



ACTIVITIES OF THE  
INSTITUTE OF KOREAN  
STUDIES IN THE  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2008/2009

## Welcome Note by Prof. Dr. Lee Eun-Jeung, Director of Freie Universität Berlin's Institute of Korean Studies

Dear Colleagues & Friends,



with this brochure we would like to inform you about the activities of the Institute of Korean Studies (IKS) at Freie Universität Berlin during the academic year 2008/2009. The Institute has taken a new profile since October 2008 and is now focusing on social sciences in research and teaching. We are glad that we can already present a multitude of various activities which we were able to carry out thanks to the efforts of all our staff in the first year of the institute's new orientation. Positive developments like the inauguration of the consecutive, more research-oriented Master course "Korean Studies" or the renowned Institution Grant, which was rewarded to the IKS by the Academy of Korean Studies, are encouraging us to continue work hard. We wish you all a happy year and good health in 2010.

**Prof. Dr. Eun-Jeung Lee**  
Director of the IKS

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## The staff of the Institute of Korean Studies at Freie Universität Berlin

The Institute of Korean Studies currently holds one full-fledged professorship, one



*The photo shows our permanent staff (f.l.t.r.): Park Myung Joon, Eric J. Ballbach, Andrea Großkopf, Holmer Brochlos, Lee Eun-Jeung, Mascha Peters, Kim Eun-Hee, Hannes B. Mosler, Park Hee Seok*

assistant professorship, one post-doc position, four research assistants and five assistant lecturers (Lehrbeauftragte). Furthermore, the University granted the Institute a full librarian's position as well as a professional secretary. Also, in 2009 there were two visiting professors and three visiting scholars at the Institute of Korean Studies. With this faculty and staff, the institute runs a B.A. and

since 2009 a M.A. program in Korean Studies as well as offering PhD degrees.

The teaching and research staff in the academic year 2008/2009 thus consisted of:

- Prof. Dr. Lee Eun-Jeung (Head of Department)
- Dr. Park Hee Seok (Post Doc Fellow)
- Dr. Holmer Brochlos (Assistant professor)
- Dr. cand. Eric J. Ballbach, M.A. (Research Assistant)
- Dr. cand. Mascha Peters, M.A. (Research Assistant)
- Dr. cand. Hannes Mosler, M. A. (Research Assistant)
- Dr. des. Park Myung-Joon (Research Assistant)
- Dr. Kim Eun-Hee (lecturer)
- Dr. Lee Yun-kyoung (lecturer)
- Han Chong-hwa (lecturer)
- Dr. Kai Koehler (lecturer)
- Prof. Dr. Kim Seong-Kook (Visiting professor from Ewha Womans University)
- Prof. Dr. Kim Seong-soo (Visiting researcher from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies)
- Dr. Chon Seon-il (Visiting researcher from the National Election Commission)
- Prof. Dr. Kim Sang-sik (Visiting researcher from Korea Aerospace University)

## International Conferences

### Democracy after Democratization. International Conference on Civil Society in South Korea, Germany, and Eastern Europe

What are the tasks for civil society in the course of democratic transformation? A



*The photo shows conference participants during the round table discussion: Dr. Cho Hyo-Je, Prof. Dr. Walter Reese-Schäfer, Dr. Pavel Leshakov, Dr. Moses Csoma, Dr. Miriam Löwensteinova*

series of five conferences are going to seek answers to this question by means of a comparative analysis of experiences with transformation process in South Korea, reunited Germany, and the post-communist countries of Eastern Europe. On May 8-9, 2009, the Institute of Korean Studies (IKS) hosted the first conference on civil society in co-operation with the Korea Democracy Foundation and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation at Freie Universität Berlin. The conference was opened by a speech given by former

