



## Newsletter 1/2017

Esteemed reader!

This is the first Report on the activities and plans of the East Asia Resource Library - EARL published for the attention of the institutions, participating in the EARL. In principle, the Report is scheduled to be published annually; it may, however, be also published more frequently, depending on the frequency and nature of activities organised within the EARL. It is divided into several sections:

- "News" are reports on the work of the EARL;
- "Past events" list and briefly describe all the activities undertaken within the EARL in the period since the last publication of the Report;
- "Agenda" displays the list of future events that are planned for the EARL;
- "A word from the Management" will appear occasionally. It will be mostly a reflection on the accomplishments so far, but it can also offer food for thought for new ideas - a kind of a 'white book', open for discussion on the future evolvement and aspirations of the EARL.

We hope you will enjoy the reading. We stand at your disposal for any inquiry you may have. Please contact us at our address: [earl@fdv.uni-lj.si](mailto:earl@fdv.uni-lj.si).



## A word from the Management

Dear Contributing Institutions,

In November 2015, a group of four scholars began to meet regularly in person or via the internet. They reflected on the academic landscape in Slovenia and the neighbouring countries, and found that there are several and various study programmes devoted to East Asia, however they have comparatively speaking relatively modest support in literature and in primary sources, in particular those that are available in digital libraries. For this reason, they conceived of an idea for a regional hub for resources devoted to East Asia. By the end of 2015, the work on what later has become the EARL, began. Its mission has been embraced and supported by key member faculties of the University of Ljubljana from the field of humanities and social sciences: Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Social Sciences. On May 17<sup>th</sup> 2016, the Deans of the two Faculties signed an agreement to establish the East Asia Resource Library - EARL.

We have been fortunate that prestigious institutions from all corners of the East Asian region expressed interest in participating. Symbolically, spaces devoted to each participating institution are also called "corners". Embassies from Korea and Japan serve as facilitators of information and contacts with the Japan Foundation and the Korea Foundation that provide the EARL with electronic databases, books and other resources, whereas the EARL works extensively with the Capital Library of China and the Taiwan Resource Centre for Chinese Studies. All these institutions contribute to the unique concentration of knowledge about the region, which will be available not only to Slovenian students, but also, if not primarily, to students, scholars, practitioners and interested public from neighbouring countries, and Southern parts of Europe. September 2017 marked the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle of the EARL's development, when the Capital Library of China joined as the fourth participating institution to the EARL. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle (2017-2019), we plan to consolidate the EARL and make sure that its opportunities and potentials are widely known to both domestic and international public.

On behalf of EARLers,

Professor Zlatko Šabič

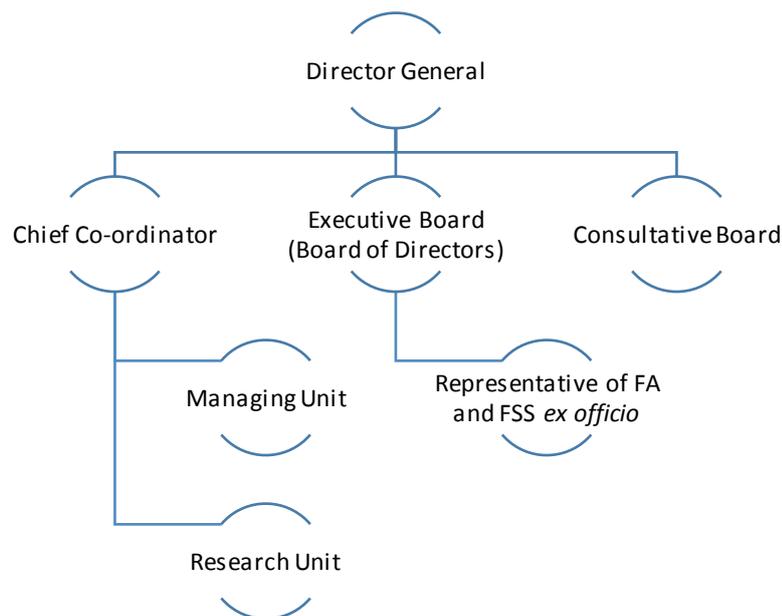
15 November 2017



## News

On 27 September 2017, the EARL Board met to discuss the organisational structure of the EARL and plans for the period October 2017-September 2018. It has been agreed that the official inauguration of the EARL will take place in May 2018. A one-day celebration, consisting of various events is foreseen. The participating institutions will be regularly briefed about preparations, and they will be asked for assistance in organising what has been branded as **The EARL Day**.

