



## APEC Summit 2023: Biden and Xi seek to mend US-China relations



The four-hour face-to-face Biden-Xi meeting on Wednesday was their first since last year's G20 summit and Xi's first visit to the US in six years. The two leaders tried to stabilize their strained bilateral relations damaged by trade and to restore military-to-military communications.

By Sophia Choi

The 2023 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference came to an end on Friday, November 17th. San Francisco hosted 21 Pacific Rim leaders and delegates for a week with the theme "Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All." Key issues such as supply chain resilience, digital trade, connectivity, and climate change were on the agenda, and the highlight of the week was the high-stakes summit between the host, US President Joe

Biden, and Chinese President Xi Jinping. "A stable relationship between the world's two largest economies is not merely good for the two economies but for the world," Biden said.

The four-hour face-to-face Biden-Xi meeting on Wednesday was their first since last year's G20 summit and Xi's first visit to the US in six years. The two leaders tried to stabilize their strained bilateral relations damaged by trade and to restore military-to-military communications, given disagreements over geopolitical security

concerns. "Planet Earth is big enough for the two countries to succeed," Xi told Biden. Considering a decline in foreign investment in China, he told American business leaders, including Tim Cook and Elon Musk, that China is willing to be a partner and a friend of the US.

The APEC leaders concluded the 30th meeting with a joint statement called the "Golden Gate Declaration." The consensus declaration reaffirmed the economic leaders of APEC's determination to deliver a free, open, fair trade and investment environment and to advance efforts to achieve sustainability and inclusion objectives. They also reiterated their shared commitment to strengthening APEC's leadership and expressed their expectations for the upcoming APEC meetings in Peru next year and the Republic of Korea in 2025.

Although Pacific Rim leaders have openly pledged support for the World Trade Organization (WTO) reform, they have failed to reach a diplomatic consensus on geopolitical conflicts as Russia and China had objected to including them. While the summit issued a Chair's statement reiterating their respective positions on Ukraine, saying, "most members strongly condemn the aggression against Ukraine," the statement noted that they just "exchanged views on the ongoing crisis in Gaza," despite new financial risks generated by the Israeli-

Palestinian conflict. Throughout the week of APEC, protesters blocked streets near the summit, and Bay Bridge was temporarily shut down by Pro-Palestinian protesters urging a Gaza ceasefire.

### President Yoon Suk-yeol strengthens ties with the UK

By Kim So-young



President Yoon Suk-yeol, who arrived in the United Kingdom on November 21st for a three-day visit, stated during an address

to both houses of Parliament that the friendship between South Korea and the United Kingdom would turn challenges into opportunities. He pledged to deepen the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Yoon also proposed to expand cultural and human exchanges between the two countries, saying that South Korea and the U.K. share cultural assets. He compared British icons such as the Beatles, Queen, *Harry Potter* and David Beckham with South Korea's BTS, BLACKPINK, *Squid Game* and Tottenham Hotspur star Son Heung-min.

## South Korean government faces backlash amidst ongoing computer network failures



Prime Minister Han Duck-soo is presiding over a video meeting on recovery strategies and future measures. Interior and Safety Minister Lee Sang-min, who cut short his trip to the United States, also chaired a meeting to address local administrative computer disabilities.

By Shin In-ho

The South Korean government has come under intense scrutiny following a major system failure that crippled administrative computer networks, resulting in significant disruptions to public services across the country. The incident marked the third such occurrence this year, raising concerns about the government's cybersecurity and the potential impact on citizens, especially who live in the era of hyperconnectivity where everything is interconnected

government-issued certificates and documents.

After a three-day service breakdown, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety announced the restoration of both the Saeol system and Government 24 on Sunday afternoon. The ministry suggested that the system failure might have been caused by recent replacements of network equipment.

This latest incident prompted Prime Minister Han Duck-soo to preside over a video meeting on recovery

**"In the era of hyperconnectivity where everything is interconnected through the Internet, it is necessary to make nationwide preparations to prevent large-scale disruptions caused by internal or external factors."**

through the Internet.

The "Saeol" administrative network, a system used by civil servants to access government-approved documents, became inaccessible on November 17th, leading to the suspension of municipal government document services. Subsequently, the government's online civil service portal, Government 24, also experienced unprecedented downtime, paralyzing all offline and online services for

strategies and future measures. Interior and Safety Minister Lee Sang-min, who cut short his trip to the United States, chaired a meeting to address local administrative computer disabilities.

While the government expressed apologies for the inconvenience caused, critics argued that the fundamental problem remains unresolved, emphasizing the absence of proactive measures and compensation plans for affected citizens. Unlike previous disruptions involving private entities like Kakao, where strict investigations and compensation plans were implemented, the response to the government's administrative computer network failure appears less stringent.