Prime Minister of the ROK Han Myung-suk. She emphasized the necessity of a new approach in the examination and evaluation of the role of the Korean civil society and underlined the chances of an interdisciplinary perspective. Civil societies in the Republic of Korea as well as in the countries of Eastern Europe played a pivotal role in the struggle for democracy. While various studies have paid attention to this fact since the decline of the last military government in Korea in 1987 and the communist regimes in 1989, a thorough analysis of civil society after the democratic transformation has not yet taken place yet. How does the democratization process influence civil society and how does civil society react to the new challenges of a changed environment? In the discourse between scholars from Germany, South Korea, Russia, Hungary, and the Czech Republic and representatives from the Korea Democracy Foundation, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and Freie Universität Berlin, it became clear that Korea and the countries of Eastern Europe do share many experiences, yet distinct differences are also present. From the Korean perspective, experiences of the countries of Eastern Europe and reunited Germany do provide valuable insights. An analysis of these experiences supports an interdisciplinary and transregional learning process on both sides. The conference, "Challenges for the Korean Civil

Society After the Democratic Transformation- Experiences of the Post-Socialist Countries of Eastern Europe and Reunified Germany,” was the first in a series of five conferences to be hosted by the IKS from 2009 on. The next conference is scheduled for June 5-6, 2010 in Berlin.

## 20 Years after the Collapse of the Berlin Wall and Lessons for the Unification of Korea

On September 10-11, 2009, the “Institute for Peace Studies” from the Korea



*The photo shows participants of the international conference during a panel discussion*

University (Seoul) and the Institute of Korean Studies from Freie Universität Berlin jointly held an international conference titled “20 Years after the Collapse of the Berlin Wall and Lessons for the Unification of Korea.” The conference, which was held at the Global Conference Hall at Korea University, was sponsored by the National Research Foundation of Korea, the Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ministry of Unification of Korea, the PaekSan

Foundation, SK Telecom, ERA Korea Co., Ltd., and Dong-A Daily Newspaper. During the two-day conference, participants from Germany and Korea jointly discussed issues as the world-historical meaning of the collapse of the Berlin Wall, origins, processes and influences of the German reunification, German and Korean Foreign Policy during the Cold War Era, questions of social integration after the formal reunification process as well as starting points for future research.

## Workshops

### Workshop of the Korea Foundation on the “Future of Korean Studies in German-Speaking Countries”

On October 25, 2008, the Korea Foundation organized a workshop about the “Future of Korean Studies in German-Speaking Countries.” The workshop, in which all directors of the Korean Studies Institutes at German-speaking universities participated, was held at the Institute of Korean Studies at Freie Universität Berlin. It focused on the past development, current status and future direction of Korean Studies in German-speaking countries.



*The photo shows participants of the Korea Foundation workshop held at the Institute of Korean Studies*

### First and Second Workshop of PhD Candidates at the Institute of Korean Studies

On February 7-8, 2009, the IKS for the first time welcomed PhD candidates from different universities throughout Germany who work on Korea-related topics in their research. During a very productive weekend, the candidates could introduce their respective PhD projects and discuss them not only with the other PhD candidates, but also with various experts invited from external scientific and research institutions. A follow-up workshop of PhD candidates was held on the weekend of July 4-5, 2009 at the IKS. The next workshop is planned for April 10-11, 2010. Interested candidates



*The photo shows participants of the first PhD candidates workshop of the IKS*

are invited to contact Eric Ballbach at the following address: [eric.ballbach@fu-berlin.de](mailto:eric.ballbach@fu-berlin.de)

## Special Lecture Series at the IKS

Besides the above-mentioned international conferences and workshops, the Institute of Korean Studies organized various special lectures by national and international guests.

On January 13, 2009, Dr. rer. pol. Hanns Günther Hilpert, researcher of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik), gave a presentation on “Recent Political Developments in North Korea”



### **Presentation of Prof. Kim Seong-kook, Ehwa Womans University, Seoul.**

On January 29, 2009: Prof. Kim Seong-kook gave a special lecture on “Structural Change of Labor Unions in South Korea.”

