

Lücken in der sozialwissenschaftlichen Korea-Forschung, die Frage der Sprachkompetenz und die Situation koreanischer Studenten und Doktoranden in der Bundesrepublik.

Wichtige Ergebnisse der Diskussion lassen sich wie folgt zusammenfassen:

- 1.) Es herrschte darüber Konsens, dass gegenwärtig keine neue Vereinigung für sozialwissenschaftliche oder allgemein gegenwartsbezogene Koreaforschung in der Bundesrepublik gegründet werden sollte. Stattdessen sollten bestehende Institutionen wie die Association of Korean Studies in Europe (AKSE) und die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Asienkunde (DGA) zum Einbringen koreabezogener Aktivitäten genutzt werden.
- 2.) Es bestand großes Interesse, Workshops oder Tagungen auf regelmäßiger Basis (etwa alle 2 Jahre) durchzuführen, um interessierten Wissenschaftlern eine Gelegenheit zu geben, ihre gegenwärtige Forschungsarbeit zu präsentieren und sich über allgemeine Fragen der gegenwartsbezogenen Koreaforschung auszutauschen. In jedem Fall sollten die Tagungen für alle offen sein, die sich mit dem gegenwärtigen Korea aus verschiedenen Blickwinkeln im akademischen Bereich beschäftigen.
- 3.) Klar artikuliert wurde das Bedürfnis nach einer besseren Vernetzung der Wissenschaftler und anderer Personen, die sich mit dem gegenwärtigen Korea beschäftigen. Zu diesem Zweck wurde die Einrichtung eines Email-Verteilers mit Informationen zu Veranstaltungen, Publikationen, Projekten, Personalien etc. angeregt. Dieser Verteiler existiert mittlerweile und erreicht derzeit knapp 80 Interessierte. Personen, die auf den Verteiler gesetzt werden oder hierüber Informationen verteilen möchten, wenden sich bitte an Patrick Köllner (ifahh.koellner@uni-hamburg.de). Auch wurde vorgeschlagen, im Internet ein zentrales Gateway zu den koreabezogenen universitären und außeruniversitären Einrichtungen im deutschsprachigen Raum einzurichten. Dieses Gateway befindet sich inzwischen im Aufbau und kann besucht werden unter <http://www.koreanstudies.de>.

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The 17th Sino-European Conference. "Security Cooperation and Conflict Prevention in the Asia-Pacific"

Taipei, December 12-15, 2000

The Institute of International Relations of the National Chengchi University in Taipei is, among other things, well known for its prestigious scholarly journal *Issues and Studies*. The institute has initiated a series of conferences, e. g. the Sino-European Conference which has established a fine tradition. Last year's conference organized in coordination with The Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies London brought together scholars from Australia, a number of European countries, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and a professor from Shanghai who has been based in Geneva for quite some time. In addition to the overseas participants there

were about 60 local attendants, among them scholars for security studies, representatives from liaison and trade offices of Asian and European countries and governmental officials from the Republic of China. This spectrum of participants provided for thought-provoking inputs and for inspiring discussions.

In the opening speech, Annette Hsiu-Lien Lu, Vice President of the Republic of China, noted that the "developmental process of the EU has evolved from economic cooperation, through a single market, to the verge of political integration." The twenty-first century, she predicted, will be an "open region" century on an "open globe" with new opportunities for coexistence and cooperation based upon the equality of rights of all participants. The conference then ventured to examine more closely aspects of security and cooperation. To map out the field, Werner Pfennig dealt with the question whether the challenges and opportunities posed resp. offered by increased globalization would be conducive to more security. François Géré warned that globalization might not necessarily create a "global village" but may very well lead to a "global jungle." Damon Bristow talked about new strategic developments in Asia and asked whether the old threats had gone away. His analysis included the well known areas of tension as well as new developments. "Crucially, after experiencing an explosion of economic growth through the late 1980s and 1990s, Asia is now experiencing a similarly rapid expansion in the use of communications and information technology, such as the Internet."

