

Farewell to Macquarie University

Introduction

Vice-Chancellor, Head of the School, my colleagues at Macquarie University: Thank you, Professor Yerbury, for the flattering comments on my work at Macquarie, and thank you to all of you for bothering to come despite the very busy time of the beginning of a new academic year.

First of all, I am grateful to you, Professor Di Yerbury, for organizing this farewell lunch for me, and I am most honored to have been given this opportunity to say a few words of farewell to my Macquarie colleagues.

I have been here at Macquarie University for only less than two years, to be exact, only a year and nine months. But I can proudly say that this period has been the most enjoyable and rewarding years in my life, both professionally and socially. Living in Sydney has resulted in the best years not only for me, but also for my family as well.

What Has been Achieved

My duty has been, besides teaching, to launch the Centre for Japanese Economic Studies, which was established three years ago. When I first took up this responsibility, I had in my mind a three-year plan of the Centre's activities.

The first year is to build up the infrastructure of the Centre, namely establishing: (1) seminar and lecture programs; (2) various publications; (3) visiting scholars program; (4) prizes for students; and (5) thereby establishing the some profile of the Centre both nationally and internationally.

The aim of the second year has been primarily to enhance international profile as a research-conducting Centre. It is my belief, as the Vice-Chancellor's belief as I understand it, that long-run reputation of a University or a Centre depends ultimately on the research, and not on the ability to organize conferences.

This aim will be realized when an edited book containing 15 research papers is published in the latter half of this year (1994) by Macmillan Press, London, and is marketed internationally. Incidentally the title of the book is *The Structure of the Japanese Economy: Changes on the Domestic and International Fronts*.

What I have been saying by all this is not how much I achieved, but rather how little I have achieved and implying that how much there is yet to be done to become a respected Centre.

The agenda of my third year, for instance, is yet to be done, which includes: (1) establishing a post-graduate units in teaching the Japanese economy; (2) periodical conference or interchange forum with business communities; (3) the director appearing on the TV and in popular journalism more often; and (4) consolidate the financial base of the Centre. All these difficult tasks are left unfinished.

Therefore, what I actually did, and could do, over the past years is really small when compared with these unfinished and difficult task left for the future.

But, however small my contribution may be, the task could not have been carried out efficiently and cheerfully without the assistance of so many of the colleagues and staff of Macquarie.

Acknowledgment

I would like to say thank you sincerely to each of you, for your support, encouragement, advice, and useful criticism. Without these assistance, I could not have carried out my duty properly, and without your friendship, I could not have performed the job so enjoyably.

I would like to say thank you to each of you in person, but I really need to express special appreciation to:

- Helen Smith and Glennis Yee, both of whom are my assistants of the Centre and helped me every day in the Centre's activities;
- Monica Byrnes and Ann Mercieca, Managers of the School of Economic and Financial Studies, both of whom taught me various rules and regulations of Macquarie and quite often provided me with a very good solution to a difficult problem I asked;
- Eddie Oliver, Head of the School, whose impartial opinion was particularly valuable in making my own decision;

In the university-wide administration sphere:

- Brian Spencer, the Registrar, and his team, assisted me so effectively in handling various issues involving university-wide resources;
- Janelle Murphy, Public Relations Manager, and her team, was instrumental in publicizing our Centre, as well as in keeping historical records in the form of photographs of our activities
- Vice-Chancellor Professor Di Yerbury, has continuously encouraged both me and the activities of the Centre in a very friendly manner; In particular I am most

grateful for generously sparing her time in attending various ceremonies, lunches, and receptions organized by the Centre.

In surrounding the Centre itself, my deep appreciation goes to:

- The Members of the Management Committee of the Centre; The discussion at the meeting and useful advice by experts of various fields, have always given me a sense of proportion, and was an important guide in my decision. John Purcal, former Chairman of this Committee, was most supportive of the Centre;'s activities and its growth.
- The Members of the Program Committee of the Center, have given me numerous personal advice continuously. Mrs. Susie Chow, Academic Director of the Japanese Studies, provided me with valuable suggestions from both the Japanese and Australian perspectives.
- Leslie Stein, Current Chairman of the Management Committee and Acting-Director-to-be, has personally been so close to me everyday, and, in fact, especially over the last half a year, the “Centre can be said to have been directed, not by me alone, but by both him and me jointly.
- Finally, the late Victor Argy, a great scholar, the founder of the Centre, and a Research Advisor to the Centre. I have known Victor for more than ten years; he was a teacher to me, and a good friend of mine; he was a source of inspiration to the Centre. Without Victor, the Centre would not have been in existence, in the first place, and without his invitation, I would never thought of taking up my duty here at Macquarie.

My Departure for Keio University

I have recently been asked many times “How do you feel to leave Sydney?” My frank answer is that I feel sad: because such a good life for me and for my family has to come to an end, and also because we lost Victor who has been so close to me in our life in Sydney and at Macquarie. But the time has come for me.

I will be leaving Sydney next Monday. And next month, I will take up a new duty at the Faculty of Policy Management at Keio University in Japan. Keio is the oldest university in Japan, but the Faculty of Policy Management is the newest Faculty in that University, established only four years ago. The unique feature of this Faculty is, that it emphasizes interdisciplinary and policy oriented approach to various social and environmental issues.

So that, in future, I would not be surprised even if I find that I am doing research with some of my former Macquarie colleagues. The campus of this Faculty is brand new and has been built on a green field in the suburbs of Tokyo. So, please visit me,

when anyone of you comes over to Tokyo.

Conclusion

Finally, I sincerely hope that Macquarie University will grow further in various dimension, and that the reputation will be heightened still further under Professor Yerbury's leadership.

Also I wish that the Centre for Japanese Economic Studies will prosper and fulfill its mission. In this respect, I would like to ask you to extend the same kind of support to Professor Leslie Stein, the Acting-Director, as I have enjoyed.

Once again, thank you very much.

(Remarks at the farewell reception hosted by
Professor Di Yerbury, Vice-Chancellor of
Macquarie University, 1st March 1994,
at the Council Building, Macquarie University)