



Special Interview

Vision and initiatives of the Chungcheongbuk-do Office of Education

••• Yoon Gun-young, Chungcheongbuk-do Superintendent of Education •••



Yoon Gun-young, Chungcheongbuk-do Superintendent of Education

Yoon Gun-young, Chungcheongbuk-do Superintendent of Education, celebrated his first anniversary in office. He is currently implementing various projects such as the Nobel Project for nurturing future talents and establishing an AI gifted high school.

The *Monday Times* visited the Chungcheongbuk-do Office of Education with student journalists to hear his views on current educational issues, how we should cope with these issues, and where our education should aim.

Q: Thank you for taking the time for this interview. Please introduce the educational vision and policy direction of the Chungcheongbuk-do Office of Education.

A: The aim of education, as I envision it, is for students to demonstrate their talents, aptitudes, abilities, and character and to grow into outstanding individuals. Therefore, the vision of the Chungcheongbuk-do Office of Education is “Education for Sustainability and Empathy.” We will focus the direction of the overall educational policies to achieve this vision.

Above all, we will view education from the perspective of dedicated teachers rather than the educational administrative office. To achieve this, we will prioritize supporting the operation of teacher training programs and enhancing teachers’ expertise to improve the quality of education. In addition, we will shift the starting point of policies from the education office to schools. We will respect the autonomy of schools, enhancing the autonomy and capacity of schools and teachers.

Regarding student education, we will strive to enhance students’ basic academic abilities and future competencies through tailored personalized education. Furthermore, we will strive to realize the aim of Chungcheongbuk-do education where education becomes a source of hope, transcending educational inequality and disparities. Therefore, we will ensure that all students can dream new dreams. Lastly, we will promote a new Chungcheongbuk-do educational approach, supporting student education through connections and collaboration with local governments and communities.

Q: Many people are concerned that students don’t have sufficient basic academic abilities these days. What measures do you take to address this issue?

A: Basic academic abilities are essential foundations for students to maintain social lives with dignity and develop indispensable abilities for their future. To improve basic academic abilities, it is necessary to accurately diagnose and support individual students’ academic levels. To this end, we have established a multi-dimensional student growth platform called “Dachaeum” (meaning “filling up entirely”). Through this platform, students learn with various AI-based content provided based on their diagnosis results. The process is data-driven, and personalized feedback is provided to manage students’ learning histories.

Additionally, we are making efforts to establish a multidimensional student growth center and a multi-tiered support system for enhancing basic academic abilities, aiming to prevent the decline of students’ academic abilities and minimize learning gaps.

The aim of education is for students to demonstrate their talents, aptitudes, abilities, and character and to grow into outstanding individuals. Therefore, the vision of the Chungcheongbuk-do Office of Education is “Education for Sustainability and Empathy.”

Q: Please tell us about the measures taken by the Chungcheongbuk-do Office of Education to address school violence.

A: The Chungcheongbuk-do Office of Education actively supports school-level anti-violence education activities and student-centered relationship restoration programs to create peaceful and conducive learning environments. We operate the “Eowullim” program (meaning “harmony and friendship”) during curriculum and creative experiential activities, as well as conducting the school violence prevention education week. We also operate the one-stop support team for school violence and the relationship restoration program between perpetrators and victims, their parents, and teachers to prevent school violence recurrence.

Furthermore, we collaborate with local police agencies and local governments to conduct out-of-school youth delinquency prevention and management programs. We have established a cooperative system for alternative education, educational financial support, learning support, and career guidance support to provide personalized support for individual students.

Q: Please explain the Chungcheongbuk Nobel Project to us, which is to foster science prodigies and establish an AI gifted high school.

A: The “Nobel Project” aims to foster

future Nobel Prize laureates by providing deep experiential learning in various fields and developing the necessary capacities for a sustainable world. Currently, we are implementing programs such as the “Level-up Nobel Talk & Talk” program, the “Edison Science Growth Project,” and the “Chungcheongbuk Nobel Laureates 100 Individuals 100 Creative Science Fair.” Particularly, in the latter half of this year, we plan to operate the “Chungcheongbuk Nobel Leader Fostering” project, which will select and send 20 students to visit the United Kingdom and Sweden.

We are also preparing comprehensive and proactive plans to ensure that many students from Chungcheongbuk-do can enroll in the AI Bio Gifted High School, which will be established in Osong in 2027. To cultivate 2,700 AI bio-related talents over five years until 2027, we are expanding AI experiential education, activating SW and AI education, and implementing programs such as the Chungcheongbuk Glocal Nobel Talent Overseas Project and the Chungcheongbuk Gifted Frontier Leader Festival to nurture creative, interdisciplinary, future leaders. We are also collaborating with relevant organizations such as KAIST to enhance educational capacity in the fields of AI and bio industry by providing various projects like programs for fostering talent and sharing expert resource for Chungcheongbuk students.

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Japan’s plan to release treated wastewater approved by the IAEA



South Koreans protest against Japan’s plan to release treated waste water from the Fukushima nuclear plant site into the sea, in Seoul on July 8th.

By Sophia Choi

Earlier this week, a safety review by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) publicly approved Japan’s plans to release the treated water stored in the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the nearby sea, accepting it as in line with IAEA safety standards. The report, presented by Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, says that the discharge of water would have a negligible radiological impact on the people and environment in the area.

Many experts from several countries over the years have met to devise and review the plan to release wastewater into the sea while

“While the Korean government has approved of the decision to release the treated water, there have been protests happening within the country.”

ensuring it is safe for the environment and people. Japan has stated that this was the best option to deal with the contaminated water and welcomed IAEA’s assessment report, released on July 4th. The South Korean government publicly respected the safety evaluation made by IAEA and will disclose its own assessment soon.

