

IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR LEE HAE-YOUNG



We were all saddened to learn of the premature passing of Professor Lee Hae-Young on Sunday, 18 November 1979 at age of 54. The great loss is felt not only by his family and friends but also by his professional colleagues elsewhere in the world. Professor Lee was an outstanding leader in our academic community who had authority, vision and initiative. He was admired as a scholar and a teacher in the very true sense. Above all, he was a man with principle and benignity.

Professor Lee was born in Seoul, Korea, in 1925 as a grandson of King Kojong of the Chosun (Yi) Dynasty. He married Yoon Ho-Young in 1951 who was also

from a distinguished family, and had one daughter and three sons. He graduated from the Department of Sociology, Seoul National University in 1949 with a B. A. degree, and began his professional career as an instructor of sociology at Alma Mater during the Korean War (1952). He had a permanent appointment as Full-time Instructor in 1958 and became Professor in 1968.

When Professor Lee is placed among the faculty of the Department of Sociology at Seoul National University, only a couple of colleges nationwide offered sociology courses in their curricula. Among others, the advancement of anthropology and demography owed him most. He introduced courses on cultural anthropology and demography for the first time in Korea, and naturally most of the currently active anthropologists and demographers in Korea are his former students. He established the Population and Development Studies Center in 1964 and served directorship for twelve years. Under his leadership, the Center acquired international fame for research and training in the field of population and development and laid a firm base for demographic research in Korea. *Bulletin of the Population and Development Studies Center*, Published by the Center since 1971, is also very much his brain child. In more recent years, Professor Lee was actively engaged in founding the Institute of Social Sciences, Seoul National University, serving the first Director. Through the two research institutes, he devoted himself to destorying the traditional compartmentalism prevailing in our academic community by promoting interdisciplinary research activities among social scientists. As one of the most respected members and the eighth President, he rendered invaluable service to the Korean Sociological Association.

Other areas of Professor Lee's research interests include marriage, family structure, modernization, and the tradition and changes of Korean society. His contribution to the enhancement of sociological knowledge is of diverse domains and styles. But so humbly, he tried neither to lay out any grand theories nor to present flowery propositions; instead, he attempted to explain the nature of social reality with a very basic unit of human interactions. Fact finding, or gathering of primary data, was received more of his emphasis. He rather

declined to assign 'too subjective' meanings to the empirical observations in order not to commit biased value judgements which may lead to dogmatic, irreconcilable conclusions. Nevertheless, he did not fail to use his insights in articulating a set of scattered data with broader theoretical perspectives and interpreting his findings in the context of the body of accumulated knowledge.

Professor Lee was also honoured for his contributions to the University and Korean society at large. As Dean of Academic Affairs (1968–70), he played the major role in preparing the first ten-year plan for the development of the University which in part consisted of building a new consolidated campus at the present site, introduction of new educational systems, and institutional innovations of the University. He also assumed the last deanship of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences during 1974–75 which was thereafter dissolved into three colleges on basic sciences. While in office, he earned high reputation for the administrative competence, thoughtfulness, fairness and honesty. His ability and expertise were also influenced various public policies of the Government. Among them the most noted were his involvement in a tertiary educational reform and the initiation of population policies as an integral part of the first five-year plan for economic development. He gave general guidance to the university education in Korea for more than five years as Chairman of the Committee on Experimentations in Tertiary Education, Ministry of Education. The current national policy to curb a rapid population growth which was initiated in 1961 indebted much to Professor Lee's foresight and efforts. When pronatalistic views overwhelmed the country including intellectuals and politicians, he prepared, as member of the Advisory Committee of Social Affairs at the Supreme Council of National Reconstruction, a proposal for population control which was persuasive enough to be adopted by the (Revolutionary) Council.

Professor Lee will never be forgotten and will remain as a true gentleman in the mind of his friends, colleagues, students and all of those who have ever known him.

Kwon Tai-Hwan
Editor-in-Chief

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OF

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