The organizational structure of the EARL:



The EARL Board has agreed that Professor Zlatko Šabič assumes Office of the Director General of the EARL, and Mirjam Kotar as Chief Co-ordinator. In an alphabetical order, Professor Andrej Bekeš, Assistant Professor Saša Istenič, Associate Professor Chikako Shigemori Bučar, Professor Jana Rošker, and Associate Professor Nataša Vampelj Suhadolnik are Members of the EARL's Executive Board/Board of Directors.



The EARL introduces an Award “Ambassador of the EARL”, which will be inaugurated, with its first awardees, on the May 2018 EARL Day.

## Past events in EARL

### **Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Social Sciences Agreement of collaboration on the East Asia Resource Centre, 17 May 2016**

The East Asian Resource Library (EARL) is a joint initiative of the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Arts, both members of the University of Ljubljana. Both faculties expressed a mutual interest and support for the EARL by signing the Agreement of collaboration.

### **Capital Library of China delegation visited the EARL, 29 September 2016**

On behalf of the Capital Library of China, important library representatives visited EARL to be introduced to the content, aims and potentials of this extensive project. They met with the EARL executive board, the deans of participating faculties and professors from the Department of Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts with whom they discussed mutual interests and possible developments in the field of Sinology.

### **Opening of the Korea Corner, 6 March 2017**

The Korea Corner, first to have been established among the planned four, offers an extensive collection of materials for Korean studies, including two databases KRPIA and DRPIA. The Embassy also donated the equipment for the Korea Corner: chairs with laptop tables and tablets for users. The Korea Corner was opened by Lee Sang Hun, Minister, Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Professor Gregor Perko, Vice Dean, Faculty of Arts, Professor Zlatko Šabič, Vice Dean for International Cooperation, Faculty of Social Sciences, and Head of Central Social Sciences Library, Mirjam Kotar. Korea Corner is distinguished with two Celadon Vases with Inlaid Crane and Cloud Designs, Baekje Gilt-bronze Incense Burner and Irworobongdo (The Sun, Moon and Five Peaks picture).



From the opening of the Korea Corner (photo: EARL).

**Korean Studies days, 6 March 2017, 10 March 2017, 17 March 2017**

Alongside the opening of the Korea Corner, a set of lectures were organised to celebrate the occasion. The Korean Studies days included the following lectures:

- Korean enterprises in Middle Europe, by Kim Kwan Mook (KOTRA)
- POSCO in Europe, by Son Young Dong (POSCO)
- Korean diaspora in Japan, by Nataša Visočnik (University of Ljubljana)
- Coffee in Korea: culture, history and manufacture, by YUN Sun Young (University of Vienna)
- Contemporary Korean politics, by Hyun Jeong Im (University of Turku)
- Comparison between Korean and North European society, by Sonja Häussler (University of Stockholm)



### **Opening of the Japan Corner, 21 April 2017**

The Japan Corner was formally opened by Mr. Abe Hiroshi, Deputy Head of the Embassy of Japan, prof. Rado Bohinc, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and prof. Gregor Perko, Vice Dean of Faculty of Arts. The Japan Corner in EARL got richer by a new collection of Japanese books and also an access to prestigious database JapanKnowledge, funded by a grant from the Japan Foundation. All the attendees were excited about the potential of co-operation with the Japanese partners, and were pleased to see that prestigious institutions, such as the Japan Foundation, putting trust into the work and mission of the EARL.



From the opening of the Japan Corner (photo: EARL).

### **Department of Asian Studies Symposium, 21 April 2017**

The inauguration of the Japan Corner accompanied an international symposium of Asian studies, attended by prominent Slovene and foreign researchers. The symposium was held in honour of Ph.D. Andrej Bekeš, *professor emeritus* of Japanology at the University of Ljubljana. Twelve lectures were held in four sections: East Asia Art Collections, Social Sciences, Linguistics and Didactics of East Asia Languages.

