

# 2012 International Conference

Korean Association of Central & Eastern European and Balkan Studies  
Eastern European and Balkan Institute, HUFIS  
Jagiellonian University



*East and Central Europe  
as a New Potential Power*

**Date & Time** July 17 (Tuesday) 09:30 - 18:00

**Venue** Jagiellonian University, Collegium Novum & ul. Łobzowska 14/16/18, Kraków

# Invitation

**Prof. Cheong, Byung Kwon, Ph. D.**

President, Korean Association of Central & Eastern European and Balkan Studies

*Dear distinguished and respected participants,*

I am really glad to see such great interest in our conference today and appreciate that each and every one of you has taken the time to come here today. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Jagiellonian University for the friendly support for our conference.

Since its establishment in 1999, the Korean Association of Central, East European & Balkan Studies has been organizing three conferences each year, and publishing the results from our members' research in our quarterly journal, the Journal of Central, East European & Balkan Studies. Each year, we also hold an international conference at a university in Central and Eastern Europe. Our host countries have included Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Russia, as well as Canada. Today, we have the great honor to hold our conference here in this famous historical hall in Collegium Novum.

Today, the Asian and the European academics have convened to develop a better understanding for each other, and to discover ways of effectively working together. Since the 1960s, the changes and growth in Korea have occurred rapidly. Especially in the areas of economy, culture, and the sciences, Korea has been fortunate in witnessing so much development in the past few decades. Similar developments can also be found in this part of the world, however. Since 1989 and the breakdown of the Soviet Bloc, political and economic changes have been introduced to the East European countries. Since then, there has been much economic, technological, and cultural cooperation between Korea and the Central and East European countries. We sincerely hope that this is just the beginning and that our collaboration will continue to expand and develop. We most definitely will continue to do our part in contributing to this wonderful cultural and educational exchange, and hope that you will join us in our endeavours.

I am really grateful to everybody who has helped, supported and sacrificed a lot of time and energy for our conference. Special thanks goes to Rector Musioł, Professor Koj, Professor Miodunka, Professor Przybylska, Professor Horbatowski, Professor Estera Choi, and Professor Kim Yong Deog, and to Dr. Lee Jiwone. Thank you for making this conference happen. I hope that all of you have a good time during our conference.

Lastly, I would like to invite those of you who are here for the first time to take the time to explore Kraków. You will soon find that this city is like a treasure museum, and that wherever you go, you will be drawn to the lively and dynamic atmosphere. I hope you have a great time in this wonderful city and that you enjoy your summer days. Thank you.