With reference to a possible impact of Europe, Géré addressed its potential as an economic partner and a security broker. Like him François Godement also discussed setbacks in recent developments of East and Southeast Asian democratization processes. Wolfgang Pape, who is with the European Commission in Brussels, examined European contributions to global governance as well as stability and discussed their applicability to Asia. He also stressed the need for the development of multi-cultural identities in Asia.

When discussing regional security cooperation, European experiences (François Géré), new fora of Asia-Europe cooperation (Paul Lim on ASEM III) as well as developments in Northeast Asia (Kikuchi Tsutomu) were examined. Damon Bristow asked about new strategic developments in Asia. "While it is the case that some of the enduring features defining the security of East Asia will remain, a number of new challenges to regional security are certain to emerge. The majority of these are linked to long-standing tensions and rivalries within the region, many of which were held in suspended animation for the duration of the cold War." Chyungly Lee emphasized the economic-security nexus, pointed out positive values of economic interdependence and proposed a developmental approach toward Asia-Pacific security regionalism. "A developmental approach which constructs an optimal division of labour based on the economic factor endowments of individual economies through a region-wide joint development coordination will bring out a collective security interest."

Any conference on security and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region will deal with the People's Republic of China. The meeting in Taipei, of course, made no exception and all participants tried their best to contribute to a sober, fair and realistic assessment of China's potential, intentions and constraints. Tang Shao-cheng analysed the

impact of NATO's Eastward enlargement on the cross-strait relations. NATO's military action against Serbia and the bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade could only be judged by Beijing as aggressive forward strategy of the "West." An unintended by-product was the remarkable improvement of Sino-Russian relations. The validity of analogy was questioned because some participants saw hardly any connection between Kosovo and the West's strategic interests in East Asia. This was pointed out by François Godement who emphasized that the United States were literally dragged into the conflict by the Europeans. Like Tang, Zhang Wei-wei also stressed the importance of understanding clearly China's position because in his view ever since Lee Teng-hui's "special state-to-state" formula and the election of Chen Shiu-bian, Beijing's sense of insecurity has been further enhanced. Since security matters have always two aspects, internal and external, a question to be addressed at this conference was: Is China a threat or is China is threatened itself? Evidence was presented and evaluated for both sides of the coin. Either way, Zhang emphasized that a dilemma "is about how Taipei will cope with a rising China or, if pessimism holds, a faltering China in the context of Taiwan's security interest." Desmond Ball presented his always impressive insights on security matters and mentioned especially China's progress in missile technology and in developing cruise missiles with supersonic speed. While Taiwan keeps investing in the PRC, China appears to deploy every year about 50 more missiles vis-à-vis the island. But Ball like others also pointed out signs of progress: "China was initially very wary of the multilateral process as it became institutionalized in the early 1990s. However, it soon became actively engaged at both the first and second track levels, although it tends to be less prepared to compromise than other participants."

Talking on how to move from confidence-building to preventive diplomacy in efforts to bring about positive interdependence, the economic-security nexus is almost automatically mentioned. Tang Shao-cheng saw benefits for both sides, because "without trade with China Taiwan will have a 6 billion US\$ deficit." All participants seemed to agree on the importance of economic cooperation. Some questioned the positive spillover effects to security while Tom Hart and Zhang Wei-wei agreed on more positive values of economic interdependence. Here Chyungly Lee pointed out that so far the dynamics of cross-Strait economic interdependence has been heavily business-driven without state-led strategies. Such developments, she said, exacerbate the negative security externalities of economic interdependence, consequently more official cooperation is needed.

An important feature of this excellent conference was the ample time for discussion. No oversized and dry academic papers were read but views succinctly presented and thoroughly discussed. The composition of the participants provided for an enormous wealth of information and opinions. Foreign participants had talks at the Mainland Affairs Council and the Foreign Ministry. The organizers of the conference also arranged individual interviews with government officials. This combination was excellent and helped to gain additional information and insights.