

FOREWORD

Books and education are, we believe, the elements of an equation that permanently provokes the world, the attempt of which gives birth to the winning bet of a nation. And research, in this equation, enhances the sensitive human being, expanding its register of senses and thinking to unexpected shades.

Issue 3 of 2010 of the journal *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai. Philology* marked the establishment of the **Department of Asian Languages and Literatures**, with the three specializations: *Chinese Language and Literature*, *Korean Language and Literature*, *Japanese Language and Literature*. We expressed then the hope that diversification, enrichment of the educational offer within the Faculty of Letters, Babeş-Bolyai University, would mean a good future for our department. A fact evidenced by the ten years that have passed and by the increasing number of students enrolled in the department's specializations, the proposed bachelor's degree curriculum trying to transform the fascination of young people for the Far East into knowledge and expertise. Also, in collaboration with the Confucius Institute, the Korean Cultural Center and the *Sembazuru* Japanese Studies Center, the **Department of Asian Languages and Literatures** completes the analytical program of specializations organizing both cultural and scientific events, but also initiating actions to expand and strengthen relations with universities or various organizations in China, South Korea and Japan.

We are therefore happy to be able to celebrate a decade of existence through the issue of the journal *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai. Philology*. Using illustrative materials offered by the Chinese, Korean and Japanese languages, literatures and cultures, the studies included in this volume assume the provocative encounter, in and beyond the historical time, with exotic cultural spaces, which are, in fact, in an old West-East flow. We thank the guests and members of the Department (Alexandra Bîja, Oana-Maria Bîrlea, Dumitru Bojovschi, Ioana Bojovschi, Chen Kai, Feng Shaozhong, Rodica Frențiu, Florina Ilis, Dong Hun Kwak, Liu Jiantong, Codruța Sîntionean, Cătălina Stanciu, Ioana Ruxandra Toșu, Ioana-Ciliana Tudorică, Diana-Elena Vereș, Jérôme de Wit) for their cooperation and we hope that through our research, we will raise questions, inviting readers to dialogue.

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