

## **A Discussion of C. Hong's Paper on Regional Planning and Area Studies in Korea**

**Ki-Suk Lee\***

Many thanks you for your instructive and constructive presentation on bridging two fields in many aspects. If my recollection is correct, your paper must be the very first one which expresses an urgent need for the geographers' contribution for better planning at all levels of the regional scale, and also you are the first person who recognized the practical significance of geography knowledge and priority for practical planning and public policy among the government highest officials over the last fifty years. In this respect, I believe your paper will further give a great impact on the community of Korean geography.

Today President Hong's paper reminds me of the history of geography tradition. Shortly, let me take a look back to geographer's contributions to regional planning and public policy.

Since Strabo's geography writing in 7 BC, the utility of geography has always two faces, pure and applied, such as yanuse. In the recent century, whenever economic depression and recessions faced up, the applied geographers show its usefulness such as the development of land use and resource survey and resource-management policies in the TVA. In these days, the technical baggage associated with geographical information systems, computer modeling, modern cartography, and remote images constitutes a very useful set of equipment in showing how geography can contribute to solving current regional problems.

Hong's arguments and suggestions are all true. Frankly geographers do want to remain in pure

science. The only problem is we are not ready for providing you with the full scale of geographical knowledge. We have never questions. However, we believe the year 2000 IGC will give us a momentum for the development of Korea Geography. In this respect, I also greatly appreciate the participation of three distinguished geographers from the IGC executives member for this particular seminar.

One more point I would like to take issue on your understanding. It is true that very few numbers of the geographical researches have been contributing to planning so far, but there are a substantial number of professional geographers engaged in planning practice at the local and national and local level. Furthermore, we are proud of the number of Korean Regional Science Association member who come from geography.

Especially, Prof. K.J. Hyong and I as the number of initiators and editors we personally appreciate the compliments from you on the *Geography of Korea* published in 1980's.

Finally, I would like to urge the KGS to improve the connection between the two parts. At the same time I will ask the Society to create on ad hoc committee reviewing the issues which you advise and suggest to us today. For a better relationship and cooperation between the consumer and supplier, I would like to suggest that you immediately establishing an informal forum with us once every year so we can share each other's end demand satisfaction.

\* Professor, Seoul National University (서울대학교 교수)