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Campus Inside our Hands



HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES

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In-depth on National

The special employment program is being misused to recruit the relatives of high public officials. The Argus investigates the problems of the special employment process, and thinks about a way to accomplish its original objective.



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Rendezvous

The Argus meets the bridge between Korean literature and the world, Lee Gu-yong, for the story about his unique and interesting career.



Cover Story

Nowadays, we easily see smartphone users on campus. In order to fully use the functions of the new technologies, there must be improvements in both the hardware and software. The Argus looks at the IT systems of HUFS and seeks advice from an application developer.

In-depth on Campus

This month's cover story looks at the current IT infrasystems of HUFS. The Argus seeks possible improvements by looking at cases of other universities in and outside Korea. Also, we hear about the future plans from the school's administrative office.

Interview

On the interview column, The Argus meets an application developer, Lee Min-seok. He is a college student in the field of liberal arts, but has managed to develop many successful applications. Lee gives opinions on how non-computer science majors can develop applications.

Preparedness for Next 40 Years

It is time for Koreans to think about readiness. Below are two international cases in which Korea could reflect its readiness. First, a territorial dispute between China and Japan triggered Koreans to check their stocks of rare-earth elements. Has Korea stored sufficient amount of these essential elements? Second, Norway, a Scandinavian nation, has a long-term savings for the next generations. Do we Koreans reserve inheritance for the next?

Recently, China and Japan disputed their territorial claims on the Pinnacle Islands and Japan made some gestures of yielding. It seemed that China won. In fact, however, Japan had no choice but to yield, since China played the card of the rare-earth elements to defend themselves. The rare-earth elements are a collection of 17 chemical elements in the periodic table which are not only very rare but also essential. These key elements are widely used to make permanent magnetic parts, which are a component of hybrid cars, secondary batteries, aerogenerators, and so on. Considering the industrial trend promoting the use of environment-friendly technology that relies on these products, the rare-earth elements are very important.

Coming back to the Chinese-Japanese dispute, about 30 percent of the world's rare-earth deposits are found on Chinese territory, and China provides 97 percent of the world's supply on the global market. At the peak of the controversy is the fact that China has prohibited the export of rare-earth elements to Japan since Sep. 21 this year, and as a result, Japan has been forced to look for other sources of rare-earth supplies. Since the prohibition, Japan and the U.S. are desperately searching for an alternate way to obtain rare-earth elements. For instance, the U.S. has decided to reopen its Mountain Pass rare-earth mine in California, and Japan has knocked on the doors of other countries such as Mongolia and Australia.

Korea, which stocks a total of only three tons of the rare-earth elements, has to set up the measures to stock sufficient amounts. If these supplies of the elements were used, Korean domestic demands would burn through this supply in five hours. Selenium, one of the elements used for the solar battery, has already run out. This shows just a part of Korea's complacent and myopic attitudes.

Norway, on the other hand, has planned in a long-term and became one of the flourishing countries in the world. In 2008, the U.S. sparked financial crisis hit the world, but Norway's economic growth rate was recorded at three percent which is amazing. Their per-capita GDP is 52,000 dollars, and what is even more striking is that Norway has zero national debt. What explains these amazing figures? The answer lies absolutely in long-term savings! Norway is the world's fifth largest oil exporter, and its export revenue from oil and gas constitutes more than 20 percent of its GDP. Although prosperity is often associated with visible displays of consumption, the government established the Government Pension Fund and saved earnings from oil with the ultimate goals of keeping money in store for the next generation. The Norwegians consider debt as stealing from their descendants and such attitude has made it possible to set a policy for the next 20 years.

Korea, on the other hand, has debt of 400 trillion-won. Isn't it stealing from our next generation?

Editor-in-Chief
Lee Kyeong-eun

Korea and Russia's Assignment for Cooperative Relationship

HUFS conducted an international conference, at Aekyung Hall, Seoul Campus on Oct. 10. This conference was held in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Russia. With the theme 'The Condition and Assignment of Korea and Russia's Strategic and Cooperative Relationship,' this conference's main purpose was to discuss Russia's diplomatic stance towards South Korea and the associated national benefits with influential Russian scholars, administrative officers, and experts. HUFS president Park Chul, Russian ambassador to South Korea Konstantin Vnukov, and Yonhap Television Network president Bae Suk-gyu delivered their congratulatory messages.


The strategic cooperation of Korea and Russia in sharing profits and vision was discussed and presentations were given by Alexander Nikitin, professor at Moscow State Institute of International Relations, and by Georgy. Toloraya, head of department of Regional Projects



Choi Eun-sil / The Argus

at the Russian World Foundation.

In addition, peace in Northeast Asia and cooperation of South Korea and Russia were discussed. Peking University professor Guan Gui-hai said it is wise that South Korea is making efforts to have balanced policies between powerful nations. He further stated that Russia and China support the six-party denuclearization talks and hopes the Korean Peninsula


will become unified without foreign influence. The conference was hosted by Institute of Russian Studies at HUFS, Humanities Korea Project and Chosun Ilbo sponsored by Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the National Research Foundation of Korea. 

By Sung So-yeon

The Second General Students' Meeting

The second general students' meeting for 2010 was held at Seoul Campus, on Oct. 13 at the open-air theater. The General Student Council (GSC), the host, discussed three primary issues with the HUFSans. First, the president of College of Japanese Languages mentioned about the ongoing

conflict between HUFS magazine 'Oedae' and GSC. She said that the representative of 'Oedae' was not present but would investigate the issue. Next, GSC stated how communication with the Office of Academic Affairs is proceeding regarding the improvement of the graduate system. Finally, GSC encouraged the students to

participate in revising the Student Rule. The meeting ended with a campaign, going up to the Administrative Offices and pasting stickers on the issue of the graduation system that needed immediate response. 


By Sung So-yeon

General Students' Meeting at Yongin

The second general students' meeting for 2010 was held at the open-air theater at Yongin Campus on Oct. 7. About 11 percent of the students were present. The main issues discussed in the meeting included topics like limiting credit adjustment for dual degrees, creation of a General Affairs Support Team (GSAT) at Yongin Campus, reorganization of the student directors in Cooperative, and the creation of 'Campus Keeper.' The meeting also discussed about the bachelor institution, school buses, real estate school foundation, English village, and the carpool system. Voting for the credit adjustment system for dual degrees in the bachelor institution was

done as well. With 3.4 percent in favor and 60.3 percent against it, the motion was defeated. Consequently, more than half of the attendees agreed to retain current credit limits.

The creation of GSAT at Yongin Campus for lower-priced food was also discussed. Currently, the student restaurants at Yongin Campus are managed by a private company, not directly by the university, while in Seoul Campus, they are managed by GSAT, overseen by the university. Hence, food prices at Seoul Campus are cheaper. The meeting passed a motion demanding that Yongin Campus follows the restaurant management system of Seoul Campus. The motion was passed with 68.9 percent

votes in favor and 2.9 percent against it. The next topic was the reorganization of the student directors in the cooperative. A board of directors in cooperative said the three student directors elected have spoken for the students at Yongin Campus, but the students did not know any of them. Hence, a reorganization of the student directors will be held, with 54.5 percent votes in favor. The meeting also passed a motion to create 'Campus Keepers' at Yongin Campus, who will patrol the campus nightly, ensuring students' safety and security. The motion was passed with 59.8 percent in favor. 

By Lee Ho-je

Conference at HUFS, a Milestone to Improve Korea's Record-keeping Customs

HUFS held an international conference on Oct. 15 and 16 on archival studies at Seoul Campus. The proceedings were held at the Sky Lounge and Aekyung Hall respectively for two days. The conference was organized to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Department of Information and Archival Studies. The participants at the conference discussed the 'Development of corporate management and local administration through archives management: Use of archives for mutual benefit and development between companies and local communities and cultural heritage.'

Ahn Byung-woo, president of Korean Society of Archival Studies, inaugurated

the conference with an opening speech. He emphasized the importance of record-keeping, considering the inapt ways of record-keeping in the country. President Ahn hoped that the conference at HUFS would be a milestone to improve Korea's record-keeping customs.

