

## *International Workshop*

# **Multilateral Dialogue on History Education and Textbooks East Asia, Europe and the Middle East**

Date: 22-23 October 2011

Venue: The University of Tokyo  
Komaba Campus I, Gakusai Koryu Hall  
[http://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/campusmap/map02\\_02\\_i.html](http://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/campusmap/map02_02_i.html)]

### **Organized by**

Georg-Eckert-Institute for International Textbook Research (GEI)  
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Tokyo Office  
Northeast Asia History Foundation (Korea)  
Peace Boat  
Children and Textbooks Network 21  
History Educationalist Conference of Japan  
The China-Japan-Korea Common History Committee  
Center for German and European Studies, The University of Tokyo

**Participation fee: 2,000 Yen (for two days)**  
**For further information contact PeaceBoat at 03-3363-7561**

## **Program**

### **22 October:**

#### **Opening**

09:30 – 10:00      Opening Address  
Eckhardt Fuchs (Georg Eckert Institute Braunschweig, Germany)

                                 Host Address  
Tawara Yoshifumi (Children and Textbooks Japan Network 21, Japan)

                                 Congratulatory Address  
Chung Jae-jeong (Northeast Asian History Foundation Seoul, Korea)

#### **Session 1**

**Chair:** Bu Ping (Institute of Modern History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China)

10:00 – 10:45      Mission of Bi-national and Multilateral Textbook Activities  
Noro Andriamisezana Ingarao (UNESCO, Paris, France)

#### **Session 2**

**Chair:** Bu Ping (Institute of Modern History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China)

10:45 – 11:30      The French-German History Textbook Between Ambitious Objectives  
and Tough Realities  
Rolf Wittenbrock (Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany)

- 11:30 – 12:00 Break
- Session 3** **Chair:** Kazuharu Saito (Japan)
- 12:00 – 13:30 The German-Polish History Textbook – Wishful Thinking or Realistic Project?  
Karl Heinrich Pohl (Kiel University, Germany)
- 13:30 – 14:30 Lunch
- Session 4** **Chair:** Tawara Yoshifumi (Children and Textbooks Japan Network 21)
- 14:30 - 16:30 The Achievements of “A History That Opens the Future” and new Efforts and Developments  
Tokushi Kasahara (Tsuru University, Japan)
- The Possibility and the Reality of Historical Recognition Beyond the Border  
Bu Ping (Institute of Modern History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China)
- Historical Facts, Historical Consciousness and National Sentiment  
Kim Yilin (Institute of Modern History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China)
- Perspectives for Multilateral History Education Materials in East Asia  
Shin Ju Back (Yonsai University, Korea)
- 16:30 – 17:00 Break
- Session 5** **Chair:** Sakurai Chiemi (Historical Educationalist Conference of Japan)
- 17:00 – 18:30 The Process of Creation Japan-South Korea Joint History Education Materials and its Challenges – Improvement of Contents and Methods of History Education Through the Students’ Eyes  
Noboru Hirano (Japan-South Korea Exchange Committee, History Educationalist Conference of Japan)
- Toward A Shared Historical Understanding Through Multilateral History Education Materials  
Park Joong Hyun (Yangjae High School, Korea)
- 23 October:**
- Session 6** **Chair:** Daniel Lindmark (Dept. of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies Umeå University, Sweden)
- 09:30 – 11:00 Schoolbooks and Narratives in Times of Conflict: The Palestinian and Israeli Initiative: Potentials, Challenges and Experiences  
Sami Adwan (University of Bethlehem, Palestine)

Writing and teaching History in the Dual Narrative approach – My Personal Experience in the "Prime" Project  
Shai Baruch Miselman (Midreshet Ben Gurion , Israel)

11:00 – 11:15 Break

**Session 7** **Chair:** Kim Minkyu (Northeast Asian History Foundation Seoul, Korea)

11:15 – 12:45 The "Joint History Project" in the Balkans: Regional History and National Identities  
Mirela-Luminita Murgescu (University of Bucharest - Department of History, Romania)

