JSANZ 10th Anniversary

Special Edition Newsletter

# Future directions — A word from the acting president, Dr Masa Ogino

I'm honoured to take on the role of Acting President at such a critical time in our organisation's history. As I look back over the last ten years, I'm deeply thankful for the solid foundation our first president, Penny, along with vice-president Dallas and secretary Junji, have built. Their leadership and commitment have been pivotal in shaping our path since 2014.

Until we elect new leadership next year, I will be serving as Acting President. In the interim, I plan to reach out to executives to gauge their interest in filling two Acting Vice-President roles. This will allow us to more effectively manage our responsibilities and increase our pool of experienced leaders, ensuring we have strong candidates for the elections.

Looking ahead, the challenges and opportunities for JSANZ and the broader field of Japanese studies are substantial. In a world already reshaped by the pandemic, it seems that the emergence of generative AI will result in an even more transformative and pivotal era for education. In this new chapter, our mission is clear: to strengthen our networks, enhance what we offer, and broaden our reach to ensure Japanese studies continue to be a vibrant part of New Zealand’s academic and cultural landscape. The ‘3Vs’ of advocacy—Vision, Value, and Visibility—remain essential in our efforts. This includes building stronger ties with our sponsors and academic partners, both here and abroad, to gather the support and resources needed for our initiatives.

To mark our 10th anniversary, we will be planning a small celebration. It will be a great chance for our members to come together, reflect on our achievements, and inspire ongoing commitment to promoting Japanese studies in New Zealand.

Thank you all for your trust, support, and dedication as we step forward into the future.

Kia ora rā, kia kaha

Masayoshi Ogino