

subject report

The Globalization of Latin American Studies —The  
Participation Paths and Possible Contributions of East Asian Scholars\*

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Abstract: East Asia and Latin America are far apart. However, migration, economic and cultural ties, and long history have closely connected each other. The continuous deepening of relations between the two parties since the 21st century has provided strong intellectual and practical impetus for related research agendas. Although the United States and Europe are traditional stakeholders in Latin America, they are not the only engines of Latin American studies. In today's increasingly globalized world of Latin American studies, Latin American studies scholars in East Asia face certain common challenges and responsibilities, especially How to view and treat the North Atlantic tradition of Latin American studies, enhance the identity or humanistic consciousness as a "non-Western" subject in the cognitive system of the global framework, enhance academic autonomy, and add East Asian perspectives or factors to the long-term structural imbalance And on this basis, we can enhance the multi-dimensional understanding of Latin America to promote the creative development of existing research paradigms. Rejecting any form of dominant narrative is the proper meaning of engaging in regional research in the era of globalization. The purpose of Latin American studies The transformation of "decentralization" highlights the independent role of the periphery in creating global network connections, and their mutual connections and connectivity, as well as their exchanges and interactions with traditional stakeholders, are also parallel and should be regarded as It is a

necessary component in the process of globalization of Latin American studies. Keywords: Latin American studies, globalization, East Asian path "decentralization" About the author: Guo Jie, associate professor, School of International Relations, Peking University,

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The vast Pacific Ocean separates East Asia and Latin America, but it has also opened windows of opportunities for exchanges between them in different historical periods. In the past 20 years, thanks to the rapid development of bilateral economic relations and the increase in government funding, With the strengthening and broader drive for knowledge, China's Latin American studies have shown an unprecedented flourishing situation. Japan and South Korea also have long-standing and practical connections with Latin American countries. The Latin American studies of the two countries also have profound traditions and distinctive Features. As Latin American studies become increasingly globalized, what are the different advantages of engaging in Latin American studies for East Asian scholars who are neither from Latin America nor from Europe and the United States, which have long-term interests in the region? Can the research I engage in contribute to the globalization of Latin American studies? The above question is quite challenging, and the answer not only concerns the legitimacy of my identity as a Latin American researcher from an East Asian country and the intellectual value of my research, but also the At a deeper level, it involves attitudes and dispositions towards the North Atlantic historical legacy or current tradition of Latin American studies, as well as the awareness and consciousness of the global framework and being a non-Western subject.

It is undeniable that so far, the leadership of Latin American studies in the international academic community is in the hands of European and American countries, especially the latter. As traditional stakeholders, the theories, methods, topics, etc. they advocate have always had a profound impact on global Latin American studies. It has a significant leading and regulatory role. Since the 1990s, with the flow and interaction of ideas, people, and commodities around the world, the "decentralization" transformation of Latin American studies has become increasingly an explicit topic. However, Overall, the "global architecture" of Latin American studies is still a trend that has not been fully realized, and there is great uncertainty and ambiguity. Against this background, the non-Western world, especially East Asia, which is the focus of this article, How should Latin American studies position itself and play an active role in this process? Before discussing this topic in depth, it is necessary to first conduct a study on the history and current situation of Latin American studies in East Asian countries (the following mainly focuses on China, Japan and South Korea). Brief review

### A contact and exchange across the Pacific

Compared with Asia, where we live, we often find more surprises in the process of "encountering" Latin America. This is mainly due to the long distance between the two places, the huge cultural differences, and the limited contact between the two places. Although we are separated in the world, we often find more surprises. People from all over the world will naturally have an interest in observing, researching, and describing people and things in foreign lands. However, due to the fact that they are facing each other, day and night are different, and the cold and heat are different, Asia and Latin America will not have the same effect unless there is a real force to promote them. It is not easy to have the urge to understand the other person deeply.

