

The Conference on “The Afrasiab Palatial Murals and Korea-Uzbekistan Relations”

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April 17, 2019 Samarkand

The Afrasiab palatial murals, which were painted in the 7th century kingdom of Sogdiana during the reign of King Varhuman, are of high historical and cultural value with their portrayals of various foreign envoys around the king and of the life of that time. In particular, the two figures in the west wall painting, who are wearing *Jowooguan*, feather-decorated hats, and carrying *Hwandudaedo* swords, have been speculated as being ancient Koreans. The Northeast Asian History Foundation (henceforth, NAHF) has conducted a digital restoration project since 2013 on the Afrasiab palatial murals in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, creating 2D and 3D restoration copies and a video clip subtitled in eight languages (i.e., Korean, Uzbek, English, Russian, French, Chinese, Japanese, and Spanish) and showing them online and at local museums.

On April 17, 2019, the NAHF and the Samarkand Museum of History and Culture held a joint academic conference entitled “Afrasiab Palatial Murals and Korea-Uzbekistan Relations” upon South Korean President Moon Jae-in’s visits to three Central Asian countries in the same month.

The first session began with the presentation by G. Axadova, researcher at the Institute of Archaeology of Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences

* The original title for this book is *Taepyeonghan byeonbang: Goryeo ui dae Georan oegyo wa geu sosan* (태평한 변방: 고려의 황거란 외교와 그 소산) published by Gyeongin Munhwasa (Paju) in 2018, and this review is translated from the Korean manuscript originally published in *The Journal of Korean Medieval History* (한국중세사연구), issue 57, May 2019: 311-24.

on the restoration and repair of the ceremonial hall of Afrasiab Varkhuman Palace, followed by NAHF researcher of ancient and medieval history of Korea Ko Kwangeui's briefing on the digital restoration process of the Afrasiab palatial murals. Then Mustafkulov, Director of the Afrasiab Museum, discussed the relations between Sogdiana and Korea in reference to the Afrasiab murals, and Professor Jung Hosub of Hansung University presented historical evidence on the *Jowooguan*-wearing figures in the murals based on his paper entitled "The Ancient Koreans in the Afrasiab Palatial Mural in Samarkand."

In the second session, Professor Ah-Rim Park of Sookmyung Women's University reviewed the relations between Korea and Uzbekistan via the examination of ancient art, and Marina Reutova, the Head of the Uzbekistan Institute of Archeology, discussed the Afrasiab wall paintings and their restoration problem. In addition, Seong-Je Lee, NAHF head researcher on ancient and medieval history of Korea, investigated Koguryo's diplomatic history in his presentation entitled "The Relations between Koguryo and the Turkic Northern Tribes." Finally, researcher of the Uzbekistan Institute of Archaeology Mirza Akhmedov introduced the murals discovered in Bukhara, a strongpoint of the Silk Road along with Samarkand.

We are publishing all four articles by the Korean scholars presented at the academic conference in an attempt to contribute to the better understanding of historical and cultural exchanges between Uzbekistan and Korea and to further contemporary exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.