Japanese Lesson Study in MATHEMATICS
Its Impact, Diversity and Potential for Educational Improvement

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With support of

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JAPANESE LESSON STUDY IN MATHEMATICS
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Foreword

*Japanese Lesson Study in Mathematics: its impact, diversity and potential for educational improvement* has been prepared for non-Japanese Mathematics Educators who are interested in learning about the development and use of Lesson Study in Japanese Schools and its growing use in other countries as a means of improving teaching and learning in mathematics.


One important difference is the inclusion in this book of four commentaries on sample Japanese lessons which have been prepared by Abraham Arcavi and Aida Yap. The lessons on which these commentaries are based can be downloaded from the following web site http://www.criced.tsukuba.ac.jp/math/video/. These commentaries are intended to help non-Japanese readers to understand the structure of the above lessons. Particular attention is given to describing the mathematical contents of the lessons, their main components and key events in the classroom. There are also possible issues for discussion and reflections with teachers observing these lessons.

This book explains the historical development of Lesson Study in Japan and relationships between Lesson Study and the National Course of Study. The various authors explain how Lesson Study
activities are supported by all elements of the Japanese education system. Samples of lessons developed for Lesson Study are included. These give practical examples of the careful planning of content, teaching approaches and expected students’ responses that are an essential part of Lesson Study. Also included in the book are several case studies showing how Lesson Study has been used in a number of overseas locations.

Much more could be said about the development and use of Lesson Study than has been included in this book. However, we hope that it will help introduce overseas readers to this important practice in which teachers and researchers work together to improve students’ mathematics.

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