

Preface

This year's third issue consists entirely of a selection of presentations held at the international conference dedicated to the 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the Kingdom of Sweden and the Republic of Korea (ROK) held on May 23-24, 2019 at Stockholm University, Department of Asian, Middle Eastern and Turkish Studies (see list of contributors).

60 years has a special importance in Korean culture, like in other East Asian cultures. Based on the concept of the 60 year calendar, it means that a full cycle has been completed. In regard to a person's life, the 60th birthday is called hwan'gap and celebrated as a splendid festive event. The span of 60 years has also been traditionally used to mark periods in a community's or a society's development. Along with the awareness of having completed one full cycle, the notion is included that a new cycle begins, but this time with more wisdom and understanding.

To commemorate the meaningful anniversary of Swedish-Korean relations, the conference at Stockholm University aimed at reflecting on the way the two countries have gotten along up to now and to address various issues of Swedish-Korean relations, such as the history and current status of diplomatic relations, institutional contacts as well as cultural exchanges between the two countries.

The conference papers selected for this volume cover a wide variety of topics, ranging from institutional contacts/research on political issues to Korean studies and Korean culture, Korean cultural industries, historical relations, language teaching and research and, finally, education. One of the presentations was held in Swedish and is therefore published in Swedish. The presentation of a book written in Swedish is also published in Swedish, but all other presentations are published in English.

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