



Parliamentary Committee passes “Teacher Rights Restoration Bills”

By Shin In-ho



Teachers join the rally at the Gwanghwamun Square on Saturday calling for the revision of South Korea’s child abuse law. A citizen posted a note on the school gate at Seoi Elementary School, where a young female teacher was found dead.

On September 15th, the parliamentary education committee passed four revisions collectively, known as the “Teacher Rights Restoration Bills.” These revised bills will later be deliberated at the legislation and judiciary committee, then be put to a vote during a plenary session of the National Assembly on September 21st.

Both the ruling and opposition parties held a plenary meeting on the morning of September 15th. During the session, they approved four bills, which included the Special Act to Improve the Status of Teachers and

Protect Educational Activities (Teacher Status Act), the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Early Childhood Education Act, and the Amendment to the Basic Education Act. These bills were forwarded to the legislation and judiciary committee for further review.

Now, the superintendent of education can conduct deduction projects to protect teachers from various legal disputes. The operation of these projects can be entrusted to organizations like the School Safety Deduction Association. Each district office of education will be responsible for addressing violations

The amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act excludes teachers’ legitimate guidance of students from child abuse. It also prohibits parents and other student guardians from violating the human rights of school staff or students, and the principal is responsible for school complaints.

of education rights and will establish a regional education rights protection committee. Additionally, if an investigation or inquiry into child abuse is conducted in response to a report of child abuse, the superintendent of education must submit an opinion.

The amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education

Act excludes teachers’ legitimate guidance of students from being categorized as child abuse. It also prohibits parents and other student guardians from violating the human rights of school staff or students. Principals are responsible for addressing school-related complaints. The revised Elementary and Secondary Education Act emphasizes the teachers’ right to nurture young children, and clarifies that proper guidance should not be considered as child abuse. The amendment to the Basic Education Act states that student guardians must cooperate with and

respect the school’s legitimate educational activities. However, the method of recording infringement of educational rights in student life records was excluded from the consensus between the ruling and opposition parties.

Meanwhile, on July 19th, two days before the 49th anniversary of the tragic incident involving a teacher at Seoi Elementary School, approximately 200,000 former and current teachers gathered in front of the National Assembly. They called for a thorough investigation into the case and the implementation of measures to restore educational rights.

At the event, teachers urged the Ministry of Education and provincial/ city offices of education to take a leading role in creating a safe school environment for teachers. To this end, teachers called for the revision of Article 17, Paragraph 5 (Emotional Abuse Act: Conduct that harms a child’s mental health and development) of the Child Welfare Act. They explained, “This provision is applied indiscriminately, undermining teachers’ legitimate educational activities, and students do not learn responsibility, consideration, and restraint.”

Trump remains the frontrunner of Republican nomination for 2024 Presidential Election



Recent national opinion polls consistently suggest that nearly two-thirds of Republicans support Trump’s comeback bid for the White House, and the Trump-Biden rematch seems inevitable.

By Sophia Choi

Former US President Donald Trump has doubled his lead against GOP (Grand Old Party) rivals for the Republican presidential nomination. Recent national opinion polls consistently suggest that nearly two-thirds of Republicans support Trump’s comeback bid for the White House, and the Trump-Biden rematch seems inevitable. Both frontrunners already have a solid base of loyal supporters, so the race will likely be decided by very few swing states, as 80% of the

states have consecutively voted the same way in the last four presidential elections. Labor Day is the traditional kick-off of the campaign season, and both nominee’s campaigns in swing states are unprecedented. Trump skipped the 1st GOP debate in Wisconsin, saying, “The public already knows who I am.” He cited a CBS Poll on his social media platform, Truth Social, indicating that he is leading the field by “legendary” numbers, 62%, 46 points ahead of his nearest rival, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. In Pennsylvania, Biden celebrated unions and job creation, and he took aim at Trump, calling him “the last guy” and criticizing him as the great real estate builder who didn’t build a thing.

Despite his court appearances, Trump seized the spotlight and dominated the Republican race. He is

“Trump seized the spotlight and dominated the Republican race, although he is defending himself against four criminal and three civil trials, including the January 6th 2021 attack on the US Capitol by Pro-Trump rioters. If indicted federally, Trump could potentially become a convicted felon before election day, but party leaders still vowed to support him.”

defending himself against four criminal and three civil trials, including the January 6th 2021 attack on the US Capitol by Pro-Trump rioters. If indicted federally, Trump could potentially become a convicted felon before election day, but party leaders still vowed to support him. He told supporters not to see him as a candidate but as “your retribution” to influence voter behavior on political reprisals.

Joe Biden, the 80-year-old incumbent president, formally announced the 2024 reelection bid under the slogan “Let’s finish the Job” in April. He focuses on economic growth, creating over 13 million jobs under “Bidenomics.” Abortion rights will be at the heart of the 2024 campaign as it helped Democrats by stopping the “red wave” at last year’s midterm elections. Although Biden faces skepticism among voters over his age, 76% of them indicated they would vote for him in the Democratic primary. A third-party candidate can be a concerning variable for the 2024 election, and former Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, whose wife is a first-generation Korean American, is said to be the candidate from the bipartisan political organization, No Labels.

Special Interview

Lee Chan-jae and Ahn Kyung-jae: Inspiring generations through art, family, and wisdom

By Yu Cheol and Choi Eun-young



Source: TIKTOK @grandpachan

Our society is currently suffering from serious ailments caused by various social problems rooted in families, such as conflicts between family members, the absence of home education, deteriorating family relationships, and the lack of character education for adolescents. The Monday Times met with Lee Chan-jae and Ahn Kyung-jae, a couple who bring subtle inspiration to our society not only through child-rearing and family relationships but also through an ideal approach to aging.

