

## Beijing Forum 2019

### Science and Technology, Health and Society in the Context of Science Culture (I)

On the morning of November 2th, 2019, the Sub-Forum of “Science and Technology, Health and Society in the Context of Science Culture” launched its sessions at the Sunlight Hall of the Yingjie Exchange Center at Peking University. The first session was chaired by Prof. Zhou Cheng, Dean of the School of Health Humanities of Peking University. Four keynote speakers delivered lectures.

Song Sang-yong, professor of Hallym University, Republic of Korea, presented a speech on “Needham in Dongbei and Pyongyang”. Prof. Song recalled his friendship with Joseph Terence Montgomery Needham, and shared a number of precious old photos, which include Needham’s meetings with Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai. Thus Prof. Song brought the audience back into history, particularly to the special time of war, and paid great respect to the contributions Needham made to the anti-fascist movement in East Asia. Yet Needham’s anti-warfare enthusiasm brought bitter fruits to the scientist as he was under the suspicion of treason, for some questioned the lack of solid evidence of Japan’s Bacterial Warfare in Korean and China. Prof. Song quoted from recent publications concerning this topic and pointed out the complexity regarding it.

Professor Tsukahara Togo from Kobe University, Japan expanded the discussion on Needham in his speech entitled “Needham’s Japan, Japan’s Needham: Legacy of Science and Civilization in China”. Prof. Togo reviewed the life of Needham and emphasized the huge impact Needham’s publications brought to the East Asia. Then Prof. Togo compares the different paths which directed diverse development and chronology of science and technology in China, Japan, and Korea, in particular how the concepts of science and technology evolve in Japan. Different development paths should be addressed, pointed out Prof. Togo, as they will help understand the diversity of implications in the East Asian region.

Michael Shiyung Liu, Professor of Shanghai Jiaotong University, China delivered a talk on “The Roots of International Health in Modern East Asia.” Starting from the definition of the keyword international health, Professor Liu traced back to the translations of the two terms “international health” and “global health”, and pointed out that those translations reveal the similarity between

the definitions of health and hygiene in East Asian society. Next, Professor Liu focused on the understanding of several key international health institutions in East Asian countries, and discussed cultural and political issues in the acceptance of East Asian countries into global health organizations and vice versa. Finally, Professor Liu turned to the problems of funding and talents in the international health projects in East Asia. He discussed the course of international cooperation in the development of international health in East Asia based on the political, economic and cultural conditions in the history of many countries in East Asia. The speech highlighted the different connotations of international health concepts in different regions, and reminds participants to pay attention to the dynamics between the global and the local.

Professor Fung Kam-Wing from Hongkong University, China, examined a topic entitled “The Establishment of the Scientific Community in Early Twentieth-Century China and Its Cultural Interaction with the Enterprise of Meteorology: With Special Reference to Gao Lu (1877-1947) and Zhu Kezhen (1890-1974)”. Professor Feng looked back to the lives of Gao Lu and Zhu Kezhen respectively, paying special attention to their environment, learning experience and working experience. He also focused on the two scientists’ contribution to meteorological observation, and thus investigated the institutionalization of science, which refers to the the formation of a social enterprise’s organization and institution. Professor Feng proposed a premise that the critical presupposition of “the institutionalization of science” is the emergence of scientists of a specific social role. Gao Lu and Zhu Kezhen fully demonstrate the significance of this premise. As the first generation of scientists, the scientific community constructed by them made a substantial contribution to the institutionalization of Chinese science in the twentieth century and the interaction between science and technology and the cultural tradition.