EthniCities: The Art of Seeing Diversity

Discussion published by Iwabuchi Koichi on Friday, January 15, 2016

EthniCities: The Art of Seeing Diversity


Venue: Event Hall, B1, Duckstay Hostel, 316 Kunming St, Wanhua District, Taipei City

Organized by TEAM (Trans-East-Asian multiculturalism)

Sponsored by Toyota Foundation Research Grant

EthniCities: The Art of Seeing Diversity is the platform of a collaborative project of trans-East-Asia multiculturalism (TEAM), funded by Toyota Foundation Research Grant. The project aims to develop "multiculturalism from below" across East Asia (Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong) by forming a cross-border alliance. In the region, the rise of (inter-Asian) migration has made ethno-cultural diversity more intensified and visible. While this has generated national policy discussion to administer cultural diversity, a substantial engagement has not yet made to fairly deal with diversity and make societies more inclusive. This project collaboratively tackles the shared imperative issue of advancing multicultural co-living from a trans-East-Asian perspective.

This is to reorient the discussion and the practice of multiculturalism beyond the framework of the nation-state and from below. Grassroots practices by various actors such as ethnic communities, citizen's groups, NGOs, NPOs and local governments have advanced multiculturalism from below. EthniCities indicates such a de-nationalized local engagement with multicultural questions in the urban and rural areas of East Asia. Working together with those various actors across borders, this project will transnationally further foster "multiculturalism from below" by facilitating the sharing of experiences and collaborative empowerment. We will also design a pedagogical program for social learning to get a wider public involved. This is to institute cultural citizenship through East Asian collaboration to advance social praxis of embracing cultural diversity and nurturing self-reflexive dialogue in society.

Toward this end, we will organize the first events in Taipei on 23-24 April 2016 that try out and discuss innovative ways of forging mutual empowerment, cross-border dialogue and citizen’s reciprocal learning. Featuring visual and artistic expression, the first event will invite both amateur and professional practitioners from Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong to have a conversation over how such practice is significant for self-empowerment and the promotion of cultural diversity in each society and how we can work together to further develop it in East Asia. Internationally acclaimed film director, Mr. Hou Hsiao Hsien will join us as a commentator. Presenter
details will be announced shortly.

The event will function as the initial opportunity to make trans-East-Asian multiculturalism from below as a sustainable long-term project that transnationally nurtures the value of living together in difference in society—the value that has not been well cultivated within the existing framework of the nation-state—and advocates its incorporation into cultural policy of each society. We hope that you join the conversation and work together with all participants to advance a trans-East-Asian collaborative network! Please check the project detail and the update of the event at https://www.facebook.com/EthniCities/?fref=ts

<Program>

23 April (Sat)  *The Art of Expressing Diversity with Hou Hsiao Hsien*

1-3pm **SHARING** experiences of making visual expressions of one’s own voices
3:30-5:30 **PRACTICING** professional visual expressions in multicultural society

24 April (Sun)  *The Art of Cultivating Cultural Citizenship*

10-12 **EMPOWERING** through visual expressions by NGO/NPO organizers
1-3pm **PERFORMING** artistic multicultural expressions
3:30-5:30 **DOING** public pedagogy through artistic expressions: Trans-Asian workshop