

Remarks
by
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Prof. Ellis, Mr. Han, Prof. Ching and all Honorable Guests,

I feel honored to be the facilitator of this session, in which scholars and publisher of the 3,000 volumes of Korean Classics will give you presentation. I would like to say a few words about the significance of these 3,000 volumes of Korean Classics and also the importance of the Indexing Project.

In fact, the project at CityU was first initiated by me. I mentioned this to Prof. Ching about the significance in the context of the historical understanding of these 3,000 volumes of Korean Classics written in classical Chinese. For many many years, because of the modernization and of the modern political calamity in East Asia, we find that the East Asian nations often cannot draw on their own cultural traditions to develop their countries. Most of the East Asian countries try first to emulate the West and to give up learning from their own cultural traditions. So, we find that the great treasures of Korean cultural traditions are almost forgotten for long period of time until the Kyungin Publishing Company made the facsimile reproduction of 3,000 volumes of about more than 3,000 titles of Korean Classics written in Classical Chinese. So the importance of the Korean Classics to us today is to rediscover these materials and re-innovate our understanding of the importance of East Asian culture and also for the future to link up the cultural understanding among these East Asian nations.

We know that, in traditional time, Chinese characters, Hanji, the Chinese writing forms, were all used in East Asian countries. The written forms are not of any particular nations. In the modern sense, it's a kind of cultural symbol, or forms used by Asia people to communicate with each other, and to transform the cultural discoveries of different areas among East Asia. But in modern time, we find that all of a sudden, many nations, because of modern encounter with the West, in order to enrich their nations and to strengthen their armies, we find that Chinese characters are considered as the kind of writing system of one single nation, China, and that's a misunderstanding.

The importance of the indexing of all these materials written by Korean scholars in Classical Chinese would facilitate the mutual understanding of the Asian nations and also for our prosperity. So I think it's a great project and I'm really glad that with the collaboration of Jeju National University, UC Berkeley and CityU that we can complete this project.