Grossi has emphasized that the water released will meet international standards and has said that the agency is confident about the review. “What is happening is not something exceptional, some strange plan that has been devised only to be applied here, and sold to you,” Grossi said. “This is, as certified by the IAEA, the general practice that is agreed by and observed in many, many places all over the world.”

Despite the governments’ cooperation, there is still skepticism about the safety and impact that releasing the water would make on the environment. People have criticized the methods used to assess the wastewater, and China has already imposed a ban on certain imported foods from Japan, saying that the IAEA’s report does not justify the discharge of water.

While the Korean government has approved of the decision to release the treated water, there have been protests happening within the country, and the Democratic Party of Korea met with Grossi during his visit and strongly criticized the IAEA’s decision. Now that the plans have been approved, it is up to Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to decide when to release the treated water into the sea.

Special Interview

Korea's Elon Musk, Jin Seung-hyuk, CEO of Klleon

By Shin In-ho and Yeon Kyung-han

"The most important advice I would like to give to young people is to cultivate a spirit of embracing challenges. It is particularly crucial to gain diverse experiences and develop flexible thinking abilities."



Klleon's CEO, Jin Seung-hyuk. He and his staff strive to become the world's leading AI startup. In the bottom right is the digital human Kllena, who was created by Klleon.

The digital human artificial intelligence company Klleon has recently gained significant attention in domestic and international markets with its innovation and technological skills. Klleon received the Innovation Award in the software category at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2022. Additionally, Klleon has entered into technology agreements with major IT companies such as Meta and NVIDIA. We interviewed Klleon's CEO, Jin Seung-hyuk, at their headquarters in Seoul Station to discuss Klleon's vision and innovation, as they strive to become the world's leading AI startup. —Ed

Q: Please briefly introduce yourself and Klleon.

A: Hello. I am Jin Seung-hyuk, a young entrepreneur born in 1993. I started my entrepreneurial journey at the age of 21. During my volunteer work in Indonesia while attending Hanyang University, I had a significant realization. I became deeply interested in utilizing technology to wisely bring about transformative changes for humanity, enabling people to utilize their capabilities more productively and beneficially. I have started several companies over the years and have experienced both successes and failures. Klleon is one of my successful ventures. Klleon offers services such as Camelot, Cling, and Clone. They all utilize deep human technology to implement virtual humans in the digital world. Clone, in particular, holds great potential for wide-ranging applications in communication and Internet education platforms in the future.

Q: Please introduce Klleon's core technology and a product based on that technology.

A: Camelot is a real-time video-sharing social networking service (SNS) launched in 2021. It allows users to change the face and voice of individuals in videos to their desired preferences. Users can replace their own face in existing videos on the platform or selectively swap faces in videos as they want. Clone, released in 2022, is a virtual character chatbot that provides video chat functionality. It can be utilized as a museum guide, travel guide, show host, and more. Cling is a service where the voice in a video is dubbed into multiple languages.

Q: Klleon is integrating the chatGPT solution to carry out a project where real-time conversations with digital humans are possible. Could you please provide more specific information about the collaboration with global tech giants such as Meta and NVIDIA?

A: The hardware, which is the core aspect of the international IT industry, is predominantly handled by tech giants such as Google, NVIDIA, IBM, and others.

Klleon acknowledges that rather than directly competing with these giants, it can explore opportunities through value-added services. While these tech giants essentially serve as the brain behind IT technologies, Klleon and other emerging companies can generate additional functionalities such as immersive experiences and enhanced communication. By fostering collaboration among these brains or leading industries, Klleon ultimately aims to achieve innovative communication among the global digital population.

Q: You mentioned that we will enter an era where digital humans can be created for free within two years. How will this process unfold?

A: Creating virtual characters using existing technology has always posed significant challenges, mainly due to the tremendous amount of time and effort required. However, Klleon has automated all of these tasks through its own technological advancements. Previously, the cost of creating a single digital human could amount to millions of dollars, but Klleon has achieved significant cost reduction, bringing the expense down to the level of hundreds of thousands of dollars. In the IT industry, such cost reduction has a tremendous appeal. Klleon foresees the possibility of commercializing digital humans for free within the next two years by further reducing the existing expenses.

Q: You often mentioned that the key to Klleon's success lies in its vision and organizational culture. I am curious about the new vision and goals within Klleon's organization since its relocation to the United States.

A: Google achieved innovation in the field of search, but Klleon aims to achieve innovation in communication. Klleon dreams of a communication revolution that goes beyond ordinary communication and encompasses the entire global population. Klleon envisions making communication a routine for everyone. In the era of traditional search, individuals searched for and evaluated information by themselves. However, Klleon seeks to promote communication that fosters collaboration and improvement, envisioning the enhancement of human intelligence through collective wisdom.

Q: You mentioned that the most active industry is the education market. Could you please introduce a notable example of education-related content that received the most positive response?

A: One notable example is Huenet, a domestic educational company that utilizes digital humans to produce educational videos. Traditionally, educational content required hiring actual

instructors and investing significant physical resources and time into content production. However, by utilizing digital humans, suitable visuals and sound can be selected, allowing education to take place anytime and anywhere, regardless of physical limitations. Additionally, collaboration with the Human Resources Department of Samsung Talent Development Center enables the production of content. The goal is to enhance immersion by transitioning from traditional PowerPoint-based content delivery to content focused on digital humans.

Q: As an entrepreneur leading the AI era, could you please give some advice to young people who will live in the AI era?

A: I was recently selected as one of Forbes Asia's 30 Under 30. Through that process, I personally realized that young individuals who embrace challenges and exhibit dynamism can create significant value. Therefore, the most important advice I would like to give to young people is to cultivate a spirit of embracing challenges. It is particularly crucial to gain diverse experiences and develop flexible thinking abilities. The world is composed of diverse structures, and a rigid mindset limits our ability to think beyond mechanical processes. Therefore, I encourage young people to always question "why," think outside predefined tracks, and avoid rigid thinking patterns.

