

Summary

Meandering Korean Studies (Vol. 1)

The inspiration for this book - *Meandering Korean Studies (Vol. 1)* - was the First Korean Congress toward Academic Cooperation: Korean Studies in Poland 2019, held on April 25–26, 2019 at the University of Adam Mickiewicz (UAM) in Poznan. The organizers of the Congress, the Polish Association of Korean Studies and the Department of Korean Philology, UAM, undertook the task of creating a platform for cooperation and academic integration among lecturers, doctoral students and both graduate and undergraduate university students from both Poland and foreign academic centers.

The Korean Peninsula is being spoken of increasingly more often all over the world. A nuclear North Korea is prominent in the context of the problem of world security and denuclearization, In turn, South Korea constantly surprises the world with its innovation and ingenuity. The global phenomenon is the South Korean K-Pop group BTS continues to reach the top of the charts in many countries. This is part of the story of how K-Pop, a part of *Hallyu* (the Korean Wave), has connected with the world. In February 2020, Koreans could celebrate another spectacular success of the so-called Korean Wave. The South Korean film *Parasite*, directed by Bong Joon-ho, received four Oscars: best screenplay, best international film, directing, and picture of the year, becoming a sensation in Hollywood. Koreans received the first ever [Oscar] statuette for best film as a non-English language production. Therefore, getting to know exotic Korea, Koreans and Koreanness, as well as popularizing Korean studies in Poland, has found additional substantive justification.

The publication, which we present to you, contains thirteen scholarly papers on Korea-related research topics prepared by authors representing major Polish research centers. The authors presented issues related to various Korean issues, such as history, linguistics, philosophy, politics, international relations, economy, music therapy and culture. In the transcription of geographical names, surnames, terms and concepts derived from the Korean language, the articles adopted the transcription versions preferred by the authors themselves. This collection of Korean papers presented to the readers of this work was prepared as part of a research project implemented with the generosity of a prestigious scientific grant awarded by The Academy of Korean Studies in Songnam (Republic of Korea).

We hope that the prepared monograph will be received with interest from the readers. This effort was worthwhile, if for no other reason than to enrich Korean studies in Polish academic literature. Knowing more about each other, Poles and Koreans can continue to build strong relationships on many levels, in particular, in the scientific, economic and political fields. The Management Board of the Polish Association of Korean Studies would like to express its thanks to The Academy of Korean Studies for supporting activities aimed at developing interdisciplinary Korean studies in Poland.