Lee Chan-jae and Ahn Kyung-jae, both 81 years old this year, have garnered international recognition by sharing the beauty of family life through their Instagram posts and artwork. They have received the prestigious Webby award and have gathered a global following of 400,000 on Instagram. Additionally, they have compiled their artwork and writings into a book titled *Looking Back Life Was Beautiful*, which is available in Korean and several other languages, including English. – Ed

Q: Please provide a brief introduction of yourselves.

A: Both of us were born in 1942 and share the same zodiac sign, born in the Year of the Horse. I majored in Korean Education at Seoul National University's College of Education, while my husband majored in Earth Science. Afterward, he worked as a high school teacher until we immigrated to Brazil in 1981. We returned in 2017, and now we are an elderly couple in our 80s.

Q: Please tell us about your life in Brazil.

A: When we first moved to Brazil, we didn't know the language, the geography, or who was who. So, initially, we did what we could, which was taking orders and delivering products for a clothing manufacturer. In Portuguese, this job is called "vende." We did this for about two years. After that, we gained some confidence and stability in our lives, so we opened a store.

Q: Can you share some insights into Brazilian people, culture, and daily life?

A: Brazilian people have genuinely warm and kind-hearted personalities. They are always willing to help others. Even though we were immigrants who couldn't speak the language well, they would help us when we faced difficulties.

We lived in São Paulo, which is considered the largest city in Brazil. One thing we noticed during our 36 years there was that Brazil is indeed a vast country, and this size translates into a relaxed attitude towards life. For example, during the Brazil World Cup, we watched TV or read the newspapers, we'd see that the construction of World Cup stadiums wasn't going smoothly, and there were protests. We were worried, but when we asked Brazilians, they always reassured us that everything would turn out fine. Brazilians are known for their sense of humor, called "piada" in Brazilian Portuguese, and their daily life is infused with this humor.

Q: Please also tell us about Brazilian music, including samba.

A: Brazilian pop music is famous worldwide. One genre is particularly well-known, which is "bossa nova." There's a song called "Garota de Ipanema," which means "The Girl from Ipanema." Ipanema is the name of the coastline in Rio de Janeiro. I'd like to recommend Korean people, especially students, to explore this Brazilian music, "bossa nova" and its lyrics. Brazilian music and samba rhythm flow as DNA in their blood. On weekends, you can smell charcoal and barbecue everywhere in the neighborhoods and on the streets. They set up charcoal fires in front of their homes, enjoying skewered barbecue and beer, while playing any percussion instrument they can find and dancing the samba.

Q: Now, I'd like to hear about Brazilian cuisine.

A: São Paulo is home to various ethnicities, making it a food paradise. I'd like to introduce "feijoada." It is considered a national dish, made by boiling every part of the pig, including a snout, a tongue, ears, trotters, and intestines. Historically, slaves used to gather pig parts

that were not commonly consumed by white individuals, add black beans, and cook them into a porridge. When I ate it, I felt like I had to bring this to heaven if I ever got the chance to bring any dish there. Also, there are small restaurants called "churrascaria," which can be translated as "a barbecue house." They grill skewered beef, lamb, or various parts of pork over charcoal. There's no other seasoning besides coarse salt, but it's incredibly delicious. Nowadays, they even serve kimchi at the churrascarias.

Q: You are known for raising your children exceptionally well. Please share your thoughts on parenting.

A: Immigrant parents are often so busy with their livelihoods and struggle with language barriers that they can't fully fulfill their parenting roles. Fortunately, our children grew up well. We did what we could. We obtained an apartment right in front of the school, so from our window, we could see our children enter the school gate. It was a prestigious private school with high entrance exam scores. The students there all aimed to enter the University of São Paulo, a public university with no tuition fees.

Our son had no sense of economy and he had no interest in economics. He was always drawing whenever he had a chance. So, I sent him to Parsons School of Design in New York. He prepared for it all on his own. Our daughter, on the other hand, couldn't study abroad because of financial constraints. Instead, she got accepted to the humanities department, particularly majoring in Portuguese, at the University of São Paulo.

Q: I'd like you to share your thoughts about education in South Korea.

A: I have taught the IB program at the international school in São Paulo for quite a long time. From what I've seen, Korean textbooks are very challenging. The textbook content itself is difficult, with long passages and extremely hard questions. I'm concerned about how teachers teach such difficult material. I'm curious about why the textbooks have become so demanding. I also wonder whether mastering this material is really necessary for these students to get admission to college and succeed in school life.

Also, I'd like to mention the Kim Young-ran Act. I understand its background. However, in my case, I am profoundly grateful to the teachers who taught and cared for young children like ours, who were not fluent in Korean and didn't even know how to speak or write it. I wanted to offer some small token of appreciation, like a small bag of Brazilian coffee, but they wouldn't accept it. I'm sure that respect and love stem from the affectionate relationships between teachers and parents, as well as between teachers and students. The thought of cutting off these bonds of affection and respect between them worries me a lot.

Q: Now, please tell us about your experiences with Instagram and TikTok.

A: We received the "Webisang" award, and we heard that receiving this recognition is primarily due to our family's collaboration. They saw value in coming together as an older parent, a son, and a daughter, who married, to create something meaningful. It all started with the idea of getting our father, who was spending his time without any particular activities, involved in a hobby like drawing. Our son suggested it and guided him to share those drawings on Instagram. That's how it all began. I would write the background stories for the drawings. And then, our son and daughter would translate them into English or Portuguese, working together as a family. It became a great example of intergenerational communication. People say that, in this way, the warmth embedded in the drawings and stories has elicited empathy worldwide.

