

Search for Truth: Where are We Come from? Who are We? Where Will We Go?

The First Semester 2018

Courses on Asian Community, One Asia Foundation

Translated by Wenting Yang

For 14th lecture of international seminar of One Asia Foundation at Chinese Culture University, Principal Hsu Hsing-Ching invited Chairman of One Asia Foundation Sato Yoji to be our guest speaker. The theme of lecture is “Search for Truth: Where are we come from? Who are we? Where will we go?” Before the lecture, Chairman Sato visited Chang Jen-Hu, the chairman of the board of directors of our University and have a profound conversation on East Asian economy. This lecture discussed the fundamental task shared by 7.5 billion people on the earth and it involved multiple areas of nation, religion, profession. Attendants were more than hundred students and teachers and interacted actively in the class. Principal Hsu award a Certificate of Appreciation to Chairman Sato.

One Asia Foundation started to operate as non-profit organization (NPO) since August 18, 2003 and was established officially on December 21, 2009. The goal of One Asia Foundation is to promote the integration of Asia and achieve the common goals of stable growth and peaceful development of Asia through intensified economics, education, culture, and people exchanges in Asia which intensified mutual understanding and avoid political frictions while maintain each country’s unique local culture. The ultimate goal of One Asia Foundation is to establish Asian Community in the future. The foundation sponsors high-quality university to hold the “International Seminar of Asian Community” and it already sponsored more than 500 universities. The main goal is to establish Asian Community in the future. The foundation sponsors universities with related departments and professors who taught the related courses and award generous scholarship to students who attend the courses.

After the lecture, Chairman Sato awarded scholarship to top 20 students with excellent grades (total amounts around 230,000 NT\$). Students awarded the first prize were Weng I-yun from Department of Atmospheric Sciences, Hsieh Chia-hua from Department of Japanese Language and Literature, and Chen Yu-hsuan from Department of Japanese Language and Literature and each of them was awarded with scholarship 480 US\$. Five students were awarded the second prize and 420 US\$. 12 students were awarded the third prize and 330 US\$. Please refer to the website of our seminar for prize-winning students’ remarks (<https://oneasia.pccu.edu.tw/testimonials.php>).

Chairman Sato emphasized three principles of activities “no matter what nation or

nationality, not limited to any religion, and not related to politics.” The outline of courses of the seminar was designed based on these principles. The course aims to inspire students to avoid thinking in a self-restrained way and to further understand politics, economics, culture, and education in Asia. The course aims to promote a more closed and integrated Asia in the future.

In April 2018, Principal Hsu Hsing-Ching applied for One Asia seminar with the Course entitled “Asian Community: The Formation and Transformation of East Asian Studies,” when he served as the Dean of College of Foreign Languages and Literature. Our university was chosen as the 12th university to receive sponsorship from One Asia Foundation in Taiwan and was sponsored 50,000 US\$. Principal Hsu is the supervisor of this project and there were 15 lectures for six months from September 2018 hosted by College of Foreign Languages and Literature at Chinese Culture University. We invited domestic and foreign scholars specialized in East Asian studies and professors from our universities to deliver lectures on interdisciplinary professional studies. These lectures not only allow students to further understand nations, states, history, culture, and economics in East Asian countries but also promote internationalization of academic studies and establish academic platform to think about the possibilities of Asian Community. Moreover, coping with education project of One Asia Foundation, this seminar also designs three “workshops for college and graduate students.” We already held the first two workshops and the themes were “Dialogue between Humanity and Social Science: East Asian Community from Multiple Viewpoints” and “International Society and East Asia.” The third workshop is entitled “International Environment surrounding East Asia” and will be held in the first conference room in XiaoFeng Memorial Hall at our university on January 19, 2019.

The following is the summary of Chairman Sato’s lecture:

After the end of the Second World War, the world has been through Korean War, Vietnam War, Afghanistan War, Iraq War, and now War against IS. People are still under turmoil of endless wars. Hungarian-British writer Arthur Koestler (1905~1983) stated that “The ultimate agony of human—endless war within race and kill within race. This is the main characteristics of man (human).” British famous historian Arnold Joseph Toynbee (1889~1975) stated that “In sum, human will destroy themselves because of total nuclear war in the world. Thus, the key to peace is to overcome the egoism in human nature. It is questionable that can human survive or not unless we can find the ‘Key’.” Chairman Sato used these quotes to explain the crises faced human and continued to talk about contemporary problems such as economic war extended from military war and inequality.

Chairman Sato stated that we are facing three walls “ego and self, enterprise and group, and state and nation.” The first wall is “ego and self.” This is the wall that we face

most frequently. We continue to think what is more beneficial and valuable for us and thus we establish too strong sense and avoid us from communicating efficiently with other actors. We should graduate from our “ego,” step out of the wall, and think about how we co-exist with others. Hence, 7.5 billion can get along peacefully in this way. Sato argued that due to state ideology, countries might have conflict with other countries for ideological discourse and national interests; nevertheless, citizens in different countries can get along with harmony. It is the operation of countries that stop these voice of citizens. Chairman Sato think we should observe optimistically that the three walls will be broken in the future because our living space will supersede states and their ideological discourse and we shall expect this era will come as soon as possible.

The theme of Chairman Sato’s lecture is “Where are we come from? Who are we? Where will we go?” The purpose of this theme is to revolve the fundamental questions of human “What is human ego, what is eternal absolute human, what is eternal absolute life, what is the ultimate substance.” These fundamental questions of human supersede nation, nationality, religion and profession and they are fundamental questions shared by 7.5 billion people. These questions are the methods and approaches to get near to truth and search for truth.

Truth, eternal absolute truth, is irrefragable, general, and appropriate law. These questions are not contradictory to other questions and can be integrated. In front of truth, there is no conflicts and contradiction produced by problems of nation, religion, politics, economics, capitalism, socialism, communism, and social inequality. The ultimate goal of all studies and all religion is to “search for truth.” Knowledge may be restrained but imagination has no boundary. To get infinitely near to truth needs imagination including power to think and to believe. Sato argued that religion and quantum mechanics are getting closer to truth.

Chairman Sato argued that through searching for truth, we may transform “human ego = software” to “eternal absolute human = software.” When the date comes, this world is able to get close to “human” world and conflicts can be solved. One Asia foundation expects that within the Asian Community that may be established in the future, countries in the community may create a system for mutual development while preserve and develop the history and culture of each nation at the same time. Through Asia Community, we may form a peaceful and coexist world that not only integrate with each other, but also maintain the independence of each country. (Written by: Meihui Huang, Assistant Professor of Department of Japanese Language and Literature)

※Regarding this course, please refer to the website:
<https://oneasia.pccu.edu.tw/facultydata.php?page=1>