The conference proceeded with welcoming speeches by Lee Young-hak, director of HUFS Center for Archival Studies, Park Jin-woo, director of HUFS Institute of Global Business, and Noh Meung-hoan, director of HUFS World Folk Museum/Historical Archives. There were two congratulatory speeches by Lee Gyeong-og, president of National Archives of Korea, and Peter Blum,



Choi Eun-sil/The Argus


director of Heidelberg Municipal Archives. They emphasized the need for the best practices in record-keeping. President Lee pointed out that the involvement of local communities is vital.

Next day, participating experts on archives management from internationally acclaimed institutions such as UCLA, the University of

Oklahoma, Germany, Britain, and Japan actively discussed the use of archives for development of corporate management and local administration. HUFS President Park Chul and President Ahn Byung-woo attended the proceedings. Kim Hak-jun, president of Dong-a

Daily gave a congratulatory speech. Participating companies, institutes and departments actively shared their views on archive usage and management.

This conference was hosted by the Korean Society of Archival Studies, HUFS Center for Archival Studies,

and several other institutions. It was sponsored by HUFS, and other companies including Dong Wha Pharm and media partners were also present. 

By Choi Eun-sil

Fall Athletes' Day Organized by ISO

The HUFS International Student Organization (ISO) successfully organized the Fall 2010 Buddy Olympics - Global Athletics Day on Oct. 9 on the Seoul Campus athletic field. This sports day was organized for the international and Korean students involved in the Buddy Program for this semester. It was supported by T.G.I Friday's, Missoni, Nike, KookSoonDang Brewery Co., Ltd., Pacific Metals Co., Ltd., and Wonil Co., Ltd.

Approximately 150 HUFSSans and faculty showed up. According to Kim Tae-jung, ISO Student Team Leader for the Buddy Program, this day was specially held with the objective of fostering bonds between international and Korean students through outdoor activities where there are less limitations on communication. Furthermore, the day coincided with Hangeul Day, so some games were specially played with extra-large playing pieces that had Korean words and letters written on them.

Activities and events were held that can commonly be seen in Korea's sports in kindergarten, such as rolling of a giant ball, tug-of-war, a trivia challenge combined with a relay race, a mock cavalry battle, the flipping of giant playing pieces on a field, group jump-rope, funny basketball, relay and even a lottery. In commemoration of Hangeul Day, there was also a Korean traditional




International and Korean students of HUFS hold hands and jump as one during the jump-rope event

Lee Yeong-eun / The Argus

music performance put on by HUFSSans. Adeline Tan, an exchange student from Singapore, commented, "Through these activities and efforts made by HUFS, I learned more about the Korean culture and were immersed in it. I'm glad to be at HUFS as I think such an event is only possible here. I don't hear my friends in other Korean universities having them!"

The emcee of the Buddy Olympics, Karol Jacewicz, a student from Poland who is currently undertaking Korean language preparation at the Center for Korean Language and Culture, was full of praise for the event. "The atmosphere was incredible. People from all over the world, some from countries you've never even heard of, coming together to do something as a team was just

overwhelming to witness. As emcee, all I did was merely convey the synergy and mood to the audience. I will always remember the smiles on everyone's faces, regardless of nationality and team," he said.

The ISO is also planning other activities for the students participating in the Buddy Program, such as a trip to a live soccer game at a stadium and a visit to Nami Island. Bong Juok Ya, an exchange student from Malaysia, added that "HUFS is extremely global and I can make Korean and international friends. I look forward to the upcoming activities." 

By Lee Yeong-eun

CAMPUS INSIDE OUR HANDS



**By Ahn Jung-hyun
Choo Yong-wahn**

Reporters of the Campus Section

“I have never seen a university that is so unsupportive of wireless networks. The coverage of wireless networks is so small in our campus. It is almost impossible to use my smartphone without limitation.”

This is a posting on HUFSLife in which a student complained about Internet technology on the campus. It shows that HUFSSans are struggling using the campus IT system, especially the wireless Internet. In fact, many students access the Internet by using laptops. Also, it has now become common to see students using their smartphones on campus. However, the infrastructure of the university is not meeting the students' demands compared to the technological innovations in the outside world. In order for Internet technology to reach the campus with ubiquity, things such as fast and stable Internet connections and a wide variety of application software should be put in place as soon as possible.

Ubiquitous connections mean that users can be connected to networks anytime and anywhere they want, regardless of cables or computers. If this is applied to the campus, it will transform the traditional way of lectures by providing continuous access to the students. According to Lee Jeong-hyun, professor of the Department of Computer Science at Soongsil University, smartphones will launch the students on ubiquitous lives through new technologies on the university campus.

Current Facilities at HUFS

HUFS has about 130 Access Points(AP)*, on the Seoul Campus. Despite the comparatively small campus, many places on the campus are not covered. For example, the Social Sciences building has only four APs in the entire building. Moreover, many student clubs are buying their own wireless routers because the university's APs do not adequately cover the campus. The Yongin Campus has 110 APs, and the numbers are low compared to Yongin Campus' large size. The College of Engineering building has more routers, but many were installed by the students.

Problems (the need for improving wireless Internet)

First, as shown above, wireless Internet coverage on campus is limited. Moreover, students need to be certified to use the Internet on campus. However, sometimes the log-out process is not properly done, so students have problems logging in the next time. Also, smartphone users hope to use the free Wi-Fi** instead of the expensive 3G*** provided by telecommunication firms. Currently, some smartphone users are not able to use the Wi-Fi system because the log-in program does not support their mobile operating systems.

Improvements by the university

HUFS concluded an agreement with KT on Oct. 5 2010, to expand the Wi-Fi coverage on campus. There will be 150 more APs added to the two campuses, allocating a little more to the Yongin Campus than to the Seoul Campus. Moreover, the upgrades will be based on the 802.11n network, which covers wider areas and provides faster Internet speed.

The university explained that the log-in system could not be erased due to security issues. There will be more Internet traffic, and people will be able to access the Web DBs that the school offers. Also, on the issue of the log-in problems with smartphones, the Information and Communication Team promised to make improvements of the program.

◎Applications

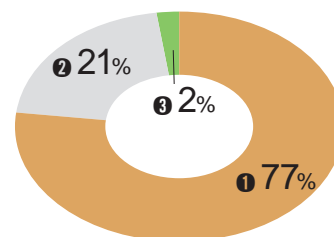
The two applications for HUFS

At HUFS, there are two applications available to students. The first is the "Mobile Campus" developed by the Information and Communication Team of HUFS. The other is distributed by the General Student Council (GSC) of the Seoul Campus. The Mobile Campus is available via the Internet, thereby allowing students to access, regardless of the operating systems of their mobile phones. The application

A survey conducted on the campus IT system (10/8~10/14, 852 participants)

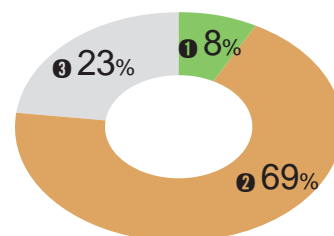
Are you currently using a mobile device on campus?

- ① Yes: 77%
- ② No: 21%
- ③ Not interested: 2%



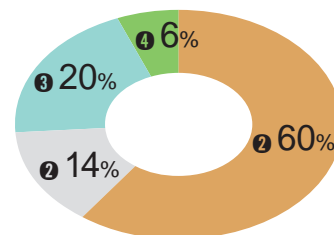
If you are using it, what do you think of the current system?

- ① Convenient : 8%
- ② Inconvenient : 69%
- ③ Satisfactory: 23%



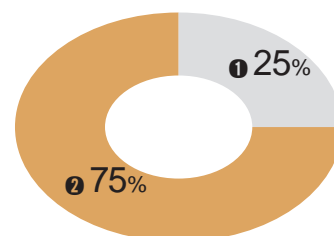
If you chose 'Inconvenient' on the previous question, what was the reason for it?

