

The Inaugural Kyoto Conference

Concept Note

**Based on “The Kyoto Institute of Philosophy
White Paper 2025 (Draft for Discussion)”**



Kyoto Institute of Philosophy



Purpose and Concept of the Conference (1)

The Kyoto Conference explores fundamental questions of value.

Conventional Problem Solving is Ineffective

- While economic growth and technological development have brought unprecedented prosperity to the world, they have also further **complicated and intensified challenges** such as geopolitical tensions, climate change, and the evolution of AI
- This **polycrisis**—interlinked, compounding challenges—cannot be solved by conventional technological or policy approaches alone

Call for Questioning *Value*

- To confront the roots of complex and deepening challenges, we must **reexamine the very direction in which we are heading**
- At the heart of such fundamental questioning lies **value**—what we deem important, desirable, and right
- The urgent task now is to **develop a new shared understanding of value**

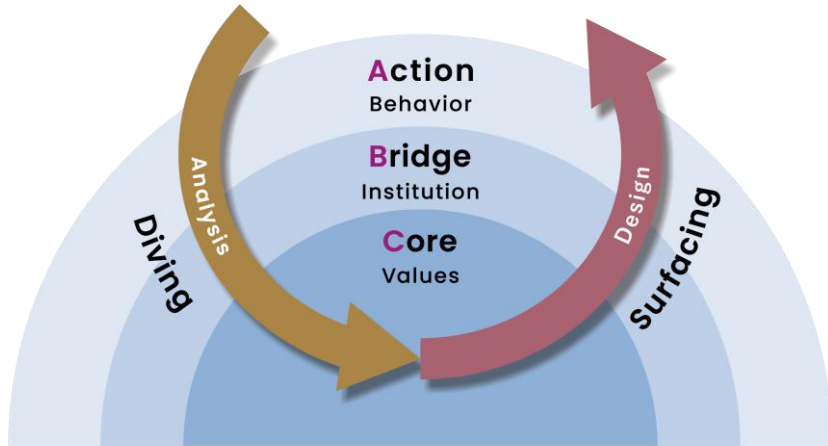
Structure of the Challenge

- We propose to conceptualize the mechanisms driving today's challenges in terms of **two dynamics**:
 - **Fragmentation** Structural conflict among existing value systems
 - **Transformation** Changes to existing value systems caused by new technologies and social forces



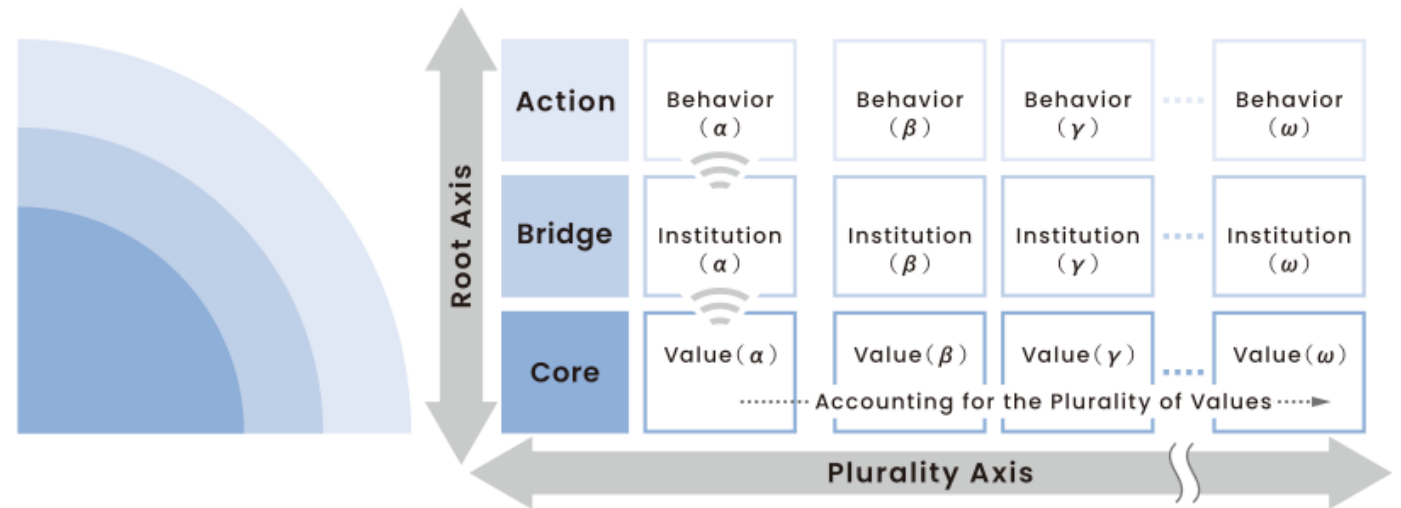
Purpose and Concept of the Conference (2)

To navigate these complex dynamics, we propose the **ABC Model**.



