

Introduction

This publication is the result of the third Interaction Conference between the University of the Philippines, Diliman and Hannam University in Daejon, Republic of Korea, held at the Asian Center, U.P. Diliman campus on August 16, 2002. Like the previous conferences, the Korea Foundation funded this endeavor.

This *Conference on Contemporary Philippine and Korean Affairs*, has for its theme "*Turning the Page: Challenges for Divided Nations*". It has taken a comparative approach in analyzing the parallel initiatives taken by the respective governments and civil societies in the Philippines and South Korea to promote tolerance and understanding in the wake of threats to national stability in both Republics. Despite the obvious divergence between the political and socio-cultural milieu in the Philippines and Korea, both countries are faced with daunting tasks: achieving national unification and reconciliation on the one hand, and rebuilding democratic institutions in a post-dictatorship setting on the other hand.

The one-day Conference was divided into two sessions: the **State-Civil Society Session**, and the **Reunification and Reconciliation Session**. The paper by Dr. Moon Byun-Gi on *State and Civil Society in Post-Dictatorship Korea*, highlighted developments in South Korea leading toward what he referred to as "new governance". He cites three cases to show the different elements of emerging "new governance": 1) administrative reforms undertaken by President Kim Dae-jung to stave off the effects of the 1997 economic crises; 2) the social opposition of the Young-wol Dam construction project; and 3) the phenomenon of networking through the internet which has encouraged new modes for state-citizen interaction.

Meanwhile, on the Philippine experience, Prof. Raymond Abejo's paper on *Religious Motivations at EDSA I and EDSA II* shows how the Catholic Church in the Philippines converges with other civil society organizations on the issues of governance, justice and human rights that resulted in the ouster of administration in power.

The Second Session on *Reunification and Reconciliation* presents the papers by Dr. Kim Sang-tae entitled *Initiatives toward Reunification of the Two Koreas: An Assessment of the Sunshine Policy* and by Prof. Julkipli Wadi, *Bargaining for Peace in Mindanao: Main Constraints of the Arroyo Administration*.

Dr. Kim's paper focuses on the main theme of the search for stable and effective paths toward reunification of the two Koreas through an analysis of the so-called "Sunshine Policy" of the former president Kim Daè-jung. His main thesis is that the engagement of the 'Sunshine Policy' as a major foreign policy may produce a dangerous situation instead of peace and reunification in the Korean peninsula. He observes that the effectiveness of the Sunshine Policy is decreasing due to the lack of "strategic minds" in the South Korean government. As such, he contends that the Korean government's "too generous policy" could give North Korea the impression of South Korea as a kind of "paper tiger". He points out that two major factors which resulted to foreign policy failure of South Korea vis-à-vis North Korea are: 1) the Confucian authoritarianism of South Korean decision-makers, 2) security dependency on the U.S.

Meanwhile, Prof. J.Wadi's paper on the issue of peace and reconciliation in Mindanao examines the Philippine government's efforts of peace making in this troubled area during the Arroyo Administration as well as the main constraints and challenges in peace bargaining. Like Kim, Wadi also cites the U.S. support as a factor that may widen the gap or hinder the efforts at reconciliation and peace. He predicts that the gap between the Philippine government and the Muslims in Mindanao will widen, especially if Washington would continuously support the position of the Philippine government.

Also included in this volume are the discussants' reactions to the papers in each session as well as an outline and summary presentation of the *Korean Development and Initiatives toward Reconciliation and Unification* prepared and delivered by Dr. Park Young-key of Hannam University, Department of Public Administration.

The reaction papers of the respective discussants, Professor Miriam C. Ferrer and Dr. Serafin Talisayon give very insightful comments on the parallel experiences of the Philippines and South Korea on the twin issues of rebuilding democratic institutions in a post-dictatorship setting, and achieving national unification and reconciliation.

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Editor