Citizens affected by the disruption have the option to claim civil damages against the state, but experts note the challenges in proving a causal relationship with actual economic damage. The complexity arises from the wide-reaching impact on all citizens, making it difficult to determine the exact scope of damage and complicating the possibility of the government offering compensation before litigation. As concerns persist, Minister Lee pledged to mobilize private experts to identify the incident's cause and prevent future occurrences.



## Special Interview

## Korean ink wash painter, Kang Ho-saeng: I'll make a path as I go

By Min Byung-jun and Lee Jong-dae



Artist Kang Ho-saeng was born in Cheongju and graduated from the Department of Oriental Painting at Hongik University and the Graduate School of Painting

at Cheongju University. After holding his first solo exhibition in Seoul in 1993, he has had a total of 21 solo exhibitions in cities such as Cheongju, Daejeon, Seoul, Paris, and New York. He has participated in various art fairs in not only South Korea but also in countries such as France, Germany, China, the United States, and Austria, totaling more than 370 exhibitions.

He has received numerous awards, including the Chungbuk Outstanding Artist Award and the Republic of Korea Culture and Entertainment Grand Prize. Artist Kang Hosaeng is praised for unveiling his unique artistic world, characterized by the pursuit of "blank space and the vitality of life." — Ed.

**Q: Could you please tell us about a brief overview of your art?**

**A:** For me, I always create my works with ink wash, keeping in mind the concept of "space" within the artwork. Additionally, I continuously contemplate the meaning of life within the context of my creations and research the vitality within the artwork.

**Q: Could you elaborate on what you mean by "space"?**

**A:** "Space" is a relative concept, I perceive

it as encompassing the notions of empty fullness, light but heavy weight, and breathing room. It is unfilled, but upon closer inspection, we can see that it is already filled through artworks.

**Q: Does it have connections with Eastern philosophy?**

**A:** Absolutely. The historical background of the concept of space can be traced in Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, and even in Christianity, as evident in the Bible. These reveal inseparable complementary relationships.

**Q: Your paintings are known for their constant evolution and exploration of new areas rather than sticking to a repetitive style. Could you briefly discuss the process of change in your artworks?**

**A:** Initially, in 1982 during my first year at university, I started with the traditional brush and ink on paper. However, realizing the limitations of this approach, I have been experimenting with color and general ink wash, utilizing the pressure of water through various tools in recent years.

**Q: So, there is a considerable scientific aspect involved, right?**

**A:** Leonardo da Vinci once said that painting is indeed a science, but it is a sacred one, in which the painter's mind is mystically attuned to the Divine mind in strange harmony. While I admire him as an artist, there are probably aspects where I differ from him. However, I believe he comprehensively summarizes what painting is.

*"I have been experimenting with color and general ink wash, utilizing the pressure of water through various tools. The path of principles and the path of truth are inherently lonely and challenging."*

**Q: You have served as a judge in various events. What criteria do you use when evaluating paintings?**

**A6** Many judges often express the ability to discern the quality of a piece within a few seconds, regardless of its genre. They can tell easily whether the work was focused on the event, form, or content. They can recognize at a glance whether it's drawn with technique or if it has pursued towards internal completeness. I believe technique is crucial, but the formal vessel capable of conveying the content is also essential. No matter how good the content is — whether it's a golden bowl or a humble pot, there must be a vessel to contain it.

**Q: You have mentioned that you cannot compromise on principles, even if you can compromise on matters of taste. What principles do you feel are essential to uphold?**

**A:** That's correct. Originally, the path of principles and the path of truth are inherently lonely. So sometimes, when I work on a piece, sitting here quietly, everything from the top of my head to the tips of my toes, including the flesh, bones, and joints, all dissolve and flow down, I feel this pain, sorrow, and agony. Those things blend together, giving birth to artworks. The principle I talk about here is truth. We often establish certain principles in our meetings. However, if we consistently argue them as matters of taste, we may eventually fall into self-contradiction by neglecting the principles themselves.

Similarly, when it comes to these principles, compromise regarding them is impossible. As for matters of taste, we can freely express our opinions. However, principles and the essence, cannot be approached in the same way. If we continue to do so, It is likely to lead us to forget the essence. If deliberately avoiding it, artists fall into self-contradiction or self-denial. That's why space and not drawing or painting in it is the essence. People often focus too much on skills, techniques, and style, and I can say that they are being deceived.

