

Summer Semester 2016

Special Lecture Series 2016 – Actors of Economic Relations between Germany and Korea

Starting from 11 May 2016, the Institute of Korean Studies at Freie Universität Berlin hosted a series of four lectures examining the role of various actors shaping economic relations between the Republic of Korea and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The first lecture in the series focused on the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), a non-profit organization under the authority of the Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy. Yun Yu Hyeon, head of the Marketing Research and K-Move Teams of KOTRA Frankfurt am Main, expounded on **“KOTRA and German-Korean economic relations”** on 11 May 2016. In doing so, Yun provided a brief overview of KOTRA’s work, which centres around supporting Korean businesses in their foreign trade activities.

On 18 May 2016, Commercial Attaché at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Berlin Jung Jong Yung spoke on **“Promoting Economic Relations between Korea and Germany”**, focusing on the history of economic ties between Korea and Germany following the conclusion of the German-Korean trade, friendship, and shipping agreement of 1883, in the process providing a glimpse into his work as a commercial attaché.

For the third lecture in the series, entitled **“OAV- The Network of German Companies in the Asia-Pacific Region: Korea”**, the IKS welcomed member of the executive board of the OAV (German Asia-Pacific Business Association) Timo Prekop. On 1 June 2016, Prekop detailed the manner in which his organization promotes exchange between German and Korean businesses by helping build commercial networks and providing a set of services that support the development of sustainable business strategies.

Concluding the series, David Mohr, General Manager of GAMEVIL Europe GmbH, spoke on the **“The Mobile Gaming Business in Korea and Europe”** on 22 June 2016, wondering, among other things, whether there might be a **“Clash of Cultures”** between the two countries relevant to the development of the business. Mohr introduced his company, Korean-based game developer GAMEVIL, in the process describing Asia to be the biggest market for the growing mobile games industry not least since the requisite technologies had been implemented in the region very early on.

FU Berlin Forum on Korea 2016

The Institute of Korean Studies at Freie Universität Berlin organized a total number of three lectures for the FU Berlin Forum on Korea in the summer semester of 2016.

On 25 May 2016, Prof Dr Sung Nak-in, President of Seoul National University, Korea, expounded on his idea of a **“Community of Good People for Korean Unification - *Sönhansaramdūrūi t'ongil kongdongch'e*”**. Being the leading higher education institution in the Republic of Korea, Professor Sung explained, Seoul National University had an obligation to train “good people” for the sake of contributing to a “good” Korean society. Shaping such a society, Professor Sung elaborated, would be crucial to preparing for Korean unification. In his talk, he also touched on the research carried out by the SNU’s Institute for Peace and Unification Studies (IPUS) on the social, economic, and political changes associated with unification.

On 7 June 2016, Prof Dr Yang Hyunah, who currently teaches law at the Seoul National University School of Law, gave a presentation entitled **“Local Memory Questioning Justice in Asia: The Issue of ‘Japanese Military Comfort Women’”**. Professor Yang expounded on how she has been conducting a research project, starting in 1993, dedicated to collecting and documenting the testimonies of victims of the Japanese Imperial Army’s system of sexual slavery, testimonies that can be said to represent, among other things, the women’s voice in history writing in the context of Asia. She also detailed her involvement in the 2000 Women’s International War Crimes Tribunal on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery in Tokyo, a non-governmental international tribunal that formulated recommendations on how to address the issue of Japanese military sexual slavery and, for the first time in the history of Asia, adjudicated – albeit in a legally non-binding way – on crimes committed by the Japanese Imperial Army.

Finally, the Institute of Korean Studies welcomed Prof Dr Jung Keun-sik, Director of the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies (IPUS) and the HK Peace and Humanities Research Group at Seoul National University, for his lecture on **“Destroying Constitutive Power – Soviet Monuments in a Global Perspective”** on 10 June 2016. Professor Jung presented his findings as gathered from visits to Soviet monuments in various European and Asian cities, emphasizing the manner in which the interpretation and treatment of such monuments varied with changing attitudes in the respective societies towards, as the case may be, Soviet rule or the Soviet Union more generally.

Special Lecture Series on Literature

Visiting Author at the Institute of Korean Studies at Freie Universität Berlin Han Eunhyong provided a brief overview of the state of modern Korean literature in her lecture of 5 July 2016 before turning to examine the manner in which Jung Minkyung's novel "My Son's Girlfriend" addresses the emergence in Korean society of a novel, modern class system by telling the story of a mother's dissatisfaction with her son's choice of girlfriend. On 12 July 2016, Han gave a reading of her short story "San Francisco Sauna" about a Korean man born and raised in West Germany falling into unrequited love with a woman in P'yöngyang.

Reading of "The Marketplace and the Battlefield"

In the context of an exhibition of calligraphies by Korean artist Lee Minja at the Central Library of Freie Universität Berlin from 29 February to 29 April 2016, Prof Dr Helga Picht, interpreter, translator and well-known figure in the field of Korean Studies, gave a reading of "The Marketplace and the Battlefield", a novel written by the late Pak Kyeongni in 1965. Professor Picht, who is in the process of translating another work by the same author, the epic "Land", explained that reading "The Marketplace and the Battlefield" helped gain a better understanding of the atrocity of the Korean war and of war as such by depicting how common women are trying to survive the ordeal, thus emphasizing the stark contrast between ordinary daily life and life in times of war.