As far as China is concerned, according to relevant research, China and Latin America did not have direct contact in recorded history before modern times. The real contact began in the early 16th century, when Christopher Columbus

After the discovery of the New World and the opening of a new sea route to Asia by Vasco da Gama, at that time, the main route of traditional communication between Europe and China began to shift from the continent to the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. This led to indirect contact between China and Latin America, and people and cultural connections. After that, it quietly emerged with the increase of Manila merchant sail trade. In the 19th century, especially from 1847 to 1874, it is estimated that about 250,000 indentured Chinese laborers were transported to Cuba, Peru, and other places through Xiamen, Guangzhou, Macau and other places. Guyana, Jamaica and other Latin American and Caribbean countries are engaged in hard labor. The arrival of Chinese workers not only eases the labor shortage in the host countries, The crisis also contributed to the racial and ethnic diversity of the entire region. Since then, with the end of the indentured labor system, free immigration gradually replaced the coolie trade, bringing about a second wave of Chinese immigration to Latin America. Mexico, Peru, Cuba, Panama, Chile and other countries have all accepted a large number of Chinese immigrants. After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 and before the reform and opening up, immigration from mainland China to Latin America was generally at a standstill. During this period, most of the new Chinese immigrants in the region came from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Southeast Asia and other regions. After 1978, immigration from mainland China to Latin America increased rapidly again. Compared with the previous Chinese immigrant groups, these "new immigrants" had different backgrounds, identities, compositions, immigration purposes, and career choices. , social integration and other aspects have shown increasingly obvious diversity. In terms of numbers, the current distribution of overseas Chinese in Latin America is mainly in South and Central American countries, such as Brazil, Venezuela, Panama, Peru, Argentina, Mexico, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Suriname, etc.

The above is the flow of people. From the perspective of written records, the Ming and Qing dynasties can be roughly regarded as a historical node. At that time, some introductory documents on Latin American humanities and history began to appear. For example, "Geography" compiled by Xiong Renlin in the Ming Dynasty The book "Latitude" is said to be the first geographical work written by a Chinese to describe the world. The book introduces the geographical divisions of the continents including the Americas at that time, as well as the geographical location, customs and customs of the relevant countries in each continent. Situation Statement in the second episode of "Gaohou Mengqiu", a pioneer work on science and technology written by Xu Chaojun, a descendant of Xu Guangqi, during the Jiaqing period of the Qing Dynasty . Regarding the countries listed in "America", one of the five continents in the world, such as "Bulu" (Peru), "Bosil" (Brazil), "Moshiko" (Mexico), etc., have made more detailed presentations than the former, and have been frequently cited by future generations. China-Latin America relations are currently being discussed a lot. Most of them take 1949 as the starting point. Since then, the connections and contacts between China and Latin America have generally been characterized by the following stages. In the first stage (1949)

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Y Luo Rongqu: «The historical connection between China and Latin America (from the 16th century to the early 19th century)», published in «Journal of Peking University» (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition), Issue 2, 1986, Pages 1-12 [Ming

Y Dynasty] Written by Xiong Renlin: "Diwei", Xiong Zhixue "Han Yutong" in the fifth year of Shunzhi in the Qing Dynasty, collected by the National Library of China [Qing Dynasty] Written by Xu Chaojun: "Gaohou Mengqiu" Episode 2: A Grand View of the Sea, published by the Xu family in the clouds, 12th year of Jiaqing (1807, Dingmao). For electronic resources, see [https://archiwewulwas.eda.ac.jp/kosho/ni05/ni05\\_02158/ni05\\_02158.html](https://archiwewulwas.eda.ac.jp/kosho/ni05/ni05_02158/ni05_02158.html) [2022-02-20]

to the mid-to-late 1970s), the relationship between China and Latin America was generally more affected by the background of the times (Cold War) and ideology (revolution). In the second stage (from the late 1970s to the end of the 20th century) Along with the tremendous changes in the international landscape and the changes in the political, economic, and social fields of China and Latin America, reform and development have gathered mutual attention and become the main reason for promoting mutual exchanges. In the third stage (since entering the 21st century), Globalization and market forces have closely tied China and Latin America together. The economic interdependence and cooperation between the two sides have reached unprecedented heights. China has become the most important partner or partner of most Latin American countries after the United States.

Similar to the situation in China, the exchanges between Japan and South Korea, the other two major economies in East Asia, and Latin America are closely linked to their respective specific historical backgrounds and practical needs.