**Q: Generally, artists, especially those pursuing fine arts, often face economic difficulties. Do you think there should be policies at the national or local level to support the growth of pure arts?**

**A:** Well, consider an event planner who feels responsible and wants to showcase as many items as possible to create a visually wonderful presentation. The person in charge of the event, receiving fund from the local government or elsewhere, aims to make everything look remarkable, emphasizing visual appeal to highlight achievements. While this may provide quantitative richness, the actual quality appears shabby and shallow. What I mean, we usually prioritize quantity because nobody likes to face criticism. However, this seemingly equal opportunity approach can ultimately undermine the true essence of art.

Importantly, this philosophy is rooted in communism rather than liberalism, emphasizing collective resource distribution over individual freedom to create an illusion of fairness. I strongly oppose events and mindsets at the local government level that adhere to this communal distribution approach. As mentioned earlier, genuine truths or arts are not numerous but rather quite limited.

**Q: If you have any special advice for teenagers aspiring to become fine artists or artists, please share your thoughts.**

**A:** Many people dream of becoming a Korean ink wash painting artist, but pursuing something, even a small goal is not easy. Simply presenting works once or twice does not make one a genuine artist. Therefore, young people aspiring to be artists should persist in pursuing art. Merely dreaming is not enough.

Many people demand that artists at a higher level come down to a lower level. Instead, why not encourage these individuals to study and bridge the gap? So, I'd like to tell them to study and strive. Otherwise, there will be no progress.

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## Professor Lee Eva’s special lecture for Sejong youth



By Lee Jong-dae

The special lecture program for the youth of Sejong hosted by *The Monday Times* and organized as the fourth concert in the series, took place with Professor Lee from the Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, on October 28th, 2023, in the Jochiwon Complex Communication Center.

Professor Lee, originally from Russia, began her presentation by introducing Russia. With a population of approximately 144.4 million people and an expansive area of 17.1 million square kilometers, Russia is the world’s largest country, spanning an impressive 11 time zones. Bordering 14 countries, Russia is rich in natural resources and boasts the longest railway, the Trans-Siberian Railway, along with the deepest lake in the world, Lake Baikal.

Despite some extremely cold regions, Russia’s vast expanse includes warmer areas like Sochi, with an average annual temperature of 14 degrees Celsius. Professor Lee also highlighted the Russian custom of not smiling in important places like schools, airports, embassies, and banks, explaining that a smile is a sign of liking and trust in such contexts.

While introducing interpretation and translation, the professor discussed Wittgenstein’s statement, “The limits of my language mean the limits of my world,” and narrated the story of the “Tower of Babel.” She then provided a comprehensive introduction to interpretation and translation.

Professor Lee also shared her personal background, stating that she studied elementary and university levels in Korea, is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, guides students at the university, and works as a freelancer, engaging in numerous interpretation activities for organizations like the Water Resources Corporation and the National Assembly.

Emphasizing the endless possibilities in translation and interpretation, she encouraged mastering languages as a gateway to various professions in history, medicine, business, broadcasting, and more. Despite the advancement of translation technology, she believes that the need for human translators will persist.

## Time selects Samsung and LG products as the best inventions

By Choi Da-in



The electronic products from Korean companies have been selected as the “2023 Best Inventions” by *Time* magazine. *Time* annually selects and publishes new products and ideas that change consumers’ daily lives as the “Best Inventions of the Year.” According to the “2023 Best Inventions” report released by *Time* on October 24th, Samsung Electronics included microplastic reduction filters and Galaxy Z Flip 5 in home appliances and consumer electronics.

The magazine mentioned, “The microplastic reduction filter is an innovative product that reduces the amount of generated microplastic, which is considered the main culprit of marine environmental pollution,” adding, “It can reduce the microplastics emitted during washing by up to 98 percent.”

It introduced the Galaxy Z Flip 5 as a “Modern Flip Phone,” highlighting the cover screen “Flex Window,” which has grown to 3.4 inches.

It said, “The core function of the Galaxy Z Flip 5 is the cover screen flex window,” emphasizing, “It not only allows users to easily check the information they need, but it can also be customized.”

With this award, Samsung Electronics’ Galaxy

The electronic products from Korean companies have been selected as the “2023 Best Inventions” by *Time* magazine. *Time* annually

smartphone has been named as *Time*’s best invention of the year for the third consecutive year, following the Galaxy Z Flip 3 in 2021 and the Galaxy S22 Ultra in 2022.

