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“The closer future of the nation”

North Korean defectors should take the role for the buffer of the cultural confrontation

Education Centre for Unification

On May 20th at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, 2010, Education Centre for Unification, Hanns-Seidel-Foundation Korea and PSCORE (People for Successful COREan unification) in collaboration with university students groups hosted a forum on the topic of the “Social integration of defectors and North Korean defector’s roles for the unification process”.

As an additional event the 20 posters exhibition on 20 years of German unification showing the German unification process efficiently was held beside the forum venue.

In the first session the participants, mostly consisted of university students had an opportunity to learn on the social integration for defectors. Dr. Bernhard Seliger, the representative of Hanns-Seidel-Foundation Korea gave a lecture on the expatriation from East Germany and the resettlement in West Germany. In the following lecture given by Kim, Young-Soo, project manager of HSS Korea the lessons from German unification for the social integration was dealt with.

The Second session was organised by students’ presentations. With Ahn, Seung-Woo’s, project manager of PSCORE, chairing, students had opportunity for discussion. Nam, Gwang-myeong and Hwang Cheol from “Waedae NK”, the group for students from North Korea of Hanguk University of foreign studies focused on the situation of North Korean defectors including the university students. Nam asked for looking at North Korean defectors not as a burden to the South Korean society, but as a closer future of unification.

He also stated that students from North Korea has many difficulties studying in South Korea with adapting to the South Korean society, economic difficulties, lack of social network, and health issues. Hwang mentioned that there has been some improvement for the students from the North, but there still are many things to be improved for providing better environment for them. The next presentation was presented by Jin Young-ju from AISEC of Seoul women’s university. She emphasized importance of the psychological integration mentioning the difficulty of North Korean defectors’ resettlement in South Korea. She also mentioned that there will be a great conflict between totalitarian experience and individualistic experience which represent the North and South. Kim Sin-gu from “Unification practice” of Kookmin University talked about the North

Korean defectors' efforts for the settlement in South Korea and what kind of roles they can have in the future unification process. The last presentation was made by Han Kyeong-min from Joongang University based on his opinions on the future roles of North Korean defectors after the Korean unification. The session concluded with discussions and Q&A between the students in the floor and the front.