

- 'Chinese Financial Networks and the Rice Industry' (Raj Brown, University of London/UK)
- 'Business on Trust - Chinese Social Structure and Non-Contractual Business Relations in Singapore' (Thomas Menkhoff, University of Cologne/Germany)
- 'Business Networks, Cultural Values and the State in Hong Kong and Singapore' (Wong Siu-lun, University of Hong Kong/Hong Kong)
- 'The Entrepreneurial Interest in Non-Communist Land Reform: West Fujian, 1929-1949' (Leo Douw, University of Amsterdam/The Netherlands)
- 'The Role of Singapore in the Overseas Chinese Remitting System, 1870-1930', 'Accounting Books and Merchants' Culture' (Takeshi Hamashita, University of Tokyo/Japan)
- 'Chinese Business Networks and Japan's Prewar Economic Expansion in Southeast Asia' (Peter Post, Free University Amsterdam/The Netherlands)
- 'Internationalization of Overseas Chinese Family Enterprises: The Case of the Philippines' (Hai-yan Zhang & Daniel Van Den Bulcke, University of Antwerp/Belgium)
- 'The Control of Equity in Chinese Firms within the Modern Sector from the late Qing to the Early Republic' (David Faure, University of Oxford/UK)
- 'The Origins and Early Years of the Wing On Company Group in Australia, Fiji Islands, Hong Kong and Shanghai: Organization and Strategy of a New Enterprise' (Wellington K.K. Chan, Occidental College, Los Angeles/USA)

The papers will be published as a monograph.

*Thomas Menkhoff*

**International Symposium on "The Role of Mass Media  
Towards Unification of Korean Peninsula"**

Hong Kong December 3-6, 1992

Originally, the conference was to have been held in Peking under the joint aegis of the "Korean Society for Journalism and Communication"

and the "New China News Agency", and personalities from Pyongyang had agreed to attend. Shortly before the beginning of the symposium, however, the co-sponsor made demands that could hardly be justified. Hence Professor Dr. Choi Chang-Sup, president of the "Korean Society" was forced to change the venue to Hong Kong.

The conference was in jeopardy but Korean resolution and organizing ability made it possible to push through with the symposium, a performance that indeed deserves deep respect. Unfortunately the new arrangement forced upon the organizers made it impossible for people from Pyongyang to attend. While this was greatly regretted by all participants, the symposium was nevertheless a highly rewarding event. Speakers, discussants and other participants came from Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Russia, the U.S.A. and Germany. Most stimulating was the presence of Johan Galtung, the Norwegian cosmopolite.

Most of the papers were available at the beginning of the conference, a few supplied subsequently. Theo Sommer, co-editor of the prestigious German weekly *Die Zeit*, was unable to attend but had furnished the organizers with his paper on the "Role of the Media in Achieving German Unification."

The participants focussed on past efforts and future possibilities for the Korean media to contribute to the unification of the peninsula. This was discussed in great detail (radio, TV, print media, the role of culture and sport, etc.), scrutinized and critically assessed, information and analyses being given in concentric circles: Korean experts presented in rich detail developments from both states of their peninsula, Asian colleagues (from Japan and Taiwan) as well as Korean professors teaching abroad presented their views, whereas Americans and Europeans applied an even more comparative perspective. This reciprocal flow of information made the symposium a superbly stimulating event. Ivan Zakharchenko for example shared the experiences he made as correspondent of Tass on both sides of the Korean cease-fire line.

Korean participants discussed frankly how on both sides mass media and communication were and still are manipulated politically. They also articulated a vexed dilemma: unification of course, but not now! The German example clearly demonstrates that unification is possible but very expensive and creates new problems. On the one hand Korean scholars from the South hope for a collapse of the North as an incentive to reunion, on the other hand they are convinced that the North must first recover economically, thus making unification less costly. All discussants raised the question of how the media can best stimulate the pro-

cess, while at the same time avoiding or at least minimizing undesirable developments. Relevant clues were here given by Richard Vincent (University of Hawaii) in his manuscript on "Lessons from the Research of News Flows." Helmut Wagner (Free University of Berlin) concentrated on global developments and examined in his thought-provoking paper how to maximize international support for the unification of Korea. Another paper looked into the role media had played in the Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic. This was complemented with comparative observations on the situation in China and Korea. The Chinese example displays a fascinating array of unofficial interactions whereas there is almost no positive development on the official level. Just the opposite as far as the two Koreas are concerned; on the highest level fine documents have been signed and ratified, yet almost nothing can be reported about implementation and practical measures.

Johan Galtung's paper and its presentation were inspiring, as always. He expounded ten proposals: report more on Korea, less on big powers; more on the Korean people, less on the elites; more on mutuality, less on antagonism; do not equate the Korean process with the German one; "unification" may take at least three forms, one united Korea, a Korean federation and a Korean confederation; if confederation, it has to be symmetric; do not talk too badly about the Korean past, Koreans north and south had good reasons for their systems; media should focus on the benefits of unification instead of the obstacles; make the unification process transparent.

At the end of the symposium a declaration was passed for the establishment of a "Northeast Asia Mass Media Council" where representatives from both Koreas, from China, Japan as well as Russia are expected to work together.

The organizers intend to make the proceedings of the symposium available to a wider readership. During the conference it was impossible to do justice to all the information, assessments and proposals; furthermore, a few manuscripts were in Korean only. It would be very useful to soon have a publication based on a conference that was immensely rich in content and organized in an exemplary way.

Werner Pfennig