Q: I heard that you would like to create a process to establish a childcare system when your business succeeds. Do you have any plans for social contribution activities

utilizing your company's technology.

A: As I mentioned earlier, while I was in university, I went to Indonesia for overseas volunteer work at the age of 21. I spent about eight months interacting with underprivileged children in orphanages and childcare centers. From this experience, I realized that if we can provide these children with excellent education at no cost using special technologies in the future, we can achieve fairness in their growth opportunities, regardless of their situation. For example, if digital human technology becomes more affordable and widely available, with just a certain level of equipment, they can access top-quality education like Stanford University's courses, without any limitations of time and space. Therefore, I would like to apply Klleon's technological expertise to the childcare system and achieve the goal of social contribution.

Q: Who is the person you admire the most?

A: It may sound cliché, but I genuinely admire Admiral Yi Sun-shin. This is because he never gave up in a war where the odds were stacked against him and led an impossible fight to victory through various strategies and unconventional routes. I believe that running a business in the IT industry is somewhat similar. When we think about the tech giants, the outcome may already seem predetermined to some extent. However, I believe that if we don't give up and strategically approach the situation by finding opportunities within, we can make a difference. In that sense, I consider Admiral Yi Sun-shin's spirit of challenge and flexible thinking to be extremely valuable. Thank you.

Discharge of contaminated water in Fukushima

By Kim Hark-rho (Former President of the Korean Nuclear Society)



Twelve years have passed since the accident in the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) of Japan. Early in the accident, the huge tsunami that followed the strong earthquake engulfed the Fukushima NPP. As a result, the fuel of the NPP melted down, and radioactive material, which we cannot help but know the exact amount, flowed into Tokyo Bay.

Since 2013, the Japanese government and Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) have prevented any more radioactive material from flowing into Tokyo Bay. Currently, about 1.3 million tons of liquid radioactive waste is stored in tanks. The Japanese government and TEPCO announced that after filtering out radioactive substances except for tritium through a purifier called Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS), it would be mixed with sea water and discharged into Tokyo Bay at a distance of 1 km. The United States and Canada agreed to this release plan, but Pacific Island countries, including Korea, oppose it.

The Japanese government requested verification from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) expert Task Force Team (TFT) in order to get international trust, and the issuance of the IAEA's final report is already made.

The Fukushima-contaminated water, which is now being discharged, is a hemostasis compared to the radioactive material poured out immediately into the Tokyo Bay after the accident. It is true that no unusual changes have been observed in the coastal waters of Korea from the perspective of radioactive materials until now, 12 years after the accident. From a radiological point of view, the contamination-treated water in Japan does not pose a great danger to the marine ecosystem. Due to this discharge issue, our country seems mayhem. How can we stop the discharge before the discharge of Japan, a sovereign country, harms us? War? The more we speak out, the greater the damage to our fishermen and merchants who make a living off of seafood. Rather than trying to get political gain by spreading rumors like mad cow disease and the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), it is desirable to urge the government to provide more accurate information to the public. The strategy of showing that the government and the ruling party can drink Fukushima treated water or drink aquarium water in the fish market is not helpful. Instead, the relevant ministries should conduct a real-time inspection of all fishery-products in circulation or increase the number of observation points in our sea to inform the public of the current situation of the seawater in detail. Whether or not to panic-buy salt or consume seafood, the decision should be entirely left to the people. Korean people are wise enough.

Sudden death of Professor Ju, a devoted and talented doctor



Professor Ju Suk-jung (in the circle), who worked at Asan Medical Center as a cardiologist, died after being hit by a dump truck while crossing the road on his bike.

By Jeon Ju-yeon

On June 16th, at 1:20 PM, an accident occurred near the apartment of Asan Medical Center in Seoul. Professor Ju Suk-jung, who worked at Asan Medical Center as a cardiologist, died after being hit by a dump truck while crossing the road on his bike. His colleagues and patients felt sorry for his unexpected death.

Ro Hwan-gyu, the former chairman of Korean Medical Association, mourned his death, stating that Professor Ju was an extraordinary and exceptional individual whose excellence and greatness cannot be expressed in mere words. He also emphasized that the tragedy of such

a talented doctor does not end as an individual tragedy. One netizen, who obtained a new chance of life through Professor Ju, conveyed his condolences, expressing gratitude and acknowledging that he is still alive thanks to Professor Ju. According to a thank-you letter delivered by Professor Ju's eldest son, Ju Hyun-young, one couple who had received surgery from Professor Ju attended the funeral and shed tears, demonstrating the profound grief experienced by many people over Professor Ju's death.

Ju Hyun-young, while sorting through his father's articles, came across leftover instant ramyeon and unopened packets of ramyeon seasoning powder. He shared a story that his heart ached at the sight of his father's traces, speculating that either there was not enough time for a meal or his father considered mealtime too precious to waste.

In fact, Professor Ju, working together with Professor Kim Jun-beom, formed a specialized team for aortic diseases at Seoul Asan Hospital. As a proficient doctor, he successfully raised the success rate of acute aortic dissection surgery from 89% to 97.8% in a span of 20 years. He had a strong sense of dedication to his calling. He would state that a cardiologist must always be prepared for emergency surgeries, which can bring both mental stress and physical challenges, but witnessing the dramatic recovery of patients after surgery made him forget about those difficulties.

Professor Ju, in preparation for dual-hand surgeries, practiced using chopsticks with his left hand and even practiced sewing on a blanket. It is reported that he lived only 10 minutes away from Asan Hospital, his workplace, to be prepared for emergency surgeries. His son, Ju Hyun-young, also mentioned, "On a small bulletin board in my father's research lab, there was a prayer that continued with the words '...but what can I do in the actual healing process? Absolutely nothing. It is all in God's hands.'"

