

## Letter of Thanks to Prof. Ikuo Kameyama, Nagoya

September 4, 2023

Professor Ikuo Kameyama  
President  
Nagoya University of Foreign Studies

*Dear Professor Kameyama:*

*We write to express our most sincere thanks for everything you and your colleagues did to host the XVIII Symposium of the International Dostoevsky Society, August 24-28, 2023. The Nagoya Symposium was an unprecedented event in our history, and we are profoundly grateful.*

*The Symposium surpassed all our expectations. The four years since the last Symposium (Boston 2019) were challenging – more than any other time in our history; the pandemic forced two postponements of the Symposium, which in turn doubled and tripled the demands on you, your university, and the Organizing Committee. In addition, we know how difficult it has been over the past two years to carry out the necessary administrative and financial tasks. We are so impressed with your ability to manage everything with energy and grace, overcoming all obstacles to bring to Nagoya the world's top experts on Dostoevsky for what was for us an unforgettable intellectual and scholarly experience. We have returned home inspired by your example, energized by the presentations and interactions with other scholars, eager to continue our research on Dostoevsky, and motivated to maintain the relationships and connections we have made, with your help, in Nagoya.*

*Everyone who participated in the Symposium joins us in expressing their gratitude to you, NUFS, and the Organizing Committee for the nurturing space you created for intellectual, creative, and scholarly exchange, so rare and welcome during this difficult time. Many of our colleagues have commented on the superb intellectual and thematic focus of the program sessions, and we want to express our particular thanks to those who organized the program. We also know that your generosity and support with the registration fees, housing, and banquet was essential in ensuring that the best scholars in the world could attend; we cannot imagine what the Symposium would have been like without this essential worldwide*

*participation. The Nagoya Symposium featured an unprecedented diversity of international perspectives and approaches. The work shared by senior scholars and brilliant young researchers from all corners of the globe has enlivened the field, and has established a strong foundation for future work. We were impressed by the quality and variety of work presented by our Japanese colleagues, and with the popularity and respect Dostoevsky enjoys among Japanese readers. We were also delighted to learn from a broad range of Dostoevsky scholars from across Asia, an area of expansion for us. The IDS is eager to continue to maintain and strengthen these connections with Asian scholarship, for which the Nagoya Symposium has laid a very strong foundation.*

*The trip to Kyoto was an unforgettable experience, so meticulously planned and organized. The beautiful walk around the Golden Pavillion was the perfect beginning to the day. Many of those who participated remarked on the genuine, inimitable spiritual atmosphere of Ryoanji – such a beautiful experience after the intensity of our scholarly exchanges. The 1001 Kannon statues at the Sanju Sangendo Temple left us speechless. The meticulously planned Japanese lunch was for many of us the high point of the tour – the very finest, most distinctive, delicious “Nihon-teki” experience of Japanese culture and cuisine.*

*The roundtable with Japanese writers was extraordinary, an unprecedented event in the history of our Society. To hear these three brilliant young literary masters discuss their relationship with Dostoevsky was the culmination of the Symposium for many of us. Our Russian colleagues in particular praised this event as unique and valuable for everyone. It reminded us of why we do what we do; Dostoevsky’s writing is not limited to its time and place, but is a living thing that continues to inspire every new generation of readers – on a profoundly individual level, in different cultural contexts, but most of all as a force for shared engagement with the meaningful questions that unite us – ethical, philosophical, psychological – on the common territory of art.*

*We speak on behalf of all the members of the International Dostoevsky Society in expressing our profound gratitude to you, your university, and your colleagues, for making this Symposium such a brilliant success.*

*Sincerely yours,*

*Stefano Aloe, President  
International Dostoevsky Society*

*Carol Apollonio, Former President  
International Dostoevsky Society*