- ① The Wi-Fi coverage is limited : 60%
- ② The log-in system is complicated : 14%
- ③ Internet speed is slow : 20%
- ④ Others : 6%



Do you know about the Mobile Campus? (m.hufs.ac.kr)

- ① Yes : 25%
- ② No : 75%



offered by the GSC is for iPhone and Android platforms.

Both applications show cafeteria menus, notices, and remaining seats at the library. The GSC application has its advantages in terms of optimization for certain operating systems. The university application has made improvements in the parts featuring the Globeeteria menus and showing the remaining seats in the law school library. Even though both applications try to satisfy the student's needs, some students question the use of two similar programs.

-The Application offered by GSC: Go to www.ihufs.com and download the link provided on the notice board.

-Mobile Campus by HUFS: Go to m.hufs.ac.kr (available to all mobile devices capable of Internet surfing)

HUFSan's opinions

In addition to the current application menus, HUFSans requested to have contact lists of school departments, availability of books in the library, personal timetable checks, and linkage with HUFSLife.

Also the students would like to have enhancements of design layouts for the Mobile Campus. For the application provided by the GSC, students were dissatisfied with the fact that the job offerings were actually linked to a famous web portal, and not specialized for HUFSans.

Cases at other universities

The Cyber University of Foreign Studies (CUFS), which is part of HUFS on Seoul Campus, offers more functions in its mobile applications than the rest of the campus. It includes the "Webzine Minerva," school e-mail, GPA inquiries, attendance, as well as other features. In addition, it plans to offer course registration through mobile devices.

At Soongsil University, many of the features that HUFSans wanted, have already been introduced. Lee Seung-un, a computer science major at Soongsil University, developed an application that includes personal timetables, availability of books in the library, and course registration. This was made possible on the university's support, which includes opening the web server and providing financial support. Lee Seung-un will receive an award for this from Soongsil University, acknowledging his contribution to the field of technology.

The interaction between the university administration and students is also prominent in foreign nations. At California



Many students at Yongin Campus wish for an application about the shuttle bus.

State University, Santa Cruz, the office of Information Technology Services and an undergraduate student, Jamie Johnson, have cooperated for more than a year to come up with a campus application. This case is important at Cal State in that now students are getting involved in the university's internal administration creating positive results.

HUFS' vision and limitations

The head of HUFS' Information and Communication Team, Shin Wang-chul, showed the plans of the university's software improvements to The Argus. First, the university plans to add personal timetables and e-class features in the new "Mobile Campus." This will happen in November. Also, e-book features will be provided to students, which will lower their financial burdens and the difficulties of carrying heavy books around with them all day long. Also, the school promised to provide an online message board, providing a link between administrative offices and students. Students will be able to post their opinions, thereby allowing the university to understand the difficulties that students are facing.

Nevertheless, there are limitations to the plans. The university currently has a policy that does not allow students to access the school server to develop applications. There is a plausible reason for this: security. However, many other universities are figuring out how to provide access to student developers. It is becoming a trend to partly provide information to outsiders.

In addition, students are not benefiting from the applications because they do not know they exist. For example, Ryu Kil-young, a student of Division of International Studies, uses an iPhone. However, when asked about the campus applications, she said that she did not know much about them. If the university sends a text message to promote the "Mobile



Campus” website, it will be more effective if the students can instantly access the web through mobile phones.

◎Using the Student ID Card

Present conditions at HUFS

When passing the gates or selecting seats in the library, many HUFSSans have endured the experience of repeating these procedures needlessly, thus wasting a lot of time. The system that the university currently uses is based on bar code scanning, which must be carefully measured to identify the student. There is a feature in the card, though, that could do this and also act as a public transportation card. However, this feature is no longer available to HUFSSans because the university and Woori Bank have different opinions about activating this feature.

Another thing that students are not aware of is the K-card system on Seoul Campus. This can be used in school cafeterias, vending machines, and photocopiers. However, since it takes time to transfer cash to the K-card, and most of these transactions can be easily done in cash, students are not using it very much.

Applications of new technologies

There is a technology called RFID, which is neither new nor expensive. It stands for Radio Frequency Identification, and this technology is on our public transportation cards and is also used as GlobeeDorm entrance cards. This card has memory chips inserted in and is easy to use because students do not have to take the card out of your wallet, just like you do not have to do with public transportation cards. The cost is not much and, surprisingly, it is already on HUFSSans’ student ID cards.


This system allows many different technological advances for university students. Yonsei University uses it for attendance, thus reducing time for calling names. Korea National University of the Arts uses the system for security, allowing students in only some parts of campus buildings. Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST) uses the ID cards in other ways. For instance, the card functions for dormitory entrance, parking, public transportation, and also for use in the library.

The cases above show the uses of RFID technology. It brings different technologies together, and can function in many ways beneficial for both the university and the students. The current student cards at HUFS have the chips in them to use these applications but they are not yet in use. Students will

gain many benefits with the full use of RFID cards, which simplifies things by lessening the total number of cards a student has to carry to get through the day.

◎The Master Plans in the long term

There is no rule that says that only Computer Science majors are allowed to develop and utilize mobile applications. HUFS focuses on the liberal arts and many of the departments are very unique for a university in Korea for that matter. Because of this, HUFS can be an innovator in developing software for the use and study of languages. If the mobile software is developed properly, it will not only help HUFSSans but also help people who are learning various languages. The new form of media will allow people to cultivate more interests, save time, and in some cases save money. The paper content for many language courses is already dominated by HUFS Press; the university can develop its media content through using information and technology.

Utilizing technological innovations can help students study more creatively and effectively. Thus, the university should improve its facilities to better meet the students’ needs by making these enhancements. HUFS is competitive in many different languages, and if the language departments, administrative offices, and the publishing department communicate efficiently, we could develop original software that will help students worldwide to learn languages. 

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*What is an AP?

An AP, which stands for Access Point, acts as a signal sender for Wi-Fi. It receives signals from wires and sends them wirelessly through antennae. The more APs there are in a building, the more chances one will have better Internet connections.

**What is Wi-Fi?

It is an international standard for wireless Internet. All recent laptops and smartphones follow this standard. It has benefits in that it is free in most cases. On the other hand, the 3G Internet offered by the telecommunication companies is comparatively expensive.

***What is a 3G network?

It is mainly used in mobile phones, providing high speed Internet in addition to telephone features. Also, 3G networks have made video calls popular.



Turn Inconveniences into Inventions!



**By Ahn Jung-hyun
Choo Yong-wahn**
Reporters of Campus Section

Smartphones are common sights on the streets today. Are people not astonished by the profusion of intelligent applications these days? We know the IT market is changing rapidly. In particular, creative applications are becoming an integral part of our daily lives, playing useful roles changing our everyday lives.

Have you ever fallen asleep on the subway and passed your destination? If you have, an application called “Subway Alert” can be a problem solver for you. This application can be set to alert you one minute before you reach your desired destination. How useful! Lee Min-seok, this month’s interviewee, developed this application. In addition, he developed mobile banking for domestic banks. He is already a renowned application developer for

T-store, a widely-used repository of Korean smartphone applications. Surprisingly, Lee has accomplished this while he is still a student of University of Seoul and also has a background in liberal arts, not computer science. The Argus met him to have a chat at a cafe. He greeted The Argus reporters with a friendly smile.

Argus: How did you get interested in the field of smartphone applications?

Lee Min-seok(Lee): I originally majored in Architecture. At that time, science and engineering were highly unpopular. So I transferred to the Department of Urban Administration. However I did not know what to do or what I wanted to do. After some meandering and searching, I realized what I was good at. It was making creative mobile applications, so I took the challenge.

Argus: You majored in Urban

Administration. Doesn’t having a liberal arts background, rather than studying science or engineering, put you at a disadvantage? Did you face any negative biases due to this?

Lee: In application development, liberal arts students actually succeed more often. They have better, more creative ideas. It is more important to have compelling ideas than to have technical knowledge. I think that creative ideas appeal to the users of the applications better and more effectively. An application developer’s general approach and understanding of the public is much more competitive than having a developer or an inventor’s mind.

