

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF KOREAN FOUNDATIONS FOR EAST ASIA

By *Sangtu Ko* (Korea)

The Korea Foundation

Introduction

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□ **Mission**

The fundamental mission of the Foundation is to promote a better understanding of Korea in the international community and to foster global friendship by conducting various exchange activities between the Republic of Korea and foreign countries around the world.

□ **Board of Directors**

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors, which is chaired by the Foundation's President and consists of eight Directors, including three permanent members and non-permanent directors representing various sectors of Korean society. The Board is responsible for all major decisions related to the Foundation's program activities and budget allocation.

□ **Advisory Committees**

The Foundation maintains advisory committees for each of its program categories, composed of prominent specialists in their respective fields, from Korea and overseas, who provide practical consultation and advice on the Foundation's programs and activities.

Programs

□ **Forum**

* *Korea-U.S. Security Forum*

The Korea-U.S. 21st Century Council was launched in accordance with an agreement reached between Korea and the United States at the Seattle

APEC summit in 1993, as an effort to further solidify their partnership ties through enhanced cooperative efforts, especially in the areas of security, economic exchange, and politics.

Since the first meeting of this Council in 1994, the Korea-U.S. 21st Century Council with the support from the Foundation and organized jointly by the Institute for Global Economics (IGE/Chairman: Sakong Il) in Korea and the Institute for International Economics (IIE / Director: C. Fred Bergsten) in the United States, has been held annually.

The annual meetings provide a venue for extensive discussion on the issues such as economy and trade between two nations.

** Korea-Japan Forum*

The Korea-Japan Forum was initiated in 1993 in accordance with an agreement reached by then President Kim Young-sam and former Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa at a summit meeting. The Forum was proposed as a means for bringing together leaders from the two countries to discuss ways of promoting mutual understanding and advancing cooperative relations.

With the Foundation and the Japan Center for International Exchanges (President: Tadashi Yamamoto) serving as secretariats for its organization, the Korea-Japan Forum has been held annually since its first meeting in Seoul in December 1993. The 12th Forum of 2005 will be held in Jeju Island.

The importance of this Forum was recognized during the summit between President Kim Dae-jung and Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi held in early September 1998, when it was cited in the “Joint Declaration of a New Korea-Japan Partnership for the 21st Century” as an example of effective efforts to promote exchange and cooperation by the private sectors of the two countries.

** Korea-China Forum for the Future*

Following the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and China in 1992, the Korea Foundation and the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs(President: Lu Qiutian) agreed on the necessity of establishing a regular channel of communication for leaders of the two countries. Accordingly, the first Korea-China Forum for the Future was held in Beijing in 1994.

Thereafter, the Korea-China Forum for the Future has been held annually with the two countries taking turns in hosting the event. The Forum has provided a venue for meaningful discussions between leading figures of the two countries,

thus broadening mutual understanding and laying a groundwork for further cooperation between Korea and China. It has also contributed to the development a people-to-people network by solidifying the personal relationships of participants from the two countries.

The Eleventh Korea-China Forum for the Future was held June 30-July 3, 2006 Wuxi, China.

** Korea-Russia Forum*

In July 1997, the foreign ministers of Korea and Russia agreed to initiate the Korea-Russia Forum to further enhance cooperative relations between the two countries through establishment of a regular, non-government channel of communication for representatives between two countries.

The Foundation and the Diplomatic Academy of Russia organized the first session of the Forum, which was held at the Diplomatic Academy of Russia, on March 22-23, 1999. The Forum participants discussed various political, economic, security and cultural issues of mutual interest and concern. Mr. Alekseev Aleksandr Y., Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, headed the 11-member Russian delegation, which included high-ranking government officials and prominent scholars. The 7th Korea-Russia Forum was held March 27-28, 2006 in Moscow.

□ Intellectual Exchange

** Invitation Program*

- Program Objective

The Foundation's efforts to enhance goodwill and friendship between Korea and the global community include the invitation of distinguished individuals from social, cultural, and academic circles to visit Korea to broaden their understanding of the country and its people. During their stay in Korea, these foreign guests will have the opportunity to visit relevant Korean organizations and participate in academic and cultural events, through which they can share their opinions and knowledge with their Korean counterparts, and gain first-hand experience of Korea's rich history and culture.

** Invitation Program for Young Leaders*

- Program Objective

Recognizing that personal relationships formed early on among next-generation leaders will contribute positively to better relations in the future, the

Foundation has been implementing exchanges of young leaders to provide these individuals with an opportunity to better understand each other's country while establishing long-lasting personal bonds, thus contributing to the overall development of cooperative relations over the long term.

□ *Future Leaders Forum: Korea-Japan-China*

The Foundation launched an all new person-to-person exchange program with Japan(Japan Foundation) and China(China Institute of Contemporary International Relations) in 2002. The young leaders of the three leading Northeast Asian countries participate in a series of workshop programs that take place in all three countries. This Forum allows the next-generation leaders to understand one another better while create their own personal network. The Third Forum will be held in 2005.

□ *Next-Generation Leaders' Visit: Russia Program*

The Foundation invites a delegation of some Russian next-generation leaders including government officials, legislators, journalists and scholars on an annual basis.