In Japan, the initial contact with Latin America came from immigration. The flow of people was the first to break through geographical barriers, connecting people from far apart. In 1893, 132 Japanese immigrants were brought from Hawaii to Guatemala by an American agent. They worked as coolies in local coffee and sugar plantations. It is reported that this is the earliest record of Japanese immigrants arriving in Latin America. Since then, in order to relieve the huge pressure of population on land, the Japanese government began to systematically move towards land-abundant and labor-intensive areas. In 1897, the first wave of immigrants supported by the Japanese government arrived in Mexico. In 1899, Peru on the south coast of the Pacific welcomed the first batch of Japanese immigrants. At the beginning of the 20th century, influenced by Brazil's "coffee boom" To attract people, the Japanese government started the export of immigrants to Brazil in 1908. According to statistics, between 1908 and 1941, the number of Japanese immigrants who arrived in Brazil reached nearly 190,000. The wave of Japanese immigrants to Latin America was interrupted by World War II. It was resumed after the war. It was not until the Japanese economy entered a period of rapid growth in the 1960s that this immigration policy aimed at solving domestic surplus labor came to an end. At the same time, economic ties became the most important way to bring Japan and Latin America closer. During this period, Japan began to import a large amount of industrial production raw materials such as energy and mineral products from Latin America, as well as bulk agricultural products such as cotton and coffee. The import of raw materials marked the beginning of a new stage in the economic relations between Japan and Latin America. At the same time as the import volume has grown rapidly, Japan's direct investment in Latin America has also increased. In the 1960s and 1970s, more than 1/4 of Japan's overseas investment stock went to Latin America, mainly in the field of heavy machinery industry. In the 1970s, After the outbreak of the oil crisis in the 1990s, Japan's investment in Latin America continued to expand in order to ensure the supply of overseas resources, involving iron ore, soybeans, copper ore, petroleum, aluminum ore, pulp and other products that were dependent on imports. At the same time, the financing relationship between Japan and Latin America was also established through bank lending. In the 1980s and 1990s, the Latin American economy encountered crisis and turmoil. The Japanese economy also stagnated in the last decade of the 20th century, resulting in Japan's lack of resources in Latin America. Imports and direct investment of similar products have both declined.

During this period, although the economic ties between Japan and Latin America have become increasingly distant, a new "encounter" has simultaneously emerged







The advantages and academic contributions of the authors are most directly reflected in those issues involving the relations between East Asia and Latin America, such as immigration issues, bilateral economic, political and diplomatic relations, etc. In addition, they also include people like Cynthia Santo, a political science professor at the University of the Pacific in Peru. Some of the more micro-level topics mentioned by Cynthia Sanborn, such as the participation or interaction of non-state actors in East Asia on social and public issues in Latin America, etc. Research on such issues, if East Asian scholars are missing as "insiders" participation is only presented through a unilateral narrative or an "outsider" perspective, and its shortcomings are self-evident, and vice versa. In addition to the above-mentioned bilateral issues, there are many areas that require collaborative research between East Asian and Latin American scholars. Collaborative research The advantage is that through partnership and division of labor, scholars from both sides can combine language skills, cultural understanding, and theories and research methods from different disciplines, and derive innovative thinking or perspectives from this. However, the current situation shows that although exchanges are becoming more and more frequent and extensive, but due to limitations of subjective and objective conditions, the potential of collaborative

research is far from being effectively released. Second, discover and reposition research topics. In short, you can start from a non-Western dimension and based on your own knowledge agenda and academic cultural preferences, try to break through the existing framework, and form a certain balance or supplement to the issues and discourses that have long been dominated by the West. If this is possible, it is not difficult to find answers to the following homogeneous questions. For example, East Asia What contributions can African and Latin American scholars in African studies make to global African studies? In what areas might African and Latin American Asian studies scholars advance global Asian studies? How can African and Latin American scholars in global Latin studies contribute to global Latin studies? What unique role does it play in the study of the Americas? And so on. Starting from this non-Western perspective, East Asia and Latin America do have many topics that transcend one-dimensionality and have broader significance for joint discussion and mutual reference, such as growth models, countries Governance, public policy, regional integration, geostrategic challenges, such as gender equality, environmental protection and sustainable development, innovation and risks brought by social networks, etc. Such efforts are not only beneficial to enhance knowledge, but also provide valuable Comparative dimension and the ability to gain insights from respective experiences across regions and cultures. This is important for those who are emerging in the global system and seeking to connect with it. It is of particular practical significance for countries and regions that coexist with or try to improve the system.