Argus: What kinds of application do you think are the most useful on a university campus? Could you also recommend some applications for students?

Lee: Through looking at the current university applications, the most useful

applications keep track of the number of remaining library seats and cafeteria menus. That's pretty much all there is. Most of the applications made for the university setting are limited to only showing how many library seats are open or what books are available for checkout. I think there should be an application that can help by providing the locations of the remaining and taken library seats. That means, if you go out for a while and if someone occupied your seat, it would be useful to have an application to inform you this situation. This would reduce the discomfort of searching.

I have thought about what applications would be useful, and came up with this idea: Let's say when you are in the classroom, or studying in the library, your cell phone starts ringing. It might be very embarrassing and distracting. So if a student enters a particular area, the phone could automatically switch to vibration mode in an application that changes the ring setting depending on one's location. I think it would be very useful if this were commercialized in colleges. There could also be a management program for study groups or a mobile college course registration application. I think many applications that we have only imagined will become available by next year.

Argus: Nowadays, although many people have smartphones, some people do not fully use them. What are your thoughts in light of this fact?

Lee: I think that only about 5 percent of people who own smartphones make full use of them. First, they should make the best use of the applications that are already on the smartphone to begin with such as applications to find the fastest route between two places and "Cacao Talk" which is used to chat with friends by text message.

There is also an application called TED which enables students to view videorecorded speeches given by famous speakers all around the world for free in a format specially designed for smartphone viewing, which is simpler and more practical than having to use the phone's Internet browser to watch them on TED.com.

Argus: Currently, universities are coming up with their own applications. Could you offer some advice regarding the college IT system?

Lee: Above all, it is very important that universities do not block their servers. They need to open up the college IT system. If the system is deregulated, many creative applications will be created.

For instance, public enterprise did not practically use smartphone applications at first. However, the government opened up the administrative system, which led to the improvement of application development. One good example is the "Seoul Bus" application, which now helps thousands of people find their way around the city. It is not that much different in university settings. The administrative systems of universities are also very exclusive and falling behind as a result. It is pitiful that the universities are blocking access to all of their systems which hold the relevant data, because many good services can be established by using the smartphone applications if they are opened up.

Argus: How did you gain knowledge about mobile applications? I guess it would have been difficult to familiarize yourself with the new technology.

Lee: The fastest and the most effective way is by reading IT-related books in English. In this way, one can stay up-to-date on global trends and get up to

speed on the application development market. Above all, keeping track of ideas and trends from daily life is good for application development.


Argus: You won the first prize with your "Subway Alert" application. What was your background in developing this application?

Lee: I am still a college student. I try to figure out the difficulties in everyday life. At the time I was developing "Subway Alert," I was deprived of sleep because I was very busy. I thought about a way to sleep on the subway without worrying about missing my destination. However, the process of developing this application was extremely difficult. I carried six different mobile phones to each subway station, spending ten hours on the subway every day.

Argus: What do you want to accomplish in the future?

Lee: My ultimate dream is not just to be an application developer, I want to become a coordinator. I mean, I want to arrange different parts of the company and act as a regulator.

Argus: What do you think about students starting to develop mobile applications?

Lee: I think of it quite positively. However, I think applying for contests is only to show to other people. I want students to know that the materialistic rewards are less than one might expect. If they have too much expectations, they will eventually get more depressed. However, overall, I think mobile applications can be a good experience other than the usual studying or TOEIC. 

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Alternative Does Not Solve Everything



<http://blog.naver.com/bmggroup>

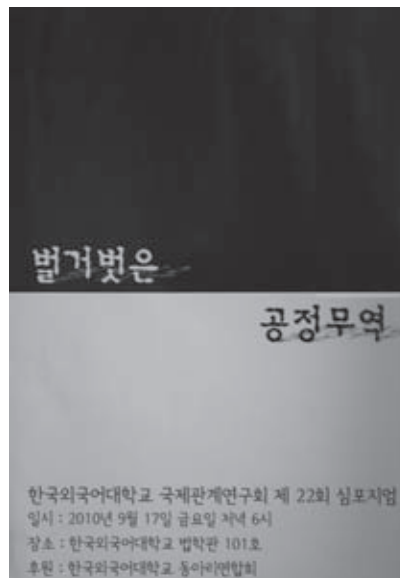
By Lee Eun-ju

Reporter of Theory & Critique Section

On Sept. 17, 2010, the 22nd Conference of the International Relations Researchers was held at college of Law on HUFS Seoul Campus with the theme, “Naked Fair Trade.” International Relations Researchers, established in 1987, work in all fields of international relations.

Digest

In traditional trade, before fair trade came into existence, trade was just a way to earn money, that is, trading and exchanging goods for profit. Therefore, the culture, environment, and people of developing countries were taken advantage of because companies crossed and national boundaries without any regulations for such things as minimum wage. This situation helped developed countries get richer, while plunging developing countries deeper into poverty. The natural environments and traditional cultures of less developed countries, the so called “the third world” were being destroyed under the banners



Choi Eun-sil/The Argus

of industrialization and economic development. The workers in these countries often included women and children who were exploited to work long hours for low wages.

What appeared to solve the poverty and oppressive labor practices in developing countries is fair trade. Fair trade has significant differences from traditional trade because it pursues the acquisition of moral reasoning noncompetitive pricing. Of course, though, it includes

the main goal of traditional trade in regards to profit. Still, it helps people in developing countries become financially independent and eventually overcome their poverty by removing the middlemen who were making the most profits, and this brings the producers or workers and distributors together so they can directly deal with each other. In this way, the producers can raise themselves up through fair deals, rather than being merely pawns in the process.

This is not just economic independence for farmers but also means that they will be able to provide education for their children through steady income. In addition, some fair trade organizations set up schools in developing countries to reduce illiteracy and to give children hopes and dreams for a better future through education. However, nearly six decades after fair trade practices were established, many limitations have now come to light fair trade.

A major problem is the failure of excessive production. Fair trade guarantees the lowest price of production from derdeveloping countries to help their farmers and pay a fair trade premium to maintain proper income

levels. However, economically, fair trade commodities are traded at higher prices than market prices because excessive earnings are paid to farmers without regarding market price. This practice distorts supply and demand creating imbalances and problems. The next problem is the limitation of markets and certain fair trade items. Actually, in fair trade commodities, particular to countries that are the main market of over 50 percent of the products, the markets in these countries are confined to producing only things such as coffee, bananas, and chocolate. Also, there is a problem about certification of fair trade. Certification of fair trade is a good way to warrant quality and secure credibility, but the cost of the process of certification can be a new burden to developing nation. Certification of fair trade is difficult to attain for small-scale producers because of their limited budgets.

Focus

Almost 200 years ago, German philosopher Hegel postulated his theory of the dialectical process of thesis, antithesis, and then synthesis. Accordingly, contradictions (thesis, synthesis) are resolved through being brought together and unified to synthesis, creating a new thesis.

Fair trade was established to compensate for the defects of traditional trade that put developing nations into poverty. Fair trade turned this around and set trade practices on the path of fairness. However, as time goes by, it appears that fair trade policies also have defects. This is unavoidable in a capitalistic society where nations must compete with each other, sometimes fiercely. The problems of fair trade, which was antithetical to traditional trade, are leading trade practices to a

new synthesis. Let's see how this works in our society:

Lately, the government announced that the Higher Civil Service Examination changed its name to Grade Five Open Recruitment, and now selects half its applicants from experts in their fields. This reorganization plan is to remove existing ordinances and the authority of the bureaucracy by abolishing the term, the Higher Civil Service Examination, which creates disharmony among officers. It also ensures professionalism among civil servants who have been criticized for failing in their abilities of their work because the tests are mainly focused on writing ability.