### **Visit of the Hanbat National University delegation, 5 May 2017**

EARL hosted prominent representatives from the Hanbat National University, among others prof. Lee Hak-moon, Director of the Hanbat National University Library, and prof. Kang Hee-jeong, a Director of International Affairs, who, on this occasion, contributed to the EARL a corpus of books on Korean studies. The delegation, together with EARL representatives, discussed the possibilities for academic exchange of students, professors, studying programs and materials that were first defined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Hanbat National University and the University of Ljubljana, signed in October 2016.



### **Opening of the Taiwan Resource Centre for Chinese Studies, 24 May 2017**

On the occasion of the opening of the Taiwan Resource Centre for Chinese Studies (TRCCS), the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Faculty of Arts and the National Central Library of Taiwan (NCL) signed a Cooperation Agreement. The NCL delegation was headed by Dr. Shu-hsien Tseng, Director-General of The National Central Library of Taiwan. The EARL is proud to be included in this highly important network of just 24 TRCCSs around the world. A donation of about 800 books covering social sciences and arts has been made by the NCL to ensure a good start of the TRCCS in Slovenia.



From the opening of TRCCS (photo: EARL).

### **Special lecture, 4 September 2017**

Professor Zlatko Šabič gave a lecture "Current Domestic and International Issues Circling Slovenia" to a group of visiting doctoral students from the Doshisha University, led by Professor Masanori Naito.

### **Ambassador Park Enna from Republic of Korea visited EARL, 5 September 2017**

The EARLers were honoured to receive Her Excellency the Ambassador Park Enna from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, accompanied by Counsellor Tae Ho Choi, Head of the bilateral department at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. They discussed mutual interests for further investments and contributions to the EARL's Korea Corner, focusing primarily on academic publications and databases accesses.



### Opening of the China Corner, 19 September 2017

The Capital Library of China (CLCN), the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana signed a memorandum of mutual understanding. The delegation of the Capital Library of China was headed by Mr Li Guannan, Vice-President, Capital Library of China. The memorandum promises excellent co-operation and long-term commitment of the CLCN to the EARL. The EARL is proud to establish co-operation with the CLCN, one of the largest libraries in China, which can accommodate 20,000 readers per day. The determination of the CLCN to facilitate and make more broadly available knowledge about People's Republic of China and Chinese studies was highly appreciated among the attendees of the opening ceremony.



From the opening of the China Corner (photo: EARL).

### Japan Foundation Awards, 19 October 2017

The Japan Foundation bestowed the Japan Foundation Award 2017 to dr. **Andrej Bekeš**, professor emeritus of Japanese Studies, University of Ljubljana, and member of the EARL board.

Excerpt from the justification of the award, issued by the Japan Foundation Awards 2017:  
[...] *Professor Bekeš has thus contributed to the promotion of international mutual understanding through long years of dedication to Japanese-language education and Japanese studies in Slovenia. We award him the Japan Foundation Award in recognition of his work as a researcher and educator who has built bridges between Japan and Slovenia and Japan and Europe, and look forward to his future endeavors.*



## Agenda

Currently, there are several arrangements 'in the oven' – we trust the list of future events will be rather extensive. Currently, the following events have been agreed on:

### **5th Korean Speech Contest, 16 November 2017**

The Speech Contest in Korean language will take place together with the presentation of two Korean universities (University of Seoul and Keimyung University). The award for the winning speaker in Korean language will be presented by His Excellency Mr. Lee Yongsoo, Deputy Ambassador of the Republic of Korea.

### **Guest lecture, 12 December 2018**

Lecture *The Development of Forest Protection Movements in Japan* by Professor Linas Didvalis, Centre for Asian Studies at the Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania.

### **Weekly lectures in EARL – to start in January 2018**

Regular lectures, cultural and other events will take place once a month in order to provide exchange of knowledge and academic experiences in the field of East Asian studies.

### **Special lecture, 18 January 2018**

Lecture *Koreans in Europe and Japan* will be prepared by Chikako Shigemori Bučar and Nataša Visočnik for Slovene students and exchange students from Keimyung University.

### **Inauguration of the EARL, 10 May 2018**

Opening ceremony of the East Asian Resource Library with all Corners will take place on 10 May, 2018. Please save the date.