Third, it provides an East Asian perspective in Latin American studies. This may seem self-evident. However, if you think about it carefully, it will inevitably cause some doubts. As we all know, almost all regional studies, including Latin American studies, have There is a strong emphasis on the significance of the dynamic synthesis of regional experience and disciplines (that is, interdisciplinary). For different disciplines, the answer may be different as to whether the East Asian perspective of Latin American studies exists or has intellectual value. Taking Latin American historical studies as the example For example, it may be difficult to say that East Asian scholars have any special advantages in research in this field. After all, historical research emphasizes objectivity.

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<sup>y</sup>From the author's email interview with Professor Sanborn on November 18, 2021.



The difference in identity or perspective of the researcher does not have particularly important significance. However, this may apply to disciplines such as history, anthropology, sociology, etc., but it does not necessarily apply completely to the study of international issues, especially in many fields. In terms of global issues with chain interaction characteristics, or in terms of certain common issues that require cross-regional comparison or reference, East Asian scholars can still participate in the production and innovation process of relevant knowledge based on their own vision and experience.

### 3. Promoting the globalization of Latin American studies through interactive network construction

The increase in the mutual influence and collision of people, information, exchanges, and knowledge brought about by globalization highlights the significance of building and connecting research networks. Taking Latin American studies in East Asia as a case study, each country's local network, trans-Pacific network, East Asia The intra-regional network and the connection with the global network on a larger scale each have their own important value and significance.

Network connectivity in the Latin American studies academic community can first start locally. The three countries discussed in this article, China, Japan and South Korea, all have their own relatively mature local networks and have developed some unique characteristics of their own Latin American studies. In China, China Latin America Organized academic groups such as the American Society, the Chinese Association for the Study of Latin American History, and the Spanish-Portuguese Latin American Literature Research Association constitute an important platform for contacts and exchanges among Latin American researchers. Judging from the publishing and publishing situation, the research topics have a strong sense of the times. Involving different disciplines and fields such as economy, politics, society, history, culture, etc. At the same time, in addition to country and case studies, the scale of results that pay attention to the overall development dynamics of the region is also outstanding. The content includes, for example, the development strategy and development path of Latin America, development model, social justice and economic development, the "middle-income trap" problem, urbanization and social security, political trends since the 21st century, relations between Latin America and major powers, etc. In recent years, because China has transformed the disciplines of regional and country studies into The construction of Latin American studies has been included in the strategic development agenda, and in addition to the actual development needs of China-Latin America relations, the subject areas involved have been expanded on the original basis. In Japan, the academic groups related to Latin American studies mainly include the Japanese Society for Latin American Studies (JALAS), Japan Latin America The Social Science Association for the Study of the Americas (JSLA), the Japan Society for the Study of Ancient America, etc. The 1970s and 1980s were the golden age of Latin American studies in Japan. In the past 30 years, due to the constraints of insufficient funds and the "aging" of researchers, Japan has The overall strength of Latin American studies has declined. Similar to China, Japanese Latin American studies are mostly concentrated in the fields of humanities and social sciences, but the backgrounds of scholars and the topics involved are relatively diverse. Judging from the research results, Chinese scholars have a strong interest in Latin America. They have a clear preference for economic issues, while Japanese scholars are more interested in political topics in Latin America. They also have unique contributions in the fields of archeology, anthropology, etc., and generally show a focus on country-specific and micro-level research rather than regional overall and macro-level research. characteristics. In South Korea, the more active Latin American studies academic groups mainly include the Korean Latin American Studies Society

Since the 1990s, research on international issues, including Latin American studies, has received more and more attention from the government. After entering the 21st century, the guiding role of the Korean government has become more obvious. It has successively launched a series of projects to encourage the development of regional research, which has had a visible impact on orienting Latin American research to practical issues. Politics, economics, diplomatic trends, the development of (new) social movements, and South Korea-Latin America relations, etc., are the topic areas that Korean scholars cover more. Other characteristics are between China and Japan.