However there are many critics of this reorganization plan. Some say that we need more discussion because the tests were the only way that people could have a chance to get a job in the higher echelons of government. Also, with this announcement, students who have been preparing for the exams had many complaints. There is a great public doubt about how evaluations of competence, qualifications, documents, and interviews will be judged fairly. However, this plan has been scrapped because of fairness as the special employment of a daughter of high-ranking minister happened.

Not long ago, an industrial training program was initiated, designed to train industrial workers from foreign countries and help them find employment in Korea. This was used as a shortcut to get cheap labor in the country and some companies abused this by infringing upon the human rights of these workers. When these industrial trainees quit, they become illegal aliens. To compensate the defects of this, Employment Permit System was imposed.

The Employment Permit System can protect the foreign workers' human rights by checking their working conditions and permitting businesses that




The fair trade mark of Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International (FLO) which is used worldwide

employ them to confirm immigration status. It also guarantees domestic workers with employment opportunities because companies can only hire foreign workers after they prove that they cannot hire domestic workers for those jobs.

However, the rule restricts workers such that they cannot change workplaces arbitrarily. Many human rights organizations say that foreign workers are in a blind spot of violations and discriminations because the regulations force them to become illegal aliens.

In all of the institutions of our society, problems occur, and a new system appears to address and correct the problems of the old system. Like now, fair trade has problems that need to be addressed and fixed. Although it was established to fix the problems of traditional trade.

Even though there are many conflicts and problems in our society, we are always trying to find solutions that will be better for us in the long run. The next version of fair trade will work better than what we have now until a new version is established which will fix the problems that will spring up in the future. 

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Need a Job? Daddy Will Help You

By Lee Ho-je

Reporter of National Section

Do you know about the Ddong pig: the pig grows by eating the human excrement? It describes a high-ranking level's son-or-daughter who enters a company by the power above. Nowadays, ddong pig is a hot issue in Korea society. Lately, the daughter of Yu Myung-hwan, who served earlier as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, made a sensation in the special employment procedure to select a fifth grade official. However, more examples spring up all the time. For example, there are widespread privileges from local government to public corporations in recruiting processes. A series of irregularities by those in power during the recruitment process came up in Korea. These corruptions by the powerful, seems to occur almost daily in Korea.

What is the special employment program?

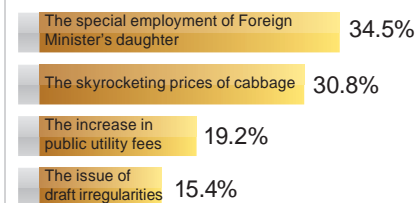
Currently, written exams for open recruitment guarantee fairness through the merit of equal opportunity, but still, it is difficult to select talented people. The written exams evaluate knowledge or potential ability, but test scores are not necessarily good indicators of job skills, so the special employment program is often used as an alternative to select talented people. People who have expertise to deal with administrative services and who have diverse experience often get hired. Jeong Kyu-jae, a lead writer for The Korea Economic Daily, said, “Most government officials are selected in open recruitment, but the special employment program selects a few people who have demonstrated their expertise. For example, an expert of Africa could be selected by the special employment program if the job needed someone with that knowledge.” However, this system is often misused by those who have authority and influence.

The public sector

Special favor suspicion in a government agency

The Ministry of Public Administration and Security (MOPAS) launched a special audit to the children of former diplomats and high-ranking officials, and ten people turned out to get special consideration. Also, other national government offices except the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trades (MOFAT) were caught with 11 cases by irregularities in the hiring of grade five officials over the past five years. On Oct. 4 2010, Representative Lee In-gi (Grand National Party) of the Public Administration and Security Committee revealed that MOPAS exposed 11 unfair cases through the audit about the special appointment of grade five officials over the last five years. Meanwhile, although the Ministry of Unification had to choose the candidates by their score during 2006, they selected another candidate who did not get the highest scores in the same year. Also, the Ministry of Health and Welfare included outside experts for more than half of their interviews in 2007, but they chose two inside committee members and two outside committee members for the positions.

The top current events question in job interviews(multiple response)



©saramin

The special employment is the most important subject in job interviews

Special favor suspicion in an educational institution

When Na Geun-hyeong, Incheon City's education superintendent, selected his daughter as a teacher through the special employment program, there was strong suspicion that all the judges on the interview committee were “staff members of the Incheon City education office” and that they received direct instructions from the education superintendent about the hiring.

There were other suspicions about Lee Su-yeong, who is another member of the Incheon City education committee. His daughter made one of the lowest scores on the examination for selecting a candidate for the agency, but she had ten more points than the other candidates under consideration. Still, she was selected through the special employment program.

On the contrary, in United States, they select a well-qualified candidate through the open position program. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), which takes care of the employment service, publishes job postings publicly. This posting presents the performance of the job, its duties, the academic, practical experiences, test qualifications, and the pay level in great detail.

The cause of corrupt in hiring practices

The shortage of objectivity and fairness in the special employment program

The special employment program is controversial because the screening standards and test timetable are arbitrary and thus favorable to a selected nominee. The selections of the interviewers who conduct the interviews adhere to no standards: The interviewers for the public teacher special employment program are comprised of five internal officers. The special employment standards for public educational personnel have no specific basis how the interviewers are selected. Council member Roh Hyeon-gyeong said, “It is a problem that the interviewers are selected from internal officers, but it is a more serious problem that selection standards don’t exist.”

Moral hazards of powerful ruling class

There are members of diplomats’ families in the MOFAT. They monopolize major posts and use the system to their benefit. Special favors are focused on them and these favors are not deviations or corruptions of the few. The misuse of privilege in personnel matters is a routine. If a diplomat gets a plum appointment, it is favorable to him and to his family. However, this system works against those who are not in the line of power. For example, diplomats periodically change their places of work and the places usually rely on the upper. If they get an unfair order, therefore, it is difficult for them to reject it, and this is a chronic problem. Representative Hong Jung-wook of the Grand National Party said, “The key point of the problem is that those in power make the attractive positions their exclusive zone. They try to support the ‘in’ group, but they are insensitive to outside criticism and restraint. Finally, their arrogance and misuse of power ruins the system.”



A mock-job interview scene at a private institute

Local government heads, local assemblymen, and many local high ranking officials are used to recruit acquaintances as well as family members. At a local government complex in Gyeonggi Province, 37 percent of all workers were employed through the special employment program. Professor Lee Sun-u of Korea National Open University said, “These people think they can do anything they want because they are a mayor or a governor. They think this is their natural privilege so much that they often neglect the law and employ an expedient to get who they want. Their assumption of privilege typically appears in special employment through connections.”

A light penalty

MOPAS found that in these cases, light punishments were usually handed down, such as a warning for ongoing violations. Representative Lee In-gi said, “These light punishments make this a much bigger problem because they do not stop these practices. MOPAS must enforce strict punishment on the relevant agency and the people in charge if they are to secure objectivity and fairness in employment.” Also, an official of the Citizens Coalition of Economic Justice said, “Recently, MOPAS said they will launch a special audit in the special employment of the daughter of Yu Myung-hwan, who served earlier as Foreign Minister, and will punish the people concerned, but it turned out to be a light penalty.” They stressed that MOPAS has to inquire into the facts carefully and punish the people concerned as a warning to others.

Solutions

The establishment of the special employment program

The problem with trying to root out personnel corruption is that people do not enforce the special employment regulations. Professor Kwon Yeong-ju of the University of Seoul said that the special employment program has to improve its transparency and become fairer. He suggested four principles to save special employment and root out corruption:

First, the principle of minimizing special employment. Frequent special employment is not good. We need to decrease the amount of special employment going on, and institute open recruitment. Second, the principle of special employment among high-ranking government officials and the open recruitment among normal government workers. Normal works do not require much expertise. Their jobs are to help the director of a bureau or a section chief in carrying out the work. Thus, when you employ a new worker, you must employ them through open recruiting. Third, the principle of supplementing employment should be carried out through open recruitment before hiring anybody. Unless you find candidates with expertise through recruitment, you can employ a worker through the special employment program. Fourth, the principle of expanding employment through open recruitment. Unless open job positions are advertised by open recruitment to secure expertise in new specialties, you must create new positions. For this, you must analyze requirements of the position and investigate correctly what kind of expertise is truly needed. Finally, if the demand for expertise is strong, then hire for the new position through open recruitment.

