

Congratulatory Remarks

Distinguished legal scholars from home and abroad, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my distinct pleasure to make a few congratulatory remarks for the international seminar organized by the Law Research Institute of our University, entitled “Jurisprudence and Social Science: An Attempt to Interdisciplinary Approaches.” Let me first extend my heartfelt appreciation to Prof. Dai-Kwon Choi, Director of the Law Research Institute of our University and to other staff members of the Institute who spared no efforts in organizing this seminar. Let me also extend my warmest welcome to Professor Martin Shapiro and Professor Takao Tanase, who have taken the trouble of coming all the way from America and Japan, respectively.

As is evident in the famous legal proverb “ubi societas, ibi jus”, law cannot isolate itself from society. The same is true of jurisprudence, or the science of law. It is only natural that a legal scholar should always keep in mind law’s close connection with other branches of social science. However, that has not been necessarily the case in Korea. Often, legal scholars conducted research while paying only scant regard to law’s interconnection with the other social sciences. As a result, the gap between law and social reality has increasingly widened. In that sense, most legal scholars in Korea are not free from the criticism that they are living in the “heaven of concepts.”

As we all know well, Korean society is at present witnessing a

heated debate over the question of how to reform legal education so that it can be more responsive to the rapidly changing environment of the new age of internationalization and globalization. We also know that the Korean people are currently making an unprecedentedly strong demand for a judiciary that would maintain a higher moral standard and integrity and have more relevance to their lives. So I find it all the more timely and significant for the Law Research Institute of our University to host this international seminar.

It is my sincere hope that this seminar will provide a fruitful arena for reassessing the shortcomings of the present methodology of legal science and for articulating constructive proposals for the future, thereby contributing to the development of legal science and legal education in Korea. I also hope that all the participants in this seminar will be able to forge a lasting friendship and to continue to cooperate closely in the future.

2000. 10. 28.

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