Hanmi Global's measures to cope with low birthrate

By Chae Su-min



Leading domestic PM (Project Management) company, Hanmi Global, has unveiled a exceptional policy for low birthrate prevention. The policy involves providing promotions to employees who have a third child, commonly known as the "third child promotion." The company also has a marriage promotion committee. Hanmi Global grants bonus points to job applicants with children and allows employees with children to work remotely or work at home for two years.

Hanmi Global offers not only a welfare system to encourage childbirth but also many benefits related to childbirth. It gives 90 days of legal maternity leave to employees who give birth, regardless of the number of children and gives them an additional 30 days of special paid maternity leave. Furthermore, during the three-month childcare leave, the company ensures that the monthly salary is maintained. During the child rearing period, it implements a flexible work system to accommodate the work-life balance of employees. When hiring new employees, it also plans to give additional points to applicants with children, in the document screening process. On top of this, it has introduced a policy to increase the cost of home purchase support loans up to 100 million won when employees get married. Employees planning to get married can now get a loan of 50 million won without interest and receive an in-house loan of 50 million won at a 2% interest rate. The company plans to

realign its in-house marriage promotion committee to let it participate in the establishment and implementation of a marriage promotion system. As such, it has expressed its willingness to encourage employees to marry and give birth, as well as to help employees who are hesitant to marry due to housing problems.

Word Search

By Kim Hak-young

This puzzle was created using the 102nd edition of The *Monday Times*.

M	L	A	E	V	E	R	P	A	I	N	C	S	O
L	N	N	N	U	A	E	R	V	R	D	L	S	E
V	M	A	E	S	T	R	O	O	I	O	E	E	E
R	A	M	I	N	D	S	E	T	G	S	G	O	P
A	C	I	L	N	E	U	L	A	V	O	I	E	U
N	H	E	N	R	E	S	N	U	O	I	R	T	R
H	I	E	P	R	O	M	O	T	E	V	E	E	P
O	E	D	T	C	E	L	E	S	A	E	C	M	O
M	V	E	V	P	S	L	T	T	I	A	O	I	S
A	E	E	H	E	R	O	A	C	T	E	G	S	E
E	T	D	C	R	E	A	T	I	V	E	N	S	G
R	M	N	I	E	L	S	I	S	E	I	I	R	
D	N	I	A	E	M	O	C	N	I	I	Z	N	N
T	N	E	R	R	U	C	I	M	R	T	E	G	O

missing	hero	slogan	select	recognize
creative	current	visit	promote	mindset
purpose	state	value	reveal	maestro
dream	indeed	pain	income	achieve

Birth Notification System is introduced as an obligation



By Song Eun-soo

The National Assembly has made a decision regarding the Birth Notification System bill, which is a revision of the Family Relation Registration Act, during the plenary session on June 30th. According to the decision, medical institutions are obligated to register childbirth with the local government. Accordingly, starting from the second half of next year, healthcare personnel are required to include the birth information of newborns in the mother's medical records. The head of the medical institution must notify the Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service (HIRA) of the relevant information within 14 days from the child's birth. Subsequently, the HIRA should promptly notify this to the head of the local government, where the mother resides.

The head of the local government then must verify whether the child's birth has been reported within one month after birth. If it is found that the birth has not been reported, they must notify the parents to report the birth within seven days. If the birth is not reported during this period or if the child's parents cannot be identified, the head of the local government must, with the permission of the court, make a mandatory birth report on their own authority.

However, the problem is that the birth notification system is like a double-edged sword. According to the analysis of data by the National Assembly Legislation and Judiciary Committee based on the National Statistics Office, out of 302,676 children born in South Korea in 2019, 1,556 (0.5%) were born outside of hospitals. This means that children born "outside of the hospital" are still at a legal blind spot. If the birth notification system becomes universal, pregnant women, who are reluctant to reveal childbirth externally, have possibilities to give birth at home or other places outside of hospitals. This will naturally threaten the health of the mother and the child.

영어를 실력있게 배우는

착한 기초영어 회화

착한 업그레이드 된 기초영어 회화 첫걸음 (초중급용)

영어를 실력있게 배우는

착한 여행영어 회화

착한 여행영어 회화 (교재용)

영어의 실력이 올라간다

토마스와 앤더스의 착한 영어시리즈

★ 착한 팝송에서 배우는 영어회화 (QR코드로 음악 감상)
★ 착한 서비스영어 (비즈니스 영어)
★ 착한 여행영어 회화 (교재용)
★ 착한 업그레이드 된 기초영어 회화 첫걸음 (초중급용)

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영어를 실력있게 배우는

착한 팝송에서 배우는 영어회화

착한 팝송에서 배우는 영어회화 (QR코드로 음악 감상)

The *Monday Times* Supporters program gives many students a challenging chance to experience



The *Monday Times* has endeavored to provide interesting and educational English materials for young students and teachers across the country. Last March, The *Monday Times* launched the program "The *Monday Times* Supporters" with the aim of raising awareness about the publication of *The Monday Times*. Over two hundred college students applied for the first batch of *The Monday Times* Supporters. Among them, twenty students were selected and have been engaged in various tasks for the past six months, including creating card news, producing

promotion videos, and developing learning materials using news articles from *The Monday Times*.

Three of over 150 articles that were submitted by applicants for the program were selected as the best articles. The selected three articles are as follows. – Ed.

The issue of unregistered children and their mothers' rights

By Park Ji-hwan (Sungshin Women's University)



"In response to concerns about the exclusion of unregistered children, the National Assembly swiftly passed the Birth Notification Act, which requires medical institutions to report all births."

The government recently conducted an investigation and found 2,236 individuals without birth registration between 2015 and last year. Among them, 23 individuals representing the highest risk group were examined, revealing a heartbreaking incident of an infant found deceased in a refrigerator of an apartment in Suwon.

In response to concerns about the exclusion of unregistered children, the National Assembly swiftly passed the Birth Notification Act, which requires medical institutions to report all births. Additionally, discussions are underway to introduce a protected birth system that would allow pregnant women in crisis to give birth anonymously.

