

Vietnamese Citizenship Ceremony for the Hwasan Yi Clan Descendent, Yi Ch'ang-gŭn

➤ Vietnam-Korean Resident Newspaper [*Han'guk kyomin sinmun*] ¹July 5, 2010

Choi Sang-bong

Last Tuesday June 28th in the La Thanh Hotel in Hanoi a publication party for the Vietnamese translation of the novel dealing with the founder of the Hwasan Yi Clan *Emperor's Junior Uncle*, along with a citizenship ceremony for Yi Ch'anggŭn, the senior direct descendent of the Hwasan Yi royal line, and his family was held. *The Emperor's Junior Uncle Yi Yongsang* is a historical novel from 1967 by Kang Mu-hak that deals with the biography of the last family member of the Vietnamese royal Lý family and the founder [in Korea] of the Hwasan Yi Clan, Lý Long Tường (Yi Yong-sang) has been translated and published as part of the 1000th year commemoration this year of Thang Long – Ha Noi being fixed as the capital.

Following the publication ceremony, after Yi Ch'ang-gŭn² obtained Vietnamese citizenship, when he was asked how he felt Mr. Yi answered, "I am grateful to the Vietnamese government for giving back citizenship after 800 years, and feel ethnic affection. This is a culture of roots that I think is seen only in East Asian culture," and "Korea where I was born and raised is important, and so is Vietnam, the country of my ancestors. I have endeavored up until now to develop relations between the two countries, and in the future I will endeavor to do my best to develop relations."

In this ceremony Vietnam's chief media Thanh Nin, Dui Che, Ha Noi Moi, etc. took part, and from Korea 'KBS Historical Special' PD Team of Sim Kwang-yong took part, and will be broadcast serially from this coming July 17th under title "An Aristocratic Family that Changed Our History" (tentative), and is show great interest in the anniversary of the Vietnam Hwasan Yi.

¹ Newspaper published in Korean for Korean residents of Vietnam.

² Known as Lý Xương Căn in Vietnamese 리 쓰영칸.