The research topics of the International Research Center for Philosophy have been compelled to change dramatically, reflecting the trends of the times. Along with the unexpected rapid progress of AI and information science, the current situation has changed to a degree where predictions are impossible. Therefore, as subject areas, we have broadly established programs under the framework of (1) information science and technology society, (2) eco-philosophy, (3) thoughts for harmonious coexistence, and (4) history of philosophy. These changes are necessary to establish new programs and changes in the existing programs, to facilitate participation by individuals from other departments as a comprehensive university program, and to eventually develop into television lectures linking each campus. These are also based on the request of the university president and staff members who support the activities of the International Research Center for Philosophy.

Comprehensive research on thoughts for harmonious coexistence and researches on the history of philosophy are long-standing research projects that will continue for 5 and 10 years, respectively. Although the projects comprise small study groups, we should continue for an extended period. However, there may be times when conditions change again. At that time, we will focus on altering the research emphasis.

When an issue emerges during a certain period, it is always necessary to examine what philosophy can do at that moment. Philosophers must not be mere critics. Moreover, there are no topics for which a historical distance can be created. From the beginning, there is no definitive method on what should be implemented. Contemporary themes are not merely debate topics, but also have some involvement in trends. No matter how trivial the theme’s impact may be, it is necessary to engage where it affects the theme itself. However, it makes it almost impossible to track the trends of the same era. Given this background, repeated trial and error is also a program characteristic. I believe that this year was a year of such trial and error.