

THE 9TH PACIFIC-ASIA CONFERENCE
ON KOREAN STUDIES (PACKS)

Korea and Korean Studies from Asian Vision

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His Excellency Mr. Im Hong Jae, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Vietnam

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is not a coincidence that the academic community has paid much attention to the Asia-Pacific region which always has developing strategies and dynamic movements in the context of increasing fluctuations of large economics in the world. It is worth mentioning that in addition to the Asian cultural background, each country in the region has its own hallmark on the way of construction and development. The name “Korea” has become popular since the end of the Second World War when it was named as one of the four “Asian Tigers” and no longer after that the “Korean Wave” has distinguished the picture of Korea and its people in the world. It is the cultural and economic achievements that have created a Dynamic Korea and that is also a reason why Korean Studies attracted much attention from academic community in the region.

As you may know, after the Second World War, especially during the 1960s and 1990s, Korea became an outstanding phenomenon because its economic growth and industrialization remained high. There have been many researches and debates about

this phenomenon. However, a common conclusion shared by many is that this phenomenon is due to Korea's educational strength and culture. Due to its appropriate educational strategies, Korea became one of few countries in the world having a very well-educated human resource. Additionally, Korea gave a priority to developing its transportation infrastructure, building and expanding its sea routes, exploiting effectively cheap sea transportation in order to enter the world market. Through these strategies, Korea has rapidly set up and remained its position in the automobile, ship-building, telecom and electric industries, which used to be a monopoly of big economics such as Japan, the United States and European countries.

Along with the economic development, Korea has also focused on developing its culture. Korean is not only known as a country of huge enterprises and cooperates, but also known as country with a rich culture. Entertaining industry such as movie, fashion, music and cosmetic has not only brought huge benefits to Korea but also, more importantly, introduced and diffused Korean culture to many other countries in the world, especially to the Asian countries who share many cultural similarities and life style with Korea.

It can be said that Korea's position in Asia is increasing. Through the rise of trade exchange between Korea and Asian countries, human resource exchange by oversea study and labor export, especially the expansion of cultural exchange activities, Korea has been viewed as a miraculous phenomenon and welcomed by many Asians.

Combining the reciprocal relationship between economics and culture, developing economics based in national culture, taking culture as a basis for development are Korea's priorities. These have become an interest drawing attention from researchers and scholars in order to draw experience for other countries.

In order to meet the demand of learning and studying Korea, the Government of the Republic of Korea in general and the Academy of Korean Studies in particular have assisted to develop

Korean Studies in the region. The 9th Pacific-Asia Conference on Korean Studies organized in Hanoi, Vietnam today is one activity of the program to develop Korean Studies in the region. The conference is aimed at providing an overview of “*Korean Studies from Asian Vision*”. This is an opportunity for scholars and researchers to introduce and discuss their recent achievements in Korean Studies with a variety of topics such as Korean Culture in relation to Asian culture, conflicts and cooperation experience of Korea and Asia in the history and prospects and challenges in the coming time. The conference also provides an opportunity for regional academic community to re-evaluate achievements in Korean Studies and its prospects in the future.

With above goals and significance, one be half of the organizing committee and the University of Social Sciences and Humanities-Hanoi, I have a high honor to declare the opening of the 9th Pacific-Asia Conference on Korean Studies.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the chairman of the 8th Pacific Asia Conference on Korean Studies and especially express our thanks to the Academy of Korean Studies for its entrustment and cooperation with the University of Social Sciences and Humanities-Hanoi to organize this significant conference.

I would also like to express our thanks to international and Vietnamese scholars, researchers and participants for your presence at the conference today. In particular, on behalf of the organizing committee and the University, I would like to thank his Excellency Mr. Im Hong Jae, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Vietnam for his participation in this conference.

I wish you all good health, happiness and success. I wish the conference a great success.

Thank you for your attention.