



TAIWAN FOUNDATION
for DEMOCRACY

財團法人臺灣民主基金會

Political and Social Cleavages in Post-Democratization in Taiwan and Korea

Speaker: Dr. Hieyeon Keum,
International Visiting Fellow, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy;
Professor, Department of International Relations, University of
Seoul

Date: Wednesday, December 21, 2016

Time: 14:00 – 16:00

Venue: College of International Affairs, National Cheng-Chi University
Room 271107 First Conference Hall, 11th Floor, No. 64, Sec. 2, Zhinan Rd.,
Wenshan District, Taipei

Moderator: Dr. Ming Lee (李明博士), Dean, College of International Affairs, National
Cheng-Chi University

Discussant: Dr. Chang-Ling Huang (黃長玲博士), Professor, Department of Political
Science, National Taiwan University
Dr. SyChi Doong (董思齊博士), Assistant Professor, Department of East
Asian Studies, National Taiwan Normal University

Co-Host: College of International Affairs, NCCU



Agenda:

14:00 – 14:10 Opening remarks by Dr. Ming Lee

14:10 – 14:50 Presentation by Dr. Hieyeon Keum

14:50 – 15:10 Comments by Dr. Chang-Ling Huang

15:10 – 15:30 Comments by Dr. SyChi Doong

15:30 – 16:00 Open discussion

※ Please note that this event will be conducted in English.

As the term emerged recently, the post-democratization is used for describing a society where all the democratic institutions and procedures are in place, but a political leader(s) or small elite are skewing the democratic system in their favor. In Taiwan and Korea, politics is viewed and seen as an affair of political leaders and ruling elites, who are then blamed, criticized, and punished by an angry populace for their illegal or unlawful transaction with other elites.

Both Taiwan and Korea shared several similar attributes and experiences; Japanese colony,

rapid economic development, US security commitments, and democratization in the mid-1960's. Despite these similarities, there are still differences including the role of civil or mass mobilization in the process of democratization. According to EIU (Economist Intelligence Unit) Democracy Index in 2015, Korea ranked 22nd and Taiwan ranked 31st and both of them are one of 58 countries that fall into the Index's "Flawed Democracies". Only 20 countries are ranked as "Full Democracies" and there are no Asian countries. The most important research object is simple: to explain why both Taiwan and South Korea took different paths in the post-democratization era and what brought them different consequences internally and externally?

In both countries, political, economic, cultural and international factors, such as strong role of the government and leadership, economic policy of EOI (Export-Oriented Industrialization), and favorable U. S. security umbrella defending and protecting their systems from outer threat and provocation played an important role in their success stories.

During the late 1960's rising economy of East Asia proved that liberal democracy and private capitalism were not the imperative prerequisite of enhancement of standard of living and politico-social stability. Rather than adopting a liberal democracy and free market economy, both Taiwan and Korea have chosen BA (Bureaucratic Authoritarianism) model and DD (Dictatorial Development). Economic performance of Taiwan and South Korea over the past 40 years were remarkable and became promising success story and role model for many LDC's and UDC's. It has been proven again that Taiwan and South Korea have shown that the economic growth was the prerequisite for democracy.

With advent of the third wave of democratization in mid-1980's, a series of public protests in 1987 in Korea and Taiwan arrived and the people who enjoyed economic affluence now gave "bottom-up pressure" to the governments for speeding up political reform by adopting full-fledged democracy and civic rights. People have gotten more restless and unhappy with their parties and politicians. The most challenging issue is political cleavage which split both nation into two extreme policy spectrums by colors (Blue and Green) in Taiwan, and the Pro-Business (Rightists) and the Pro-Labor (Leftists) Korea. In both countries, the presence of threats from North Korea and Mainland China has a significant impact on the political stability and national security, and has yielded a different attitude toward the "democracy."

Despite the achievements in democratization, both countries have been facing serious internal problems such as corruption, social unrests, declining economies, and unstable domestic politics, which are caused by the "immatured" or "unripen" democracy. After the conservative parties gave their political power to the opponents, both countries were engulfed by a series of corruption scandals in Taiwan (Chen Shuibian) and President Park GeunHye in Korea now. Both countries are seeking ways to solve the post-democratization problems with the full-fledged democracy and liberal and private. Fair elections and civil liberties are not always the necessary conditions for democracy without accompanied by transparent and effective government, sufficient participation and supportive democratic political culture.

—by Dr. Hieyeon Keum

Speaker Biography

Dr. Hieyeon Keum is the professor of the Department of International Relations, University of Seoul, South Korea. He has received his Ph. D. at Miami University, Ohio. He currently holds an International Visiting Fellowship at the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy.

RSVP

Please RSVP by Monday, December 19, 2016

Date: Wednesday, December 21, 2016
Time: 14:00 – 16:00
Venue: College of International Affairs, National Cheng-Chi University
Room 271107 First Conference Hall, 11th Floor, No. 64, Sec. 2, Zhinan Rd.,
Wenshan District, Taipei

Mr./Ms./Dr. _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Will attend Unable to attend

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