*Prof. Kim during his lecture at the Institute of Korean Studies*

### **Presentation of Dr. Lee Young-Jo, Representative of the South Korean Truth Commission**

On April 23, 2009, Dr. Lee Young-Jo gave a special lecture at the Center for Area Studies at Freie Universität Berlin. Dr. Lee argued that sixty years after independence and almost two decades after democratization in South Korea, the question of the past has become so relevant that it is called a “fight for settling the past.” The old elites in South Korea, who have their roots in the time of Japanese



*Dr. Lee Young-Jo during his lecture at the Center for Area Studies at FU Berlin.*

colonization and large-scale land holding, were able to prevent coming to terms with the past until 2002 because it would have questioned their legitimacy. Only the presidential election of 2002, which was won by Roh Moo-Hyun, was able to challenge social and political power relations that had endured until then. Actually, it was during his term that the legal framework for accounting for the past in the form of truth finding and reconciliation was passed, which poses the legal basis for the Truth Commission’s foundation on December 1, 2005. In his presentation, Dr.

Lee talked about three key areas of his commission's work, which are mostly given by Korea's history of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. That is, questions on collaboration and forced mobilization of soldiers, forced labor and the so-called "comfort women" (sex slaves) during Japanese colonial times, and massacres of civilians during the Korean War, which took the lives of millions of Koreans between 1950 and 1953. Furthermore, the treatment of victims of state violence during the dictatorships of Park Chung Hee (1961-1979), Chun Doo Hwan (1980-1988), and during the transition period under Roh Tae Woo is subject of the Truth Commission's work. Dr. Lee closed his speech with the remark, "what has been done cannot be undone completely," and expressed his hopes that the commission's search for truth will one day actually lead to reconciliation of all societal groups in Korea.



**Visit of Dr. Han Myung-Suk, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea**

On May 5, 2009, Dr. Han Myung-suk visited the Institute of Korean Studies for a brief presentation on her work as well as a joint discussion with the students of the Institute of Korean Studies.

*Dr. Han Myung-suk during her speech*

**Presentation of Dr. Kim Yong-duk, President of the History Foundation.**

On June 5, 2009 Dr. Kim Yong-duk gave a lecture entitled "The Primacy of Democratic Transition Bringing Justice: South Korea's Experience in Comparative Perspective" at the Institute of Korean Studies.

**Presentation of Lee Bae-yong, President of the Ehwa Womans University**

On July 8, 2009, Dr. Lee Bae-yong visited the Institute of Korean Studies and gave a special lecture on "Past, Present, and Future of Korean Woman in Leadership and Education".



*Dr. Lee Bae-yong after her speech at FU Berlin.*



## Academy of Korean Studies awards renowned Institution Grant to the Institute of Korean Studies

The Academy of Korean Studies' program for institution grants accepted the joined



project proposal of the Institute of Korean Studies at Freie Universität Berlin (supervised by Prof. Dr. Eun-Jeung Lee) and the Korean Department of Ruhr-University Bochum (supervised by Prof. Dr. Marion Eggert) in 2009. The Project titled “the Circulation of Knowledge and the Dynamics of Transformation” is aimed at analyzing the interplay of impact and action; drawing on the central claim that Korea is not to be understood as a passive actor who merely reacts to external processes. Rather, Korea is seen as an actor in itself, who participates significantly in the multilayered social, political, and intellectual transformation processes the country witnessed in the last century:

*Prof. Dr. Ursula Lehmkuhl, First Vice President of Freie Universität Berlin, and Dr. Kim Jung Bae, President of the Academy of Korean Studies, after signing the contract at FU Berlin.*

