

## CEMC/EMSAN Day. A Message from Dr. Hiromi ISHII

Dear EMSAN colleague composers,

All the best for the EMSAN day Beijing on 28/10! Hope the EMSAN day will be successfully productive.

Since the encounter of Eastern and Western cultures, many Asian composers experienced distortions through the aesthetic difference of the two and have been seeking ways for coexistence. For example, there was a big wave in 20 century Japanese contemporary music in which composers of Western style music coped with this theme enthusiastically. They applied traditional Japanese instruments to their works as 'pure' sound materials ignoring their tradition and aesthetics. They composed music by juxtaposing traditional instruments together with western instruments (including electronic sounds), by inventing new playing techniques to produce never-heard sounds, and even by applying this distortion itself to structure music. Many innovative works have been composed, but on the other hand, many composers re-found traditional Japanese music, because they found that music appears more powerful when an instrument is used based on its own sound aesthetics.

Nowadays, composers of electroacoustic music have a powerful tool; the computers. Using the digital technology, we can go farther. Composers can transform any sounds in various ways, even to produce remote characteristics from their originals. Here, however, composers will face a question; In what way process sounds? and why? In what way structure music?and why? To answer these, establishing the originality of Asian EA music is essential. Researches and investigations from the viewpoint of EA music on our traditional music & sound cultures are indispensable for its future development.

Our Asian aesthetic-based electroacoustic music is surely a part of (Western-originated) electroacoustic music, but at the same time, it will be as a 'new' genre of Asian 'traditional' music in future centuries. Only electroacoustic music enables us to bridge between different sound cultures and musical traditions, as it offers quite an innovative context of music in which composers can create a very delicate and close relationship between them.

With my best wishes to all participants,  
Dr. Hiromi Ishii  
Composer/Curator of media art & visual music  
24 octobre 2009