However, I believe that the protected birth system falls short in fully protecting the rights of women and children. Currently, the system primarily focuses on concealing childbirth for women. But women facing unplanned pregnancies have more rights than just secrecy and adoption. They should have the freedom to make independent decisions about contraception, the right to safe and guilt-free access to abortion, the ability to disclose the child's identity to the biological father, share parenting responsibilities, and maintain their social status after childbirth. Moreover, the protected birth system emphasizes the child's right to easily break ties with their biological parents. It assumes that anonymous birth implies an intention to give the child away for adoption. This results in accelerated adoption procedures, potentially violating the child's right to regular contact with one or both parents.

In conclusion, it is understandable that women facing challenges, lacking support, or experiencing social isolation may wish to delay parenthood. However, this desire is often temporary and conditional, influenced by difficult circumstances. If conditions improve, their perspectives on parenting can change significantly. Therefore, the protected birth system should not replace these temporary and conditional reasons with a permanent declaration of "unfitness for parenthood."

How to maintain this trend of Korean culture

By Mun So-jeong
(Korea University)

"When the tourists are satisfied with their travel, their affection for Korean culture will endure and they will even recommend Korea as a travel destination."



Now, people from all four corners of the world recognize Korea. This spring, when I visited the United States, I could feel the college students' desire to learn more about Korea. Students, not only from Japan, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, but also from Canada, Europe and Mexico were eager to discuss their favorite K-Pop groups, K-dramas, Korean foods. Most surprisingly, I witnessed their capability to speak a few Korean words. The popularity of Korean culture is positively correlated with the increasing number of Korean language learners. According to the Modern Language Association of America, the number of Korean language learners has increased 95% in the past decade, the highest increase among the top 10 languages. The ultimate goal of these students is to visit Korea.

However, the real problem is how to maintain this trend of Korean culture. According to the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Culture and the Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange, regardless of the pandemic, Korean culture has been well maintained by the increase of demand in video contents. The key of K-dramas is to foster the audience to think "I want to visit that place one day in the future." This has resulted in an increase of Korean language learners, even during

the pandemic, who aspire to visit Korea once the pandemic subsides.

After the pandemic, tourists from all over the world started to visit Korea. According to the Korean Statistical Information Service (KOSIS), the overall rate for the satisfaction of the tourists visiting Korea was 81.1% in 2019. There is no data regarding the satisfaction of the tourists after the pandemic. Updating this data has become crucial, as tourist satisfaction relies on minimizing the gap between their expectations and the actual experience. "If tourist satisfaction has declined between 2020 and 2023, it is vital for the government to figure out the problem regarding the decrease.

Watching K-dramas or becoming a fan of K-Pop groups leads to learning Korean language, and ultimately, visiting Korea. To sustain this complete cycle of Korean culture, it is essential to prioritize their opinions and impressions of Korea. In addition, thorough research should be conducted on tourists visiting Korea. Why did they decide to visit Korea? What was their expectation? Did reality meet their expectations? And most importantly, are they willing to visit Korea again? When the tourists are satisfied with their travel, their affection for Korean culture will endure and they will even recommend Korea as a travel destination to their acquaintances, creating a positive cycle. This is the key to maintaining the trend of Korean culture.

Fukushima nuclear water release: global concerns

By Choi Da-in
(Sungshin Women's University)

"The planned release of contaminated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant has sparked global debates and raised questions about its consequences."



The planned release of contaminated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant has sparked global debates and raised questions about its consequences. Following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident, efforts were made to cool down the melted nuclear fuel by injecting water into the plant. However, with limited storage space, the Japanese government has decided to release the accumulated radioactive water.

Countries along the Pacific Ocean have varying reactions to the situation. While East Asian nations and Pacific islands express concerns, North American and Southeast Asian countries have remained relatively quiet. Support for Japan's decision comes from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which released an interim report stating that the plan is "realistic enough." The report highlights the evaluation of Japan's monitoring methodology and confidence in the radiation protection and environmental monitoring programs.

However, opposition to the release remains strong. Concerns revolve around potential ocean contamination and unknown impacts on neighboring countries. Fukushima fishermen strongly oppose the discharge, and countries like Korea, Taiwan, and China share similar concerns.

In Korea, over 80% of the population opposes releasing the contaminated water. The key issue lies in uncertainty about the water's composition beyond tritium. Verification of the filtration system's effectiveness is crucial to safeguard marine ecosystems and human health.

While experts debate the risks and benefits, continued vigilance is necessary. Uncertainties surrounding potential unknown substances and their long-term impacts on health and ecosystems require ongoing monitoring.

As Japan proceeds with its plans, finding a balance between environmental concerns, public health, and the strong opposition of Korean people remains paramount. The world closely watches these issues and calls for careful consideration of the broader implications.

공감과 동행으로 지속 가능한 BEST 단양교육

공감과 동행으로 지속 가능한 BEST 단양교육

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Special Interview

••• Yoon Gun-young, Chungcheongbuk-do Superintendent of Education •••

Chungbuk Education will always support every child to help them realize their dreams



Yoon Gun-young, Chungcheongbuk-do Superintendent of Education and Shin In-ho, CEO of The *Monday Times* are discussing current educational issues. Yu Cheol (Editorial Director of The *Monday Times*, leftmost in the right photo), Kim Da-yun from Sannam High School, Shin Min-seok from Cheongju High School, Superintendent Yoon Gun-young, and Shin In-ho participated in the interview with Superintendent Yoon.

By Shin In-ho and Yeon Kyung-han

The “Nobel Project” aims to foster future Nobel Prize laureates by providing deep experiential learning in various fields and developing the necessary capacities for a sustainable world. Currently, we are implementing programs such as the “Level-up Nobel Talk & Talk” program, the “Edison Science Growth Project.”

