



Indian Cultural Imprints in Korea and Vietnam

Indian Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Seoul in collaboration with Indian Cultural Centre, Embassy of India in Hanoi organized an International Symposium on Indian Cultural Imprints in Korea and Vietnam via Video Conference 17th June 2020. The Symposium showcased the cultural connect between the three most important countries of the region – India- Korea and Vietnam.

Each country has its own cultural context; it is the accommodation, adaptations and cultural amalgamation, which brings any two countries closer to each other. Indian cultural imprint is deeply ingrained in Korea and Vietnam. Various scholars and researchers from both the countries reiterated it through this Video Conference.

Amb. Sripriya Ranganathan, Ambassador of India to Republic of Korea in her welcome remarks highlighted the shared historical cultural ties between Republic of Korea and India. Both Korea and Vietnam's vibrant cultural legacy, comprising music, art, literature, dance, drama, films, architecture, clothing and cuisine, offers a delightful combination of tradition and modernity, and is now appreciated in many parts of the world.

Amb. Pranay Verma, Ambassador of India to Vietnam in his congratulatory remarks focused on the deep cultural connect and profound aspects of cultural imprints in between the three countries of India-Korea and Vietnam.

Amb. Pham Shanb Chau, Ambassador of Vietnam to India in his special remarks touched upon the traditional and contemporary ties between Korea-Vietnam and also linked to the civilisational legacy of India upon these countries.

Prof Lee Geo Lyong, President of Korean Society for Indian Studies and ICCR Distinguished Indologist Awardee 2019 from Seoul gave a detailed presentation on the Indian culture and ideas that have had a profound impact on the formation of the Korean people's inner way of thinking. A case in point is the influence of Buddhism on Korean culture and ideas. In this regard, Buddhism has already been accepted as a part of Korean culture rather than as a cultural imprint of India left in Korea. According to him the influence of Tamil on Korean language was as great as Buddhism. It is true that many words in Korean language come from Chinese words and have Chinese meanings.

Dr Le Thi Hang Nga from Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences highlighted on the Hindu and Buddhist connection in Vietnam and elaborated on the Cham kingdom ruins and excavations found at Mysone in Danang. She also talked about the deep friendship and ties between the two leaders of Ho Chi Minh and Jawaharlal Nehru and also on the influence of Rabindranath Tagore and Matama Gandhi on Vietnam.

The session was moderated by Dr. Sonu Trivedi, Director of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Seoul. Dr G. B. harisha, Director of Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Hanoi gave the concluding remarks.

The event witnessed participation by a large number of scholars and researchers from India-Korea and Vietnam.