

First Asian Professors' Friendship Seminar

Osami Kuboki
April 13, 1973

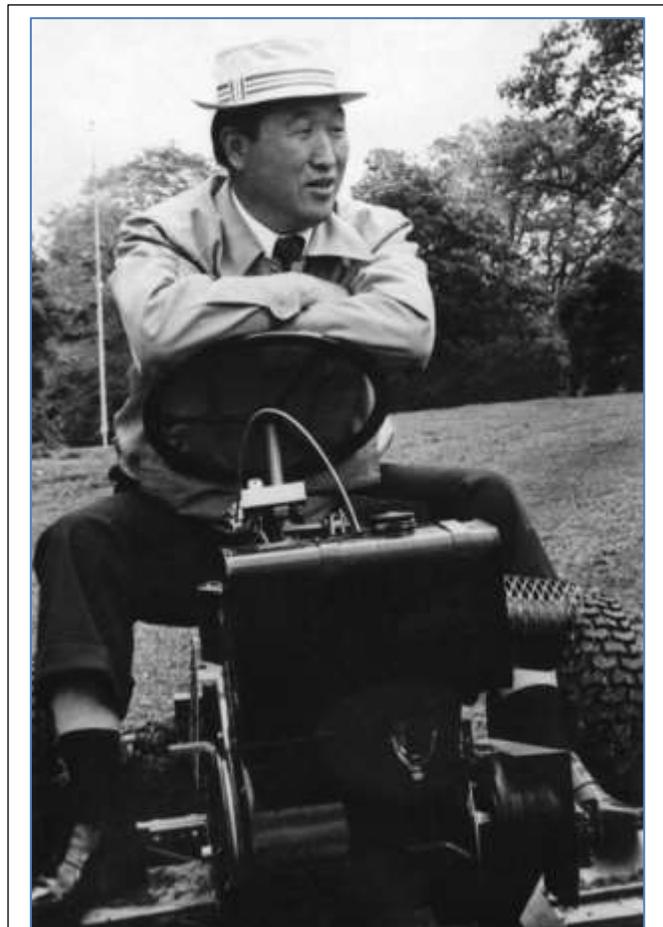


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The first Asian Professors' Friendship Seminar was held on April 13, 1973, in the International Conference Hall of the "Economic Groups Center" in Tokyo. Sponsored by the International Cultural Foundation (inspired by the Korean Cultural and Freedom Foundation which sponsors the Little Angels), fifty scholars and journalists from Japan, Korea, and Free China gathered to seek a common idea for bringing about co-prosperity, coexistence, and victory over communism in Asia.

The conference was considered a significant event in history, the first ideological conference between scholars of the three major cultures in the Far East.

The keynote address was given by the Japanese philosopher Koro Muto on the subject, "Present problems and future prospects for Asia."

Then a lively discussion ensued around the conflict between Red China and Russia, the dialogue between North and South Korea, and the position and security of Japan. The delegates drafted a joint communique proclaiming that they will carry on common study and research continuously for the

common cause.

Before the main discussion, Mr. Osami Kuboki, president of the International Cultural Foundation, gave an address. He said:

When I talked with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek last year, he agreed with my greatest desire to have a place where intellectuals from the three Eastern nations can gather to study about a common idea which may be able to bring forth peace in Asia. Because, unless we can agree on something of a higher dimension, namely higher thoughts and feelings, we cannot find a basic solution to the problems. It is really great that we can hold such a conference here, especially after having talked with Gen. Chiang in that way. It is more important to study ideological problems than just politics and economics.

This event might be regarded as one of the most valuable pages in history, because we have gathered together here from different countries to discuss the development of a common ideology. No matter how strong communism may be, we have to establish a stronger idea and a stronger strategy to overcome and destroy it.

After his speech Pres. Kuboki extended his thanks to all the delegates. He then introduced the joint chairmen, Shigemi Urushiyama (Kyoto Industrial College) and Prof. Haruki Niwa (Kansai University) and the rest of the delegates.

Then the chief delegate from Korea, Prof. Lee-Kun Ho of Ehwa Women's University, gave a speech in which he mentioned the long-standing familiarity between the cultures of Korea, Japan and China. "They have even used the same writing (Chinese characters)," he said. "For this reason these countries should lead and determine the fate of Asia through their concrete cooperation."

Then the chief delegate of China, Lien Chan (Taiwan University) talked about the reality in China, oppressed by the communist regime with betrayal, scheming and brute force. He emphasized, however, "We are very sure to win at last. In order to be triumphant against the enemy, the scholars and journalists in these three countries must unite and seek together for a common ideal."

From "*Siso Shinbun*," Japanese IFVC newspaper.