Q: How was your time as a student?
A: During my student days, I remember being a fairly model student. However, I didn’t just focus on studying; I actively participated in various activities with enthusiasm and passion. I attended Hoin Middle School, a local school in Boeun. When I came to Cheongju for high school, I realized how vast the world was. Overall, I studied very hard during my student days.

Q: If there are any singers or books that you particularly like or have been deeply impressed by, please introduce them.
A: Personally, I’m somewhat fond of trot music, and I particularly like young singers such as Lee Chan-won and Jung Dong-won. Lee Chan-won is an excellent singer, and I admire his diligent and sincere way of living. Jung Dong-won, even at a young age, faced challenging circumstances without giving up and achieved remarkable accomplishments. As for books, I recently enjoyed reading *Chat GPT Education Revolution*.

Q: What is the Chungcheongbuk-do Office of Education doing to support student self-governance activities?
A: We actively supports the promotion of student self-governance activities to cultivate democratic citizenship. First, we are establishing a democratic citizenship education platform to facilitate diverse student self-governance activities. In relation to this, we allot more than one hour of creative experiential activity time for student self-governance, and we operate class meetings, student councils, open discussions, gatherings, and case presentations according to each school’s situation.

In addition, we support student autonomy by operating a student participation budget system, which provides budget autonomy for student self-governance activities. We have also established the Chungcheongbuk Student Participation Committee, composed of student representatives from elementary, middle, and high schools, organized into five subcommittees such as peace and human rights, local politics and economy, environment and ecology, digital media, and

publicity. They participate in student-related policies through regular meetings, executive committees, student-led planning events, student self-governance leadership camps, meetings between the superintendent of education and student representatives, and an online metaverse network activity where they interact with student representatives from across the country. Additionally, we have established “Beyond School Student Self-Governance Networks” tailored to each regional education support office to assist student self-governance activities.

Q: What mindset should our young people have as global citizens?
A: As global citizens, individuals should possess a mutually dependent and positive attitude for the common prosperity and sustainable world

of humanity. As global citizens, first of all, students should have an open-minded attitude that respects diversity and seeks to understand the culture, beliefs, and perspectives of others. Additionally, students need to cultivate creative thinking and analytical skills to solve problems.

Students should also understand how their actions can impact others and the environment. On top of this, they should know the importance of cooperation and communication and actively demonstrate leadership or contribute as team members. Lastly, students should have interest in global issues and participate in efforts to understand the issues.

Q: Please tell us about your accomplishments in the past year and your plans for the future.
A: Since taking office as Superintendent of

Education, I have systematized and refined educational policies centered on the field of education. From this year onward, I will communicate more deeply and widely with our beloved educational family members in the field of education, and firmly establish an education system centered on school practices that conforms to the changing times and new educational paradigms. Thus, I will work towards achieving the goal of Chungcheongbuk-do education, “Education for Sustainability and Empathy.” Chungbuk Education will always support every child to help them realize their dreams in a school where they can imagine their hopes through education along with open hearts and through the power of learning. Every single child in Chungcheongbuk-do shines through education with open hearts.

My amazing experience: interviewing the superintendent

By Shin Min-seok (Cheongju High School in Chungcheongbuk-do)



“My interview with the superintendent was an unforgettable event in my life. It opened my eyes to his passion for education and ignited a fire within me to make a positive impact.”

As a high school student, I had a truly special experience recently. I had the incredible opportunity to interview Chungcheongbuk-do Superintendent of Education alongside a group of journalists. Just the thought of meeting a superintendent and being part of an interview was very exciting for me. I never imagined having such an amazing chance to meet someone with such authority in the education field. And to make it even more extraordinary, I got to participate in the interview with professional journalists.

A few days after receiving the invitation, I visited the Chungbuk Office of Education for the interview. I was extremely excited and found myself almost speechless. After waiting in the reception room, I was guided to the superintendent’s office. Inside, I noticed a large screen showing educational statistics for Chungcheongbuk-do. It caught my attention and showed me how passionate and dedicated

the superintendent was about education in our region.

Engaging in conversations with the superintendent was a real privilege. Among our discussions, one statement stood out to me the most: “You can pursue your dreams wherever you are.” In a time where many people believe that success is only found in Seoul, these words left a lasting impression on me. I hope that all young people, especially young people in my province have the chance to read and think about the meaning behind these words.

The experience of meeting the superintendent and participating in the interview was truly amazing. Seeing the educational statistics and talking with the superintendent inspired me deeply. It made me realize the importance of education and that we can pursue our dreams no matter where we are, even if we don’t live in Seoul.

This encounter with the superintendent holds a special place in my heart. It allowed me to explore important educational topics and strengthened my belief that young individuals can make a difference and shape the future. I am extremely grateful for this extraordinary opportunity and the valuable lessons it taught me.

In conclusion, my interview with the superintendent was an unforgettable event in my life. It opened my eyes to the superintendent’s passion for education and ignited a fire within me to make a positive impact. I am sincerely grateful for this incredible opportunity and the valuable insights gained along the way.

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Putin meets Prigozhin in Moscow days after failed rebellion

By Shopia Choi

On July 10th, the Kremlin confirmed that Russian President Vladimir Putin met with Wagner mercenary company chief Yevgeny Prigozhin in Moscow on June 29th after the failed rebellion last month. The Wagner group is a private army helping the Russian army in the conflict in Ukraine. Its chief, Prigozhin, had blamed war on the defense minister. The group launched a revolt called a "March for Justice" with troops of 25,000 heavily armed fighters, moving their base, seizing a Russian military headquarters, and marched on Moscow on June 23 only to withdraw in 24 hours.

Although failed, the insurrection, which seriously threatened Putin's authority, is considered as the first coup in Russia for three decades. Putin compared the uprising to the 1917 Russian Revolution and publicly vowed a harsh response to the insurrection. However, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that just five days after the aborted rebellion, he met 35 Wagner commanders including Prigozhin. He added that President Putin gave his "assessment of the events of June 24th" and discussed the Ukraine war effort with further options for the group who confirmed that "they were ready to continue to fight for the Motherland."

