

# **An Indigenous Rationalist Thinker and His Followers in Japan** *Lecture by Dr. Kiyoshi Ishii, President, Shizuoka University, Japan*

**September 7, 2018 | 4 – 6 P.M. | Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center Room 231**

During his visit to UNO, Kiyoshi Ishii will cover the importance of the indigenous rationalist, Kinjiro Ninomiya, and his continuous influence on the modernization of Japanese society through his followers.

## **“Kinjiro Ninomiya and the Modernization of Japanese Society”**

In 1891, Rohan Koda, a famous novelist, first introduced Ninomiya (1787-1856) to the world. Individuals throughout Japanese culture have admired Ninomiya as the ideal model for youth who work hard and study diligently. As a radical reformer of agricultural management, people also recognize Ninomiya for introducing methods such as a survey of the long-term changes in population and annual harvest in specific rural areas, tax reduction policy, and incentives for farmers to increase production.

Throughout Japanese society, people consider him as the leading activist and rationalist thinker within the 19th century. The followers of Ninomiya played a vital role during this period by contributing to the modernizing local agrarian communities and starting up new