- This framework understands social phenomena on three levels: **Action** (concrete practices), **Core** (underlying values), and **Bridge** (the mediating institutions and cultural forms that connect the two)
- It is designed to foster a **back-and-forth movement** between “diving”, which deepens inquiry into the root causes of problems at the level of values, and “surfacing”, which envisions the future from the perspective of new values

- By combining the three-level model of values (root axis) with diverse stakeholders (plurality axis) to capture the pluralism of values, our framework expands into a two-dimensional **Value-Relation Matrix**

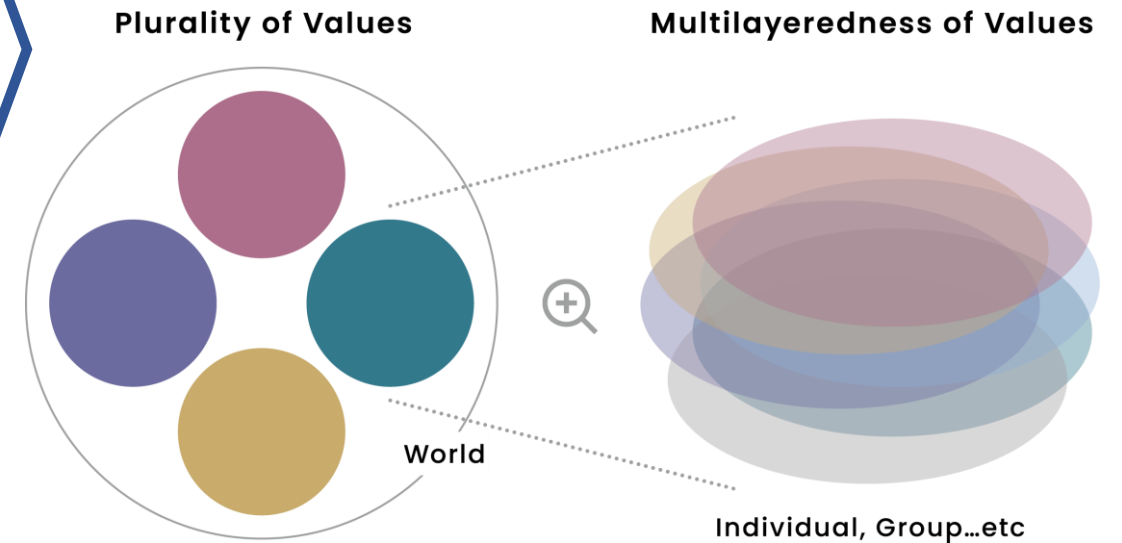


Purpose and Concept of the Conference (3)

The Kyoto Conference will take as its practical reference the following four agendas proposed in the White Paper.