The Galaxy S22 Ultra, which was launched earlier this year, was a major sensation in that it introduced innovative camera performance, as well as the S Pen feature of the Note series, the line before the S22 Ultra. It has been recognized as the most powerful product in terms of experience, camera, and performance among the Galaxy S series released so far. “Not only does it provide an excellent screen experience by installing full-HD+ Samsung OLED, but the S Pen, which has a 70% response speed compared to the previous product, delivers the same experience as using a real pen.” It is evaluated that it has raised the standards for Android smartphones, showing that it can take clear images and photos through optical three times and 10-megapixel telephoto lenses, and that night shooting performance is also excellent.

LG Electronics’ world’s first wireless OLED TV, “LG Signature OLED M,” was also selected as the best invention of the year in the home appliance category. It is the only TV product among the 200 best inventions selected this year.

The media explained, “Unlike other TVs, this product does not have any connection lines for input/output outside of power. Additionally, all peripherals and connection lines that would typically hang from the back of the TV have been moved to a separate ‘Zero Connect Box.’”

## Seoul introduces groundbreaking school meal robots

By Lee Jae-kwon



On November 22nd, Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education unveiled South Korea’s inaugural school meal robots at Soonggok Middle School in northern Seoul. Since August 2023, these four robots, developed in collaboration with the Korea Franchise Association and Hankook-Robotics Co., have been skillfully preparing students’ lunches with a 1 billion won grant from the Korea Institute for Robot Industry Advancement.

Each robot specializes in stir-frying, frying, making soup or stew, and handling meat dishes. During a recent session, they efficiently cooked seasoned chicken, beef soup, stir-fried rice, and kimchi stir-fry, producing 720 servings between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Importantly, the robots are not replacements for the existing seven cooks and dietitians. The physically demanding nature of their work, compounded by the challenge of hiring new staff due to retirements, makes school meal robots a valuable solution to the labor shortage in school cafeterias, according to the head of Seoul’s School Dietitian Association.

Besides addressing workforce challenges, the introduction of automation is expected to enhance the health of school cafeteria workers. A survey conducted by 17 metropolitan and provincial education offices revealed that out of 24,000 school cafeteria workers, 54 developed lung cancer due to dust generated during the cooking process. By delegating high-temperature cooking to robots, workers can now focus on other tasks without health concerns.

## Word Search By Kim So-young

This puzzle was created using the 109th edition of *The Monday Times*.

E	T	O	W	H	E	R	E	A	S	I	S	P	H
S	V	G	I	F	T	E	D	N	D	W	A	T	U
I	T	A	C	R	T	S	W	E	O	T	S	A	S
S	C	I	C	E	N	S	L	A	R	C	H	A	O
Y	L	A	T	U	L	C	C	O	S	Y	T	L	A
L	O	F	T	S	A	E	L	S	E	T	T	S	T
A	E	R	S	T	O	T	B	J	C	N	E	O	S
N	P	T	S	S	E	L	E	R	O	A	C	U	H
A	E	B	T	S	H	S	U	F	A	I	L	L	A
D	O	S	E	O	A	A	N	T	E	T	N	E	P
R	O	L	E	C	T	U	R	E	I	A	I	T	E
E	L	A	D	E	A	L	S	E	A	O	S	O	A
A	O	C	C	A	P	A	C	I	T	Y	N	T	N
M	N	S	P	E	T	E	L	E	C	T	J	T	A

waste	joint	scale	shape	evacuate
whereas	solution	deal	elect	obstacle
gifted	patrol	feast	soul	celebration
capacity	share	lecture	dream	analysis

Word Search 정답을 12월 10일까지 아래로 보내 주시면 추첨하여 소정의 상품을 보내 드리겠습니다. (정답 12월 11일 본사 홈페이지 게시)  
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착한 업그레이드 된 기초영어 회화 첫걸음 (초중급용)

착한 여행영어 회화 (교재용)

영어의 실력이 올라간다

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

토마스와 앤더스의 착한영어시리즈는 각 주제에 맞는 영어 회화와 표현을 꼼꼼하게 담았습니다.

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## Eco & Bangok Love-sharing Kimchi Making Event is held



By Lee Jong-dae

November 22nd is “Kimchi Day” in South Korea, marking the first occasion when a traditional food has become the protagonist of a national commemorative day. In the month leading up to and following this day, kimchi making events take place not only throughout South Korea but also in various countries worldwide. Kimchi has now garnered love and appreciation not only from Koreans but also from people around the world.

The “Eco & Bangok Love-sharing Kimchi Making Event” was held at the outdoor plaza of the Bangok-dong Multipurpose Communication Center as a community project on November 18th, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Many participants around Sejong City including the Bangok-dong residents enjoyed the event.