Securing both objective and fair practices in the special employment program

Experts say that securing competent interviewers for hirement evaluation is urgent. Professor Oh Seong-ho of Sangmyung University said the securing fairness is a big problem in trying to have good hiring practices. He also said “If many people judge the interviewee’s ability and come up with the same results, the interview will probably be fair. However, if the interviewers collude with each other to select the person demanded by the department, then this is a problem.” Also, there is a system where high-ranking officials aren’t involved in the special employment program in connection with their children. In the United States, it is prohibited by law for high-ranking officials to intervene in the recruitment of their children or relatives. The U.S Code for the federal government is enforced to strictly limit the influence in appointing, employing, and promoting relatives of high-ranking officials.

On Sept. 14 2010, Ji Jeong-hun, who is handicapped, was chosen as grade five officer for the Korean Intellectual Property Office through the special employment program. Like this, it has merit to select a second class person who probably would be overlooked in open recruitment, and in this regard, this regulation accomplishes a good purpose. However, a series of irregularities by men in power has surfaced concerning special employment. Ahn Jin-geol, the member of People’s Solidarity for Participatory Democracy group, said, “Other officers in the special employment program give special favors to high-ranking officials’ children, such as in the case of the daughter of former Foreign Minister Yoo. We need to make sure that the special employment process becomes transparent and fair.”



Ji Jheong-hun was chosen as grade five officer through the special employment

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The activities of the Youth Community Union and the symbol of it in the middle

Youth, Speak Up!



By Sung So-yoon

Reporter of National Section

The rate of youth unemployment is increasing steadily in Korean society, resulting in one-fourth of the youth population being unemployed. It is not a far-away story because most university graduates today express bitter feelings about how hard it is to get a job. Not only the people who are unemployed but also youth who have part-time jobs have many complaints. The problem of unemployment among youth only existed previously in statistics and the voices back then could not be heard. Finally, the first trade union was established to represent these youth, including interns, those with short-term contracts, the unemployed, and working students: the Youth Community Union. The Argus met Kim Young-kyung, the founder of this union to discuss the issue.

Argus: How did you establish Youth Community Union?

Kim Young-kyung (Kim): Five of my friends and I cognized the seriousness of the unemployment problem among young people and wanted to hold meetings to alleviate the problem. At first, we got the idea to build this union by seeing a Japanese union for youth. There are many trade unions but most of them were only for permanent workers. Trade unions for unemployed people or working students were nonexistent in Korea. Therefore we decided to set up the first union for such people and started by opening seminars among youth.



The union carry out a flashmob about the unemployment of youth

Youth Community Union

“The opportunities for them to work are not even given to the youth.”

Argus: Why do you think the youth did not speak out for themselves although they were sympathetic to the problem of unemployment?

Kim: The youth did speak out but it did not work because the numbers were so small that their voices could not gather into one strong voice. Another reason is that most of them thought that graduating from prestigious universities and getting a job were the most valuable goals in life. Therefore, not adhering to these values was regarded as a failure. This is the reason the youth are silent even though they were aware of the unemployment problem.

Argus: What do you think is the fundamental cause of the unemployment problem among youth in Korea?

Kim: Korea is now in a glacial epoch of unemployment. It also means that Korean society is growing with limited employment opportunities because Lee Myeong-bak administration's economic policies are based on neoliberalism. This encourages the amassing of more profits while spending a minimal amount of money. Hence the companies try to lower the numbers of employers and lowering the expenses. Humanism lost its value in the economic field. I think this mindset of economic management should change.

Argus: The youth are steadily becoming a class of working poor (people who work very hard but whose conditions do not improve). What do you think of this?

Kim: The opportunities for them to work are not even given to the youth. It is not each person's ability but the structure of society that is to be blamed. 260,000 job positions for youth were cut and public institutions are obligated to hire 3 percent of new recruits, but only 17 percent of public institutions meet this requirement. Also, many students take student loans which are hard to pay back. It is almost impossible to pay back this loan within ten years since interest rate is high. All of these circumstances turn students into working poor.

Kim Young-kyung, the founder of the union

Argus: *What do you think the government, companies, and youth should do to relieve the youth unemployed?*

Kim: I do not think that this problem will be solved in the short term. The government should actively intervene in the job market and try to make policies that can truly ease the seriousness of the problem. The companies should expand the number of jobs and employ at least 3 percent of them obligatorily. Lastly, the youth should think about this problem and realize that it is not only the problem of individuals but also that of social structure.

Argus: *Small businesses have a problem of no job hunters. Also, some people say that youth are picky because they only look for jobs at large companies. What do you think of this?*

Kim: The small business problem has developed because job stability is not guaranteed and the wage gap between small and big businesses is very big. Furthermore, people who say that the youth are too picky are not considering the social mood of pursuing high dreams because the desired standard of living has risen. Also, parental expectations are high, which torments the youth with empty, unattainable hopes.

Argus: *The union has provided many services for youth such as labor counseling, one person demonstrating against convenience stores that do not give the minimum wage, opening seminars for students, and so on. What is the most memorable to you?*

Kim: All of these things are memorable but the most valuable thing that I realized was that the union could be a place for the youth to speak out. There was a member who said that she felt more comfortable talking to the members of the union than to her friends and family because the members understand her situation better than them. This moved me and made me happy that the union is helping its members in a significant way.

Argus: *What are the future plans of Youth Community Union?*

Kim: We have many plans scheduled. First of all, we are doing a research on the condition of the youth by going around the libraries. Also, we are trying to pass a law when the National Assembly opens mandating, that money should be given to the job-hunters to help them find jobs since searching for a job costs a lot of money these days. The labor counseling will continue because no specific program of labor education exists, and many youth therefore do not know about exact labor laws. In addition, there will be a program to coach the unemployed people on how to get jobs.

Argus: *What would you say to the students working to pay back the student loans or to earn money to pay their tuition fees?*

Kim: I would not console them by telling them not to worry since there are hopes ahead. I think they should just face the harsh reality because if they are aware of the problem, they will not just accept it but try to solve it. ☹

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Youth Community Union

The union's participation in a press conference about the expansion of employment

Lee Kyong-eun / The Argus

Have you ever imagined that you would see Korean books at a bookstore in the United States? What do you think is the international status of Korean literature? Recently, Koreans got disappointed about the news that Ko Un, a reputed Korean poet, was not chosen as the 2010 Nobel Prize laureate for literature. You may be wondering if Korean literary works can appeal to foreign readers or not. However, it is true that Korean literature is going ahead, penetrating into the global market. September last year, 'Please Look After Mom' a novel written by Shin Kyung-sook, was sold to Alfred A. Knopf, a famous American publisher, with an advance of 70 thousand dollars and 100 thousand copies.

Giving International Wings to Korean Literature!

By Cha Eon-jo

Associate Editor of Culture Section

The Korean novels signed a contract with international publishers by Lee

It was quite extraordinary since debut works are usually published with only 3000 copies in the U.S. Moreover, it is rare that a debutant writer's work got sold for such huge amount of money. "It was possible because they already expected her novel to be a bestseller," said Lee Gu-yong, who was the very person to get the contract materialized. He is the executive director of Imprima Korea Agency, who introduces and exports Korean literature to the international market. He also graduated from the college of English, HUFs. He sold many other writers' works abroad, such as Jo Kyung-ran and Kim Young-ha. Jo Kyung-ran's 'Tongue' was sold to a world-famous publisher, Bloomsberry. Kim Young-ha's 'Your Republic is Calling You' was sold to a publishing house in America, and the books got into the bestsellers' list of Amazon.com. On Oct. 1, it was ranked 230, and ranked as 38 in the literary category. That is an incredible record for a Korean author, according to Lee. What is the value of Korean literature in the world, and how does Lee introduce it to the world? We asked these questions to him on behalf of the readers of The Argus.