“We believe that these transformations, as well as Korea’s position in world history, are better understood under the paradigm of circulation of knowledge, thus stressing that Korean actors have, during most phases of history, not

passively submitted to brute force, but have consciously chosen options, thereby again affecting external actor. Under the paradigm of circulation, the production, consumption, and dissemination of knowledge are looked at as a single, closely knit process which invariably leads to dynamic transformations of both objects of knowledge and their (social and intellectual) context, and in which national borders play a rather unimportant role. By forcing to look closely and in conjunction with the material, intellectual and social factors in transformative processes, this approach will help to achieve a more sophisticated understanding of shifts and dynamics in Korean intellectual, social, and political history, both on the local level and in its regional context. Furthermore, the research project is geared towards generating research results that can be useful for refining general theories of cultural transfer and cultural transformation. Korea, with its peculiar geographical

position and its history of manifold and incisive cultural and social transformations, can serve as an excellent object for case studies on such processes. This research project, if done on a sufficiently large scale to guarantee national and international visibility, may help to foster awareness of the potential and importance of Korean Studies in the humanities in general.” On June 15, the contact was signed by First Vice President Prof. Dr. Ursula Lehmkuhl, Freie Universität Berlin, and President of the Academy of Korean Studies, Dr. Kim Jung Bae. In the course of the next five years, both universities will co-operate strategically and professionally, presenting their research results at regular intervals.

## **First Vice President of Freie Universität Berlin, Prof. Dr. Ursula Lehmkuhl. visits Seoul**

From 7 – 9 September 2009, Prof. Dr. Ursula Lehmkuhl, First Vice President of



*Prof. Dr. Ursula Lehmkuhl writes into the book of condolences at the Kim Dae-Jung library*

FUB, visited several partner universities and partner research institutions of the IKS in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The program was organized by Professor Lee Eun-Jeung, Director of the IKS. During her three-day visit, Prof. Lehmkuhl had comprehensive talks with the Vice President of Seoul National University, the Presidents of Yonsei University, Sogang University, Korea University and Ewha Womans University as well as the President of the Academy of Korean Studies. Prof. Lehmkuhl signed several MOUs on the further expansion of co-operation with the above-mentioned partners and informed them on recent developments at FUB. Furthermore, Prof. Lehmkuhl met the Minister of Unification, Hyun In-taek, the director of Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies at Seoul National University and an FUB alumni group, as well as the heads and staff members of several Korea-related research institutions. Following the visit to Kim Dae-Jung Presidential Library, she recorded her name into the book of condolences for late South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun who had passed away shortly before. On 10 and 11 September, 2009, Prof. Lehmkuhl took part and gave a speech at the international conference “20 Years After the Collapse of the Berlin Wall and Lessons for the Unification of Korea,” which had been co-organized by FUB’s Institute of Korean Studies. On 12 September 2009, the Ministry of Unification organized a tour to Panmunjom, situated in the DMZ between North and South Korea.

## Other Events

### Inauguration party

On December 16, 2008, a special party was held at the IKS, which doubled as an inauguration party of the IKS as well as a Christmas party. Japanese ambassador to Germany Dr. Takahiro Shinyo, the Vice Director of Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik- German Institute for International and Security Affairs Professor Günther Maihold, the Representative of the Korea Foundation in Berlin Min Young-Joon, Professor Verena Blechinger-Talcott (FUB, Japanese Studies), Professor Mechthild Leutner (FUB, Chinese Studies), and many other guests from Berlin and other parts of Germany took part in the event.

### „Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften“

(Report of our BA student Janek Kaftan)

The sun was shining when the sounds of Samulnori opened this year's "Long Night of Science" program of the Institute of Korean Studies. Guests of every age came from all over Berlin to watch the events organized by the various faculties of Berlin's Universities. The Korean Studies were established at Free University Berlin in 2005. It is the youngest institute of the East Asian Seminar at FU Berlin. Accordingly, refreshing was the topic of the evening of "Popular Culture in Korea."

After the opening through Samulnori performance in the garden, the crowd of visitors moved in to the seminar room of the institute. The big room was jammed with guests who listened excitedly to the violin playing of the 11 year old Dong-Myoung Park. Following the wonderful performance of the young talent Dong-Myoung, the student Ulf Eickmann filled the room with his contribution on computer games in Korea. The young and young at heart listened curiously to the lecture that was underlain with various sequences and videos of many games. Also, the workshop of manhwa author and student of Korean Studies, Rene Scheibe, was very popular. So many people wanted to take part in the workshop about the South Korean comics that many participants watched and sketched diligently from outside the opened windows.

