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Dear Fellow Sophians,

I hope this mail finds you well. Today, I am taking the liberty of sending you this message to announce the scheduled establishment of the formal Alumni Association for the English taught programs in Sophia whose history encompasses the International Division (1949-1974), the Department of Japanese Language and Studies (1975-1976), the Department of Comparative Culture (1977-1987), the Faculty of Comparative Culture (1987-2005), and the Faculty of Liberal Arts (2006 to present).

As you may know, Sophia University is now planning to expand the alumni organizations for the entire school to improve effective networking activities among alumni members and simultaneously to develop better support systems for current students. The plan to establish the Alumni Association (whose tentative title is The Sophia International Alumni Association) for the English taught programs is part of this university agenda. And I am sending this message today through the university-wide Sophia Alumni Association to announce as widely as possible that the plan is steadily advancing with a group of devoted volunteer alumni and also to ask for your kind cooperation.

Concretely, I would like to invite you to be one of the founding members (*hokkinin* in Japanese) of this association whose establishment will be publicly announced and acknowledged by the school in May this year (if everything proceeds as planned). We are hoping that more than a handful members will be enlisted as founding members of this association before the foundation ceremony. Some of you may wonder what a founding member's duties are. There are virtually none. We would simply like to enlist your name as a member in various forms of public announcement and also, if possible, would like to ask you to participate in important events such as the foundation ceremony when your busy schedule allows. The alumni who live abroad or far away from Tokyo are also very welcome to become founding members. I would really appreciate if you could take a moment to think about this invitation and contact us



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through the email address below. Thank you so much for reading this long email. I look forward to hearing from you.

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February 14, 2014

Michio Hayashi

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