Keynote Speech

The Asian Solidarity Movement of Korean Civil Society: Observations of 30 Years of Development

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‘Asian solidarity’ has been a catchword describing the international activities of Korean civil society for three decades. Its activism started to become tangible in the early 1990s. This paper begins by describing the blossoming and diversification of this solidarity movement. It then emphasizes recent changes, which can be observed in two key areas. Unlike in earlier phases of the movement when activists focused almost solely on issues directly relevant to Korea, today’s activism is more concerned with universal values. And it has recently developed into a movement involving more citizens beyond activists and intellectuals.

Je Seong Jeon (jjesong@gmail.com) is teaching Politics of Democracy, Social Movements, Political Change, Area Studies, Southeast Asian Politics, and ASEAN & East Asian Regionalism as a professor at the Department of Political Science and Diplomacy and the chair of the East Asian & Multicultural Studies Major at Jeonbuk National University. He also serves as the director of JISEAS (Jeonbuk National University Institute for Southeast Asian Studies). He received his M.A. from Sogang University with a thesis on everyday forms of workers’ resistance in Korea and his Ph.D. from Seoul National University in 2002 with a dissertation on the labor movement during the democratization in Indonesia. Over 20 years, he published articles on Indonesian civil society, higher education, health reform, foreign investment, international relations, participatory regionalism, knowledge accumulation, etc. He published 33 (co-authored) books including Southeast Asian Studies in Korea (Seoul National University Press), and Era Emas Hubungan Indonesia- Korea (Kompas). This year, he was elected as the president of the KASEAS (Korean Association of Southeast Asian Studies) and started his two-year term in March.

Moderator

Yoko Hayami, Professor, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University

Yoko Hayami, is Professor at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University with a PhD in anthropology. She has worked mainly in Thailand among ethnic minority (Karen) in the northern hills on such themes as religion, family and gender. More recently she is working on aging and care in Thailand, especially in and around Chiangmai. Her publications in English include The Family in Flux in Southeast Asia: Institution, Ideology and Practice (Co-edited with Junko Koizumi, Ratana Tosakul, and Chalidarpon Songsampan (2012) Silkworm Press), Between Hills and Plains: Power and Practice in Socio-Religious Dynamics among Karen (Kyoto UP 2004), Gender and Modernity in Asia and the Pacific (Co-edited, 2003 Transpacific press), and journal articles including “Between state and family: Biopolitics of elderly care and emerging communality in Northern Thailand” in Southeast Asian Studies (2019).