Even more fine arts could be seen in the cellar of the institute. The colorful oil on canvas paintings from the artist Mi-Sun Choe, which usually showed impressionistic plants and flowers, decorated the cellar's white walls. Not only did the beautiful pictures lure visitors into the cellar but also their stomachs. Helpers and members of the institute prepared bibimbab. The guests were astonished about this almost unknown taste in Germany. Even helpers of other institutes came to eat this delicious part of Korean culture.

After the workshops, the people gathered again in the seminar room for a musical performance. A few students of Korean Studies came together to perform choreographed dances to Korean pop songs to show this important part of popular culture in Korea. Hwa-Suk Song delved into the more scientific side of this topic. She held a lecture about "Korean Pop Music in the Course of Time" and explained social, economic, and technical aspects of this wildly loved kind of music in Korea.

Another lecture dealt with politics of the popular in Korean Cinema. By means of famous director's movies, like those from Chan-Wook Park, Mr. Lie expanded on the implied political diagnostics of the Korean society in relation to Korean popular film forms. Of Course Korean movies were also shown at the "Long Night of Science." The young audience felt happy after watching an animated movie called "Yobi the Five Tailed Fox." This movie contains an interesting mix of gumihos, aliens, and love. The second movie, shown at the end of the evening, was the gloomy melodrama, "Our Happy Time."

Professor Lee Eun-Jeung held the last lecture of the evening about the background of the "Korean Wave," that also seems to have arrived in Germany. Immediately after that, Prof. Lee performed a concert with "The Band of Korean Studies," that was formed especially for the "Long Night of Science," and consists of several students and lecturers. The music was an interesting fusion of Korean songs and rock music.



*Prof. Dr. Lee Eun-Jeung during her presentation at the "Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften"*

The goal of the evening was to raise awareness. As many people as possible should become curious about Korea, Korean Studies, and gain an insight into the discipline of Korean Studies. The whole event was a great success. There had been a positive resonance to every concert and every lecture was well attended. Also, with 450 people, the record number of visitors had been beaten again this year. Professor Lee, who is head of the Institute of Korean Studies since autumn 2008,

felt especially happy that there had been so many helpers supporting the event. More than thirty students and all staff members participated and helped organization, preparation of food, answered guests' questions, or directly took part in the program. As a reward every helper got a Korean shirt as a present.

At the end of the night, every participant was tired, but it was a nice evening for everybody and a great success for the young institute. We are able to look forward to the next year, when the Institute of Korean Studies in Berlin arranges another marvelous program for the "Long Night of Science" as a link to this year's success-hopefully with nice weather again too.

## Time to Say Good-bye... Graduation Ceremony of the First Bachelor Class at the Institute of Korean Studies

On October 20, 2009, the first bachelor class celebrated their graduation at the Institute of Korean Studies (IKS). Since the winter semester 2005-06 the Institute of Korean Studies has offered a bachelor degree program, in October 2009, the first class of master degree students began their studies.

Under the direction of Professor Lee Eun-Jeung, the IKS established a socioscientific focus in research and studies. Apart from in-depth language training, students at the IKS gain knowledge about development in modern Korea, regarding politics, economy, society and culture of the country. Apart from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London, the IKS is the only institute in Europe where research and studies are conducted with a socioscientific focus.

Thus, the ceremony on October 20<sup>th</sup> was also a welcome opportunity to raise glasses to a successful first year of the new Institute of Korean Studies. Various guests attended the ceremony, among the Harmut Koschyk, President of the German-Korean Society, Min Young-Joon, representative of the Korea Foundation in Europe and Roh Tae-kang, Director of the Department for Cultural Affairs to the Korean Embassy in Berlin, Germany. Most of the 14 bachelor students, who received certificates with Korean calligraphy by Master Byong Oh, continued their studies at the IKS in the new master degree program.

## **Publications, Interviews and other Activities of the IKS Staff**

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