



The cooperative relation between the Museum of European Cultures of the National Museums in Berlin, Germany and the National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka, Japan started 10 years ago. The beginning was a research project of Berlin by a scholar from Osaka, and now the relation has developed into the cooperation on the institution level. In Osaka an exhibition of Europe is planned for March 2012, to which the research and curatorial staff in Berlin has given professional support; providing research information, searching for archival photographs, and also donating some objects. For this assistance the colleagues in Osaka are very thankful.

National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka is an Inter-University Research Institute, housing a research center and museum all in one, and engages in the study of various societies around the world, to which Japan and Europe is also included. The Museum of European Cultures in Berlin works specifically in the context of Europe. But both institutions are alike in having a cultural comparative perspective and share the view, that the old notion of society as isolated and independent units can no longer be sustained. From this point of view the colleagues of Osaka share the subject of the new exhibition in Berlin, focusing on the movement and culture contact.

I heartily congratulate the Museum of European Cultures on its opening of the new exhibition. It is our hope that this exhibition will contribute to ongoing scholarship and draw attention to the importance of museum activities.

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