

“Japan, US, South Korea Joint Symposium” to condemn the comfort women issue held: Part III: For the Future

By Matsuki Kunitoshi, fellow, International Research Institute of Controversial Histories

In Part III, all the speakers that had taken the podium gave brief speeches regarding future issues and policies. The summary is as follows:

Mr. Fukui Yoshitaka: In the global perspective, division and conflict due to historical distortion started between Japan and South Korea and now has spread all over the world. The 1619 Project mentioned by Professor Ramseyer is exactly along that trend. If Japan and South Korea can overcome the historical distortion issue in cooperative efforts, it will become an excellent example for settling troublesome historical issues, ahead of the rest of the world.

Matsuki Kunitoshi: It is said that in South Korea, as many as two hundred thousand women were forcibly taken and made sexual slaves. However, there is not one record of resistance against this violent act. This is exactly the most telling evidence that there was no such forced abduction. Even then, if they insist that the atrocity took place, it would be tantamount to admitting that their ancestors were “cowards,” which is sheer dishonor. The comfort women issue was a “lie” made up by anti-Japan, North Korea-friendly powers and a “fraud.” It is time for us, Japan, the United States and South Korea, to strengthen our cooperation and together to demolish the “lie” of the comfort women issue and establish the true and reliable relationship between Japan and South Korea.

Mr. Jason Morgan: From now on, there will be a possibility of the world becoming unstable due to the historical recognition issues. The important thing is to recognize facts and to tell the truth undauntedly when resolving all the problems related to the past, including the comfort women issue.

Mr. Lee Wooyoun: It was in November 2019 that I began a protest to demand the removal of the comfort woman statue and the dissolution of the Korean Council for the Women Drafted, but I never dreamed that a day when we can hold a symposium like this would ever become a reality. I firmly believe that a day will surely come when the entire South Korea changes. For that goal, we must first change South Korean public opinions, and we will continue to endeavor to expand our power uniting our supporters within South Korea and further strengthen the cooperation among Japan, the United States and South Korea.

Mr. Kim Byeong-heon: Now, the Korean Council for Justice is a candle flame about to be extinguished. We fight with determination to stop the lies written in school textbooks. We want you to say loudly in Japan, “What a pity that children are taught lies!”

Mr. Lew Seok-choon: I learned from Mr. Jason Morgan’s speech that spies from China and North Korea are involved in fraudulent activities across the world. The Korean Council for the Women Drafted used to spread lies at the United Nations. We, to, should go and tell the truth at the United Nations Human Rights Council and elsewhere, beyond Japan, the United States and South Korea. In this way alone, we can cope with China, North Korean and their collaborators. I will do my best, firmly believing that you all will continue to help us.

Mr. Ramseyer: What I felt about today’s symposium is that the comfort women issue has been academically resolved. There may be controversies over historical facts during the 1940s, such as the forcibly mobilized workers. You had better ignore those American academic idiots. If we continue to speak the truth, we will surely win some day soon. I will continue to do my best for that day.

Mr. Lee Young heon: The comfort women issue is a state “lie” created by South Korea and an international “fraud.” However, even today, most of the South Koreans believe that “Japan forcibly took many women and made them sexual slaves.” In the background of this situation lies the non-modern culture of degrading Japan which has been lasting for more than one thousand years and the custom of painting history with lies which has been practiced in the entire East Asia, including China and North Korea. It is difficult to get rid of the old habits in a day. But it is a sure step forward that referring to comfort women as legal prostitutes is no longer ruled guilty. I will form a big civil group and file lawsuits asking to stop the current history education. As I am firmly determined, I sincerely hope to have Japanese people’s cooperation.

Mr. Nishioka Tsutomu: When I visited South Korea thirty years ago, opposition National Assembly members, former South Korean Labor Party members and the editor of *the Chosun Ilbo* said, “There was no forced abduction of comfort women.” But at that time, there was a social atmosphere that somewhat made it difficult to say so in public and “no one (zero)” told the truth about the comfort women issue. Then, with the publication of *Anti-Japan Ethnicism* in 2019, “zero” became “one.” Hence, Mr. Lee Wooyoun’s anti-Korean Council movement started. In addition, he translated my book on the mobilized workers and comfort women and the translated book was sold within South Korea. I never dreamed that such a day would come. “Zero” and “one” make a big difference. The movement like this is the same as to climb a hill carrying a heavy ball and if you let go of the ball, it will

immediately fall down the hill. If you push it up day by day, you cannot tell how far up you carry it. However, after ten years, if you look down, now you can feel “how far up you have come.” The truth is strong and powerful. However, if you do nothing, nothing moves. I made constant efforts and now I can see wonderful people get together here. From now on, let us work together to change “one” to “two” or even “five.”

Closing speech

Mr. Fujioka Nobukatsu, fellow at International Research Institute of Controversial Histories, gave a closing speech:

Immediately after the forced abduction of comfort women was alleged in 1992, the incident was academically, logically and empirically denied completely through Mr. Nishioka Tsutomu’s papers and Mr. Hata Ikuhiko’s report of the on-the-spot investigation. Thanks to the studies conducted by these two great scholars, I was able to learn the truth about the comfort women issue. Afterwards, it took many years before the *Asahi Newspaper* admitted the fabricated reporting. But now, it is almost common sense that former comfort women are North Korean spies, and it is a moving experience to be able to hold a symposium like today’s. We owe the success today to the two great scholars.

What surprised me during today’s symposium is the facts that at universities in the United States, professors are so easily and arbitrarily fired and that South Korean elementary school textbooks describe comfort women. In Japan, junior high school textbooks rarely deal with the comfort women issue, but some high school textbooks still address the comfort women issue. I realize that the school textbooks issue is not over yet either in Japan or in South Korea.

In either way, it is a great victory for conscientious truth-seekers from Japan, the United States and South Korea to get together and hold a wonderful assembly like this today. Congratulations to all of you on this great success!

The details of the present symposium are covered above. It became an arena to express the firm determination of respective researchers from Japan, the United States and South Korea in scrum to fight “fraudulent powers” from now on. “Truth seeking powers” of Japan, the United States and South Korea are to go on fighting to abolish “frauds” over the comfort women issue in their respective countries and on the international stage. We are to meet again in Seoul next year for the 4th Symposium and to announce the success reports.