The event, which was hosted by the Bangok-dong Residents Autonomy Council and organized by the Bangok-dong

Community Center, featured programs such as “Family Kimchi Making Experience” and “Donation of Kimchi to Vulnerable Groups.” A total of 62 teams, each consisting of two adults (two children are equivalent to one adult), pre-registered for the event. The teams were divided into four groups, and each group was allocated a 30-minute time slot at 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, and 11:30.

Four clusters of kimchi making teams, each with four tables, were set up in the outdoor plaza. Each cluster (comprising 4 teams) received 40kg of pickled cabbage (10kg per team, including kimchi seasoning). One person from the Red Cross Volunteer Society was assigned to each cluster to assist with the kimchi making process by mixing kimchi. Each team filled a 10L jar for donating kimchi, and the remaining kimchi was given to them for personal use. The donated kimchi (100 jars with a capacity of 10L) was distributed to vulnerable groups and local community centers for the elderly. To facilitate this, the Bangok-dong Residents’ Life Team and Tailored Welfare Team coordinated delivery routes by designating 76 households in Surubae Village and 8 local community centers for kimchi distribution.

Lee Hang-seon, president of the Bangok-dong Residents’ Autonomy Council expressed satisfaction with the “Love-Sharing Kimchi Making Event,” stating, “It was meaningful and rewarding to conduct a kimchi making event for the benefit of vulnerable groups.” He emphasized the hope for continued meaningful events in the future.

## South Korea elected to UNESCO World Heritage Committee

By Kim So-young

South Korea has been elected to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for a four-year term through 2027. The announcement came during the 24th session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. South Korea, representing the Asian-Pacific region, successfully claimed one of the two available seats. This marks the country’s fourth election to the committee, having previously served in 1997, 2005, and 2013.



## Challenges and discoveries at Korean International School in Hanoi

By Kim Kyeom (KISH: Korean International School in Hanoi)



I have worked at a high school in Korea for over 20 years. Wanting to experience a slightly different life, I applied to a Korean international school abroad and fortunately got accepted. I have been working at Korean International School in Hanoi since last

March. I felt excited at first. However, upon taking up my position, I found out that I would be in charge of the second-year middle school students. Second year students! They are so playful and active that there’s a joke saying that they could certainly block the invasion from North Korea. Dealing with middle school students for the first time, I realized middle school students were quite different from high school students and were challenging to handle. The teaching methods which had been quite effective with high school students turned out to consistently miss the mark with them. I faced many challenges during the course of conducting classes.

Despite diligently preparing to teach them well and trying to explain things in a way easy to understand during classes, there were students who remained indifferent or showed no interest throughout the entire class. Faced with such students, I couldn’t help but think that I might as well have stayed in Korea and taught high school students instead of coming all the way abroad to teach middle school students.

At a time when I kept noticing only the shortcomings of



the students and my enthusiasm was dwindling, I observed other teachers conducting classes in a different way. It was a student-led class, unlike the teacher-led classes. However, being inherently passive and unable to start anything until everything was perfectly prepared, I found myself just collecting materials and nurturing dreams of successful classes, yet hesitating to execute them.

At that time, the warm yet powerful advice from Mr. Park, one of my colleagues, gave me great courage: “Just give it a try! I had struggled for two years, too!”

Empowered by those words, I somewhat recklessly introduced student-led classes. However, the results were astonishing. I simply suggested that they read the textbook and solve problems in groups, but the students actively participated, engaging in discussions and finding answers



together. It was truly touching. Once, I left an item behind and had to go to the office during class, leaving the room unattended. When I returned, I was amazed to find that the students were diligently concentrating on their group activities without getting distracted. Honestly, it sent shivers down my spine. I realized, “Oh, I’ve been teaching them the wrong way for 20 years!”

I came to believe that students, when trusted and given opportunities, are resilient beings capable of excelling in anything. Based on the lessons learned from this experience, I vowed to create a classroom atmosphere of mutual growth, where both I and the students could continue to evolve. I extend sincere gratitude to our students who actively participated in the lessons, providing me with a sense of fulfillment and joy.

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# The global panic over bedbugs from Paris to South Korea



The South Korean prime minister's office launched a four-week "zero-bedbug city" campaign to prevent the spread of bedbugs after nationwide reports of infestations.

By Choi Mun-young

The public fear of bedbugs is at a record high and spreads globally as country after country has declared war on bedbugs, including France, the UK, and South Korea. The panic was triggered last October with viral videos of bedbugs crawling on the Paris metro and cinema seats posted by travelers. It has led to increased bedbug callouts across the globe and more than 30 confirmed or suspected bedbug infestations in South Korea,

which is at an all-time high for the bedbug-free country with only nine outbreaks in the past decade.

