The nature of life involves us in making an ongoing series of value judgments and decisions. The criteria by which we make these value judgments constitute, therefore, the basis of our life. In order to utilize today’s advanced technology for the proper promotion of human happiness, superior value criteria are indispensable. In addition, we live in an age in which different races and nations, while rightly adhering to the character of their own particular civilization and religion, have to surpass such differences in a spirit of mutual cooperation. So it is an urgent matter for us to acquire the ability to understand and respect the various spiritual cultures that exist in the world, but also to build up global moral standards that go beyond the differences between the many religious and political organizations around us.

Morality strives to meet challenges such as these through the study of ethics and morality, both old and new, and of both the East and the West.
Towards Moral Principles That Are Universally Applicable to Humankind

Now at the outset of the twenty-first century, the globalization movement is washing over and permeating almost all quarters of the world, and humankind is facing numerous serious problems never experienced before.

Incessant conflicts still rage between races, religions and nations, while issues connected with the global environment threaten the very existence of humankind itself. Advances in biotechnology and the popularity of the Internet are typical examples of the progress of science and technology that has given rise to new ethical problems.

Aspiring to the sustainable development of human society and the realization of world peace, we, as members of humankind, have to create the ‘new century of mutual respect’ in which we truly come to respect one another and deepen our mutual understanding, without being hampered by the differences between races, religions and nations. For this aim to be achieved, it is now time for us, may say, to search for the ethics and morality that can be applied in common by the whole of humankind.

The Institute of Morality was established in 1926 by Chikuro Hiroike, LL.D., with the aim of pursuing a comprehensive and scientific study of ethics and morality. Since that time it has promoted international research efforts and also social education activities based on morality. The founder discovered the moral principles common to the wisdom of the world sages, which he termed ‘supreme morality,’ and presented this to the public as the morality that humankind should aim to realize.

When we look back on the twentieth century, which may be called the century of wars and revolutions, we must, as members of humankind, acknowledge that we have still not attained the spirit of benevolence of the sages which is at the core of supreme morality. The Institute of Morality desires to advance our research and educational activities in cooperation with those people in the world who share our aspirations, and so contribute to the realization of a genuinely peaceful and affluent world.

Chikuro Hiroike: Father of Morality

Chikuro Hiroike (1866-1938), the founder of Morality, started his career as a local teacher in Nakatsu in the southern island of Kyushu. In his mid-twenties he moved from Nakatsu to Kyoto, where he deepened his study of history and began publishing a monthly journal, *History for the Layman*. He then moved on to Tokyo in 1894 at the age of 29 to take part in the national project of compiling the *Encyclopedia of Ancient Things Japanese*, the largest work of its type ever published in the country. Hiroike played a very important role in the project, compiling a quarter of the thousand volumes in Japanese binding (51 volumes in Western binding). While engaged in the compilation of the *Encyclopedia* Hiroike developed further his special field of the history of oriental law. He received a doctoral degree in law in 1912 for his pioneering work in this field.

Hiroike accomplished great scholarly feats in every field he was involved in, but his hard work over many years resulted in serious illness, to the point that he almost died in 1912. This critical condition made him seriously examine the meaning of his whole past. As a result, he decided to totally re-orient his life course, devoting his knowledge, power and his whole life, if prolonged, to the study of the ways and principles to realize true peace and happiness for the whole of humankind. He survived the critical moment and lived on for more than twenty years, working to clarify the path to a truly moral life.

On August 17, 1926, he completed *Dokukagaku no Rombun* (Treatise on Moral Science: A First Attempt to Establish Morality as a New Science), later designating that day the foundation day of the Institute of Morality.

The magnificent opus was published two years later in 1928 and it laid the foundation for moral education in schools and in society. Its English translation was published in 2002 under a new title, *Towards Supreme Morality: An Attempt to Establish the New Science of Morality*.

Chikuro Hiroike moved the headquarters of the Institute of Morality from Tokyo to Kashiwa in 1935, opening the Morality College. He made tireless efforts to promote the study of moral science, and school and social education activities on the Kashiwa campus until his last day, June 4, 1938.

Morality

Morality is a freshly-coined word meaning moral science, being derived from the Latin word *mores*, or morals, and the Greek word *logia*, or science. It is a comprehensive science of humankind, which focuses on ethics and morality in the world, both in the present and the past, and which produces interdisciplinary studies covering the topics of human beings, society and nature. Ultimately, morality is searching for the guidelines that will lead to the moral enhancement of humankind.

