On the occasion of the inauguration of the new Toyo Bunko Library and Museum in the fall of 2011, the Research Department of Toyo Bunko started a new research program to deal with the rapidly changing situation in Asia from contemporary, long-term, interdisciplinary and inter-regional perspectives.

Inviting research scholars from all over the world, the first symposium was held at Toyo Bunko on March to reexamine both source materials and methodology in academic research that have accumulated over the years and to make their views and findings as widely available to the public as possible through every kind of medium at our disposal such as the English journal of the Toyo Bunko.

For three years beginning in 2012 (April 2012-March 2013), we have attempted to tie together the existing region-by-region researches and their findings in a more comprehensive and integrated manner, in order to analyze source materials from the perspective of the inter-regional linkage (which we term "regional spheres") that constitutes Asia as a whole and thus offer new and diverse perspectives on the research that has been done to date. The themes planned for each year were:

2012 Integrated Study of Dynamism in the Central Asian Regional Sphere
Toyo Bunko International Symposium 2012
http://www.toyo-bunko.or.jp/research/e-journal/SASR09/#page=117

2013 Integrated Study of Dynamism in the Indian Subcontinental Regional Sphere
Toyo Bunko International Symposium 2013
http://www.toyo-bunko.or.jp/research/e-journal/MASR05/#page=53
2014 Integrated Study of Dynamism in the Supra-Regional Spheres of Islamic and Chinese Culture

Theme of the international symposium of this year 2014 is "Islamic and Chinese Studies and Inter-Asia Research Networks: Integrated Study of Dynamism in the Supra-Regional Spheres of Islamic and Chinese Regions", which was held on 28th February-1st March, 2015.

The symposium was composed of three sessions,

Session 1 (coordinator: Prof. SHIMBO Atsuko): Some Aspects of Chinese Muslim Society: Focusing on Migration, Network and Gender,

Session 2 (coordinator: Prof. HACHIOSHI Makoto): Parliamentarism and Constitutional Systems in Islamic and Chinese Regional Spheres,

Session 3 (coordinator: Prof. HAMASHITA Takeshi): Local and Global Problems around Islamic and Chinese Regional Spheres.

We will start for the next three years 2015-2017 an international symposium plan on inter-regional and intra-regional Asian studies focused on various relations between Islamic and Chinese regions in a broader historical sense for a further international development of Asian studies under this global world.