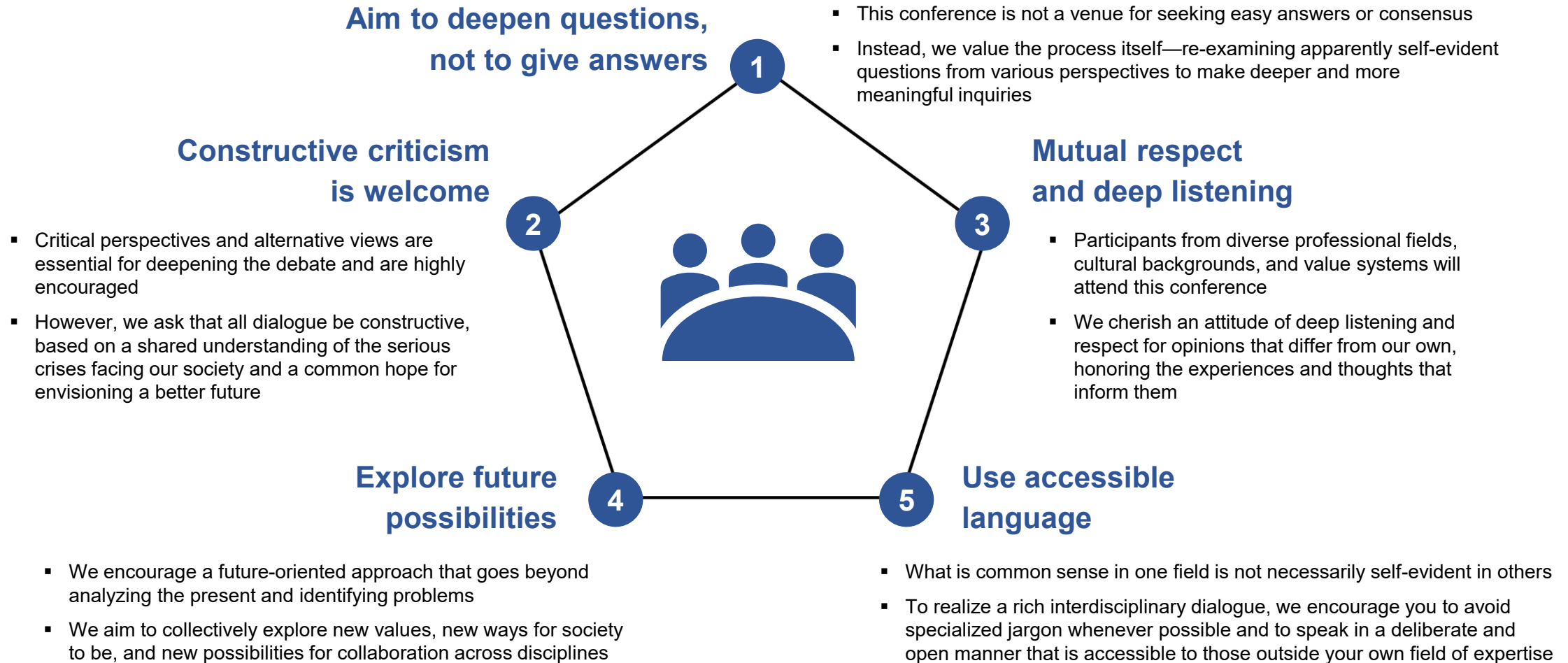


These agendas converge on the vision of a **Multilayered Society of Values**—a model that embraces value pluralism and multilayeredness



Ground Rules for Dialogue

We suggest the following five rules to make the Kyoto Conference a forum of trans-sectoral dialogue.



Overview – Conceptual Structure of the Program

Day 1 (September 23)

Redesigning Society in the Age of AI

Connects the fundamental questions of Part I to more concrete social domains to discuss the redesign of social systems in the age of AI.

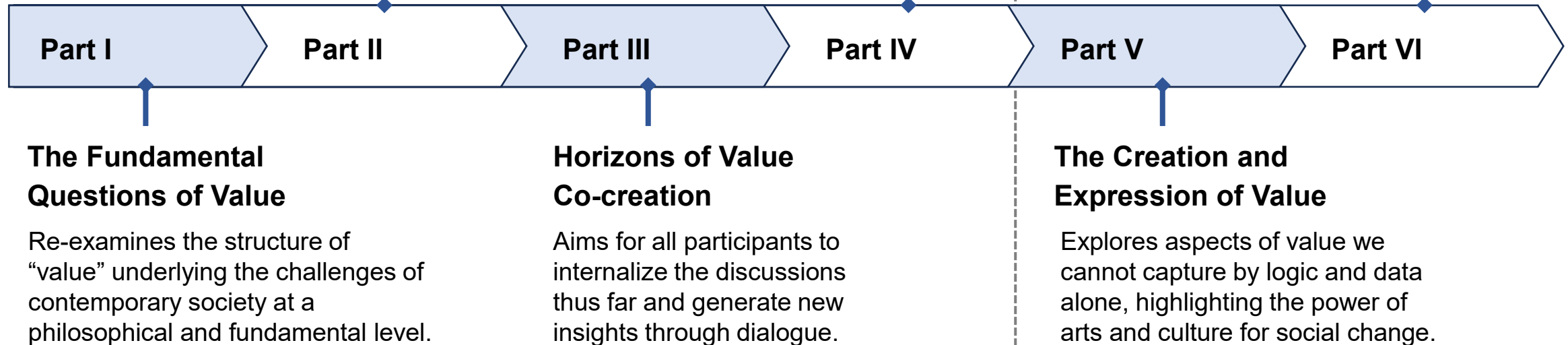
The Implementation of Value

Returns the discussion to a practical level, questioning the role of industry in social transformation.

Day 2 (September 24)

Prospects for the Future

Integrates the discussions of the two days to explore concrete actions for the future and the potential for ongoing collaboration.



Conceptual Structure of the Program – Day 1

Part I

The Fundamental Questions of Value

Panel Discussion 1

The Starting Point: Values in a Multilayered World

- This session embodies the process of “Diving” deep in thought—from the visible, concrete divisions and conflicts in society (Action level), to the underlying social systems and cultures (Bridge level), and further to the fundamental values and worldviews that support them (Core level).
- From a philosophical perspective, it aims to uncover the structural factors of the problems we face.

