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Foreword

Lee Hyun-Ju^a

^a Secretary General of the Northeast Asian History Foundation

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Foreword

I was able to catch a glimpse of the Polish people's perception of human life through the Polish history that I read for the first time in fall 29 years ago. It was just before I headed for the country to accomplish a mission of establishing the Korean Embassy in Warsaw. Korea and Poland have a similar history in which they have developed a variety of relationships with their neighbours and, in the modern era, carried out a fierce independence movement to regain their lost sovereignty. The Northeast Asian History Foundation and the Institute of East-Central Europe in Poland began academic exchange in 2017 to share Korean and Polish history of colonialism and independence movement and seek resolutions of history disputes among neighbouring nations. The four papers published in the special issue of *Yearbook of the Institute of East-Central Europe* were presented at a joint conference held on 13 November 2017, titled 'Relations among Neighbouring Countries in Northeast Asia and Central and Eastern Europe: Prospect of Past History and Reconciliation', and cover the process of the Japan's deprivations of Korean sovereignty with international law, the characteristics of the Korean independence movement, the nature and current status of history conflicts between Korea and Japan, and the publication process of the joint history textbook between Germany and Poland. The NAHF plans to explore ways to apply the models of Poland and other European countries for resolving history conflicts to Northeast Asia. In May this year, the NAHF will hold a second joint conference in Seoul, Korea, on the theme of 'Historical Reconciliation and the Centennial National Foundation Anniversary of Korea and Poland'. I hope that our ongoing scholarly exchanges will deepen mutual

understanding between the two countries and contribute to finding solutions of history disputes with our neighbours, which are the common challenges facing us. I express my deep appreciation to my friend Mirosław Filipowicz, the Director of the Institute of East-Central Europe, for allowing me this space.

Lee Hyun-Ju
Secretary General of the Northeast Asian History Foundation