



2nd Cultural Workshop

The University of Tokyo

Following the 1st Cultural Workshop held in Taipei last year, the 2nd Cultural Workshop will be held at the University of Tokyo on the 20th and 21st of October, 2000. The main theme of the workshop is "Postmodernism, its Conditions and Problems in Asia."

Since the word and idea of "postmodernism" was first proposed to describe the state of the current global historical condition. The term "postmodernism" has become of the most popular cultural currencies these days, especially (and naturally) in those countries, areas and regions which regards themselves either as having already fully achieved "modernization" or as having somehow surpassed "modernity." By taking stock of the problems and validity of postmodernism as the concept stands in different areas of East Asia, the present workshop will try to shed light on some of the fundamental issues we have in common in East Asia in our transactions with this Western idea.

2nd Cultural Workshop

"Postmodernism: Its Conditions and Problems in Asia"

The University of Tokyo

Date: October 20-21, 2000

Venue: The University of Tokyo, Komaba Campus, Meguro-ku, Tokyo

Organizing committee:

- ♦ Yasunari Takada (Professor, UT)
- ♦ Wakako Nishibori (Director, International Affairs Division, UT)
- ♦ Hisashi Kato (Deputy Director, International Affairs Division, UT)
- ♦ Hiroko Nakano (International Affairs Division, UT)

Participants: Approximately 70

Kyoto Univ. (2), Peking Univ. (1), SNU (1), Taiwan Univ. (1), TiTech (2), Tohoku Univ. (2), UT (37), Tsukuba Univ. (1)

Program:

Oct.20: Reception

Greetings

Keynote Speech Shigehiko Hasumi (UT): "Postmodernity is as Ancient as Modernity"

Session I Seong-Kon Kim (SNU): "What is at Stake in the Debate on Postmodernism in Korea?" Zhang Yiwu (Peking): "Postmodernism and Chinese Novels of the 1990's"

Session II Keiichi Noe (Tohoku U.): "Postmodernism and 'Overcoming Modernity'"
Hsien-hao Liao (Taiwan U.): "Happy Ending?: Nativism, Modernity, and Postmodernism in Contemporary Taiwan"
Yasunari Takada (UT): "Still Clinging to Karl Lowith"

Session III Kevin M. Doak (U. of Illinois): Comments and Discussion

Closing Remarks

Comments:

This workshop was the first of its kind in Asia dealing with the topic of Postmodernism, and was successful in inviting representative scholars from three East Asian regions. The participants unanimously expressed the importance and further possibilities of this kind of workshop. The papers that were presented will be published after some editing by UT.