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**International Youth Forum on**

**Historical Reconciliation in East Asia**

20-24 August 2012 / Seoul Youth Hostel, Seoul, Korea

G E N E R A L I N F O R M A T I O N

**I. Outline**

**Background**

In recent decades, while Europe and other parts of the world have been rapidly strengthening regional cooperation and integration, East Asia confronts barriers in advancing this goal. Many countries in East Asia have yet to settle territorial and historical disputes with neighboring regions, as the pernicious issue of contested history continues to paralyze on-going efforts to build mutual understanding and trust.

The Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) has organized a series of expert-level international forums on historical reconciliation. This year’s Youth Forum is an extension of such efforts to promote historical dialogues among the youth. The International Youth Forum will serve as a platform for individuals from various backgrounds to share their ideas and inspirations on relevant historical issues, so as to contribute to historical reconciliation and better prepare youths to understand and (cohabitate/collaborate) with others in the global community.

**Objectives**

• To explore new visions and ideas for historical reconciliation in East Asia, with particular regard to the role of youths

• To promote understanding of achievements and challenges of historical reconciliation efforts in East Asia and other regions

• To raise public awareness on the significance of youth’s participation for historical reconciliation

**Date & Venue**

20 – 24 August 2012 / Seoul Youth Hostel, Seoul, Korea

**Participants**

• 60 individuals between age 18-30 (20 within Korea and 40 overseas applicants).

* Priority will be given to individuals directly involved in historical reconciliation activities in their respective countries.
* Participants should be proficient in English in order to give presentations and join discussions.

• 10 renowned scholars and experts providing lectures and moderating breakout sessions

**Organizer**

Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU)

**Sponsor**

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Republic of Korea

**Main Theme & Sub-themes**

Voice of the Youth for Historical Understanding beyond Borders and Historical Reconciliation in East Asia

* **Sub-theme 1**: Identifying Historical Minority The current status and challenges of

historical minorities in each society

* **Sub-theme 2** : Historical Education for Historical Reconciliation – Rewriting a

Common History Textbook by the Youth

* **Sub-theme 3** : Shared Culture in Daily Lives and Its Role for Historical Reconciliation

**Languages**

• 21 August: Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Korean and English.

• 20, 22-24 August: English only.

**Financial Arrangements**

• No participation fee

• Food, accommodation, and local transportation during the forum will be provided. (Each room will be shared by 6-10 participants during the forum.)

• Traveling costs will be borne by individuals. (KNCU is only able to offer a limited number of scholarships to selected candidates from least developed countries or for speakers upon request.)

**Application**

All applicants must complete the Application Form and send it to KNCU by e-mail ([youth@unesco.or.kr](mailto:youth@unesco.or.kr)) **NO LATER THAN 22 July 2012.** (KNCU will notify its decision on selected participants by **30 July 2012** via E-mail)

**Certificate**

A certificate of attendance will be awarded by KNCU to participants who satisfactorily complete the forum.

**II. Activities**

**Open Lectures**

Special lectures on historical understanding beyond borders and historical reconciliation in East Asia will be delivered by renowned scholars in this field. These lectures will be open to the public. Each lecture will last for approximately 1 hour, followed by a Q & A session.

**Plenary Sessions & Breakout Sessions**

Plenary sessions include opening & closing ceremonies, open lectures, wrap-up discussion of breakout sessions and adoption of the forum report. After the open lectures, participants will be divided into three groups according to the forum sub-theme of their choice for further in-depth discussion.

Participants are requested to submit an essay to KNCU and make 5-10 minute presentations on each sub-theme in this regard. Breakout sessions will be advised by renowned experts in the concerned field.

**Field Studies**

• The House of Sharing was established for the Women forced into Military Sexual Slavery by Japan during the 2nd World War. This House includes living quarters for these women and the Museum of Sexual Slavery by the Japanese Military.

• Museums, NGOs or institutes related to the subthemes of the Forum.

**Preparatory Works**

• Participants are asked to choose from one of the sub-themes above according to individual preference.

• Participants are asked to submit an essay according to the sub-theme of breakout session which they will participate. Based on the essays, participants will be giving a 5-10 minute presentation on the first day of the forum.

• Essays must be 2000 words or LESS in English and sent via e-mail to [youth@unesco.or.kr](mailto:youth@unesco.or.kr) by **12 August 2012**. (Detailed information will be provided to selected participants.)

• Contents of the essays should:

* Be original.
* Include discussion of: (1) the current situation and difficulties related to the given theme; and (2) suggestions or recommendations from the youth perspectives for promoting mutual cooperation or resolution with regard to the theme.

**Correspondence**

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**III. Program (Tentative)**

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| **Time** | | **Content** |
| 20 Aug. | -17:30 | Arrival & Registration |
| 17:30-19:00 | Dinner |
| 19:00-21:00 | Ice-Breaking / Pre-gathering |
| 21 Aug. | 09:00-09:30 | Opening Ceremony |
| 09:30-10:50 | **LECTURE 1**: Shared Memories and Pains: Korean Community in  Japan and Historical Reconciliation in East Asia   * **Prof. Kyungsik Suh** (Tokyo Keizai University, Japan) |
| 10:50-11:00 | Break |
| 11:00-12:20 | **LECTURE 2**: In Search of Historical Understanding Beyond Borders   * **Prof. Satochi Ukai** (Hitotsubashi University, Japan) |
| 12:20-14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00-15:20 | **LECTURE 3**: European Experiences: Focusing on the case of Germany’s efforts for common history textbooks with its neighboring countries   * **Dr. Falk Pingel** (Georg-Eckert Institute, Germany) |
| 15:20-15:30 | Break |
| 15:30-16:50 | **LECTURE 4:** Exploring Possibilities of Historical Reconciliation in East Asia through Common History Education Material   * **Prof. Sin Ju-Back** (Yonsei University, Korea) |
| 16:50-17:30 | Break |
| 17:30-19:00 | Dinner |
| 19:00-21:00 | Movie & Talk Night |
| 22 Aug. | 09:00-09:30 | [Plenary Session 1] Steering Committee Election |
| 09:30-11:30 | [Breakout Sessions 1]  09:30-10:00 Facilitator Presentation  10:00-11:30 Participant Presentations |
| 11:30-13:00 | Lunch |
| 13:00-15:00 | [Plenary Session 2] Working group session briefing & Discussion |
| 15:30-17:30 | [Breakout Sessions 2] Participant Discussion |
| 17:30-19:00 | Dinner |
| 19:00-21:00 | [Plenary Session 3] Working group session briefing & Discussion |
| 23 Aug. | 09:00-13:00 | [Field Study 1] The House of Sharing (Gwang-Ju City, Gyeonggi-Do) |
| 13:00-14:30 | Lunch |
| 14:30-18:00 | [Field Study 2] Venue: To be decided |
| 18:00-19:30 | Dinner |
| 19:30-21:00 | Cultural Exchange Activity |
| 24 Aug. | 09:00-11:00 | [Breakout Sessions 3] Drafting Session 1: Report of the Forum |
| 11:00-12:00 | [Plenary Session 4] Adoption of the Forum Report |
| 12:00-12:30 | Closing |