Although bedbugs have been a persistent problem worldwide, the recent resurgence of bedbugs is partly due to the lift of travel restrictions as the pandemic wanes. In the last few months, Paris, the most visited city in the world, has had massive bedbug outbreaks. The French government agency reported that 11 percent of French households had been infested, and public concerns about bedbug infestations had called for government action to rid the country of bedbugs before it became a national disaster during the 2024 Olympics.

South Korea is the latest country battling bedbug infestations reported in major cities. On Tuesday, November 7th, the South Korean prime minister's office launched a four-week "zero-bedbug city" campaign to prevent the spread of bedbugs after nationwide reports of infestations. The new "bedbug reporting and management system" aligns with general pest control measures, including disinfection of reported facilities and conducting inspections of 3000 vulnerable facilities such as public bathhouses, hotels, and public transportation. Importing more effective pesticides is also considered as the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency announced that bedbugs have evolved to be resistant to pyrethroid insecticides used in the country.

## The first Korean on U.S. currency, Stacey Park Milburn

By Jeon Ju-yeon



On October 17th, Stacey Park Milburn, a Korean-American female disability rights activist in the United States, was selected as one of the figures for the American Women Quarter Program 2025.

This program, conducted by the U.S. Mint (USM) from 2022 to 2025, is based on the law passed by the U.S. Congress in 2020 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits gender discrimination. It aims to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of women in the United States by featuring their faces on the reverse side of a quarter. Milburn is the first Korean featured on U.S. currency.

Mint Director and head of the program, Ventris Gibson, said, "It's a privilege for the Mint to connect America through coins, and to tell our nation's story through honoring the women in this amazing program." She described the chosen figures by stating "The pioneering women we have recognized are among the many in our nation's history who have made significant contributions and championed change in their own unique way."

Stacey Park Milburn was born in Seoul in 1987. Her father was a U.S. service member stationed in South Korea, and she grew up in North Carolina. She experienced congenital muscular dystrophy in her teens and began to realize the differences in her body compared to others after a fall from a bed in the fourth grade. This became the catalyst for Milburn's growth as a human rights activist.

Milburn played a significant role in the restructuring process of the North Carolina state government's public high school curriculum in 2007, ensuring the inclusion of disability history, through which she gained recognition for her efforts. She formed the Disability Justice Culture Club to aid the homeless and actively served as a member of the local Disabled Independent Living Commission. Furthermore, not only was she appointed as a policy advisory board member for the Intellectual Disabilities Commission by the Obama administration, but also she contributed to the enhancement of rights for sexual minorities and people of color.

Milburn passed away on her 33rd birthday, May 19th, 2020, due to complications following kidney cancer surgery. Even after being diagnosed with kidney cancer, she continued to contribute during the COVID-19 pandemic by distributing hygiene kits containing masks and hand sanitizers she herself made to individuals with disabilities and low-income communities.

## Indonesia chooses Korea as the most preferred country to visit

By Song Eun-soo

Korea has secured the top spot as the "most desired country to visit" among Indonesians. Moreover, over 60% of Indonesians regarded Korea as appropriate for their national developmental model.

According to the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Indonesia, as of November 7th (local time), the findings of the 'Indonesians' awareness of Korea' survey, conducted on the occasion of 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Korea and Indonesia, revealed that 30% of Indonesians selected Korea as the most preferable country they want to study, live, and work abroad. The outcome was derived from telephone interviews conducted by Indonesia's Polling Organization LSI.

Saudi Arabia (12.1%) claimed the second position. As absolute majority in Indonesia are Muslims, Saudi Arabia has Mecca, compelling them to visit the country at least once in their lifetime. However, Korea surpassed Saudi Arabia to claim the top spot. Following Saudi Arabia, the rankings include Japan (10.4%), U.S (6.4%), and Malaysia (5.5%).

Reasons behind choosing Korea include "its high wage level" (24.4%), "employment opportunities" (17.8%), "quality education in Korea" (9.2%), and 'reuniting with children' (9.1%).

Moreover, 92.4% of Indonesians affirmed their familiarity with Korea. Their primary sources of information about Korea were Korean culture (59.1%), such as K-drama and K-POP, followed by interactions with Koreans (11.1%), through Korean products (11.1%), and sports (3.7%).

In a survey measuring favorability, 58.3% of Indonesians



The findings of the "Indonesians' awareness of Korea" survey revealed that 30% of Indonesians selected Korea as the most preferable country they want to study, live, and work abroad. The outcome was derived from telephone interviews conducted by Indonesia's Polling Organization LSI.

expressed a positive sentiment toward Korea. On the contrary, 22.2% of those surveyed displayed a negative sentiment. 70.3% of women favored Korea, whereas only 46.7% of men favored Korea. Furthermore, younger, well-educated, and urban dwelling Indonesians exhibited more inclination towards Korea than the opposite-situated individuals.

