

2018 Asia Square Brown Bag Seminar, Fall 2018

Coffee Quality Control System in Ethiopia

Dr. Ohsoon Yun

Ethiopia holds a unique position in the global coffee industry. As the ancestral birthplace of Arabica coffee, it is one of the few countries in the world in which its coffee production is both consumed domestically and exported globally. Moreover - and of key interest to this talk - Ethiopia has a stringent and particular coffee quality control system. The regions of Yirgacheffe, Harar, Sidama, Jimma, and Nikempt have become renowned for their high quality fine coffee. However, before coffee from those regions is shipped globally, all coffee designated for export must pass the quality control system. This seminar examines the export coffee quality control system in Ethiopia. The content discussed is based on personal findings over the course of fieldwork in Ethiopia. Secondary data is also used.

Dr. Ohsoon Yun is a visiting fellow at the Seoul National University Asia Center. She previously served as research professor at the Institute of African Studies in the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, and as vice director of the Ethiopian Coffee Culture Research Center in South Korea. Her current main research interests are in coffee tourism in Ethiopia and in Asia-Africa interrelations. Some of the recent papers she has presented are “South Korea-Africa Encounters via Culture and Arts: The Case of Seoul Africa Festival” (2018 Afro-Asian Studies Initiative (AASI) workshop in Japan), “Ethiopia-South Korea Interactions and Prospects: A South Korean Perspective” (2016 conference “African-Asian Encounters Conference III” in Germany), and “Reformed Orientalism: Asia in Africa” (2015 conference on “Africa’s Engagement with Japan, China, South Korea and India: A Comparative Perspective” in India). In 2018, she was a visiting professor at Kyoto University’s Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS). She is also a licensed SCAA/CQI Q-Grader, and has served as a coffee tourism advisor in several coffee growing areas in Ethiopia.

Date & Time: October 12 (Fri.) 2018, 12:00-13:00

Place: Asia Square (3F), SNUAC (Bldg#101)