TikTok played a significant role in this journey. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, when all activities came to a halt, our daughter introduced TikTok, a platform representing contemporary youth culture and encouraged us to give it a try. TikTok has a much younger user base compared to Instagram, and it's a place where people are more candid and passionate. So, the reason why we receive so much love, we think, is because we are seniors. We are not exceptionally good at dancing, but when seniors do it, people seem to love it.

Q: Finally, please share some words of wisdom with our readers and viewers.

A: First, we would like to encourage the elderly to approach the younger generation and ask questions. Also, we hope that young people can show empathy towards the elderly. They should recognize that elderly individuals played a significant role in building the country when they were young. We hope for their closer relationships and an attitude of asking, "Is there anything I can help you with?". The elderly also have skills and knowledge they have accumulated over several decades. They are well-versed in classical Chinese and history, for instance, and there's much for young people to learn from them.



Source: INSTAGRAM @drawings_for_my_grandchildren

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Family English Camps to improve children's English speaking skills



Chungbuk International Education Center held a three-day "Family Vacation English Camp" from August 16th to August 18th with elementary school students and their families from Jecheon and Danyang.

By Amy Lim

In English, the term "mother tongue" refers to the first language learned at home in childhood. This is because a mother's language has a significant impact on her child throughout their lifetime. It would be ideal if a mother spoke English to her child, but in practice, this is not always easy. South Korea is the nation that spends the most on English-language education. Despite spending more than 20 trillion won on English and private education each year, South Korea ranks 132nd out of 171 countries in terms of TOEFL speaking proficiency. It's frustrating to see so little return on investment and wonder why.

South Koreans spend more than three times as much time learning English as non-English speaking countries in Europe, but that time is

overly focused on reading comprehension and grammar. As a result, students are performing well on English tests, but they are not acquiring communicative English. This is because the purpose of learning English is to get high grades and get into a good university. If the purpose of learning English is not to read and write, but to speak, why don't we get out of the classroom and visit an English environment?

In order for a child to speak English well, it is important for them to be in an environment where they are forced to use English. Thus, spending time in an English-speaking environment is beneficial. Recently, Chungbuk International Education Center held a three-day "Family Vacation English Camp" from August 16th to August 18th with elementary school students and their families from Jecheon and Danyang. The camp consisted of a daily experience program with native English teachers. The kids engaged in a variety of morning activities with local teachers, including reading English storybooks, taking pictures, playing ping-pong, and darts, and in the afternoon, they had activities such as experiencing nature in the Andes Mountains and cultural exchanges in the United States and South Africa with native speakers from Ireland, Australia, the United States, and South Africa.

You must be clear about the goal of English if you want your child to speak it fluently. The focus of English education will shift if you realize that learning English is not the goal — it's about enjoying yourself while learning it. English as a means of communication is not an insurmountable challenge if you can create a setting where your child is naturally exposed to it for conversation, and both you and your child can enjoy learning it together. Start thinking of English as a language you need to learn, not study, if you don't want to raise a child who doesn't speak a word of English. If you want to get good at riding a bike, you have to ride it yourself and sometimes fall off. If you memorize how to ride a bike from a book and take a test on how to ride it, you may never ride a bike.

The World Heritage Festival is held in Suncheon



By Choi Da-in

Following the Baekje Historic District World Heritage Festival held in Gongju, Buyeo, Chungcheongnam-do, and Iksan, Jeollabuk-do in July, Seonamsa Temple and Suncheon Tidal Flat World Heritage Festival opened on August 1st.

The World Heritage Festival is an event where visitors to UNESCO World Heritage sites in Korea can appreciate the value and significance of these heritages through various activities, including performances, experiences, and exhibitions. Last month, it started at Gongsanseong Fortress in Gongju, Royal Tomb of King Muryeong, Jeongnimsa Temple Site and Naseong Fortress in Buyeo as well as Mireuksa Temple Site in Iksan and Wanggung-ri.

Suncheon's mudflats were listed as one of "Korea's mudflats" on the World Heritage List in 2021. This marked the first time a world heritage festival had been held in Jeollanam-do. General Director Kwon Soon-heung mentioned during a press conference at the Korean House in Jung-gu, Seoul in June, "In addition to the existing tidal flat experience program, we aim to establish a World Heritage Transmission School for educational purposes and heritage preservation."

On August 4th, a declaration ceremony took place at Suncheon Bay Wetland Lawn Square under the theme of "First-class Suncheon, Embracing World Heritage." Coexistence concerts were held on the 5th, 6th, and 27th of the same month, and coexistence busking events were scheduled for every Friday and Saturday from August 4th to 27th at Seonamsa Temple and Suncheon tidal flats. On the 30th, the "Seonamsa Temple's Fuss" event, a ritual for the protection of the Buddha of Seonamsa Temple, was held.

Following the August event in Jeollanam-do, the World Heritage Festival will take place in Suwon Hwaseong for 22 days from September 23rd to October 14th. The Suwon Hwaseong event aims to attract over 300,000 visitors this year.

Sejong Office of Education's peace and reunification overseas program

By Mun So-jeong



Sejong City Office of Education conducted an overseas training for teachers in Germany in July. The program aimed to provide quality education for peace and unification. Eighteen teachers from the research society of unification education participated in the eight-day training in Germany from July 22nd to 29th. Since 2019, Sejong City Office of Education has conducted this

tensions between South Korea and North Korea. This training program will help teachers recognize the importance of efforts for peace and reunification in Korean Peninsula."

Word Search By Kim So-young

This puzzle was created using the 106th edition of The Monday Times.