Grounds for their fondness towards Korea included "liking for Korean dramas" (19.5%), "unprovoked" (17.2%), "perception of Korea as a developed country" (10.6%), and "perceiving Koreans as beautiful" (8.1%). The reasons for their dislike towards Korea are "unprovoked" (18.8%) and "lack of knowledge about Korea" (9.3%).

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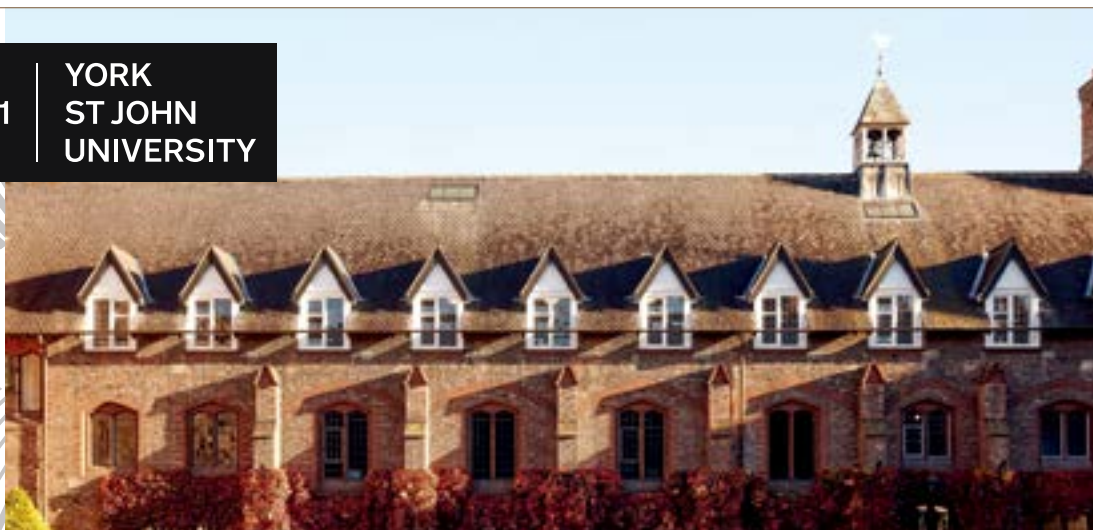
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# Beyond “I’m fine thank you, and you?”

By DeYoung Ryn (English Teacher in Jincheon Girls’ Middle School)



For most students attending public school in Korea, English is a daily battle of grammar, vocabulary, and new expressions. Reading, writing, and listening are emphasized and tested every week. However, chances to speak English are few, and most students lack the confidence to take advantage of the opportunities when given. They continue using the same phrases repeatedly, never going beyond basic introductions or simple conversation. Students may feel discouraged or unsure how to improve their English speaking skills, but there are a few easy and approachable ways to do just that.

When learning a second language, surround yourself with the language as much as possible to acquire listening skills and pronunciation knowledge. Listening to a wide variety of audio in the target language will help familiarize one with the sound of the language and improve comprehension. Music, movies, TV, podcasts, and short-form videos such as YouTube or TikTok are great sources of content that can be enjoyable and relevant to daily life. This is a key factor in language learning: to engage deeply with the content, it must be enjoyable. Listening to many different types of audio can also improve vocabulary, which can open the door for more complex conversations later.

Another great way to improve speaking skills is by talking to oneself. At first, this can be slightly uncomfortable or feel strange, but it can help to increase fluency and muscle memory of daily practical phrases. Even in a native language, self-talk consists of mostly common words and expressions. One might

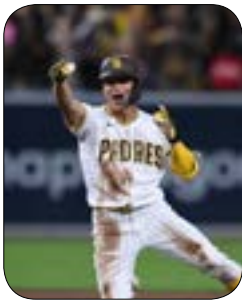
say something like: Where did I put that? or Ah, right, I was going to do that. Both of which contain practical words for other sentences or phrases. This process will create language patterns that are applicable in many situations. Additionally, talking to oneself is proven to promote wellness and increase self-esteem — an essential language fluency skill and beneficial beyond language learning — when alone, there is also no pressure to be perfect nor fear of embarrassment.

Finally, it is imperative to make mistakes. One of the main reasons that language students do not see an improvement in their speaking skills is that they do not try. For most Korean students, the lack of attempt is out of a fear of being wrong and pedagogy to only answer if they are certain they are correct. However, the goal of language is communication. To be a successful communicator, they must not seek perfection but rather express their ideas in a way the listener can understand. If open to making mistakes, they can improve their skills at a much higher rate than those who do not take opportunities to practice in their target language. In a 2017 paper, “Learning from Errors,” psychologist Janet Metcalfe notes that avoiding errors is counterproductive to learning. Making mistakes can draw attention to the skills they may need to improve.

