

NEWDAY

The Nansen East-West Dialogue Academy



The summer course venue: Nansen Academy

Creating better relations by seeking mutual understanding and harmony in diversity

**Summer Course
4-14 July 2017
Lillehammer, Norway**

East meets West

In July 2017, 55 students from East Asia and the Nordic countries will gather for a 10-days summer course: NEWDAY - the Nansen East-West Dialogue Academy.

The idea for NEWDAY grew out of an annual course *Understanding Asia*, presented at the Nansen Academy by Nordic and Asian scholars since 2014. In a fast-changing and increasingly multipolar world, there is an urgent need to understand and empathize with diverse societies and cultures. Relations between the three East Asian countries and the five Nordic countries are long standing and positive, and, we are sufficiently different to discuss new and alternative ideas and solutions to the global challenges that currently confront us, from different positions and perspectives. The motivation for NEWDAY comes from a strong belief that global and cross-cultural conversation and collaboration are urgent and necessary peace promoting activities.

With NEWDAY we offer students from East Asia and the Nordic region the chance to meet and engage with each other, with top scholars and political leaders on some of the most pressing issues the world faces today.

NEWDAY is a training camp for cultural understanding and cross-cultural communication with class room teaching, lectures, discussions, socializing, workshops, and excursions. The social and academic climate we

offer is creative, open-minded and challenging. Lillehammer and its surroundings are beautiful. Norwegian summer days are long and even the nights are full of light.

NEWDAY is named after the Norwegian Polar explorer and diplomat Fridtjof Nansen. Following his pioneering spirit we aim at creating an event that will be a lifetime experience for all participants and a foundation for a growing network of concerned global scholars. Together we can make a difference.

Geir Helgesen, Director
NIAS - Nordic Institute of Asian Studies



Photo: Vincent Vaerman



About NEWDAY

NEWDAY will provide a platform for university students from East Asia and the Nordic region to engage in dialogues on current global challenges, to learn from each other, and to foster harmonious relations between prospective future leaders. The academy will provide a unique opportunity for the students to learn about and debate contemporary issues based on acquired knowledge of great Eastern and Western thinkers and humanitarians, presented by scholars from leading universities in the East Asia, the Nordic countries, Europe and the USA.

The NEWDAY summer course will take place at the Nansen Academy in Lillehammer, Norway from 4-14 July 2017 and include various training programs as well as daily lectures and discussion groups. Ten students from each of the three East Asian countries, and five students from each of the five Nordic

countries will be selected, in total 55 students.

From the East Asian region the project is supported by scholars from Fudan University, Tsinghua University and Shandong University in China, Kyoto University and Tokai University in Japan; and Yonsei University and Korea University in Korea. In the Nordic region, NIAS - Nordic Institute of Asian Studies at the University of Copenhagen representing a consortium of 27 Nordic universities, is the leading coordinator of the project, together with the Nansen Academy.

The NEWDAY summer course is a non-profit event. Participants and/or their university will have to cover travel expenses and costs for accommodation. In special cases, if funding is unavailable at the home university, the NEWDAY project has a limited pool for funding support.

NEWDAY is funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), the Fudan-European Centre for China Studies and the Nansen Academy with support from the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS).

NCM and TCS are cooperation bodies mandated to promote cooperation and mutual understanding. The Nansen East-West Dialogue Academy project operates in line with this basic idea of promoting regional and cross-regional cooperation.

Towards a Dialogue

We will define key challenges in the 21st century's global society and engage relevant approaches and core concepts, theories and methods to deal with the present and prepare for the future.

Our program aims to promote better mutual understanding and foster harmonious relations between people East and West and between our future leaders. Through workshops and discussions we will identify common challenges, explore the root causes of problems and provide creative solutions with cultural sensitivity. This work will be conducted in a spirit of cross-cultural dialogue and consensus building.

The Nordic countries transitioned from a history of warfare to a relationship with close ties based on recognition of not just the need for peace but also the importance of common aims, mutual empathy, global outlook, and respect for diversity - what we

might call harmonious relations. These intra-Nordic relations can serve as inspiration for East Asian countries, where mutual respect and understanding is necessary in order to enhance harmonious and cooperative relations. Europe and the Nordic region can learn from East Asian cultural traditions, where collective needs and adherence to group harmony are emphasized to a greater extent. Cross-fertilization of Eastern and Western social morality and traditions has innovative potentials.

We will engage in critical cases and topical issue areas of our times: economic growth and increasing inequality, environment and climate change, quality of life, social and moral responsibility, education, media responsibility, and modes of governance.