D	D	C	C	O	N	T	R	O	V	E	R	S	Y
I	I	T	A	I	O	E	M	B	R	Y	O	E	U
S	S	R	T	E	T	A	T	U	M	N	O	N	E
A	C	A	T	R	O	T	C	E	F	E	D	O	S
R	R	N	R	D	I	S	T	O	R	T	I	O	N
M	I	S	I	A	F	L	O	U	R	I	S	H	R
A	M	P	B	U	T	T	E	R	A	N	C	E	S
M	I	A	U	A	C	C	U	M	U	L	A	T	E
E	N	R	T	R	O	S	S	E	C	O	R	P	I
N	A	E	E	N	I	A	R	T	S	I	D	U	Z
T	T	N	V	A	C	C	I	N	A	T	E	I	U
T	E	T	V	L	M	C	M	O	L	D	Y	T	R
A	A	T	C	U	M	U	L	A	T	I	V	E	E
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- Controversy Embryo Transparent Seizure Distortion
- Compulsory Mutate Proliferation Utterance Cumulative
- Flourish Moldy Accumulate Defector Aptitude
- Designate Strain Intriguing Attribute Excessive

exchange program with German teachers, as both nations share a history of division. Even in the midst of the pandemic, the office continued the program through online forums for the past two years.

For this year's training session, teachers of Sejong City traveled to Germany to further solidify their commitment to peace and develop a balanced perspective on reunification. After visiting historical sites related to Germany's reunification, the participants engaged in active discussions about the reforms in Germany's education after its reunification, resolutions of cultural conflicts, education for peace and reunification in schools, and the unresolved division of Korea. It is known that after the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9th, 1989, East Germany adopted West German systems in economic, social, and political sectors, including education. Participants had an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and the process of educational reunification from Germany's history.

Choi Gyo-jin, superintendent of Sejong City Office of Education, stated, "This year's overseas training was conducted amid rising

Word Search

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착한 업그레이드 된 기초영어 회화 첫걸음 (초중급용)

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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Chuseok celebrations of the Goryeoins preserving Korean traditions in Russia



Goryeoins, who endured countless hardships in the vast and barren grasslands of Central Asia during the Japanese colonial period, have preserved Korean culture and traditions better than we do.

By Moon Young-sook (Chairperson of the Independence Activist Choi Jae-hyeong Memorial Foundation)

Korean diaspora, the first-generation Goryeoins (Koreans) who left for Russia across the Amur River over 160 years ago, observe two important ancestral festivals: one in spring when they visit their ancestors' graves and perform ancestral rites (Hansik), and the other being Chuseok, when they present offerings of newly harvested crops to their ancestors. Both traditions share a deep reverence for their ancestors.

I have been involved with the Independence Activist Choi Jae-hyeong Memorial Foundation and have visited Ussuriysk several times. The Maritime Province of Siberia in the Russian Far East was the ancient homeland of our Korean people, formerly the land of Goguryeo and Balhae. Goryeoins hold a grand Chuseok festival every year. Sometimes, it coincides with the period of Korean historical exploration, which is conducted annually by the Choi Jae-hyeong Memorial Foundation. As a result, there have been several occasions when we joined them in celebrating Chuseok.

"In Ussuriysk, there is the Goryeoin Cultural Center built by the Republic of Korea for the local Goryeoin community. The first floor houses a historical museum showcasing Korean history, while the second floor features a spacious hall for gatherings and banquets. The Chuseok grand festival takes place on an outdoor stage outside the Center, offering a variety of programs.

Among them is a type of musical based on Chuseok, with middle-aged women and men performing scenes from farming practices such as sowing rice seeds, accompanied by songs and dances. With the arrival of autumn, they harvest crops to make rice cakes and prepare an ancestral rite table with various harvest items. After making offerings, they visit their ancestors' graves, perform ancestral rites, and sing choral songs, expressing their longing for their hometown. When they sing songs like "My Hometown in Dreams" and "Life in a Foreign Land," those who understand their painful history cannot help but be deeply moved."

In the second part of the event, various ethnic minorities living in the Ussuriysk region participate in the celebration of the traditional Korean festival, Chuseok, to enjoy its festivities. These minority groups bring their own traditional foods to present to the chairman of the Korean National Autonomy Council. In addition, their dance company in colorful traditional attire present their diverse and lively dances.

The Goryeoins living in Ussuriysk were

forcibly relocated to Central Asia by Stalin in 1937, enduring more than half a century of separation from their homeland with no freedom. After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, they returned to the Maritime Province of Siberia in the Russian Far East, including Vladivostok and Ussuriysk. Witnessing the Goryeoins, who endured countless hardships in the vast and barren grasslands of Central Asia during the Japanese colonial period, preserving Korean culture and traditions better than we do, I couldn't help but feel emotional. In their hardships in Central Asia, did our culture and traditions serve as a source of comfort for them? I was deeply moved by the strong spirit of ancestor worship among them, which seemed even stronger than ours.

One day, after the Chuseok festival had been concluded, I attended a VIP banquet in the afternoon. Approximately twenty representatives of various ethnic minorities joined the banquet, and as is the Russian tradition, they took turns delivering toasts. They all envied the Goryeoins when they stood up to give their toasts.

"There is no other country like the Republic of Korea that has built a cultural center for its diaspora living in foreign countries. We eagerly anticipate Chuseok, which has now become a festival for all of us, the ethnic minorities."

The representatives of the ethnic minorities took turns praising the Republic of Korea while giving their toasts. It was the grand finale of the Chuseok celebration, and it was heartwarming.



The writer Moon Young-sook began her literary journey as a full-time homemaker. Later in life, she pursued her passion for literature, earning a degree in Korean literature through a high school equivalency exam.