Morality both investigates the common morality that is to be found amongst humankind at large, and also puts forward ‘supreme morality,’ which is distilled from the wisdom of the world sages, as one of the possible ways to transcend this common morality.
The Institute of Moralogy Today

Research Center for Moral Science

The Center promotes the study of moral science (moral science) as systematically expounded by Chikuro Hiroike in the Treatise. It sets itself several tasks: (1) to produce studies of ethics and morality specifically from the viewpoint of a comprehensive science of humankind; (2) to conduct surveys of moral consciousness and to set up a database concerned with moral education in the world; (3) to grapple with contemporary themes such as business ethics, eco-ethics, bio-ethics and family ethics. The center aims to function as a network base as well as an international research institution, promoting communication and exchange among scholars and specialists in ethics throughout the world.


The center has organized the following international conferences on the Kashiwa campus:
1987 The First International Conference on Moral Education
1992 Tokyo International Conference on Business Ethics
1995 The Second International Conference on Moral Education
1996 The First World Conference on Business Ethics
2002 The International Conference on Moral Science
2009 The Second International Conference on Moral Science, on “Ethical Theory and Moral Practice: Evaluating Chikuro Hiroike’s Work in Moralogy”

Morality has life

Morality is a new science having in view the special object of helping mankind to understand its principles and apply them to practical life ... I have, since my childhood, been very unfortunate in many ways, and have suffered great pain; and besides, even when my lifelong study was just beginning to bear fruit, I was overcome by a serious illness which plunged me into a terrible situation where I had to abandon all hope of human reward, and, though I survived it, all kinds of difficulties accumulated around me. Indeed, I am not yet entirely free of these. Such being my situation, all my writings on the subject of supreme morality that this first book of morality contains are based on nothing less than what I myself have practised in the past. Thus they are not only based on what I have learned from scientific studies but also on what I aimed at and performed in an attempt to attain salvation by conforming to the mind of the sages at all those critical moments of my life, asking myself how I could truly become happy in such situations. Here, then, is a demonstration of truly reliable laws of human life, containing innumerable profound meanings, every word being far from the realm of idle thinking.

In its focus on character education, the Institute of Morality advocates ‘education from generation to generation,’ that is, the transmission of a moral nature and personality from parents to their children, and to their children’s children. Basing itself on the core values of ‘supreme morality,’ the Institute offers those participating in such activities practical opportunities to learn how to improve themselves and how to cope with the ethical and moral issues posed by modern society. They prepare themselves to build their own characters and to participate in community activities.

The Institute conducts seminars and brief courses of instruction in the fields of education, counseling, business management, medical care, welfare, etc., with the aim of providing participants, from the perspective of morality, with keys to solve problems in their own particular fields.

The Institute has three Lifelong Learning Centres and 12 district offices throughout the country, and these facilities act as centers for around 500 lifelong education seminars that are held locally every year. At the three Lifelong Learning Centers, intensive courses on morality are provided as well as various seminars.

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The Hiroike Institute of Education — Affiliated Educational Corporation

The Hiroike Institute of Education, basing itself on the character education provided in morality, aims at developing capable young people who will make a positive contribution to society. Hiroike schools try to foster a broad-minded personality in students through close contact with teachers and through the training of intellectual faculties and the development of international-mindedness.

- **Kashiwa Campus**
  2-1-1, Higasihongo, Kashiwa-shi, Chiba Prefecture 277-8588 JAPAN

- **Reitaku University**

- **Chikuro Hiroike School of Graduate Studies**
- The Faculty of Foreign Studies
- The Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
- Japanese Language Course (one-year course for international students)

- **Reitaku Junior and Senior High Schools**
  [http://www.rs.reitaku.jp/](http://www.rs.reitaku.jp/)

- **Reitaku Kindergarten**
  [http://www.kg.reitaku.jp/](http://www.kg.reitaku.jp/)

- **Mizunami Campus**
  1601 Higegawa, Higashicho, Mizunami-shi, Gifu Prefecture 509-8102 JAPAN

- **Reitaku Mizunami Junior and Senior High Schools**
  [http://www.mz.reitaku.jp/](http://www.mz.reitaku.jp/)

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The Institute publishes a number of periodicals, books and CD’s focused on morality and moral character in order to disseminate the results of research in morality and to promote lifelong education based on morality. The Institute intends to contribute thereby to the cultural advancement and moralization of the society.

- **New Morals**
- **Reito**

The monthly pamphlet New Morals, containing materials for the enrichment of moral character, has been welcomed by many readers since it first appeared in 1949. Today over 400,000 copies are printed every month. The monthly magazine for lifelong learning, Reito, also has a larger readership and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2007.