Argus: What made you start exporting Korean literature to the international market?

Lee Gu-yong (Lee): I love literature. I think this job is kind of an action coming out of my dream. When I was at university, I read many English literary works. After I read them I also wanted to introduce Korean literature to the international readers, especially, since literature is my favorite.

Argus: 'Please Look After Mom' signed a contract with unprecedented conditions. What was so appealing about this work?

Lee: In the novel, the 'mom' sacrificed herself for her family. Her own life did not exist. However, the family did not realize how precious their mom was to them until she was gone. Even though her life story had the background of Korean history and the society, the love for our mom and family is common to all people. Furthermore, I found another point that can appeal to an American publisher. I compared 'mom' to 'nature' which humans often take for granted and not value while still present. It is a common problem that most people in the world can relate to, which helped me to persuade the publishers. Considering how rarely they import books in America and Europe, in America the share of foreign works being only 2 percent, it is an incredible news for Korean literature.

Argus: Kim Young-ha's 'Your Republic is Calling You' has succeeded to get into bestsellers' chart of Amazon.com. What do you think is the reason?

Lee: The story is that a spy from North Korea, who came to South Korea and lived here for over 20 years, had a conflict within himself after getting a message to return. It's a story in Korea, but the novel fundamentally talks about the natural



aspect of humans. Just

as we all are faced with moments of 'making choices' in our lives, the man in the novel also had a deep dilemma of choosing which way to go. I think that made the international readers impressed.

Argus: Korean literature has been criticized for being too regional, so it's hard to appeal to the international readers. How do you overcome the difficulty? What is your standard to choose works for international promotion?

Lee: As you see from the examples of the two books I have already talked about, I consider the quality, personality, and global appeal of a book. I like the works that have something Korean, but at the same time global. Many Korean literary works are about our sad history, such as the Korean War and the democratic movements in the 1970s. However, for readers in a foreign country, it is hard to understand the story. They are not interested in Korea's history, just like young readers in Korea.

Instead, they are attracted to universality. What they are curious about is the current thinking of Koreans, which they don't have to study before understanding the novel. That's why a global idea is essential. These days, young authors aged between 20s and 30s write more personal ideas, not national. This means there are more works that I can pick from.



Lee shows The Argus the ranking list of Amazon of Korean novel



“Readers in a foreign country are attracted to universality, not Korea’s history.”

Argus: What is the strength or distinct feature of Korean literature?

Lee: The distinctness of Korean literature is that it is serious. Compared to Japanese literature, you will understand it well. The color of Japanese literature is bright and cheerful, but that of Korean literature is relatively heavy. I think Korean writers catch something from the customs and culture and expand the scope of thinking seriously.

Argus: What is the moment when you feel the worth of your job?

Lee: When I introduce books to the international market, and get a contract with a famous publisher, I feel very happy. The books that I already talked about in this interview are my memorable things. No Korean writer has won the Nobel Prize for literature. However, when someone gets the prize and if I could contribute to that, I will feel that my work is something worth doing.

Argus: What makes your job attractive?

Lee: To introduce books, I go abroad to meet various marketers. In other countries, such as Japan, China, Italy, and many other countries, I meet various people. There, I eat and drink with them and talk a lot about topics ranging from culture to social problems. Therefore, getting an opportunity to have various experiences is interesting. Also, I can read works earlier than the public. I hope many people will take up this job. Also, I want to mention that language ability is important but it is enough to understand the language to introduce a book.

Argus: What is your most memorable work that you have read in your life?

Lee: ‘The Heart of Darkness,’ written by Joseph Conrad, who was a British writer. This work made me decide to study literature. Also, it made me read very carefully. Even if I read a novel, I read slowly and carefully as I read

poetry, to get the meanings one by one.

Argus: What do you think we, the public can do to introduce Korean literature in daily life?

Lee: I think bringing Korean works to international readers is important. For example, if we place a Korean novel in a hotel room where international guests stay, they will naturally get interested and read the book.

Argus: What is your next plan?

Lee: I still hope to introduce more Korean books to the world. To do that, I want to work with more capable translators. Translation is, of course, a significant part in exporting Korean literature. Therefore, in the future, I hope to collaborate with the Graduate School of Interpretation and Translation at Hufs! 📖

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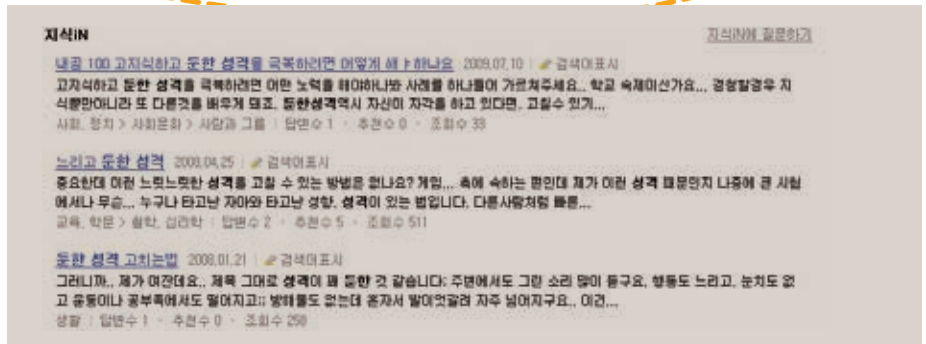
Insensitivity- What Do You Think about It?

By Choi Eun-sil
Reporter of Culture Section

How do you feel if you are called 'dull' or 'insensitive'? Do you feel good or bad? Probably not many people would like to be called 'dull' or 'insensitive.' Is being insensitive really a disadvantage? According to Watanabe Junichi, the author of the bestseller, 'The Power of Insensitivity,' it is not. In this book, the author emphasizes that it is better to possess the 'power of insensitivity' in order to succeed and survive in this world, which means that you can still be the same even if you have failed or been reprimanded. Contrary to our prejudice, insensitivity may have many merits.

The negative perspective of insensitivity

The dictionary definition of 'insensitive' is 'not aware of or able to respond to something' The definition portrays the term negatively. Try typing the search term 'insensitive personality' on Naver, and you will be surprised to see at the number of results related to ways to fix it.



The search result when typed 'Insensitive personality' on Naver

The word 'insensitive' also defines an insensitive person as 'slow in grasping ideas and dull in talents.' This does not fit our rapidly changing society at all in that there are 40 hexabytes or 4×10^{19} bytes of new information being formed every year. The amount of this new information doubles every two years. In a fast-changing society, being insensitive may leave people falling behind. However, it may not be true as insensitivity could also be a strength.

The positive perspective of insensitivity

The reason why we should be insensitive

According to the book 'The Power of

Insensitivity,' our blood stream needs to be smooth to maintain our health. This flow is controlled by the autonomic nervous system where a sympathetic system and a parasympathetic system work. The sympathetic system narrows the blood vessels, which leads to the increase of blood pressure under nervous and anxious situation. The parasympathetic system, on the other hand, broadens and relieves the blood vessels making the blood pressure decrease. Hence, we should try not to make the sympathetic system active in order to make the blood flow well, which can be achieved by reducing mental stress, displeasure, anger and so on. This means that we need to be insensitive to a certain extent to live a

healthy life.

Recently, the researchers at University of Michigan, University of Houston, and Baylor University proved that people who are less sensitive to smells tend to live longer. The researchers got this result with laboratory flies.

They controlled the flies with sensitive olfactory senses to detect carbon dioxide. When the researchers compared the life cycles of the flies with sensitive olfactory senses to those of the flies without sensitive olfactory senses, it was seen that the latter group lived longer. They stated that the nerve cells which smells carbon dioxide provoke aging and it shows the relation between health and sensitivity.

