

Panel: Ethnic Minorities in China (Lilac & Tulip Room)

Date/Time: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 / 15:15-16:30

Talking Points for: Lee Dong Ryul, Professor, Dongduk Women's University

China's Policy to the ethnic minority: Its Realities and Implications

China recently faces challenges from ethnic separatism in Tibet Autonomous Region(西藏自治區) and Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region(新疆自治區). The causes of ethnic conflicts in Tibet and Xinjiang are a complex mix of history, ethnicity and religion-fueled by economic disparities, political grievances and international environment. Chinese governmental countermeasures to separatists movement are a process of sinicization(中國化) through economic development, financial assistance and forcible repression. Chinese government try to foster much closer economic integration of minority region with the rest of China by economic development strategy. Despite the economic development, Tibetans charge that the PRC interferes with Tibetan culture and religion.

However, These sinicization process will be successful in the long run even though it had some ineffectiveness and problems. Chinese government still has relatively strong economic, administrative and diplomatic power whereas separatists movement have always occurred as sporadic and uncoordinated, and they even don't have enough power to realize their ultimate goal. Therefore they will not the real threat to China's political integration, but may influence the country's social stability, because Tibet question cannot be simply resolved. And Sinicization of China will take relatively over the long process and term.

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