

Preface

It is my great pleasure to have this volume published in the AJI Books series and I really appreciate the Asia-Japan Institute giving me this opportunity.

The contents are based on an international workshop held in July 2021. I am very grateful to our guest speakers, Dr. Ya-Han Chuang, Dr. Helen Kim, and Dr. Tri Murniati, both for their participation in the workshop and their contribution to this volume. Due to the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to switch from convening an onsite workshop to an online workshop. Usually, it is difficult to build intimacy and trust through digital online communications. However, my encounters with our dear invitees turned out to be an exception to this rule. Sharing our common goals of seeking a deeper understanding of Asian diasporas and trying to improve their actual lives through our research brought us closer, and I was able to develop a warm and fruitful friendship with them.

It is truly wonderful to have academic friendships where we can exchange our field experiences, views on our research topics and methodological perspectives. I really hope to develop our friendship further in the path of pursuing cross-border academic collaborations in years to come.

In the process of editing the manuscripts, the contributors were extremely helpful in making their chapters fit to the whole scheme of the volume. I am very grateful to them.

At the end of our workshop, we had a very productive discussion with many interesting questions and valuable answers. Rather than transcribing this discussion verbatim, I decided to write a concluding chapter to present the issues and topics in a way that will, I hope, make them more accessible and constructive for our readers. Although it has not been possible to cover all the aspects and issues related to the Asian Diaspora in such a small volume, I believe that we have touched on some

vital issues including ethnicity, international migration, and cultural diversity with Asian perspectives.

I owe a great deal to Professor Yasushi Kosugi, Director of Asia-Japan Research Institute at Ritsumeikan University, who acts as my supervisor in the Institute. After I graduated with a Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Asian and African Studies, Kyoto University, I had the good fortune to attain a fellowship at the JSPS (Japan Society of Promotion of Science) as a special foreign researcher, dispatched to Ritsumeikan University. Prof. Kosugi's guidance and support have been so precious and indispensable for my academic life as an early career researcher.

Dr. Ayaka Kuroda has been extremely supportive and helpful in organizing the workshop. She also acted as co-chair with me. Dr. Ammar Khashan also helped me with his accomplished techniques in using ICT tools. My sincere gratitude goes to both of them.

I have no words to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Anthony Brewer for his guidance as the special advisor to the organizing committee and for his dedicated editorial support in making this volume.

I hope that this humble work sheds some light on the important issues in the research we are seriously engaged with, and contributes in a small way to making the global, yet diverse, society a better place to live in for us all.

Jinhye Lee

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Presentation 4. “Preserving the Life and Culture of the Korean Diaspora among the Majority: Ethnic Minority Rights in Kazakhstan in the Post-Soviet Era”

Dr. Lee received a PhD in Area Studies, from Kyoto University in 2019. She is a foreign postdoctoral fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and is presently engaged in Korean Diaspora research at the Asia-Japan Research Institute, Ritsumeikan University, Japan.

Dr. Lee specializes in research on the Korean Diaspora (*Koryo Saram*) in Contemporary Kazakhstan. Her dissertation “Social Transformation of the Korean Diaspora (Koryo Saram) in Contemporary



Kazakhstan” explored the acculturation of Koryo Saram in the post-Soviet Union as a minority in Kazakhstan and a part of the Korean Diaspora. Her current study analyzes the social integration and transformation of the Koryo Saram, the Korean Diaspora in Kazakhstan from the Perestroika period, just before the dissolution of the Soviet Union, to today’s Kazakhstan, after its independence.