

## **2013 8<sup>th</sup> ISTR Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Seoul: Report Kim Koo Museum and Library, Seoul, Korea**

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The 8<sup>th</sup> ISTR Asia Pacific Regional Conference was held in Seoul, Korea from October 24 to 26 entitled *Nonprofit Law, Policy and Practice: Evolution and Evaluation*. This was the first time for Korea to host an international conference for scholars and researchers on nonprofit organizations, even though there had previously been several international gatherings for NGOs and NGO people. The meeting was co-organized by Korean Association of Nonprofit Organization Research (KANPOR) and Institute of East and West Studies, Yonsei University. In addition to the support of the two institutions, the conference was funded by three major corporate donors, Samsung, SK Telecom, Doosan, and The United Way of Korea.

Taking this opportunity, KANPOR could introduce international research efforts on NPOs to the Korean nonprofit sector. Despite the fast growth of NPOs during the past 20 years, the Korean Nonprofit sector has not paid enough attention to international academic efforts, especially through ISTR during the same period. The conference program included two plenary sessions, five panels, one roundtable, and 7 parallel sessions. In addition to the conference itself, members of the Korean academic society were very delighted to meet the ISTR board members who gathered to hold board meeting in Seoul. As the local organizing committee, we were also very pleased to provide opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students having strong interest in nonprofits as volunteers and also many NPO practitioners participated in the conference as observers.

During the conference more than 50 papers were presented addressing a variety of research issues on the nonprofit sector. On the first day of conference, members of board of directors including president, Wendy Earles, presented a plenary session titled, "A Current Preoccupations in Non-profit Research and Education: Cross-cultural and Cross-regional Perspectives." In addition, the first panel presentation chaired by Natoto Yamauchi of Osaka University was held under the title of "Private and Charitable Aid Provision Toward Community Resilience: Exploring the Role of Civil Society in Disaster Management." The first day of conference was closed by the welcoming dinner hosted by Jung, Ku-Hyun, the founding president of KANPOR, the former CEO of Samsung Economic Research Institute and a professor of Yonsei University.

On 25<sup>th</sup> of October, the second day, the conference was opened with a plenary session with the keynote speech by Karla Simon and Leon Irish. They made an excellent and very informative presentation on the Legal and Fiscal Innovation in East Asia. During the past decade, countries in the region of East Asia including Korea have experienced remarkable changes related to nonprofit law, policy and practice. Many papers were presented during the parallel sessions on the issues of nonprofit management and social enterprises. Especially, in the Seoul conference, social enterprise was a hot issue which was dealt with in one panel and two parallel sessions. In the evening of 25<sup>th</sup>, all participants were welcomed at dinner time by the president of the Korean Red Cross, Ms. Ryu, Jung-Kuen. On the final day, 12 papers were presented in 4 parallel sessions on issues including "Governments, International Community and the Third Sector," "Third Sector Law, Practice, and Outcome, and "Past, Present and Future of the Third Sector." It is noteworthy that six sociologists from Japan, U.S. and Korea joined the conference by forming a panel session titled "Making Democracy Worldwide." The 8<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific ISTR conference concluded with the ISTR Asia Pacific Regional Meeting.