

Sophia University Institute of Comparative Culture International Conference:

# **“The Role of Religion and the Study of Religion in the Crises Confronting the World”**

**Dates: July 18 and 19th, 2009**

**Time: 10:00 ~ 17:00**

**Venue: Rm.301, #10 Building**

**Convener: Richard Gardner (Sophia University)**

## **Speakers:**

- **Charles Long** (Professor Emeritus, University of California, Santa Barbara)
- **Ashis Nandy** (Senior Honorary Fellow, the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies)
- **William LaFleur** (Professor, University of Pennsylvania)
- **Lawrence Sullivan** (Professor, University of Norte Dame)
- **Jennifer Reid** (Professor, University of Maine, Farmington)
- **Philip Arnold** (Professor, Syracuse University)

In this conference, the speakers are to review how their understanding of religion and the study of religion has shifted over the years and, in addition, to present their understanding of the various roles they see religions, theories of religion, and more popular understandings of religion as playing in the past and, especially, the present. The presentations will be followed by responses from Japanese panelists (Yoshiko Oda, Masakazu Tanatsugu, Takeshi Kimura, Liana Trufas and Susumu Shimazono), and general discussion. The presentations and discussions will be conducted in English (no translation provided.) This academic conference is made possible by funding from Niwano Peace Foundation.

Since space is limited, please let us know ahead of time if you are attending by sending an email to Prof. Murakami (muraka-t@sophia.ac.jp) before Friday, July 10.