

Wang Xiao-ping Won the 2nd Nara International Myriad Leaves Prize of Japan

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In April 2010, the result of the 2nd Nara International Myriad Leaves Prize of Japan was announced publicly. Prof. Wang Xiao-ping, member of *FWLS* Editorial Board, from Tianjin Normal University in China was awarded the prize. The *Asahi Shimbun* and other big newspapers of Japan reported the news.

The Nara International Myriad Leaves Prize whose award – presentation agency was set-up in Nara Prefecture in Japan is the international prize for commending the scholars around the world who have made significant achievements in the world heritage *Myriad Leaves* related academic and cultural fields. Thus, it aims at promoting the Myriad Leaves Research in the world and contributing to rediscovery of the Japanese culture and the creation of a new culture. The prize is awarded once every two years to one winner irrespective of nationality and ethnicity. The Review Committee consists of the authorities at home and abroad, including the Cultural Medal winner, Cultural contributor, Columbia University honorary professor, well-known historian of Japanese literature Donald Keene, the director-general of the Operating Consortium of the New National Theatre and former Minister of Ministry of Science Atsuko Toyama, the Cultural contributor, Winner of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, President of the Association of National Language and Literature of the Universities around the country, Curator of Nara Prefecture *Myriad Leaves Culture Centre* Nakanisisusumu, and the deceased Japanese famous painters, Winner of Order of Culture, Cultural contributor, Hirayama.

The Review Committee thinks that Wang Xiaoping has been recognized in the academic circles as a forerunner of the *Myriad Leaves* Research since he published the academic paper *Commenting on Myriad Leaves using The Book of Songs for reference* in 1981. Basing on having a good command of the Chinese classical literature study, he promoted the comparative study of classical poetics between China and Japan taking *Myriad Leaves* as a centre. Particularly, he presented insightful views to interpret Chinese poems and articles in *Myriad Leaves* which have been always incomprehensible by referring to the pop literature in *The Book of Songs* and some other Chinese literature and also Dunhuang documents. Furthermore, he inaugurated a new phase in the approach to the comparative study of Chinese and Japanese literature by reviewing *Myriad Leaves* in the perspective of the history of World Literature. The interpretation of *Myriad Leaves* in Wang Xiaoping's published academic papers has achieved a higher level in comparison with existing translation and research in the academic circle. His related research fruits of recent years are *On the Emotions of Relatives and the Fil-*

ial Piety in Myriad Leaves } *Journal of Tianjin Normal University*[J], 2003(3) } , *Dunhuang Literature and Myriad Leaves* } *Meaning's Culture and Love's Culture—Japanese Studies in China* [C], CHUOKORON-SHINSHA in Japan ,2004 } , *The Comparative Study of the letters of Dunhuang and Myriad Leaves* } *Dunhuang Research*[J],2004(6) } , *Dunhuang Songs* } *Myriad Leaves Classical Literature Study Annuals*(3) , *Joint Research*, “Eurasia Continent and Myriad Leaves” 2005 } , *Chinese Discourse in the Study of Myriad Leaves* } *Foreign Literature Studies*[J],2005(6) } and so on.

The Review Committee points out that Wang Xiaoping will not only energetically continue to study the exchanging history of Chinese and Japanese literary and the comparative study of Sino-Japanese poetry but also extend his latest study to taking a Chinese literature of Asian countries centered exchanging history of literature. In addition, Wang Xiaoping not only carried out the above-mentioned unique comparative study of Sino-Japanese literature, but also introduced Waka's (literally “Japanese poem”) charm and the essence of Japanese Classical Literature to Chinese people through his considerable works. Besides, Wang Xiaoping made great contributions to cultivating the subsequent researchers. For these reasons, the 2nd Nara International Myriad Leaves Prize was awarded to Wang Xiaoping.

On 26 June, 2010, the award ceremony was held ceremoniously in Nara Prefecture. Myriad Leaves cultural centers installed special counters to display the Chinese versions of *Myriad Leaves* and Wang Xiaoping's works about *Myriad Leaves* research. More than 200 visiting guests from around Japan attended the award ceremony. The Review Committee of Nara International *Myriad Leaves* Prize introduced the present winner Wang Xiaoping's research fruition in detail. It pointed out emphatically that Wang Xiaoping had published the academic papers of Myriad Leaves Research in two languages in China and Japan since 1981 and it had exerted a tremendous influence. For example, his textual research on *The Kiloword* quoted by Murajiyoeoshi Yoshida is a great innovation which can be said the final conclusion; his exposition about the influence of the Letters of the Six Dynasties in Myriad Leaves is very persuasive ; his research of the relation between the Buddhist prayers in Dunhuang Manuscripts and the works of Yamanoueno Okura is the newest research fruition which is generally acknowledged by the academic circle; his training the talents of *Myriad Leaves* Research is remarkable.

The governor of Nara Prefecture Shogo Arai awarded Wang Xiaoping the prize medal and certificate in person. At the meeting, Wang Xiaoping gave an academic lecture on *Myriad Leaves and The Books of Poems*. Donald Keehan, as Professor of Columbia University and member of the Review Committee of Nara International Myriad Leaves Prize, made a speech on *The Translation of Myriad Leaves*. Nakanisisumu, Donald Keehan, Wang Xiaoping and Prof. Geny Wakisaka who is the previous winners and from the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil made a speech respectively in the forum on *Myriad Leaves in the World*. After the meeting, a concert called “*the Silk Road*” was held in which some Japanese artists played “*Jasmine*”, “*Oriental Cherry*” and some other world famous music. In the evening, there was a celebration banquet.

The next day, The Asahi Shimbun, the Mainichi Shimbun and other newspapers of Japan and also NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) reported the news. Some have also provided the pictures.

On June 30, Wang Xiaoping was invited to give a talk on *The Silk Road and Myriad Leaves* in Nara Women's University and was given a warmly welcome by the participants. After the meeting, Wang Xiaoping replied the related questions presented by the participants.

The Board Chairperson and Principal Mr. Takeshi Kano and his colleagues of Tezukayamagakuin University where Wang Xiaoping had worked specially came to attend the awarding ceremony. All the members of the League of Understanding China of Osakasayama city where Wang Xiao-ping had worked as a teacher also took part in the award-presentation ceremony and congratulated Prof. Wang Xiaoping on winning the prize.