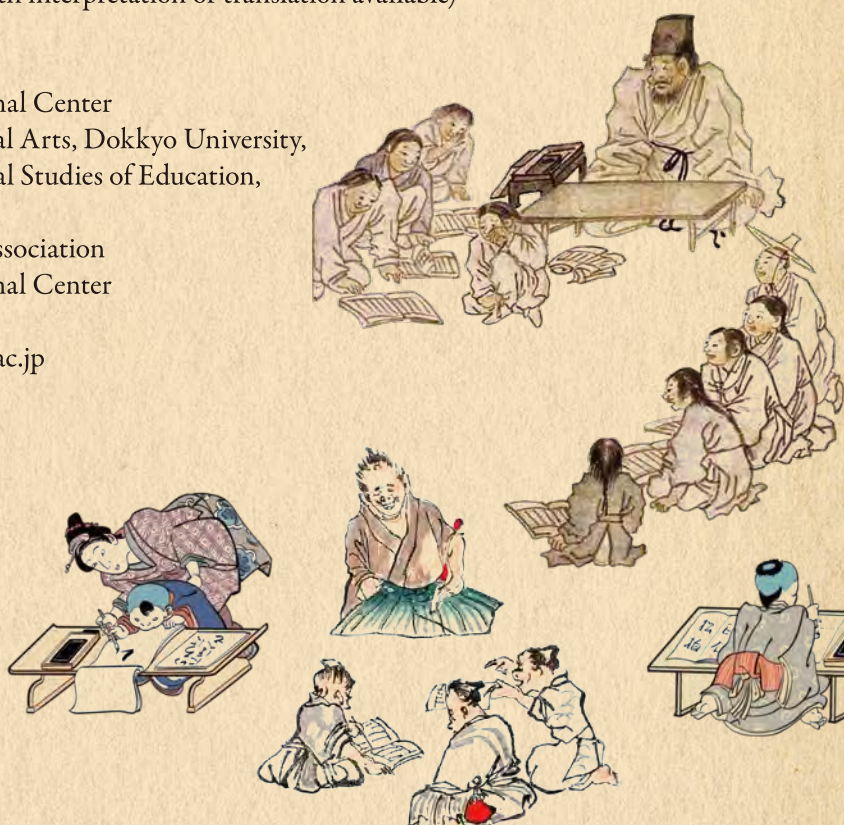
Literacy in East Asia: Research Findings and Issues

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14
December 2025

This Forum will be held both in-person and online, and everyone is welcome to participate. Those who wish to attend both in-person and online, please register via the QR code below or through the “Dokkyo Forum 2025” page on the Dokkyo University website.

- In-Person Venue: “DAI-KODO” the Auditorium, Amano Teiyu Building, Dokkyo University
- Online: We will email the URL (Zoom link) to registered participants.
- Languages : Japanese, Korean, Chinese (with interpretation or translation available)
- Fee: Free of charge
- Capacity: 500 (first-come, first-served)
- Hosted by: Dokkyo University International Center
- Under the auspices of: Faculty of International Liberal Arts, Dokkyo University,
The Japan Society for Historical Studies of Education,
Saitama Prefecture, Soka City,
Dokkyo University Alumni Association
- Contact: Dokkyo University International Center
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Visit here for registration
Either participate in-person
and online !
(Registration closes December 12)



Literacy in East Asia: Research Findings and Issues

Coordinator: Prof. Hajime KAWAMURA, Faculty of International Liberal Arts, Dokkyo University
Prof. Tadasu MATSUOKA, Faculty of International Liberal Arts, Dokkyo University

■Purpose

At the current stage of literacy research, various problems form a multilayered structure.

The first set of issues concerns the historical clarification of literacy from the perspective of Japan. While significant progress has been made two decades or so, much remains unclear, particularly regarding literacy in pre-medieval times. There are also considerable differences in interpretation between Japanese historians and scholars of the history of Japanese education.

Second, it involves to elucidate the processes of “separation” and “assimilation” from the Chinese character and classical Chinese cultural sphere when viewed from the perspective of East Asia as a whole. While Japan, Korea, and Vietnam each developed their own unique scripts, the manner of their dissemination and their relationship with Chinese characters and classical Chinese differed significantly among these three nations. The task of comparing and examining these differences has yet to be undertaken.

Third, from the same perspective, we must examine the literacy of kanji characters themselves and literacy education. It is necessary to clarify the

realities of literacy and literacy education in mainland China and Taiwan, which have developed distinct character forms and possess cultural diversity since modern times. Furthermore, comparative analysis with literacy education in Japan, including kanji, is required.

Fourth, when the scope is extended globally, it involves comparative studies with literacy and literacy research concerning alphabetic scripts and the like. Furthermore, integrating with literacy research across various script cultures remains an important challenge for the future.

Fifth, there is the foundational issue underlying these clusters of problems: a historical, anthropological, and philosophical examination of the very act of possessing writing. This foundational inquiry, while naturally resonating with the four aforementioned problem clusters, will be explored in greater depth.

This forum aims to invite research reports addressing the issues outlined above from various perspectives, deepen research exchange, and present future challenges for international literacy research.

■Program

▷ Saturday, December 13

Timetable	10:00	Opening Remarks: Prof. Hiroko MAEZAWA, President, Dokkyo University Purpose Statement and Participant Introductions Coordinators: Prof. Hajime KAWAMURA and Prof. Tadasu MATSUOKA
	10:30	Presentation: “A History of Literacy Research in Japanese Educational History” Prof. Hajime KAWAMURA (Dokkyo University)
	10:50	Presentation: “Literacy in Medieval Japan and Kamakura Buddhism” Mr. Yasuhiro OHTO (Professor Emeritus, University of Tsukuba)
	11:30	Presentation: “The Social Situation of Literacy in the Late 17th Century as Seen in Literature” Prof. Masanobu KIMURA (Seinan Jo gakuin University)
	12:10	Break
	13:10	Presentation: “Literacy and Schooling in Meiji Japan” Prof. Tomohiro YAKUWA (The Open University of Japan)
	13:50	Presentation: “Reading and Medical Learning of Rural Physicians Viewed through Acts of Writing” Prof. Yusuke FURUHATA (Dokkyo University)
	14:30	Discussion I
	16:20	Lecture: “Script, Power, and Tactility” Mr. Akira DEGUCHI (Professor Emeritus, Shimane University)
	17:30	Schedule for Next Day: Prof. Hajime KAWAMURA (Coordinator)

▷ Sunday, December 14

Timetable	10:00	Presentation: “A Brief Introduction To Languages and Literacy in Taiwan” Prof. Tadasu MATSUOKA (Dokkyo University)
	10:20	Presentation: “On the Writing Systems and Literacy of Taiwanese” Mr. LIM Siu-theh (Professor Emeritus, National Chengchi University, Taiwan)
	11:10	Presentation: “On the Reception of Chinese Loanwords in Taiwan Indigenous Languages” Prof. HUANG Chi-ping (National Chengchi University, Taiwan)
	12:00	Break
	13:00	Presentation: “Diversification of Literacy Patterns by Social Class in Late Joseon” Prof. PARK Jong-bae (Dongguk University, South Korea)
	13:40	Presentation: “The Differentiated Uses of Chinese Characters, Chữ Nôm and the Latin Alphabet in Literacy” Prof. Junichi IWASAKI (The University of Tokyo)
	14:20	Discussion II
	15:50	Closing Remarks: Prof. Yukari NOHARA, Director, Dokkyo University International Center