

When the naturalization law requires "proper and irreproachable conduct" of petitioners, this conduct is to be measured not by the standards of their original country, but by Philippine standards. The fact that one wishes to become a citizen is taken to indicate a willingness to embrace the social standards and customs of the Philippines. And irreproachable conduct is not merely "good" conduct, for the latter will not suffice.

One other social basis of Philippine law deserves mention: the solidarity of the

family. Whatever is conducive to the disruption of this solidarity is looked upon with disfavor by the law. Thus, illicit relationships outside marriage are not condoned, and the courts will go to great lengths to preserve the existence of marriages. Even where legal separations (or what amounts to relative divorces) have been allowed by the courts, any reconciliation between the parties thereto will immediately render nugatory the decree of separation and preserve the unity of the marriage.

Modernization in Asia

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The readers of the *Philippine Sociological Review*, and other such publications, should be informed of a highly significant Conference held in Seoul, Korea, last June 28 to July 4, 1965. It was called, "International Conference on the Problems of Modernization in Asia."

Although, apparently, little publicity was given to the gathering by the press outside of Korea, there was full recognition of its importance by the press in Seoul. Both front page news and editorial comment were in evidence, as indicated by *The Korea Times* and *The Korean Republic* during the Conference.¹

Moreover, top official recognition was extended to the participants of the Conference by both the Mayor of the city of Seoul and the national Premier of Korea, along with the American Embassy on a limited basis. In addition, officials of the sponsoring institution, Korea Uni-

versity, tendered receptions and dinners in honor of the participants.

Organization and Administration

The Conference was held in connection with the 60th Anniversary of Korea University, which as a private, non-governmental educational institution, has been a quiet, unselfconscious social force in the process of modernization. And, of course, Korea University symbolized the whole effort in Asia towards modern forms of education. Somewhat unique was the *Asiatic Research Center* of Korea University which was responsible for the administration of the Conference. An especially able job was accomplished by the Center under the leadership of Dr. Lee, Sang-eun, who serves as its Director.

There was an over-all Conference Chairman and a Chairman of the General Meetings. Next came the Organizing Committee, the Steering Committee, the Drafting Committee, and the Secretary.

¹ *The Korea Times*, June 29, 1965, and *The Korean Republic* July 1, 1965.

Each section of the Conference had its own chairman along with two rapporteurs, meeting regularly in their own assigned rooms. Every part was well-prepared and well-timed.

There were 72 participants including official observers, as follows: 5 from China (Taiwan), 2 from Germany, 1 from Hong Kong, 3 from India, 4 from Japan, 2 from the Philippines, 1 from the United Kingdom, 14 from the United States, and the rest from Korea. It is deplored that only 2 were in attendance from the Philippines: Dr. Agustin Kintanar of the University of the Philippines and the writer, but it is hoped that when the next such Conference is held there will be additional Filipino participants.

Abstracts of Papers Submitted in Advance

A total of 62 papers were read and discussed during the various sessions. Noteworthy was the procedure of abstracts having been submitted in advance and distributed to the delegates when they arrived for the Conference. The preliminary text of each paper was then mimeographed for distribution at section meetings during the presentation of papers. A full report of the Conference proceedings containing the text of the papers and a summary of the discussions (based on recorded transcriptions) have been prepared for distribution, and may be obtained by writing to the Asiatic Research Center, Korea University, Seoul, Korea.

The major topics taken up by each section were as follows:

1. Conceptual problems of modernization. Specialists in Philosophy dealt with this.
2. Traditional Asian society and modernization. The historians held sway here.
3. Modernization and political problems. Political scientists discussed this subject.

4. Modernization and economic problems. Economists dominated this discussion.

5. The role of various population strata in modernization. The sociologists and a few anthropologists helped on this.

"Modernization"

No official definition of the term "modernization" was attempted during the Conference, but it was understood that it did not mean simply "westernization". As to the essential characteristics of this process, some consensus of opinion centered around industrialization, political development which includes democratization and the protection of human rights, nationalism based on cultural identity and a stronger sense of community, selective preservation and reappraisal of traditional values, and the distinctive cultural heritage of the various Asian countries. The process of modernization, it was agreed, involves both the acceptance of positive features of industrialized countries as well as the rejection of or resistance to negative features.

In other words, through long opportunities for discussion, (despite the handicap of the English language for some) modernization was seen as a complex set of interrelated processes which could be viewed by different social strata of the population in various countries in quite different ways. Different approaches to understanding are called for.

Need for Much More Empirical Research

In full recognition of the complicated processes of modernization, it became necessary to stress the fundamental importance of continuing research on the many problems of modernization. Efforts to direct the course of change in accordance with the desires of the various peo-

ples in their respective countries in Asia are seriously handicapped due to insufficient knowledge of the processes of social, cultural, political, and economic change as they are taking place. In particular, new theoretical frameworks and modes of analysis, especially adapted to the distinctive conditions and local circumstances of the different countries of Asia are required. Much new empirical information is also needed to fill the gaps which continue to exist in the knowledge that is now available.

Appreciation and Critique

Since the participants came to the realization that the processes of change—"social, cultural, political, and economic"—must be more fully understood in order to direct the course of change, it would seem that in the next such Conference more emphasis on the social sciences should be made. It is through these

disciplines that the empirical data called for are being gathered. More sociologists and anthropologists could be invited to participate in all of the five sections: conceptual, traditional, political, economic, and population strata. In this way, more focus on, and greater understanding of, the processes of change could be made. Of course, such a Conference need not be limited to the five sections indicated, but may be made even more comprehensive to include the special concerns of social psychology and anthropology as such.

Between now and the time another such Conference is held, much more empirical research must be accomplished, as has been said. Without taking anything away from deep appreciation for the value of the first "International Conference on Problems of Modernization in Asia", let this brief report be a call and encouragement to all social science researchers in the field.

Below is a listing of the 1965 members of the Philippine Sociological Society. Those with asterisk* are members who have renewed their membership for 1966. Renewals and new members entered after this date shall be printed in the succeeding issues of the *Philippine Sociological Review*. For information, change of address, payment of fees, and complaints, please direct to: The Business Manager, Philippine Sociological Review, P. O. Box 154, Manila.

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