

Newsletter of Hanns Seidel Foundation, Korea Office – April 2005

2. English Version

Seoul, April 2005

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

while the 'Korea year' in Germany began successfully, we are happy to present the first edition of our e-mail newsletter of Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea in 2005. Throughout the year, in numerous activities in Germany, among them the Frankfurt book fair and the Asia-Pacific weeks of the German businesses, Korea is the focus country. But also in Korea a number of interesting activities is coming up: In April, Dr. Rainer Gepperth, director of the Institute for International Contact and Cooperation, which bundles the international development activities of Hanns Seidel Foundation, signed an MoU with the Graduate School of Public Administration (GSPA) of Seoul National University. Also in April, the seminar for Koreans living abroad of the Institute for Peace Affairs (IPA) took place in Cheju-Do. The recent tensions among Korea, Japan and China show, how important the role of Koreans living abroad for understanding among the people is. Afterwards, the IPA presented to the public the first North Korean encyclopedia ever, which has been compiled in years of hard working. In North Korea, in June 2005 the second seminar on "International Finance" in cooperation with Europe-Korea foundation with the focus on exchange rates and inflation for North Korean decision-makers is planned. This newsletter will inform you also about a number of other activities of Hanns Seidel Foundation and its partners in Korea. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and will gladly welcome you in one or the other of our activities!

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Bernhard Seliger
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Review - Visit of the Director of the Institute for International Contact and Cooperation (IBZ) of Hanns Seidel Foundation, Dr. Rainer Gepperth, in Seoul

In Mid-April Dr. Rainer Gepperth, Director of the Institute for International Contact and Cooperation (IBZ) of Hanns Seidel Foundation, which bundles the political development

projects of Hanns Seidel Foundation, visited Korea. During his visit, which was related to an administrative meeting of representatives of Hanns Seidel Foundation in East Asia, he signed an MoU with the Graduate School of Public Administration (GSPA) of Seoul National University. The cooperation with GSPA since 2004 aims at the introduction of scientific concepts to overcome the Korean division. Dr. Gepperth also participated in the seminar for Koreans living abroad by the Institute for Peace Affairs and met partners of Hanns Seidel Foundation and Korean politicians.

Seminar of Koreans living abroad and presentation of the first North Korea Encyclopedia of the Institute for Peace Affairs (IPA)

From April 19th to 21st in Cheju-Do the annual seminar of the Institute for Peace Affairs (IPA) and Hanns Seidel Foundation took place. Koreans from all the world came there to discuss the issues of peace on the Korean peninsula and the role of Koreans abroad. As a bridge between their new home countries and Korea they play an important role. Many of them have a unique insight into the North Korean system, or a close contact to the most important partner countries and allies of South Korea. Thus, they are important contributors to a peaceful development of the Korean Peninsula, a hot topic given the new threats of North Korea of possible nuclear tests and a growing arms race in the region. Once a year the IPA assembles important Koreans living abroad in this conference, fostering their role through networking among them, scientists and politicians from Korea.

After the seminar, on April 22nd, at a reception in Seoul the first North Korea Encyclopedia was presented. Over several years in a cumbersome process, North Korean data was relayed to a Chinese institute and from there to the IPA, accumulating to 20 volumes now published. Among the sponsors of the Encyclopedia is the Ministry of Unification. While the use of North Korean data might have some problems, the publishing of an Encyclopedia is a milestone in the attempt to comprehensively review the geography and culture of North Korea, given the thirst of reliable data on North Korea.