A focus area to investigate and debate is the moral foundation of a good global society. Here we will revisit some fundamental concepts and variables that have been applied to cross-cultural understanding, social development and peace, and show how they have been manifested historically and how they can be transferred, developed and made applicable in the 21st Century.

The contemporary world needs open minds and innovative thinking, rather than dogmas and people with ideological blinkers. We believe that respectful cross-cultural dialogue is a necessary tool in order to create international understanding and appreciation of differences. That is what we mean by ***Creating better relations by seeking mutual understanding and harmony in diversity.***



About the Location

NEWDAY is named after Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930) and located at the Nansen Academy. Nansen, the Norwegian explorer, diplomat and humanitarian activist embodied a spirit and a desire to contribute to making the world a better place. In the 1920s, Nansen maintained that morality was of the most fundamental importance for human progress. His view is likely to be widely endorsed in the East as well as the West - it is as acutely relevant today as it was then.

The Nansen Academy was founded in 1938. Cross-cultural dialogue has always been a focus. Dialogue is not understood as sear-

ching for agreement, but for mutual understanding. The Nansen Academy has received several awards, among them the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education.

The city of Lillehammer is a unique location for the NEWDAY summer course. Lillehammer hosted the Olympic Games in 1994 and the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in 2016. Access to excellent sports facilities is an added value for the academy, and the Olympic spirit is well known and preserved in Lillehammer. The motto of the YOG: *Go beyond. Create tomorrow.* will also inspire NEWDAY.

The NEWDAY Program

We begin at 8am every morning with a solid breakfast. The morning program runs from 9am till lunch at 1.30pm including a short break halfway through. The afternoon program runs from 2.30 till 5pm, also including a short break. Dinner is served at 6pm, and the evening program, which is relevant but less demanding, featuring artistic performances, outdoor campfire, and group activities continues till 10pm. We end the day at 11pm after a cup of tea in the livingroom.

Day 1: Introduction

- Getting together, getting to know each other
- Why a Dialogue Academy, its aims or our possible role
- Cultural roots, East and West

Day 2: Grand Challenges

- Our contemporary world
- Critical issues of our time
- East meets West: same challenges, different perspectives?

Day 3: Cross-Cultural Understanding

- Human beings, cultural products?
- Socialization, being cultured?
- East and West, moving together or drifting apart?

Day 4: Traditional and New Media

- Perceived role on social cohesion
- Infotainment and information overload
- Media and political populism



Day 5: Animosities in International Politics

- Do we all need enemies?
- The Korean peninsula as a testbed for global peace and conflict
- Media and the North Korean Case

Day 6 & 7: Green Agenda in a Good Society (a two day excursion)

- Economic development, environmental destruction?
- Nature – Culture, the main challenges and how to act responsibly

Day 8: Science, Education and Society

- The future of education, and education for what?
- Skills versus Human Qualities, individual and societal needs

Day 9: Memory and Identity

- The role of history, East and West
- How to understand nationalism, historical and emotional perspectives

Day 10: Unity with Diversity

- Eurasia – East West common future?
- After Globalization?
- Human relations, social relations
- A network is formed

Keynote Speakers, Participants and Partners

Yang Yuliang, Professor, former President of Fudan University, Shanghai, China
 Yeom Jaeho, Professor and President of Korea University, Seoul, Korea
 Mogens Lykkesøft, MP, Denmark/Previous Chairman of the UN General Assembly
 Olemic Thommessen, MP, Norway and President of the Norwegian Parliament, Oslo, Norway
 Moon Chung-in, Professor, Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea
 Ummu Salma Bava, Professor, JNU, New Dehli, India
 James Wertsch, Professor and Head of International Studies, University of Washington, USA
 Choi Jong-kun, Associate Professor, Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea
 John Jones, Freelance journalist and teacher in peace education programs, Oslo, Norway
 Bjorn Bredal, Author, journalist, Head of Borup People High School, Copenhagen, Denmark
 Inge Eidsvaag, Author and former head of Nansen Academy, Lillehammer, Norway
 Kang Myungkoo, Professor, Director of the Asia Center, Seoul National University, Korea

Organizers and Program Steering Committee

Geir Helgesen, NIAS Director, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
 Unn Irene Aasdalen, Director of the Nansen Academy, Lillehammer, Norway
 Daniel A. Bell, Professor, Tsinghua University/Dean Shandong University, China
 Chunrong Liu, Associate Professor, Fudan University, Shanghai, Co-Director, Fudan European Centre for China Studies, University of Copenhagen, Denmark



In the front row the four organizers Unn Irene Aasdalen, Daniel A. Bell, Chunrong Liu and Geir Helgesen



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