The fact that the Wagner boss, who publicly disappeared, does not appear to have been punished is certain to give rise to many speculations. "The only thing we can say is that the president gave his assessment of the company's actions at the front during the Special Military Operation in Ukraine," said Peskov. Offered further employment and combat options, Wagner commanders had reaffirmed their loyalty to the President at the meeting, Peskov told the reporters.



The Wagner group launched a revolt called a "March for Justice" with troops of 25,000 heavily armed fighters, moving their base, seizing a Russian military headquarters, and marched on Moscow on June 23 only to withdraw in 24 hours.

Prigozhin insisted that the insurrection was aimed not at posing a challenge on Putin but at fighting traitors especially the defense ministry of lying to Putin about the conduct of the Ukraine war. It is not certain whether Prigozhin's short-lived rebellion was a staged performance by a warlord or a real rehearsal of a civil war. However, meeting with him is a way out of a conflict for Putin and his army to keep their "special military operation" business with the private military company in this war.

Three Korean musicians win the Tchaikovsky Competition

By Mun So-jeong



Kim Gye-hee (Left), Lee Young-eun and Son Ji-hoon, South Korean winners of the 2023 International Tchaikovsky Competition in the categories of voice, cello and violin, respectively, are seen in these photos captured from the competition's homepage.

Three Korean contestants won the 17th International Tchaikovsky Competition. Korean violinist Kim Gye-hee, Korean cellist Lee Young-eun, and Korean vocalist Son Ji-hoon respectively won the gold medal. It was the first time that a Korean has won the first prize in the instrumental music category of the competition.

Not only these three contestants, there are other Korean contestants who made their name on the podium. With vocalist Jeong In-ho winning the silver medal, cellist Park Sang-hyeok and flutist Kim Ye-sung respectively winning the bronze medal, pianist Ye Su-ah winning the fourth prize, and cellist Lee Dong-yeol winning the fifth prize, Korean musicians flourished in the competition. In total, eight Korean contestants earned the prizes in this year's competition.

Kim Gye-hee (29) said in an interview, "My heart was overflowing. I have never imagined myself winning the first prize." She emphasized the diligence of Korean musicians and the foundation built by the senior musicians as the key to success. Lee Young-eun (26) also highlighted the passion of teachers who put their own lives aside for their students.

The International Tchaikovsky Competition, known as one of the world's most prestigious music competitions, was established in 1958 and held every four years. The beloved Korean musicians, including the pianist Cho Seong-jin, Son Yeol-eum, and Chung Myung-whun have previously won the prizes in the International Tchaikovsky Competition.

However, last April, the competition had lost its membership in the World Federation of International Music Competitions (WFIMC) with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It was the first time that WFIMC had made such a determination for political reasons. The Korea Military Manpower Administration also decided to exclude the winners of the International Tchaikovsky Competition from the military exemption benefit. After these decisions, the International Tchaikovsky Competition lost its fame and power as the most prestigious music competition. The diversity of contestants' nationalities notably decreased in this year's competition. With over half of the finalists being Russians, followed by Chinese and Korean and only a few contestants represented Western countries.

Twitter faces "friendly alternative" in Meta's Threads



By Choi Mun-young

Since its release on Wednesday, July 5th, Threads, Instagram's new alternative to Twitter, has reached nearly 100 million posts and 30 million users in less than 24 hours and is expected to grow from there.

Mark Zuckerberg's Meta, the company that runs several social media apps such as Facebook and Instagram, released Threads as a text version of Instagram. The app shares many similarities to the social media app Twitter, which was bought by Elon Musk last year. Twitter has suffered from several changes. Most prominently, Twitter banned people without an account from viewing any post and limiting those without a paid subscription to viewing a small number of tweets daily. This could be the reason for the exponential growth seen by Threads, which Zuckerberg calls a "friendly alternative" to Twitter.

"Mark Zuckerberg's Meta, the company that runs several social media apps such as Facebook and Instagram, released Threads as a text version of Instagram."

Threads is directly linked to Instagram, an already popular social media app that focuses on sharing images, giving users an easier time navigating the new app. "It'll take some time, but I think there should be a public conversations app with 1 billion+ people on it. Twitter has had the opportunity to do this but hasn't nailed it. Hopefully, we will," Zuckerberg said on whether Threads could eventually be bigger than Twitter.

Meta describes Threads as a "new separate space for real-time updates and public conversations." While Twitter has over 250 million users, Instagram has 2 billion, making it faster for potential users to connect to the app, which allows people to keep their usernames and other features. Several of Twitter's most-followed users, including Bill Gates, have begun posting on Threads.

Elon Musk has criticized the new platform, calling it a "social media monopoly" and accusing Meta of using Twitter's algorithms, which could lead to a lawsuit. Twitter CEO Linda Yaccarino has said that while Twitter has often had competitors in the past, its user base could "never be duplicated." Despite this, the growing negativity from its user base and the already-large numbers that Threads is accumulating could mean that the new alternative will surpass Twitter.

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The UMFF's Summer Theater, Movie trip to the Himalayas



The UMFF is the first international mountain film festival in South Korea, dedicated to presenting and promoting films & culture dealing with the mountains, adventure and exploration, nature, and environment.

By Yu Cheol The Summer Theater event of the Ulsan Ulju Mountain Film Festival (UMFF), which was titled “A Movie Trip to the Himalayas with Mountaineer Um Hong-gil,” took place on July 1st at the Onyang Cultural Welfare Center. The highlight of the event was the screening of the movie *The Himalayas*, which captivated the audience and elicited both tears and laughter. The movie is based on the true story of Um Hong-gil, executive director of the UMFF and depicts the tale of the Human Expedition team that undertakes a challenging journey to recover the body of a fellow member they lost while climbing. The film showcases the magnificent Himalayan landscape as the backdrop, with actor Hwang Jung-min portraying the role of Um Hong-gil, captain of the Himalayas expedition, along with Jung Woo, Jo Sung-ha, and Ra Mi-ran delivering passionate performances as the team members. *The Himalayas* is a moving film that captures the spirit of resilience

and determination in the face of extreme adversity.

