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## GREETING ADDRESS

Dear participants in the International Symposium on Language Education, Polyglottery and Geolinguistics in Moscow,

30 years ago, we founded an NGO, *Tabunkaken* (Society for Multicultural Community Studies), for cultural exchange and research on multiculturalism and migration policy. Since then we have been involved in many activities related to multicultural community building and active learning for students from different cultural backgrounds. We are also very active in global issues, particularly in the issues of refugees and stateless persons.

A multicultural synergic society means not simply respecting cultural diversity, but also having coordination and tolerance of all of each other's differences. It means communities where people value human rights and interact lovingly and equally with immigrants, refugees, stateless persons, differently-challenged people, fugitives, single-mother families, and LGBT individuals as members of our neighborhood and communities.

When you come to Japan, please join us and share your views. For information, you can visit our website: <http://tabunkaken.com>.

We always remember Dr Grigory Kazakov's wonderful presentation on the creation of a Museum of Languages and Cultures about two years ago at a *Tabunkaken* meeting in Tokyo<sup>1</sup>. He made the point that while museums of history, art and science exist practically in every big city in the world, language, which is an indispensable element of human nature and society, has hardly any museums devoted to it at all. Languages, and with them their respective ethnic cultures, are dying out faster than wildlife species. So it seems only natural that museums of languages and cultures should be created to preserve and disseminate information about them. After Dr Kazakov's presentation, we were able to discuss what such a museum could contain and exhibit and what purposes it could serve.

I sincerely hope your International Symposium on Language Education, Polyglottery and Geolinguistics will be successful. Thank you very much. *Arigato gozaimasu*.

*August 27, 2018*

*Chizuko Kawamura, PhD  
Director of the Society for Multicultural Community Studies*

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<sup>1</sup> G. Kazakov, "Concerning the creation of a museum of languages and cultures", Session of the Society for Multicultural Community Studies (*Tabunkaken*), Tokyo, March 20, 2016 (*editor's note*).