

## Preface

Time for change is coming. It is not only that alterations in legal systems require foundations and corporations to change their organizational forms, but also that the social roles of grant organizations, museums, and institutions in the fields of art, theatre, and music need to be thoroughly reconsidered and reexamined.

It is said that museums recently have less visitors than before. A large crowd rushes into a museum only when a famous Western painting is brought in, and the visitors go home as soon as they take a look on it without a glance on other exhibitions. It is said that they are interested only in Mona Lisa when it comes to Renaissance or Monet's water lilies when it comes to late impressionism, with no attention to the historical backgrounds of these paintings and the changes that the notion of beauty has undergone.

I suppose that the same phenomenon is seen also in Europe and the United States. As for the situation of grant-making foundations, I am feeling that individual or group grantees are being weak apparently due to the same cause. It is said that talents of Japan have been becoming more and more hobbyistic while talents of Asian countries are powerfully exploring the frontiers, and we cannot be neglecting this view. On the other hand, in the beginning of the 21st century, industrial society seems to be in its final downfall. Since the end of the Cold War and the disappearance of counter-arguments, market economy has been revealing its fundamental defects. Managers' morality has declined, voices of reason are blocked by power, and cultural and artistic activities are globally facing adversities. Our attitudes and agendas are being questioned in this situation, and I think that we, who have been able to move forward since the establishment in 1987 thanks to the support and cooperation of forerunners and Saison group companies, need to be ready to undergo a significant transition. I would like to express gratitude toward guidance and instructions by forerunners and experts in advance.

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Seiji Tsutsumi  
President, The Saison Foundation