

## International Conference

### **Challenges for the Korean Civil Society after the Democratic Transformation – Experiences of the Post-Socialist Countries in Eastern Europe and Reunified Germany –**

What is the particular challenge for the civil society after the democratic transformation? The planned conference at the Freie Universität Berlin will focus on this question, undertaking a comparative analysis of the experiences in the Republic of Korea as well as the post-socialist countries in Eastern Europe and reunified Germany.

In the Republic of Korea as well as the countries of Eastern Europe civil society was the driving force in the struggle against the authoritarian regime. The important role which the civil society has played in the transformation process has been a constant topic of academic discussion since the democratization in the RoK in 1987 and the collapse of the socialist block in Eastern Europe. However, the fact that the civil society itself is influenced by the democratization process and undergoes its own changes has not found much attention yet. This leaves important questions unanswered: Which role does the Korean civil society play in the democratic consolidation process? If the civil society is expected to play a different role than in the resistance movement against the authoritarian regime, the question arises how and to what extent the civil societies in the RoK and Eastern Europe meet these expectations?

On the one hand, the civil societies in the RoK and Eastern Europe as well as in reunified Germany share the same experiences, being the latecomers of democratization. On the other hand, their experiences differ from each other insofar as the RoK has not been confronted with the task of system transformation. From the viewpoint of entire Korea (North and South) experiences of Eastern European countries and reunified Germany are of special importance.

The aim of the conference is to find new approaches for the study of civil society and democracy in Korea, combining interdisciplinary and transregional research, directly contributing to the research in the field of „democracy after democratization“.

**Date :** May 8-9, 2009  
**Conference venue:** Ostasiatisches Museum, Lecture Hall, Takustr. 40, 14 195 Berlin  
**Hosted by:** Korean Studies, Freie Universität Berlin,  
Korea Democracy Foundation,  
Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation  
**Organised by:** Korean Studies, Freie Universität Berlin

## **Program**

**May 8<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**13:30**

### **Welcome address**

Prof. Dr. Ursula Lehmkuhl  
First Vice President  
Freie Universität Berlin

Prof. Dr. Chung Keun-Sik  
Director  
KDF-Research Institute

Dr. Werner Kampeter  
Representative  
Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Seoul

Prof. Dr. Eun-Jeung Lee  
Director of the Institute of Korean Studies  
Freie Universität Berlin

**14:00**

### **Keynote speech**

Han Myeong-suk  
Former Prime Minister  
Republic of Korea

**14:30 – 15:30**

### **Panel 1, Part I**

Host: Dr. Werner Kampeter, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Seoul

Prof. Dr. Walter Reese-Schäfer  
University of Göttingen  
"Civil Society and Political Theory"

**15:30-16:00**

### **Coffee break**

16:00-18:00

**Panel 1, Part II**

Prof. Dr. Cho Hyo-Je  
SungKongHoe University, Korea  
“Vayage through uncharted waters: Challenges for Korean civil society in a minimalist democracy”

Pavel Leshakov  
Director at the International Center for Korean Studies  
Moscow State University  
"Two decades of democratic transformation in Republic of Korea and the USSR (Russia) - a comparative study"

18:30

**Reception**

---

**May 9th 2009**

10.00 -12.00

**Panel 2**

Host: Mozes Csoma (Eötvös Lorand University Budapest)

Sergey Olegovich Kurbanov  
Head of Korean Studies Section, Faculty of Asian and African Studies University of St. Petersburg  
“Compatibility of Traditional Culture and Democracy: The South and North Korean Case”

Alexander Vorontsov  
Head of Korea and Mongolia Department and its Section for Korean Studies, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences  
“The ROK Civil Society. Democratisation and Unification Tasks Correlation”

12:00 – 13.30

**Lunch**

13:30– 16:00

**Roundtable: “Civil Society and post-democracy in Korea – a new approach?”**

Host: Prof. Dr. Marion Eggert, Ruhr University Bochum

Statement:  
Prof. Dr. Chung Keun-Sik  
Director  
KDF-Research Institute

Panel Members:

Prof. Dr. Cho Hyo Je (SeonKongHoe University, Korea)  
Prof. Dr. Walter Reese-Schäfer (University of Göttingen)  
Mozes Csoma (Eötvös Lorand University Budapest)  
Pavel Leshakov (Moscow State University)  
Ch. J. Janasiak (University of Warsaw)  
Miriam Löwensteinova (Karls University, Praha)

16:00

**Concluding Remarks**

Prof. Dr. Eun-Jeung Lee  
Director of the Institute of Korean Studies  
Freie Universität Berlin