

PREFACE

How could the art and human sciences contribute to the urban culture research? In order to answer it, we had better made clear our own way for grasping the city. There are many people residing in the city who develop their various activities. We would like to approach their lives and/or culture of them not in a macroscopic but in a microscopic way. One method is to focus our senses on the street. We research the city by watching the street at first. It seems that we enter a house not from the front door but through the small window of a ventilator.

The activities of the street are always characterized with flexibility. They could be examined from various aspects, such as ethnomusicology, geography, Asian philosophy, anthropology and so on. We put the streets of Thailand, Japan and China under the case study. Since this kind of objects has been rarely analyzed in the field of art and human sciences, we hope that a new knowledge and theory could come into existence in this book. Focusing on the street means paying attention to a narrow space of the city. We will regard the city as soft structure instead of a hard one.

This book is a collection of papers, reporting the first academic forum which was held at the Pathumwan Princess Hotel on April 8, 2003. The participating scholars came from Osaka City University, Japan and Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. Its theme was "What's happening on the street?"

This forum is held to celebrate the opening of the exchange office of Chulalongkorn University and Osaka City University which is located in the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts of CU, based on the agreement of academic exchange program between two universities that was concluded in June, 2002. The whole projects are sponsored by COE (Center of Excellence) program of the Ministry of Education and Science in Japan.

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