

UPF Tokyo, Japan ILC 2021: Session VIII - Japan-Korea Cultural Dialogue

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トピックス2 国民性の違いと、人間関係の違い



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Tokyo, Japan - The July International Leadership Conference 2021 (ILC2021) hosted by UPF-Japan concluded with an online youth session held on July 31. The eighth session of the conference titled, "Japan-Korea Next Generation Forum," was co-sponsored by the Youth and Students for Peace (YSP), an affiliated organization, in Japan and attended by 30 young men and women; among them, half-Japanese and half-Korean youth as well as Japanese youth who had studied in Korea.

トピックス1 歴史教育の違いについて

- 高校までの日本史の教育について(近代日朝関係史について)
 1. 朝鮮国開国から韓国併合までの一連の大きな流れは、網羅的に取り上げられている(締結した条約の主な内容含め)
 2. 占領政策においては、教科書内では3. 1独立運動前後で方針転換して旨の記載はあるが、詳細はあまり触れられていない。資料集でも占領政策については、あまり記載はない(国内政治・経済・文化や外交も第一次大戦等、他に上げる項目が多いため)
 3. 日本の教科書において占領期の分け方は、武断政治(1910~1919)と文化政治(1920~1945)の大きく二つで区別される。

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The four panelists discussed the prospects for peace on and reunification of the Korean Peninsula and how Japan can contribute to it.

How to improve strained relations between Japan and South Korea was also explored. Three panelists who have been working on promoting friendship between Japan and South Korea gave presentations on three topics related to this: (1) "Differences in History Education Between Japan and South Korea," (2) "Difference Between National Character and Relationships," and (3) "What Both People Can Do to Promote Friendship Between Japan and South Korea."

For the first topic, presentations were given by three young people who received history education in South Korea. They explained that Japanese and South Korean textbooks present different accounts and viewpoints of the same events in history.



For the second topic, three panelists spoke about the differences between Korean culture, which values emotions, and Japanese culture, which values harmony. They also discussed how Korean people relate to colleagues like family.

For the third topic, the panelists and participants considered what Japanese and Koreans can do to improve relations and promote friendship between Japan and South Korea. There was an opinion that it is important for the peoples of both nations to understand each other's history and national character.

Finally, Mr. Hiroaki Takeuchi, president of YSP-Japan, praised the fruitful discussion and highlighted that it was based on real experiences that youth had in both countries. He also proposed more discussions among young people, the next generation, be organized.

One of the participants shared a reflection: "Opportunities like this to discuss the differences between Japan and South Korea are very valuable. We would like to [develop] this friendship into a movement that extends beyond our community to the general public."