She embarked on her literary career, producing notable works such as *A Picture in a Tomb* based on the Goguryeo mural painting, "Sashindo" about four guardian gods. The novel was selected in the Munhakdongne Literary Awards. Her writings often revolve around the Korean people's hardships, including victims of forced labor during Japanese colonial rule (*The Black Sea*), sexual slavery victims for the Japanese imperial army (*Yet, I Still Bloomed*), the Korean diaspora (*Eneken's Children*, *Kareisky's Endless Wanderings*, *The Miner Who Went to Germany*), and North Korean homeless children and human rights issues (*Kkotjebi Yeongdae*). She has authored over 50 books, spanning various genres from children's stories, novels, essays, to picture books. Her work *Kkotjebi Yeongdae* has been translated as *Across the Tumen*, and her novel about sexual slavery victims for the Japanese imperial army, *Yet, I Still Bloomed as Trampled Blossoms*. Notably, her writing on the forgotten independence activist *Choi Jae-hyeong* led her to become the current Chairperson of the Independence Activist Choi Jae-hyeong Memorial Foundation. – Ed

Incheon International HS successfully concludes "Global Connect"

By Yun Chae-won
(Incheon International High School)



Incheon International High School (IIHS), which is dedicated to exploring the world and the future, concluded the "2023 Global Connect" program on August 24th and 25th.

"Global Connect," the specialized activity of IIHS, is a program led by 1st graders and designed to enhance their global citizenship and global leadership by communicating with the diverse world experts. It is a student-led program which shows the vision of IIHS: to educate "students who interact with the world through diversity and flexibility." From May, the 1st graders of IIHS formed teams based on their interests and worked on in-depth research about the topic of their own activities. Students listened to lectures from experts, including professors of universities worldwide, whom

they had contacted beforehand. They also delivered presentations on their final outputs, demonstrating their research process.

Especially, the Global Connect program this year allowed students to form a team of students with diverse interests and future career aspirations, letting them engage in in-depth activities such as looking at the global issues in different point of views.

On August 24th, students listened to lectures from the global experts they had contacted and participated in a Q&A session in English. In addition, they had opportunities to listen to lectures of different topics held by other teams, which allowed them to fulfill their intellectual curiosity.

On August 25th, Global Agora conference for sharing their presentations about the final outputs based on researches and lectures, was held. The presentations were for the 1st graders and parents in the morning and the 2nd graders in the afternoon.

The presentations in the Global Agora addressed the current state of global issues along with proposed solutions to the problems. They gave students the precious opportunities for sharing their research and gaining a new perspective on society as well.

The 1st graders of IIHS will continue to learn and experience foreign cultures through the subsequent program, "Global Impact." Ms. Han Yoo-jung, the head teacher of the International Education Department at IIHS, mentioned, "I am pleased to see that students gained confidence and grew a lot while identifying social problems around us and attempting to solve them by themselves." She added, "The program showed that the sight of students collaborating and learning together was an opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of education."

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A Joseon Tongsinsa ship visits Japan in 212 years



“The Busan Cultural Foundation held a departure ceremony and a boarding experience program at Yongho Starlight Park in Nam-gu, Busan on July 29th, ahead of its goodwill visit to Tsushima, Japan on August 1st.”

Tsushima Island in Japan, participation in the Izuhara Port Festival, and promotion and utilization of the Joseon Tongsinsa ship.

The Joseon Tongsinsa ship, which departed at 6 a.m. on August 1st, entered Hitakatsu Port in Tsushima, Japan, in

the afternoon of the same day and arrived at Izuhara Port the next day, taking about eight and a half hours. On August 4th, an entrance ceremony took place, where the city of Tsushima welcomed the Joseon Tongsinsa ship. On the 5th and 6th, a shipboard museum program linked to the Izuhara Port Festival was held to offer local citizens a cultural experience program including introduction about the Joseon Tongsinsa ship and traditional performances on board.

The Izuhara Port Festival was started in 1980 by the Joseon Tongsinsa Parade Promotion Association established on Tsushima Island. The festival has featured the procession of Joseon Tongsinsa. This year, the procession of Joseon Tongsinsa took place again after a 4-year suspension

due to COVID-19. The Cultural Foundation dispatched art groups and operated a shipboard museum during the festival, utilizing the Joseon Tongsinsa ship. A Cultural Foundation official stated that by linking and promoting various projects through the Joseon Tongsinsa, they aim to widely promote and publicize the peaceful value of Joseon Tongsinsa.

The Joseon Tongsinsa ship, which had operated 12 times over 200 years from 1607 to 1811, was restored by the National Institute of Maritime Cultural Heritage under the Cultural Heritage Administration in 2018. It is a 149-ton ship with a length of 34.5m, a width of 9.3m and a height of 5m. The Joseon Tongsinsa was sent 12 times to Japan over 200 years from 1607 to 1811 after the end of the Japanese invasion. Each time, three representatives from the Joseon Dynasty - Jeongsa, Busa, and Jongsa - led 400 to 500 delegates. Traveling from the capital Hanyang, they journeyed through Busan and Tsushima Island to Edo (Tokyo), the capital of Japan at the time. The delegation exchanged poetry and songs with Japanese literati during their approximately six-month journey, contributing to the spread of Joseon artifacts to Japan.

Lee Kyung-hoon, deputy director of the Cultural Heritage Administration, stated,

“Joseon Tongsinsa greatly contributed to maintaining peace between Korea and Japan for more than 200 years. The dream of peace and common prosperity that we have aimed to achieve together remains an important value, and we hope that this ship’s journey provides an opportunity to reflect on its value and vision for the future.” Oscar Tsuyoshi, Japanese Consul General in Busan, remarked, “Looking back at the history of Japan, there were many good times between Korea and Japan. Tongsinsa symbolizes that. I hope that while aboard, you will feel the good times that Korea and Japan shared.”