Different Histories for the Common Future – An Experience from Balkans  
Melisa Foric (Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

12:45 – 13:45 Lunch

**Session 8** **Chair:** Nohira Shinsaku (Peace Boat, Tokyo, Japan)

13:45 – 15:15 Are Regional Common History Textbooks Possible? The Case of a European History Textbook  
Eckhardt Fuchs (Georg Eckert Institute Braunschweig, Germany)

Toward Transnational History Textbooks in East Asia  
Kim Minkyu (Northeast Asian History Foundation Seoul, Korea)

15:15 – 15:45 Break

**Session 9** **Chair:** Sven Saaler (Friedrich Ebert Foundation/Sophia University, Japan)

15:45 – 17:15 The Future of Joint Textbook Activities  
Short Introduction: Sven Saaler

Discussion

17:15 Concluding Remarks  
Chung Jae-jeong (Northeast Asian History Foundation Seoul, Korea)  
Yoshioka Tatsuya (Peace Boat, Tokyo, Japan)

## Concept of the Workshop

School textbooks are central media of construction for national and cultural identities. They transport official normative structures into all areas of society and, through their adherence to state curricula, reflect the symbolic values and ideas with which societies attempt to inspire social cohesion, to convey cultural traditions, and to establish political legitimacy. Textbooks are, therefore, always a political issue that can both trigger or become the subject of deep ethnical, political, cultural or religious

conflicts or social crises and yet also significantly contribute to preventing or overcoming such situations. In the last three decades the role of school textbooks and teaching materials has achieved a new status with the challenge of globalization and the associated new electronic means of communication and worldwide migration. The emergence of multiethnic societies may help to overcome spatial and cultural boundaries; however, divided cultural traditions and spaces of memory also give rise to new forms of intercultural misunderstandings and the creation of stereotypes.

Since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, numerous organizations and activities with the aim of international textbook revision have evolved and are still evolving. These activities have always acknowledged the central role played by textbooks and teaching materials in peace education and work towards international understanding. The main actors have been multilateral organizations (e.g. League of Nations, UNESCO, European Council) and bilateral or – in the East Asia case – trilateral committees on the governmental and/or civil society level. Looking at the past 100 years of textbook revision, it seems that multilateral activities have not had as much success as its protagonists aimed at. In contrast, bi/trilateral approaches appeared to be more effective.

The workshop aims

- **first** at introducing, comparing, and evaluation current joint textbook activities. It will discuss the problems and challenges as well as the success of these activities. Their different contexts and the various experiences of the actors but also the commonalities of joint textbook activities will give the participants new insights in their work.
- **Second**, all current activities show that the production of a joint textbook is a first and major step for textbook revision but that the second step is even more challenging: The implementation of the textbooks in schools. The workshop, therefore, will discuss the ways in which such implementation on the various national levels have or have not yet occurred.
- **Third**, in Europe and East Asia the question of regional identity has recently been widely discussed by political stakeholders but also by many civil society actors. In this context the idea of a common European/East Asia history textbook has brought forward. Such a project has stirred some controversies in Europe since opponents believe that it would produce a single master narrative that would not consider the multiplicity and variety of European narratives. However, there is the question whether there is a core of cultural tradition, norms, and historical events that shape a regional identity in Europe and East Asia (or other parts of the world, such as Central Asia or Latin America). The workshop will take up this issue and ask whether regional common history textbooks will promote regional identity.
- **Fourth**, the workshop might contribute to develop suggestions for future joint textbook initiatives. For that reason a representative for UNESCO will be invited since this organization which has been engaged in textbook issue since its foundation in 1946 has formulated “A Comprehensive Strategy for Textbooks and Learning Materials” (2005) which defines concrete methods and aims for new projects. Furthermore, there is still a need for an international handbook on the theoretical, methodological, educational, and normative assumptions of international textbook revision, which would provide guidance to activists.