

# Cultural Diversity of Asia and Cooperative Leadership

## Cheju Halla University

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### PARK Mee-young

One of the biggest topics for humanity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is how to achieve mutual recognition of cultural diversity and rapprochement among economically vibrant and fast-growing Asian countries.

The aim of this session is to explore the role of culture as an instrument of reconciliation in Asia, where violence, perpetrated in the name of religion and nationalism, sectarian conflict and strife are prevalent.

### HYUN Seung-soo

The toxic effect of the “Asia Paradox,” where conflict in security and political affairs persists, has become increasingly manifest in the East Asian region, particularly among Korea, China and Japan. Cultural exchange and cooperation resulting from political and economic interdependence in the short run will ease the crisis, while providing clues to Asian integration through spiritual sympathy and bonding in the long run.

The recent, fervent reception of South Korean TV dramas by Chinese people represents a possibility that popular culture can play the role of public

diplomacy. In contrast, the way the “Korean Wave” has produced an “Anti-Korean Wave” in Japan gives us a lesson that too much commercialism and lopsided cultural exports cause a negative reaction.

Complacency with the status quo and the absence of any strategy may destabilize even cultural exchanges and cooperation, which serve the role of a buffer zone for regional conflicts in the event of political, economic, cultural conflicts among Korea, China and Japan. Political support that can ensure sustained attention to and the practice of cultural exchanges is necessary for friendly relationships among the three countries.

It is important to search for a shared culture among the three countries. Awareness of a common cultural base should also keep pace with the acceptance of cultural diversity. In a similar vein, the discourse on Asian values from the 1990s should be resumed.

Korea, China, and Japan are supposed to share the idea of an Asian cultural community and turn Asia into a space of cooperation and coexistence based on cooperative leadership and cultural diversity, instead of amplifying competition and conflict



by feeding the sources of inter-state conflict into nationalism.

### PARK Joung-ho

The basis for Asian cultural community is to recognize cultural differences among Asians and rebuild trust with each other.

The recent universal phenomenon is globalization and multiculturalism. While the former is an economic matter, the latter is more of a cultural issue. Without culture, a network economy would not be possible. Culture is the core value, and the economy is nothing more than its by-product.

Issues such as continued nuclear weapons tests by North Korea, differences in historical interpretation, territorial disputes cause conflict in East Asia, im-

peding regional integration and higher connectivity.

A cooperative, future-oriented and sustainable regional cooperation to resolve the conflicts of the East Asian countries must be preceded by cultural exchange.

East Asian countries should overcome the “Asia Paradox,” based on cultural exchange and cooperation, thus creating a regional order for economic cooperation and peace. In addition, they should respond collectively to supranational threats arising from the environment, public health, energy and climate change issues.

### LU Wei

The younger generation should be provided with an environment and an opportunity to play a sig-

nificant role in overcoming inter-state conflicts and barriers through cultural exchange.

The three countries have tragic past and sensitive issues, but politicians still take advantage of and exaggerate these sources of conflict and negative aspects to win elections and advance their career path.

The conflict between the three countries should be resolved by their own hands, but the U.S. constantly intervenes in the conflict to maintain its control in this region as well as to promote its own political and economic interests.

Leaders in politics, industry and education should provide support to the younger generation so that they can acquire capabilities to play a role in the resolution of inter-state conflict.

A good example of the support is a student exchange program for undergraduate and graduate students between Sungkyunkwan University Institute of China Studies and Shanghai Jiao Tong University Institute of Korean Studies

#### Yuji HOSAKA

South Korea is at a crossroads whether they should seek closer cooperation with the U.S. and Japan or strengthen its ties with China and/ or Russia.

Continued development of friendly relations among the three East Asian countries should, ad-

mittedly, be supported by politics that continually engage these countries, but it eventually means that cultural cooperation will be subject to political relations.

The current autistic nationalism in Japan stems from Japan's apprehension about the growth of the South Korean economy and Korea's foreign policy placing Korea-China relations before Korea-Japan relations and Japan's opposition to it. The U.S. is behind this opposition.

Considering common values and geopolitics, it is imperative for South Korea to reinforce its ties with the US and Japan above all else. China, albeit an important partner with South Korea, still shares more common values with North Korea. US-Korea-Japan cooperation should take precedence to its cooperation with China.

#### Policy Implications

- Efforts on the government and the civilian level should begin to manage autistic nationalism.
- Mutual cultural exchange and communication should continue and expand. Unilateral cultural export or restrictions of imports instigate exclusive nationalism which, in turn, makes a vicious circle of regarding culture as a tool for infiltration. Based on cultural exchange and cooperation, Asian countries should pursue coexistence and cooperation on an equal footing, instead of competition.
- A trilateral research institute should be established by Korea, China and Japan to create an Asian identity that can be shared by the East Asian countries.
- If inter-governmental cooperation should prove difficult to manage and resolve conflicts among the three countries, a track 1.5 approach should be actively sought, jointly with the civil sector.
- An East Asian joint history textbook project should also continue with a long-term view.
- Based on solid economic ties between South Korea and China, cultural exchange programs among young adults should be developed. This will hopefully lead to the awareness that East Asia is a family.
- Individual research institutes and their publications in South Korea and China are under heavy influence from their respective governments, making it hard to overcome prejudices. Joint research projects by scholars of both countries should be promoted to produce unbiased and objective study programs.
- The expansion of trilateral cultural exchange is agreeable, but it requires a new measure, differentiated from past ones.

# The Role of Higher Education for Asia's New Order and Cooperative Leadership

## Jeju National University

<b>Moderator</b>	<b>KIM Ki-seob</b> Former President, Pusan National University
<b>Presenter &amp; Discussant</b>	<b>HUH Hyang-jin</b> President, Jeju National University <b>Ketut SUASTIKA</b> President, Udayana University, Indonesia <b>PHO Kaung</b> President, Yangon University, Myanmar <b>VO Van Sen</b> President, The University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam
<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>KO Yun-ji</b> Student, Jeju National University

#### HUH Hyang-jin

In the age of the "New Normal," the role of universities is essential in creating a new order. The role should be based on the strategy of regionalism tailored to suit regional characteristics. Universities as higher educational institutes should concentrate on improving liberal thinking and values based on history and philosophy with a view to creating a new order, while putting in efforts to find new theories to solve small-scale problems arising across the globe.

Currently, Jeju National University is conducting a series of projects to keep up with the changing times. The university leads the local economy and industries by working with the local government to build effective governance on Jeju Island, by suggesting the future path of the island and by drawing up plans to innovate local communities as well as leading the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) and other specialized industries using subtropical flora and fauna, and maritime resources. By extension, the university provides training programs in specialized industries as well as raise talent that suits the needs of local society and

industries through the LINK project and on-the-job training. Also, we support English talents and have established international development centers on campus in cooperation with KOICA, promoting international exchanges by dispatching students overseas.

#### PHO Kaung

Education has its value in that it helps acquiring knowledge, talent and skills as well as improving quality of life. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, when localization and globalization are taking place simultaneously, it is necessary to discover and develop the values of higher education.

For the purpose of developing higher education, Yangon University is strengthening its educational basis by remodeling classrooms, acquiring training aids, establishing online libraries, and a ubiquitous network and Wi-Fi network. Also, it provides a larger faculty, helps students improve competence, and enhances the quality of education with field trip and overseas training program, sports and the arts program, as well as inter-disciplinary courses. In addition, the university helps the faculty to acquire