
FOREWORD

KEIJI SHONO

It is a pleasure to present this selection of highlights from the National Symposium on Japanese Language Education (NSJLE) 2018.

NSJLE 2018, jointly organised by the Monash Japanese Language Education Centre and The Japan Foundation, Sydney, was held on November 2-3, 2018 at the University of Technology Sydney. The fourth symposium since its inaugural event in 2012, NSJLE 2018 provided an invaluable opportunity for those at the coalface of Japanese language education to share their classroom innovations and insights with fellow members of the community.

The common pursuit of our dedicated Japanese language educators once again resonates through this collection: to explore the notion of connection both within and outside the classroom, and to ensure the community is equipped to respond to enduring and emerging challenges in the field. Embodying the NSJLE 2018 theme of 'Bigger, Broader, Better', this volume of proceedings is testament to how the community continues to support Japanese language learning and ensure its relevance in the global context.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to those involved in bringing this volume to fruition: namely, Dr Robyn Spence-Brown, who provided invaluable assistance as chief editor of this volume of proceedings; in alphabetical order, Dr Belinda Kennett, Dr Gwyn McClelland, Yutaka Nakajima, Prof Chihiro Kinoshita Thomson and Dr Naomi Wilks-Smith for their commitment to the selection and reviewing process; David Kelly and Mari Minami for their assistance in editing and proofreading; and Maki Toshimori, Junko Yano and Leah Sourris of The Japan Foundation, Sydney for their editorial and administrative support. Finally, I would like to thank all the contributors to this volume, whose learnings within it will undoubtedly continue to inspire and drive forward Japanese language education in Australia and beyond.

It is my great hope that the contents of this volume will serve as a springboard for further discussion among not only participants of the symposium but also the Japanese language education community at large, as well as provide a catalyst for further innovation in the field.

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