After the screening, there was a talk program featuring Um Hong-gil, actor Son Byeong-ho, and broadcaster Sujun Shakyia. They shared their insights and experiences, accompanied by a performance from Art Studio Noi, a crossover team from Ulsan.

Um Hong-gil spoke calmly about his memories with the late Park Moo-taek, the untold stories behind the Human Expedition that inspired the movie *The Himalayas*. The Human Expedition is the name of the Everest expedition team organized by Um Hong-gil to recover the body of Park Moo-taek, a member who died during their ascent. He also talked about the establishment of the Um Hong-gil Human Foundation. He vividly conveyed the significant role of the foundation and its mission to support the dreams of Nepalese children.

SuJan Shakyia, the broadcaster, shared exciting stories about Nepal, including the meaning of “Namaste,” a greeting that holds deeper cultural significance than many people realize. Art Studio Noi delivered a beautiful harmony by performing the movie’s theme song, “A Day Without You,” and the joyful song “I’ll Remind You Dimly Through the Window,” which was sung by the characters in the movie. Actor Son Byung-ho emphasized the importance of communication and the serendipity of meeting good people in favorable circumstances.

Following the talk program and performances, many audience members had the opportunity to meet the three guests in the lobby, engaging in conversations and taking pictures, creating a memorable experience for all.

The UMFF is the first international mountain film festival in South Korea, dedicated to presenting and promoting films & culture dealing with the mountains, adventure and exploration, nature, and environment. The 8th UMFF will be held in Ulju, Ulsan metropolitan city, from October 20th to 29th, 2023.

KBO 2023, full of upsets and surprises

By Deana Seo



One of the standout teams this season has been the Doosan Bears. The Bears are currently in third place, but they are closing in on the lead with an impressive eight-game winning streak.

The Korean Baseball Organization (KBO) has been one of the most exciting leagues in recent history, with a multitude of upsets and surprises. This season has been anything but predictable, with teams constantly defying expectations and delivering thrilling performances.

One of the standout teams this season has been the Doosan Bears. The Bears are currently in third place, but they are closing in on the lead with an impressive eight-game winning streak. The Bears have been a dominant force this season, boasting deep rosters and a wealth of talent.

Another team that has been making waves this season is the Hanhwa Eagles. The Eagles have had a challenging few years, ranking at the bottom of the league seven times in the past thirteen years. However, the team has shown flashes of potential this season. The Eagles have gradually built up their winning streak under coach Choi’s system, and on June 22nd, the team managed to escape from the bottom of the league standings. Now, their win rate of 0.452 puts them only three games away from fifth-place, NC Dinos. The team’s performance has been steadily improving and with the help of dedicated fans and a new coach, the team seems to be on the upswing.

The 2023 KBO season has been a thrilling one, with many teams fighting for the top spot in the league. The Doosan Bears and Hanhwa Eagles are just two of the teams that have made this season so exciting. As the 2023 season continues, fans of KBO baseball are sure to be in for a treat. With so many talented teams and players competing for the top spot in the league, there will undoubtedly be plenty of excitement and drama in the weeks and months to come. Whether you are a die-hard fan or a casual observer, the KBO is a league worth paying attention to. So put on your favorite team’s jersey, and get ready for some fantastic baseball!

Are you familiar with the B-level language?

By Lee Ye-eun
(Daesung Girls’ Middle School)



“Do you know the term ‘B-level language?’” 81% of Daesung Girls’ Middle School students answered, “No.” So, let me ask you the question again. Do you know the term

B-level language?

B-level language refers to newly coined language commonly used. One example of the B-level language is “latte.” The word “latte” no longer solely refers to the coffee drink found in cafes. The word is often used when satirizing or criticizing the older generation’s frequent use of phrases like “I mean latte,” which can be interpreted as “I mean, when I was at that age” or “at that time.” “Latte” now has a new meaning, serving as a nickname for the old generation, which the younger generation mockingly attaches to the so-called “Kkondae,” another derisive expression for the old generation or people with old-fashioned thoughts. On

the contrary, any expression that opposes the style of “latte” expressions, which resonate with the younger generation, is considered “B-level language.”

Seventy five percent of Daesung Girls’ Middle School students use B-level language, with 161 of them using it frequently. Thus, new words, namely B-level languages, are abundant in our surroundings and are encroaching upon the language usage of young people these days.

Then, why has B-level language become so deeply ingrained in our lives? In response to the question “Why do you use B-level language?” many students gave answers such as “To express my feelings” and “It has become a habit.” As evident from these responses, B-level language has become part of daily life and culture, especially among the young generation. In addition, most people acknowledge their use of B-level language and use it consciously. It is quite ironic that even though B-level language has become a habit in their daily lives, the majority of people may feel ashamed or



Photo credit: The Korea Economic Daily

guilty when they find themselves using B-level language indiscriminately. This observation once again emphasizes that B-level language is an integral part of daily life and culture.

Interestingly, 58% of Daesung Girls’ Middle School students who use B-level language are unaware of its etymology. The problem lies here. While profanity is certainly not desirable, both the term “slang” itself and the concept of “B-level” also carry certain values. Therefore, we should at least strive to understand the etymology of the language we use and choose appropriate words for each situation.

The Monday Times
(주)먼데이타임즈 영자신문사

FOUNDED OCTOBER 5, 2015

Publisher **Shin In-ho**
Editorial Director **Yu Cheol**

웹사이트 mondaytimes.net
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세종특별자치시 집현동 지산산업센터 A 1003
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