When engaging in Latin American studies, it is very important to establish a network for research subjects. Nowadays, for most East Asian scholars engaged in Latin American studies, it is much easier to do this than it was for their predecessors. The popularity of Internet communication tools and the Application, generally more convenient international travel, coupled with the research support available from different channels, make physical distance no longer an insurmountable obstacle to mutual communication and field research. Similar academic interests, sometimes supplemented by incentives from evaluation mechanisms, It has promoted the production of joint research results. Generally speaking, the current trans-Pacific research network between East Asia and Latin America is still mostly based on connections between scholars, universities or related institutions, and occasionally the intersection of connections between the three parties. It has not yet been A shared integrated academic platform has taken shape, and it seems that the connection between the local academic groups between the two parties is basically missing. Under the current conditions, it is expected to be promoted first, probably the Latin American Studies Network in East Asia and the Asian Studies in Latin America. Platform cooperation between networks rather than with professional academic communities with clear disciplinary orientations. This kind of cooperation can be between different levels, or it can be carried out between interactive levels. Currently, the Asian research platform in Latin America has both a regional level and a regional level. There are also national levels. The largest regional platform is undoubtedly the Latin American Association for Asian and African Studies (ALADAA), founded in 1976. It is headquartered at the Center for Asian and African Studies of the Institute of Mexico and has offices in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Peru, and Bolivia. , Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Uruguay, Venezuela and other countries have branches and coordinators. From a national level, although the number of relevant academic groups is limited, they have considerable growth potential. The more active ones in recent years include the Latin American and Caribbean Chinese Academic Group in Mexico Network (Red ALC - China), Brazilian China Research Network (RBChina), Colombia's Asia-Latin America Research Network (Red Asia - América Latina), etc. At the same time, you can also consider using more mature international Asian research platforms such as International Asian Scholars Conference (ICAS), etc., and established contact and cooperation mechanisms with Latin American related network platforms. As mentioned above, the Latin American studies of the three countries of China, Japan and South Korea have shown many areas for comparison and reference. For a long time, the three countries have Although they have extensive exchanges in various fields, the contacts between Latin American scholars are

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See Guo Jie: «Chinese Latin American Studies from a Comparative Perspective», published in «International Political Studies», Issue 5, 2016. For more

information, please see the official website of the Latin American Association for Asian and African Studies: <https://aladaa.international.com/>[2022-03-12]

Limited knowledge and research agenda of each country. The lack of regional platform and conscious promotion is one of the important reasons. In 2014, with the joint efforts of scholars from three countries, the East Asia and Latin America Research Network (EANLAS) was established. Its main purpose is to bring together Latin American researchers in East Asia through the establishment of this academic community platform and the development of sustained and planned academic activities, to promote mutual understanding and exchanges, and at the same time promote its globalization. In the past nearly 8 years, During the year, the East Asian and Latin American Studies Network has achieved certain results in the above aspects. In particular, it has opened a window for understanding and cooperation, and through this mechanism, it has connected East Asian and Latin American studies with worldwide Latin American studies. Today, ̃ It has become a permanent platform for exchanges and collaborative research between East Asian and Latin American scholars. In fact, from the first annual conference held at Peking University, the East Asian and Latin American Research Network has paid special attention to attracting scholars from Latin America, diplomatic Officials, journalists, business people, etc. participated in it. In subsequent series of annual conferences held in Japan and South Korea, the East Asia and Latin America Research Network has always maintained this diversified dialogue atmosphere that is simultaneously open to Latin American colleagues. In addition to continuing exchanges in the form of conferences In the future, we may consider using the support of higher education institutions of East Asian and Latin American scholars to make it a platform for jointly cultivating Latin American researchers (especially the younger generation), and further integrate the research strengths and academic debates of both parties. It is hoped that This will help attract more new people to become academically interested in Latin America and join the ranks of researchers, or conversely, enable more young Latin American people to enter the door of Asian studies with curiosity and thirst for knowledge. ̃ Tim Niblock, emeritus professor at the University of Exeter in the UK, reminded that the software and hardware that East Asian countries have in Latin American studies are actually not available in other Asian countries. If you want to study on a larger scale, In order to promote academic exchanges and collaborative research between Asia and Latin America, the three East Asian countries may need to provide corresponding assistance and support to Latin American researchers in other Asian countries, especially in establishing a network of connections with Latin America. ̃ This One suggestion is quite inspiring at the practical level.