The Busan Cultural Foundation has been preparing for this event for a long time. It was initially scheduled to participate in the 2019 Tsushima Izuhara Port Festival, but it was canceled due to worsening relations between Korea and Japan at the time. In collaboration with the National Oceanic and Cultural Properties Research Institute, they concluded a business agreement for the utilization of Joseon Tongsinsa in 2020 and 2021. On July 17th, they signed a four-party business agreement to prepare for this event. Lee Mi-yeon, CEO of Busan Cultural Foundation, said, “This event signifies the importance of Joseon Tongsinsa as a diplomatic mission and aims to promote peace through culture. Despite the numerous challenges, I hope that the message of the 13th voyage of the Joseon Tongsinsa ship will be effectively communicated to both Korea and Japan.”

By Chae Su-min

A ship for Joseon Tongsinsa, the diplomatic mission from the Joseon Dynasty to Japan sailed across the Korean Strait again in 212 years. The Busan Cultural Foundation held a departure ceremony and a boarding experience program at Yongho Starlight Park in Nam-gu, Busan on July 29th, ahead of its goodwill visit to Tsushima, Japan on August 1st. Recently, the Busan Cultural Foundation concluded an institutional agreement to participate in the Tsushima Island Port and the Izuhara Port Festival at the meeting room in the Tsushima City Hall in Japan. The agreement includes mutual exchange using the Joseon Tongsinsa ship, permission and cooperation of the Joseon Tongsinsa ship to enter and leave

Korean relief team aids Canada in forest fire battle

By Seo Yu-na

The Korea Disaster Relief Team (KDRT) was dispatched to Canada to assist in extinguishing forest fires. Local media outlets have covered their efforts in detail. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) featured the Korean firefighters who are currently fighting against forest fires in northern Quebec. On July 29th, CBC published an article entitled “It’s all the same forest, say Korean firefighters battling blazes in Northern Quebec,” which shed light on the actions of Korean firefighters on the ground.

Due to ongoing forest fires in Canada since May, South Korea dispatched the KDRT to Canada last month. The relief team, consisting of 151 members from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Korea Forest Service, the National Fire Agency, and medical personnel, arrived in Canada on August 2nd. Two days later, on August 4th, they began firefighting activities in Lebel-sur-Quevillon, Quebec, the area most severely affected by the fires. According to CBC, the team members camped together in tents and woke up at 5 am each day to do light exercises before preparing their equipment and heading to the fire site.

After working all day battling the intense heat and smoke, they found themselves covered in insect bites. The massive scale of the forest fires, was made even more difficult to fight as there were simultaneous outbreaks and the fire was spreading

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through tree roots. This slowed down the firefighting process to a progress rate of just around 600 meters per day. Despite these challenges, the dedicated team has confronted the fires daily, sustaining themselves with instant noodles and rice.

Canada, where the Korean relief team is currently providing assistance, also participated in the Korean War as a member of the United Nations Command (UNC). In connection with this, Kwon Ki-hwan, the head of the relief team and a diplomat with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated in an interview with CBC, “We remember that Canada deployed 26,000 troops to Korea at that time to defend freedom and democracy” and

added, “Koreans have not forgotten Canada’s sacrifice.

Forest fires in Canada this year have been severe, impacting air quality across 11 central U.S. States, including New York. According to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, as of July 26th, there were more than 1,000 forest fires throughout Canada, with 660 of them considered to be “out of control.” Over 12.3 million hectares have been lost due to these fires which are seen as being caused by the effects of climate change. Unusually dry and hot conditions in Quebec have contributed to the higher number of fires in the region, compared to previous years.”

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Heavy rain causes chaos for 70,000 Burning Man attendees



The "Burning Man" event, held every year in the Black Rock Desert in Nevada from late August to early September.

By Park Ji-hwan

The "Burning Man" event, held every year in the Black Rock Desert in Nevada from late August to early September, was ruined by abnormal rainfall. Tens of thousands of people are in trouble as the desert has been muddy due to sudden heavy rains.

According to CNN and other broadcasts, there were several knee-deep mud pits at the Burning Man event site, and a "quicksand" was formed, which is difficult to come out of once one falls in. About 70,000 people participated in this year's Burning Man Festival. CNN said, "Among them, one death accident has been reported, but we are investigating whether it is directly related to heavy rain."

Burning Man is a representative hippie festival in the western United States, and has developed into an event attended by tens of thousands of people every year, starting with the burning of a 2.4m doll in 1986 to commemorate the summer solstice. During the one-week event, a temporary "village" is formed in the Black Rock Desert, and participants wearing stylish clothes sometimes install unusual works of art everywhere. In this place, bartering is encouraged instead of cash transactions, and in principle, it will return to the "primary state" where the Internet is not accessible.

The highlight of the event is the burning of a giant wooden doll on the last day of the festival. CNN said, "More rain is expected on Sunday, the 3rd," adding, "The organizer believes that the wooden doll may not be able to burn this year depending on the weather conditions."

Both entry and exit routes from Black Rock City Road were blocked. Authorities are blocking entry to the venue except for emergency vehicles. Concerned about the supply problem, festival organizers are sending instructions to participants to save food, water and fuel. Participant Hannah Verhorn told CNN, "There's nothing I can do about it. As mud sticks and the shoes become heavy, people are walking barefoot." He added, "People who tried to escape by bicycle are also stuck."

Already, some participants are leaving the venue to escape the desert. The plan is to walk to a road about 3 kilometers away from the venue and get a car passing by for hitchhiking there and go home. A group of people who escaped from the venue said it took two hours to travel three kilometers. One participant said, "Walking in the mud was really hell," adding, "Every step I took was like walking with a cement block tied to my foot."

