CHO, Kyoung-Mann

*Department of Cultural Anthropology, Mokpo National University, Muan-gun, Korea*

CHO, Kyoung-Mann has taught as a professor at the Department of Cultural Anthropology, Mokpo National University, Korea (1990-present). He received his Ph.D. from Seoul National University (1997). His main areas of interest are ecological anthropology on the southwestern marine & forest villagers in Korea and First Nation peoples in pacific coasts of Canada. Presently he serves at the UNESCO-MAB Korea and Asian committee of MOA (Museum of Anthropology, UBC, Canada). He is executing a 'Research on the System of Traditional knowledge related to Village Woodlands' (funded by National Research Foundation, Korea) in Jiri Mountain villages of Korea and in Clayoquot Sound villages of Canada. His recent publications include: "A Consideration on the People's Conceptualization of Tidal Flat and Human Life" in Journal of Island Culture 32 (2009); "Spatial Change of Mokpo City and Cultural Processes since its' Open Port" in Researches in Incheon Studies 10(2009); and Asian Eco-culture (Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism; 2009, co-author). *chkm1@paran.com*

**Abstract**

Korean rural, local landscapes have been in 'generalized' degradation processes due to the Korean War, rapid modernization mainly depending on the industrialization ideology, disordered generalization or uniformity of construction. As a consequence cultural diversity of landscape depending on the adaptation to topographical, ecological diversity has been diminishing. In traditional sector too, like buddhist temples, ancestor tombs and shrines, a kind of megalomaniac images of space and monument have prevailed. Recently there have been retrospects and reconsideration on the disordered generalization which has infringed upon the diversity of landscape and culture. Ecological thought and movement of Silsangsa Buddhist temple located in Jiri Mountains, southern part of Korea, intellectuals' participation in the movement and villagers' reflexive discourses represent contemporary reactions to Korean generalized degradation processes. It is not only the reaction to the trends of excessive Buddhist architecture and monuments. People have tried to make representative transformation of culture from that of generalized landscape degradation to that of concretely living place with interacting people's feeling and ecosystem. It is an emergent, alternative reaction transcending revitalization of past.

**Keywords:** alternative reaction; cultural diversity; ecological diversity; generalized degradation; landscape; local feeling