A Note on Japanese Names and Terms

Diacritics signifying long vowels are essential in romanizing Japanese and are indicated here with Ō, ō, and ū, though the diacritics are dropped in well-known place names. The usage followed is usually that in the Kenkyūsha New Japanese-English Dictionary. Terms other than proper nouns or words in common use in English are italicized. Names of Japanese individuals are usually given in the Japanese order—family names first. See the Glossary and Biographical Notes for other potential confusions.