James Webb Space Telescope observes the death of a star

By Song Eun-soo



Scientists released the first image of a dying star taken by the James Webb Space Telescope. Credit: NASA

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has vividly captured the death of a star. According to *The Guardian*, astronomers captured the ring nebula, located in the constellation Lyra about 2,600 light-years away from Earth, using the JWST, and disclosed the discovery on August 3rd.

The ring nebula is a gleaming, doughnut-shaped gas structure, one of the well-known astronomical formations within the astronomical community. Its shape resembles a finger ring, which is why it is called the ring nebula. The nebula forms when a dying star explodes and expels substances into the universe. It takes a bubble-like or intricately thin and delicate cloud shape. In the high-resolution image taken this time, not only the nebula's expanding shell but also the inner part of the white dwarf at the center is captured.

A white dwarf is the final stage of a star's lifetime. Stars with masses 0.4 to 8 times less than the sun, generally burn helium throughout their lifetimes, becoming red giant stars. Afterward, they mostly turn into a white dwarf composed only of carbon and oxygen. The white dwarf gradually cools off releasing internal thermal energy and failing to trigger nuclear fusion reaction. When they exhaust all their energy, they become a mass that cannot spontaneously emit light and end their lives.

Michael Barrow, a professor of astronomy from University College London, explained, "Stars like the sun die by shedding their outer layers as a white dwarf." "Stars then form a beautiful planetary nebula which illuminates due to the radiation emerging from the extremely hot center of the star," he added. In this sense, the splendid band observed from the internal part of the nebula is generated by chemical substances that emit light at different wavelength.

Professor Barrow, who led the research, stated, "We are witnessing the final chapter of a star's lifetime. This might be viewing the sun's distant future 'in advance'." Furthermore, he revealed, "Observed images by JWST enabled us to break new ground to comprehend incidents of the universe that evoke awe."

Through the analysis of these images, the astronomical community anticipates gaining deeper knowledge about the complex process of the formation of the nebula, the star's life cycle, and the substances that the star emits into the universe.

"Foreigners' Festival" returned for the first time in 4 Years

By Jeon Ju-yeon

The 10th Cheonan Foreigners' Festival took place at the 3.1 Cultural Plaza of Independence Hall of Korea in Cheonan from 1 pm on August 13th, 2023. It was organized and hosted by the Cheonan Support Center for Foreign Workers and was supported by Cheonan City and Hana Bank. It has been four years since it last took place in 2011.

This festival showcased interesting events, including caricature drawing and face painting. In the information zone, foreign workers were able to access useful resources and enjoy a K-Trot singing contest. The recognition ceremony of exemplary foreign workers was also held there.

The event began with Part 1 featuring fashion show performances from various countries such as China, Nepal, and Vietnam. In Part 2, the stage presented the performances by the multicultural immigrant women's percussion instrument team, which had been trained by the Multicultural Family Center as well as Taekwondo demonstration performances by the Dankook University Taekwondo Team.

Meanwhile, the Foreigners' Festival this year was held during the K-Culture Expo period. While the Expo received criticism due to inadequate support measures and infrastructure for the attendees, the Festival was praised for its smooth organization and management.

On the day of the Festival, the Multicultural Family Center addressed poor accessibility by providing lunch tickets to people on a first-come first-served basis. This attracted a large number of participants to the event, effectively solving the issue of poor accessibility to the venue. In addition, a sign language interpreter



was assigned on the stage, attracting a diverse crowd and enabling disabled individuals to enjoy the event fully.

The Cheonan Foreigners' Festival aims to cultivate an attitude of respect for different and diverse cultures, establishing a social atmosphere where people can embrace cultural diversity.

According to the "Age and Gender of Multicultural Household Members" from the Population Census conducted by Korean Statistical Information Service (KOSIS), South Korea's multicultural population has increased from approximately 890,000 in 2015 to around 1.15 million people in 2022. As evident from this, cultural diversity in society is expected to continue growing in the coming years. Therefore, it is important to have and cultivate an attitude of understanding and consideration for diverse people, aligning with these changes.

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Wonderful experience of sharing my story with young audiences

By Carla Avila



Carla Avila is from Mexico. She is an actress who has appeared in movies such as "Space Sweepers" and "Squid Game," as well as the TV show "South Korean Foreigner." She loves K-pop, which inspired her to learn Korean at Korea University. Her dream is to become a Korean actress and serve as a cultural bridge between Korea and Mexico, as well as between Asia and Latin America. - Ed

On the first Friday of this month I had the opportunity to be part of the "Young People from Overseas Speak Korea" event organized by The Monday Times. When I heard about the project, I was really excited to participate. I like to share my story with students so they follow their dreams and passions, just as I do. It wasn't my first time. Just it was my first time in Korea, which made me so nervous! But still, I just couldn't reject the opportunity. Preparing myself and choosing what to talk about was as hard as ever! I love my country, and I like to share all the good things about it with others. We are not just a country of tequila, tacos, and narcos. We are passionate and friendly. We

have a vast culinary experience, so many places to visit, and music that is famous all over the world.

How many times in American movies haven't you seen men wearing sombreros? People don't know the history of mariachi and how big and diverse my beloved Mexico is. I decided to keep it simple with basic information such as Mexico's size and location. Additionally, for my main content, I chose to talk about Mexican music. Just like K-Pop is well known all over the world; I want people to someday enjoy mariachi music.

I was embarrassed I was late to the event because of my transportation problem. Even now, I feel really sorry for the student and the audience who were waiting for me. Thankfully, they welcomed me with warm hearts, which gave me the confidence to stand on the stage and present what I had prepared for them. Sadly, I had to explain everything quickly, as if I was singing raps, due to the time limit! However, all the audiences were so smart. They followed along without any problem, even when I mixed some English with my Korean. I had a blast sharing a little bit about my Mexico with them and talking about my life experiences.

