Education and Research on Korean Studies in Malaysia

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This paper discusses the initiatives taken by higher institutions of learning, especially the University of Malaya (UM) and other public universities, in promoting the development of Korean Studies in Malaysia. This is followed by an analysis of the research and the future challenges faced by Korean Studies, as well as of proposals to improve its development in Malaysia.

Keywords: Education, Korean Studies, Korean Language, University of Malaya, Malaysia

Introduction

The availability of Korean Studies courses at higher learning institutions in Malaysia, although offered later compared to universities in Australia, nonetheless shows encouraging progress in at least three aspects. Firstly, efforts to establish Korean language courses and courses related to Korea have multiplied; secondly, activities involving seminars and conferences concerning Korea have expanded with encouraging results; and thirdly, there has been an upsurge in interest among researchers and students wanting to conduct research on Korea. The prospects for Education and Research on Korean Studies in Malaysia are therefore very encouraging. Rapid growth in bilateral trade between Malaysia and South Korea, as well as rising Korean investments in Malaysia, is bolstering demand for people with Korean expertise. The expansion of Korean studies and Korean language education in Malaysia is thus

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