50 Years of Kominkan Research and 20 Years of Achievements and Challenges of The Japan Society for The Study of Kominkan

Keizo UENO（Nishikyushu University）

This study provides an overview of 50 years of KOMINKAN research and looks back at the 20 years since the founding of The Japan Society for The Study of Kominkan and examines the achievements and challenges of Kominkan research. In 2014, to mark its 10th anniversary, the Society compiled a booklet entitled "Challenges and Possibilities for Kominkan.” This year, a report will be issued that looks back over the past 50 years, with particular attention given to the progress of research since the Society's 10th anniversary.

The points that emerged are as follows:

(1) Research on Kominkan has accumulated through the collective efforts and collaboration of researchers and practitioners.

(2) Research on Kominkan has been conducted with the aim of systematizing the study thereof.

(3) The reality is that there has been a decrease in both the number of Kominkan facilities and the number of staff

(4) The establishment of Kominkan in local communities since World War II has been diverse.

Therefore, the challenge for the future is to develop an "expanded image of the Kominkan" based on an "expanded of sense of the public," and doing so create a diversity of Kominkan models. To this end, we have presented a number of points that should be addressed by the Society in its role as an academic organization.