

**Invitation
To Participate in
The 2006 ICU-COE Northeast Asian
Boundary-spanning Dialogue Project
Feb. 3-5, 2006
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International Christian University
Tokyo, Japan**

Last year the first Northeast Asian Boundary-spanning Dialogue Project brought together Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Russian students and civil society members to identify major obstacles to intercultural communication in Northeast Asia, one of which was the issue of contested history. This year's Dialogue will begin to map our historical territory of the Northeast Asian region as a whole. What we found out last year was that the participants were often familiar with some dyadic issues (like those between, for instance, Japan and China), but few participants had a comprehensive awareness of the history of the region as a whole. It is this comprehensive historical terrain that we want to begin "to map" this year. We also want to include, not only the master narratives of the nation-states of the region, but also the "hidden" narratives of the different groups of people making up each nation-state, for instance, those of Evenki people in Russia, of Ainu and Okinawa in Japan, or Korean-Chinese, etc.

This year each participant will contribute a twenty-minute historical narrative generated from their specific socio-cultural-historical point of view. Other participants will have an opportunity to ask clarifying questions about the narrative. All the narratives shared in this year's Dialogue will be filmed and archived (eventually with translations in five languages – Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Russian and English) on the web site that is being developed by students at Kwansai Gakuin to accompany this project.

The aim of this Project is to create both face-to-face and virtual spaces where all the peoples of the Northeast Asian Region may encounter each other in mutually supportive environments. It is hoped that this will provide a basis for transforming and transcending challenging issues, both historical and contemporary, and that such Dialogues may eventually lead to an international day of reconciliation.