Panel Discussion 2

AI and the Question of The Human

- This session will multifacetedly discuss how the fundamental transformative power represented by AI shakes our values.
- Crossing perspectives from technology, art, philosophy, and robotics, it will urge a redefinition of values that have hitherto been taken for granted, such as humanity, intelligence, and creativity.“



Conceptual Structure of the Program – Day 1

Part II

Redesigning Society in the Age of AI

Venue I

Technological Transformation and the Future of the Corporation

- As the transformation of industrial structures by AI accelerates, this session explores how individual companies can translate their social purpose into concrete business activities, balancing economic and social value.
- In an era where the social role of corporations and their relationships with diverse stakeholders are being re-examined, this discussion will integrate insights from various fields, including manufacturing, information/media industries, and the social implementation of science and technology, to debate the new roles and responsibilities of corporations in the age of AI.

Venue II

Trust and Governance

- In an era where geopolitical shifts intersect with technological innovation, this session examines how to build “trust” among diverse actors—states, enterprises, and international organizations—and how to forge effective global governance.
- From multiple layers—technical standards, economic cooperation, next-generation education, and people-to-people exchange—we will, through an ethical lens, discuss new forms of leadership and rule-making capable of bridging divides.

Venue III

Reconstructing Democracy

- In an era where AI is deeply involved in societal decision-making, the democratic foundations of the public sphere and civic deliberation are being called into question at a fundamental level.
- This session explores how decision-making should be updated for the AI age. Drawing on perspectives from philosophy and social psychology to the practice of urban governance, we will critically examine existing frameworks.
- At the same time, we will consider the possibilities of alternative decision-making processes and envision models of democracy that are more resilient and responsive.



Conceptual Structure of the Program – Day 1

Part III

Horizons of Value Co-creation

Venue I

Human-Technology Symbiosis

- Cutting-edge technologies—led by AI—are acting as a force of “Transformation,” driving dramatic change across society.
- This transformation not only raises our productivity but also shakes the very foundations of our values—“humanity,” “intelligence,” and “creativity”—compelling us to redefine them.
- In this session, we will confront these fundamental questions and explore how we should envision our future with technology. Going beyond the level of how to use technology, we will discuss, from diverse perspectives, which values we must uphold—and which we should newly advance—in this era of transformation.

Venue II

Cultural Diversity and Universal Values

- Globalization has brought “Fragmentation”—the collision of differing value systems—into sharp relief as a defining challenge of our time.
- At the root of this fragmentation lies a creative tension between two imperatives: to honor culturally specific values and to discover shared guidelines that enable coexistence across differences.
- In this session, we will confront this fundamental question and explore how we might overcome fragmentation. Rather than asking which side is correct, we will, from diverse perspectives, discuss new forms of collaboration that transform diversity into a source of strength from within this tension.

Part VI

The Implementation of Value

Panel Discussion 3

Industry as a Driver of Social Change

- This session gathers Japan’s top business leaders and experts for an in-depth Japanese-language discussion on the evolving role and future of companies amid rapidly changing societal values, against Japan’s historical and cultural backdrop.



Conceptual Structure of the Program – Day 2

Part V

The Creation and Expression of Value

Panel Discussion 4

The Creative Leap: Value through Arts and Culture

- This session explores how we can connect fundamental values and visions to concrete forms and actions.
- It seeks to understand realities that cannot be fully grasped by logic or data alone, and to investigate the role of arts and culture as a “medium” that inspires creative leaps.

Part IV

Prospects for the Future

Panel Discussion 5

Towards a Network of Networks

- Collaboration across disciplines, cultures, and borders is essential for solving global challenges.
- In this session, leaders from diverse fields, each with their own unique networks – such as science diplomacy, international networks of humanistic knowledge, inclusive AI ethics, and advanced technology research – will gather.
- While sharing the challenges faced by individual networks, they will explore how to connect them and build an effective “network of networks” that can become a force for greater social change. They will seek common value foundations and practical approaches for this endeavor.

Panel Discussion 6

Shaping Our Global Agendas

- The conference’s closing session integrates the diverse discussions of the past two days and channels them into concrete actions for the future. In a world where values have become plural, how can we shape a shared “global agenda”?
- This session will also question the very subject—the “we”—that speaks of such an agenda, and will discuss pathways for carrying the insights and connections forged here forward into a sustained movement of intellectual inquiry and practice.