Review: Seminar „15 Years of Local Councils“ of RILC in Incheon

Hanns Seidel Foundation in Korea since fifteen years actively participated in the policy of re-introduction of local autonomy and decentralization. One of the most important partners for this aim has been the Research Institute for Local Councils (RILC), which plays an important role in the training of local councillors and the scientific and practical advice to local councils. A seminar of RILC in Incheon looked back on fifteen years of experience of local councils and debate the future developments of local autonomy in Korea. Among the participants were Dr. Lim Gyong-Ho, president of RILC and former governor of Gyeonggi province, Lee Jae-Chang, Chairman of the National Council Association of Chairmen, representatives of the decentralization commission of the Korean president, of the Ministry of Government and Home Affairs, and representatives of all regional and local councils in South Korea. As Dr. Rainer Gepperth, director of the institute for international contact and cooperation of Hanns Seidel Foundation, stressed in a congratulatory message, after the firm establishment of a legal and political framework for local autonomy, it is important to fill this framework with life by active participation of citizens.

Open Lecture „Quo vadis, North Korea: Current Trends in Politics, Economy and Society“

As part of the cooperation of SNU and Hanns Seidel Foundation, which has been formalized

will take place. Topic of the seminar are especially exchange rate theory and policy as well as inflation and inflation fighting, topics, which are in great interest in developing economies. The seminar is hold for decision-makers of the central bank, economic institutes and academic researchers. Hanns Seidel Foundation since 2004 cooperates with North Korean organisations in the fields of economic development and educational activities in the field of agriculture.

Study visit of IPA in Germany

In July 2004 a study seminar of the Institute for Peace Affairs with Hanns Seidel Foundation with the topic of “sustainable development in border regions” will focus on the Bavarian-Saxonian-Bohemian border region. Environmental protection, economic development and migration are but some of the challenges of Germany and Europe to overcome the division of border regions of the cold war era. To use these experiences also for the Korean unification process is the aim of this seminar. The delegation will among others visit Bayreuth in Bavaria, the German-Czech euro-region Egrensis, Chemnitz and Dresden in Saxonia.

Study trip with the National Agricultural Cooperation Foundation (NACF) to Germany

End of June 2005 there will be again a study trip of Hanns Seidel Foundation with one of the longest-term partners, the National Agricultural Cooperation Foundation (NACF). The transformation of agriculture in Eastern Germany after 1989 will be the topic of the study trip for heads of primary agricultural cooperatives from across South Korea. The agricultural question in a broad sense, including the rehabilitation and development of rural areas, will be of utmost importance for a successful overcoming of the division on the Korean Peninsula. In talks with regional (Länder) and federal ministries and German cooperatives and in visiting farms and cooperatives in Bavaria and Brandenburg the study trip will show the possibilities and limits of successful agricultural transformation.

„Parliamentary Assistant“ - practical experiences in the German Bundestag

The promotion of women in politics and society is an important goal of the work of Hanns Seidel Foundation in Korea. With support of Hanns Seidel Foundation the Center for Korean Women and Politics (CKWP) in Seoul each year trains young future “Parliamentary assistants” for an important task for politically interested young women, by this also creating a network of young, interested women. For some of these assistants Hanns Seidel Foundation organizes a stay in the German Parliament Bundestag or the European Parliament. In March 2005 Kim Min-Kyong from Seoul has been intern in the office of Hartmut Koschyk MP, president of the German-Korean Association and chairman of the German-Korean Parliamentary group in the German Parliament.

Internship in Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea

Since two years the office of Hanns Seidel Foundation in Seoul offers intership places for young Korean and German students. Especially, since the participation in the international internship organization KOPRA there is an increasing interest in internships at Hanns Seidel Foundation. Currently, Peter Gelius, doctoral student from Erlangen university, does research on North Korean power structure in the office of Hanns Seidel Foundation. He as well as Miss Katharina Polley, student from Bochum university, who works until June at Hanns Seidel Foundation, is supported by a short-term scholarship of the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD. Also Mr. Andreas Tiggemann, junior lawyer from Münster university, for

three months supports Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea office. After receiving a flood of applications, new internships can only be offered from the beginning of 2006 (not for the summer of 2005!). We especially offer internships for students of social sciences and computing. For more information see the advertisement of Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea in www.kopra.org.

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