I hope I was able to motivate the students to visit my country and pursue their dreams. Hopefully, they will even sing a mariachi song to their loved ones in the future.

Rimsky-Korsakov's Sadko Enchants Bashkir Opera and Ballet Theater



before everyone's eyes and becoming wealthy, Sadko equips ships for trade and exploration.

Sadko spends twelve years traveling the world, a connection likening him to the hero of the Greek epic Odysseus. Following successful trading in foreign lands, Sadko visits the Sea King and the Sea Princess Volkhova at the sea's depths. There, he entertains the Sea Kingdom with his songs and

gusli playing, a Russian folk instrument. Only the intervention of the Mighty Bogatyr releases him from sea captivity, and the Mighty Bogatyr returns Sadko to his native city Novgorod. The Sea Tsar's daughter, Volkhova, transforms into a river.

The Mighty Bogatyr represents a god. Previously, it was forbidden to depict or even mention the name of a god on stage. The Mighty Bogatyr can be likened to the concept of "God from the Machine." In the ancient Greek theater, this term referred to the resolution of difficult situations faced by the play's heroes' challenges. This technique was especially favored by the ancient Greek author Euripides, who employed it eight times. A similar technique is found in Moliere's works, with the role of "God from the Machine" belonging to the king himself in the play Tartuffe.

The songs performed by Sadko's guests, the Varangian, Indian, and Vedenets (Venetian) guests, gained the most recognition in terms of music. These songs are often performed separately from the opera in concerts or competitions.

The production of the opera involves many singers and even dancers due to the ballet scenes present. It can be said that

Sadko is both an opera and a ballet at the same time.

Felix Korobov conducted the performance. At the XVII Tchaikovsky Competition, which took place in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Felix Korobov conducted the third round for cellists.

Costumes and scenery were designed by the artist Ivan Skladchikov. The role of Sadko was portrayed by Moscow tenor singer Ilya Morozov and Ufa singer Vladimir Orfeev. Naturally, they performed on different days! The opera was repeated and ran for three days! The role of Sadko is very demanding, requiring great endurance from the singer.

Striking are the bright costumes in the old style worn by Sadko, Lyubava and the inhabitants of Novgorod, as well as the magical attire of the inhabitants of the Sea bottom. The artist also created the scenes depicting the fabulous ancient city of Novgorod and the mysterious Sea Kingdom. The audience was particularly thrilled when an actual old ship with sails floated across the stage!



Diana Valieva is a Russian mezzo and a programmer. She has participated in several contests. She is also an English teacher and active traveler. She is

interested in Korean history and culture. She came to work in VANK (Voluntary Agency Network of Korea) to learn more about Korea and help people in Russia to know some interesting information about it. - Ed

Young People Overseas Speak Korea, an opportunity to learn about foreign culture



By Jeon Ju-yeon and Park Sun-min (Dodam Middle School, Sejong City)

On September 1st, we visited Namsejong Youth Center in Sejong City to attend a special lecture titled, "Young People from Overseas Speak Korea." This event was sponsored by Sejong City and organized by The Monday Times. The lectures were supposed to be given four times and this was the second one. The first event was held on August 25th with Moses from Rwanda, Africa. The remaining two events will feature two different international speakers on October 21st and 28th respectively.

We had the opportunity to attend Carla Avila's lecture. Carla Avila, who is from Mexico, is an actress and fashion model. She has appeared in many dramas and films in Korea, including the drama *Record of Youth* and the movie *Space Sweepers*. She has also been a part of the TV show, *South Korean Foreigners*. During the lecture, she shared many things about her country and its culture, including various traditional costumes, foods, and dances. We truly enjoyed her special lecture. It provided us with a rare chance to learn about the lives and cultures of people living in other countries overseas.

Gaining in-depth information about Mexico and learning about its culture were incredibly interesting. We are currently learning Spanish and aspire to travel to Mexico someday. Personally, learning about cultures and traditions such as a mariachi band was quite insightful. A mariachi is a small Mexican band typically consisting of trumpeters, guitarists, and violinists. Sometimes, a musician belonging to such a band is referred to by the same name.

It was also amazing and inspiring to hear how Carla came to South Korea with the dream of becoming an interpreter and ended up becoming a celebrity in TV and movies. It must have taken her a great deal of courage and ambition to leave her home country and go abroad. We have a similar dream of going to another country, doing what we want to do, and pursuing our passions. So, we truly respect her courage.

By Diana Valieva

Rimsky-Korsakov's Sadko is based on Russian folk tales and mythology, and it is an important work that expresses Russian culture and stories with Rimsky-Korsakov's dazzling and fantastical music. In the 2022-23 season, a grandiose premiere took place at the Bashkir Opera and Ballet Theater. Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's opera Sadko was staged.

It is an 1898 opera with seven scenes. The text for the opera was written by the composer, with assistance from Vladimir Belsky, Vladimir Stasov, and others. Rimsky-Korsakov was first inspired by his 1867 tone poem "Sadko." After completing his second revision of this work in 1891, he decided to transform it into a dramatic piece.

This opera was first presented in Moscow over a century ago. The opera's plot is drawn from the Russian folk tales. The protagonist, Sadko, a psaltery player and merchant, dreams of adventures and exploits.

On the shore of a magical lake, Sadko encounters the beautiful Volkhova, the daughter of the Sea Tsar, who promises him golden fish. After catching the fish

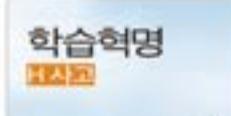
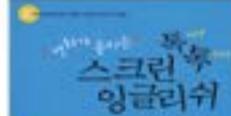
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