In addition, the East Asian and Latin American Studies Network is also playing the role of a bridge connecting East Asian and Latin American studies with global Latin American studies. In recent years, this role has been mainly through its cooperation with the Latin American Studies Association, the largest Latin American studies academic group in the world. This is embodied in the cooperation between LASA. The Latin American Studies Association was founded in 1968 and currently has more than 130,000 members. The international conferences on different themes hosted every year are quite influential and attractive. Most of the main participants are Scholars and related personnel engaged in Latin American studies or cross-regional comparative studies in American and European countries. Since the establishment of the Latin American Studies Association more than half a century ago, due to various reasons, the United States has become more dominant. In the past 10 years, this situation has begun to occur. Changes. In 2010, for the first time, the Latin American Studies Association selected Latin American

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̃From the author's email interview with Professor Niblock on November 18, 2021.

From 2016 to 2020, three more Latin American colleagues won the election to assume this position, and worked hard to effectively extend the network of this academic community to the world to promote the development of Latin American studies. Globalization. It is against this background that the cooperation between the East Asian and Latin American Studies Network and the Association was launched. In 2016, Aldo Panfichi, elected president of the Latin American Studies Association and professor of sociology at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, led the association's working group I fully participated in the Second East Asia and Latin America Research Network Annual Conference held at Kobe University, Japan, in early 2017, and the subsequent regional research theme seminar held at Kyoto University. After the meeting, I conducted on-site research on Latin America in China, Japan, and South Korea. Live local network of American Studies. In May 2018, the Association for Latin American Studies held the 36th annual conference "Latin American Studies in a Globalizing World" in Barcelona, Spain. During this period, the plenary meeting of the Bureau conducted a themed discussion around Latin American Studies in Asia. ̃̃ In February 2022, the Latin American Studies Association and the East Asian and Latin American Studies Network co-sponsored the first intercontinental annual conference (LASA/Asia Congress) since the establishment of the Latin American Studies Association. With the help of the large platform of the Latin American Studies Association and East Asian and Latin American Studies This cooperation has played a practical role in the globalization of the Latin American Studies Association itself, the expansion of the radiating power of the East Asian and Latin American Studies Network, and the increased participation of East Asian scholars in international debates on Latin American issues. Propulsion functioñ̃

#### Four Conclusions

Latin America is a region that has been continuously influenced by the United States. It also has complex historical and practical connections with Europe. However, it is also an important partner of East Asian countries on the other side of the Pacific. Europe and the United States are the traditional stakeholders of Latin America, but they are not the only contributors to Latin American studies. Engine. Whether in theory or practice, the globalization of Latin American studies cannot be separated from the participation and contribution of "non-Western" scholars, including East Asian scholars. Enhance academic autonomy and add to the existing structural imbalance. "Non-Western" perspectives or factors can be regarded as an effort to enrich the Latin American research paradigm. By developing a more subtle and multi-dimensional understanding of Latin America, I believe that the entire Latin American studies academic community will benefit from it. We reject any form of The dominant narrative is the proper meaning of engaging in area studies in the era of globalization. The "decentralization" transformation of Latin American studies highlights the autonomous role of peripheral areas in creating global connections, and their mutual connections and their traditional Communication between relevant parties should be considered an essential component of the globalization of Latin American studies.

(Editor-in-charge Wang Shuai)

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̃̃ See [https://lasaweb.org/lasa\\_archive/lasa2018\\_arc\\_hive/index.aspx](https://lasaweb.org/lasa_archive/lasa2018_arc_hive/index.aspx) [2022-03-12] For meeting details and schedule,  
̃̃ please see <https://asia.lasaweb.org/asia2022/en/> [2022-02-15]