

*One Asia Foundation International Lectures, Fall 2019 Semester*  
*“Humanities General Education: The Asian Community:  
The Construction and Transformation of East Asiaology” Lecture Series (1)*

**Title: The Construction and Development of East Asian Studies in Taiwan**

For our first lecture of “One Asia Foundation International Lectures, Fall 2019 Semester, Chinese Culture University” President Shing-ching Shyu delivered a speech entitled “The Construction and Transformation of East Asiaology.” At the beginning, President Shyu mentioned that this course, which was a course offered by the college of Foreign Languages, is now changed to Humanity General Education course in order to give all students in our university opportunities to take this course. It was not easy to start this course and we have been fortunate that One Asia Foundation accepted our application and given us funding to offer this course. Because this course invites various scholars from other universities and other foreign countries every week, President Shyu encouraged students to take the chances to interact with distinguished scholars from various disciplines every week and he is assured that students will learn enormously from these lectures in this semester.

One Asia Foundation has advocated “establishing Asian Community in the future” which is an issue worth pondering. Particularly the recent disturbance situation in Asia and the political, economic, cultural, and educational sparks ignited by the Sino-US trade war might have extensive impacts for the future ten years. Under this political-economic circumstance, we hope students can reflect on and trace back past events through this course. For example, the past wars, histories, and territorial issues in Europe were as complicated as in Asia. We can trace back how Europe integrated into European Union and decided to adopt the common currency Euro and then think about the possibilities of establishing the Asian Community and the common currency. As thinking about related issues, East Asiaology, in particular, is an important field to explore.

The idea of “Asian Community” has been proposed one hundred years ago. Perhaps because of its low possibility of realization or because few people move toward its realization, numerous misfortunes and problems resulted from war and history had been occurred in Asia. As we can see from Sino-Japanese and Japanese-Korean relations nowadays, the relations among neighboring countries are not stable. Thus, the establishment of “Asian Community” remain a difficult task. Chairman Yoji SATO of One Asia Foundation stated that in order to realize “Asian Community” it is necessary to eliminate three obstacles “the wall of self,” “the wall of enterprise and groups,” and “the wall of state and nation.” Thereby, through the implementation in education, One Asia Foundation puts forward the importance of understanding different cultures and peaceful proposal of “the world with no war.”

President Shyu subsequently introduced seven points, which elaborate his ideas on East Asiaology and the tasks related to the construction of East Asiaology that he has participated for years.

1. Explore the construction and development of the East Asiaology in Taiwan from the vision of mutual understanding among different cultures.

2. The viewpoint of different cultures: the possibility of the international Japanese studies

3. 120 years of Taiwan-Japanese exchanges from the prospect of the Japanese studies  
Outline of Presentation

4. Intellectual exchanges in East Asia: cross-border, memory, co-existence

5. Taiwan-Japanese Future Forum (co-hosted by Atsumi International Foundation, National Taiwan University, and Yuan Ze University).

6. East Asian Consortium of Japanese Studies (Established by President Shyu and distinguished scholars from China, Japan, and Korea)

7. The role of “The Institute of East Asian Humanities and Social Sciences (aim for the integration of academic research resources in Chinese Culture University)” at Chinese Culture University (Taiwan)

President Shyu noted that on the construction of “international East Asiaology” in Taiwan, there still is a difficulty that “researchers and institutes on East Asiaology from different countries should cooperate more systematically.” On the other hands, several colleges in our university present a joint project “Yangmingshanlogy” and this type of locality research is also very important and worth developing. Moreover, when international and interdisciplinary researches are highly-valued, President Shyu continuously pondered on “Why Japanese studies in Taiwan is necessary? How to develop it? What direction should we head forward?” President Shyu mentioned his experience of hosting the Forum for Japanese Studies entitled “The thinking and practice of mutual understanding between Taiwan and Japan” in October 2010. In this forum, President Shyu invited Professor Tamotsu Aoki, former commissioner of Agency for Cultural Affairs, to deliver a Keynote speech entitled “The viewpoint of different cultures: The possibility of International Japanese Studies.” In this speech, Professor Aoki emphasizes the importance of mutual understanding among different cultures and of respecting the objectivity toward the Other.

President Shyu then introduced “international Japanese studies.” The so-called “International Japanese Studies” should use universal and commonly used academic style like other area studies, e.g. international Taiwanese studies, Chinese studies, and Korean studies. The studies should be a process to scoot out the country’s character or will imbedded in the culture and living style of that particular country and region. These standards are across research disciplines, whether it is politics, economics, society, or culture. In other words, it is necessary for Japanese studies in Japan, international Japanese studies to be interdisciplinary and connecting with other disciplines. Hence, international regional studies are growing in importance.

Area studies not only should be a study of my country and other country, my region and other region, my culture and other culture, but also should be for the purpose of contributing to the peaceful and stable international relations based on mutual understanding or constructing regional peace. For this meaning, it is necessary to implement international area studies. Accordingly, President Shyu provided several new patterns of cooperation, including “toward the dialogue between humanity and social science,” “how to interpret cross-border spaces in East Asia,” “focus on training young scholars,” and “make international joint research possible.”

(To visit our websites: <https://oneasia.pccu.edu.tw/faculty.php>)

(Written by Tsai Pei-Ching, Associate Professor of the Department of Japanese Language and Literature)

(English Version Translated by Wenting (Florence) Yang, Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Institute of International Relations, National Chengchi University)