□ *Korea-Japan Youth Exchanges*

The Korea-Japan Youth Exchange Program is conducted annually in accordance with an agreement between the governments of the two countries, under which the Foundation invites about 20 Japanese university students to Korea in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

□ *Leaders of the next generation to visit Korea*

Since 2001 the Foundation has invited leaders of the next generation to visit Korea from Africa, the Middle East, Central and South America, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe, for an annual networking opportunity.

The Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies

Introduction

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□ ***Mission & Activities***

The Foundation was established in November 26, 1974, for the purposes of cultivating superior scholars and contributing towards the advancement of higher learning in humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, information technology, and ultimately towards the social and national development by late Chairman Chey Chong-Hyun.

The establishment of the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies was initiated in the early 1970s with the realization that in order to improve the society and accelerate national development, it is imperative to produce top quality scholars, equipped with balanced knowledge of both the Western and Eastern academic disciplines, who are able to compete with foreign scholars and ultimately contribute to academic advancement.

The Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies set up a long-term plan in light of its goal of cultivating excellent scholars who could lead academic development. In accordance with its goal, the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies began to select outstanding young students in social sciences and natural sciences and to support their graduate work at the most prestigious research universities in the world through the KFAS Doctoral Study Abroad Scholarship Program so that they could obtain their doctorate degrees. In parallel to the KFAS Doctoral Study Abroad Scholarship Program, the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies has also maintained the KFAS Classical Chinese Study Scholarship Program and the KFAS Asian Studies Scholarship Program to support selected academically qualified students acquiring Classical Chinese capacities essential to Asian studies and continuing to complete their Ph.D. work for the inheritance and development of traditional culture.

Programs

□ *The International Scholar Exchange Fellowship (ISEF)*

**** Overview***

The International Scholar Exchange Fellowship (ISEF) program aims at contributing to enhance mutual understanding and academic development among the Asian nations and stimulate international scholastic exchange as well as the research cooperation by supporting the outstanding scholars in Asia through their research activities at universities and institutions in Korea.

Following the intention of Dr. Chey Chong-Hyun, the late chairman of Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS), the International Scholar Exchange Fellowship (ISEF) program, which was newly implemented at the dawn of the 21st century, has laid the stepping stones for a practical, long-term academic base which enable Asian nations to become important global players.

For this purpose, KFAS sponsors approximately 50 young distinguished scholars every year from major universities from all over Asia, including China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Philippines, India, Indonesia, and Malaysia, and provides them an opportunity to stay in Korea for conducting research

The laureates of the ISEF program are provided with research expenses, accident insurance, round-trip airfare and research facilities such as personal carrels and PCs. The KFAS library with collections of qualified original editions of foreign text and documents on Asian studies is opened to all laureates. Additionally, KFAS promotes academic seminars by making seminar rooms, lecture rooms and office appliances available to the laureates and providing the KFAS building as the ground for academic and cultural interchange.

Korean language classes are available to help the laureates understand the people, culture and society of Korea during their stay; there are also special sessions of the Korean classes, cultural tours and industrial site observations are available.

The ISEF program is not limited to any particular region or topic. The applicants are allowed to choose any type of research topic within their fields of study that KFAS supports. However, the laureates must select topics which they can devote themselves and strive to produce the best outputs. At the completion of their research projects, the laureates are required to submit the final report to KFAS as planned in their initial research proposal, written in an internationally authorized format. KFAS holds annual conferences for presenting the research results.

Korea Research Foundation

Introduction

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□ **Background**

It was established in 1981 to develop the academic activities by supporting research fund, academic conference, international cooperation activity, and training researcher.

□ **Mission**

Established to cultivate domestic and overseas academic interaction and cooperation, which contributes to the national development and improve academic environments.

Programs

□ ***Grants for International Academic Exchange***

* *International academic exchange*

This program supports the establishment of an inter-country, collaborative network of research and information. Korean scholars enjoy the enlarged opportunities to conduct research in tandem with foreign partners and scholarly contacts with them to keep pace with the rapidly advancing frontiers of academic research and to disseminate worldwide the domestic research achievements. It takes bilateral agreements with the counterpart institutes - such as Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Australian Research Council (ARC), Alexander Humboldt Foundation (AvH), Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) - to support collaborative research, seminars, scholar exchange and other activities. The concomitant effect of this program is the heightened visibility of Korean scholars and the refurbished image of Korea.

Korea Sanhak Foundation

Introduction

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☐ ***About the Foundation***

The Korea Sanhak Foundation was founded on March 30, 1974 by the Korea Foreign Trade Association and its member firms as a cooperative arrangement for the business and academic communities and workers with a view to promoting Korea's economic development.

☐ ***Endowment***

The initial endowment of 2,600 million won has been increased to 14,800 million won. (Approximately 12 million US Dollars as of 2002)

Program and Service

☐ ***International cooperation activity***

Application for assistance can be made by a college, university or a research institute abroad six to twelve months before the proposed international project exchange will be undertaken. Aid is provided to encourage and broaden activities for academic exchange and cooperation among nations.

** Subsidy for scholarly conference*

Subsidies are given for the organization of meetings for scholarly purposes with particular emphasis on economic and industrial growth.

** Aid for international cooperation*

Financial assistance is provided for activities involving international scholarly cooperation devoted to the development of the Korean economy and promotion of external commerce.