Speaking is arguably the most challenging part of learning a new language and requires boldness and perseverance. Engage in enjoyable materials, self-talk, and take every chance to make mistakes to improve one’s English speaking skills faster and more efficiently. Most students might not yet be comfortable speaking in a classroom, but small daily habits can create a lasting effect for those who wish to speak English more fluently.

# Kim Ha-sung wins MLB Gold Glove for the first time as a Korean

By Chae Su-min



Kim Ha-sung won the Gold Glove, surpassing nominees Mookie Betts (LA Dodgers) and Korean-born Tommy Edman (St. Louis Cardinals) in the final round. Kim was selected as the winner of the National League Utilities category at the MLB Gold Glove Awards.

The Gold Glove winners were determined by combining the votes of 30 major league teams and up to six coaches per team, excluding their team players. The defense index of the American Baseball Research Association was also considered. Coaches’ votes and defensive metrics were 75 percent and 25 percent respectively. In his third year in the MLB, Kim played a brilliant role. Kim, who has been firmly established as a major player in San Diego, has played in 152 games this season with a batting average of 0.260, 17 home runs, 60 Run Batted Ins (RBIs), 84 points and 38 steals. The On-base Plus Slugging (OPS) percentage reached 0.749.

He also played a big role in the defense of San Diego.

Kim Ha-sung ranks as a second baseman, shortstop, and third baseman as MLB’s leading utility defender. He was nominated for two Gold Glove categories (second baseman and utility) and ultimately won the Gold Glove in the newly established utility category this year. After the announcement of the award, MLB stated, “Kim Hae-sung was named as a versatile infielder in San Diego. He played mainly as a second baseman but also as a shortstop and a third baseman.” Kim, whose main position is the second base, showed tight defense skills in all infield positions, including a third base and a shortstop, except for a first base this season. In the end, he was selected as MLB’s best all-around player and proved that Asian infielders can succeed in the big leagues.

Kim, who was recognized as the king of defense in the infield position, played 101 games in the second base, 30 games in the third base, and 18 games in the shortstop. MLB.com noted his Defensive Runs Saved (DRS) index this season. His presence in the game also played an important role in winning the Gold Glove. He showed a solid defensive ability whenever he came out regardless of his position. He set a new milestone in Korean baseball history with high praise from MLB coaches.

# Youth Band Festival, “Show Me the Play 2,” is held in Cheongju



The Cheongju City Youth Band Festival, “Show Me the Play 2,” took place on November 18th, 2023, at the Cheongju Youth Center. The event fostered the activation of youth band culture in Cheongju City.

By Yu Cheol

The Cheongju City Youth Band Festival, “Show Me the Play 2,” took place on November 18th, at the Cheongju Youth Center. Organized by the Cheongju Youth Center, the event aimed to promote cultural exchange among young bands, fostering the activation of youth band culture in Cheongju City.

Following the success of last year’s festival, this was the second edition, featuring diverse youth bands from elementary, middle, high school, and university. Eight youth bands, including the youth band from Okcheon county, participated, creating a platform for cultural exchange among youth bands in Chungbuk Province.

Oh Seong-hyun, a youth participant from the Dudungtak Band as a vocalist, expressed, “We haven’t had the opportunity to meet and interact with other bands in Cheongju before. Being able to gather in one place and perform together was fantastic.” Lee Ji-ho, a drummer from the Soyongdori Band, shared, “It was satisfying to perform freely after the COVID-19 pandemic. We were proud to showcase our band’s performance to other teams. I hope there will be more events like this in the future.”

Kang Gyeong-gu, director of the Cheongju Youth Center, stated, “Many young people have talent and potential, but they often lack opportunities to present their abilities. The Cheongju Youth Center will continue to actively support these young individuals, developing and providing various youth programs to lead the creation of a healthy youth culture in Cheongju City.”



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The 1st

# SEJONG ENGLISH SPEECH CONTEST



**접수기간** 2023. 11. 1.(수) ~ 11. 30.(목) 18:00까지

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**주제(택1)**

- 1) 나의 꿈
- 2) 존경하는 인물
- 3) AI와 미래
- 4) 한글의 세계화
- 5) 미래 수도로서의 세종
- 6) 인구 절감과 고령화 사회
- 7) 환경과 지구온난화

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중·고등 발표원고(3분 이내)

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