There was another research reported that men and women have different ways of controlling stress, and that women are weaker at enduring it. Members of Rita Valentino's research team from Philadelphia Children's Hospital injected Corticotroin Releasing Factor(CRF) hormones, which are related to the mental disorder caused from stress, into laboratory rats to study the effects of stresses. The result shows that the female rats responded more easily than the male ones. In other words, women's brain cells react very sensitively to stress hormones, leading women to contract many stress-related illnesses. According to a research that looked into the depression data provided by Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service for a four-year period from 2005 to 2009, the number of women who reported mental depression was 2.2 times higher than that of men.

Insensitive has patience

Most students who study all day long

are sensitive to noises and they use earplugs or prefer to study at a quiet place. However, this might lead to paracusia acris, a condition in which one reacts impulsively to small sounds. That is, students become distracted even with little noise. Jeon Yong-myeong, the director of Ear Care Network, said that it is better to be exposed to the daily noise in order to get used to and endure the noises. Similarly, if we have the ability to tolerate other kinds of stress, we can get closer to success.

In the book 'The Power of Insensitivity' the author describes mothers as the top of insensitivity. Mothers are dedicated to their own babies. For example, when babies cry, mothers might not be able to sleep. However, no mother would leave her babies alone. Also, mothers can breast-feed their babies wherever the baby wants to, even if the mother was a shy person.


Successes of insensitive people

Insensitivity is considered as a vice and an impediment to success. However, according to a survey conducted on

the 'tendency of a successful office workers' by the job and personnel portal 'Incrut' 50.3 percent answered 'insensitive and positive' as a dominant tendency while 49.7 percent reported 'sensitive and negative.' The results are not distinct, but this shows that people with insensitivity can also succeed.

The author of the book adds a story of a medical doctor. He describes the doctor as a nerd who got scolded frequently when he was at medical school. Nevertheless, he did not react sensitively to it. He just responded to the scolding with an indifferent 'yes' or 'OK.' Thanks to his insensitivity, he had the chances to stay closer to the professor and learnt the professor's skills better than any other students. Ultimately, he became one of the best doctors.

Like the doctor above, there was another person who did not mind so much about criticism. She was Eleanor Roosevelt. She was morbidly introverted and was afraid of critique of others. She asked her aunt about her worries that she cannot do anything because she was afraid of getting criticized. Her aunt answered that she should be confident about what she was doing as long as she felt it to be the right thing to do and ignore unreasonable criticisms. This advice was a great help to her and it led to her success.

Now, we can consider insensitivity as a key factor of healthier and more successful life and no longer feel embarrassed or bad about it. 

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Mothers, the top of insensitivity



Proud HUFSan / Muhammad Mukhtasar Syamsuddin



Philosophy: Developing Critical Thought?

By Prihantoro
Guest Reporter

This time, Proud HUFSan greets you with something different. Since its first appearance in *The Argus*, this is the first time that we are introducing you to a non-Korean professor. His name is Muhammad Mukhtasar Syamsuddin, and he is an important academic figure in Indonesia, especially in the field of philosophy. What makes this interview more special is that Professor Mukhtasar graduated from the Department of Philosophy in Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. Let us meet him in person.

Philosophy education: from Indonesia to Korea

Professor Mukhtasar Syamsuddin's interest in philosophy was first awakened in highschool, when he was introduced to muslim philosophers in history class. He then began studying philosophy at one of the top universities in Indonesia, Gadjah Mada University (Universitas Gadjah Mada, UGM). He also served there

as a faculty member starting in 1993, specializing in Confucianism. For this reason, he chose Korea as the place to pursue his Ph.D. He believed that Korea is one of the places where Eastern philosophy started to grow and develop. However, he has another reason as well.

"Even though Korea has shown significant growth in many fields, the philosophical foundation of Confucianism is still well-preserved in Korea. You can still witness its values existing in various aspects of Korean life, like economy, politics, education, and so on."

His reasoning makes sense because in terms of modernization, Korea has been developing rapidly. However even with the breathtaking advances in technology so far, we can see that Koreans still adhere to the norms and values of Confucianism.

It is for these major reasons that Professor Mukhtasar Syamsuddin applied for the Korean Government Scholarship, which is very prestigious for scholars from all over the world to study in Korea. After studying the Korean language at Kyunghee University, he pursued his Ph.D. at Seoul National University (SNU).

Profile

Biography

B.A: Gadjah Mada University (1992)

M.A: Gadjah Mada University (2000)

Ph.D: Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (2006)

Award

Visiting Specialist, Fulbright-Aminof, 2009

Scholarship

M.A: National Institute for International Education Development, Ministry of Education and Human Resources,

KOREA, 2001 - 2005

Ph.D: Directorate of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, INDONESIA, 1996 - 2000

Academic Position

Dean of Philosophy Faculty, Gadjah Mada University (2008-2012)

Society Membership

National Research Advice Council (2007)

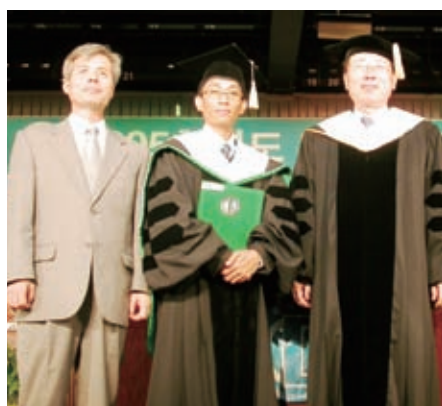
At SNU, he studied in depth about the comparison of Eastern and Western philosophy, which is his main research interest. This is also the reason why he transferred to HUFSS.

HUFSS is known for professors who have expertise in both Eastern and Western philosophies. He stated that the academic atmosphere at HUFSS is really positive for supporting his study on comparing Korean and French Philosophy. At HUFSS, he met Professor Park Hee-young, who specializes in Western Philosophy, especially that of France. Supervised by Professor Park, Mukhtasar Syamsuddin in his dissertation compared the thought of two phenomenal figures: Merleau Ponty (a 'Phenomenologist') and Toegye (a 'Neo-Confucianist'), whose works have become important reference in comparison of Eastern and Western philosophy.

Returning to Indonesia, his achievement and education service

Having obtained his Ph.D from the Philosophy department at HUFSS in 2006, Professor Mukhtasar Syamsuddin returned to UGM in Indonesia. UGM is one of the top universities in Indonesia and one of the few where one can find philosophy faculty. The Argus noticed something special about Professor Mukhtasar Syamsuddin. Just two years after getting his Ph.D., he was elected to be the dean of the Faculty of Philosophy at UGM for academic year from 2008 to 2012. This is a remarkable achievement which usually cannot be made in such a short time.

In terms of Korea-related works, Professor Mukhtasar Syamsuddin has published many international papers. In his interview with The Argus, he kindly shared his experiences presenting papers



Professor Mukhtasar(C) poses with President Park Chul(R) at graduation ceremony in 2006.

not only in Indonesia but also overseas from 2004 up to now. He is also the author of one chapter in the book, *Two Worlds: The Cross-Cultural Experiences in the Perspective of Indonesian Student in Korea* (2010). The title of his paper is "Education in Korea (the Chances and Challenges for its application in Indonesia)." He is frequently invited to academic discussions and regularly gives seminars and workshops on philosophy. In 2009, Professor Mukhtasar Syamsuddin was invited to United States as a visiting specialist, sponsored by one of the most prestigious academic sponsors, Fulbright American Indonesian Exchanged Foundation. He is also a former member of National Research Advisory Council in Indonesia.

"Today, there are phenomena like misuse of science and disorientation of science development." This is the reason why Professor Mukhtasar Syamsuddin chose to devote his life to teach philosophy. He shares his idealism to cultivate scholars who have critical, constructive analytic skills and are able to solve problems of disorientation. In the teaching of Philosophy, Professor Mukhtasar Syamsuddin prefers the discussion method. This is because one of the aims of philosophy is to develop one's critical thinking skills, and discussion is the most appropriate

method to engage students to think critically.

Philosophy makes it easy

"Studying philosophy is actually fun and easy." Professor Mukhtasar believes that philosophy, unlike other specific branches of science, can lead to a comprehensive solution. "If this is the case, why is philosophy regarded as a difficult subject by some students?" asked The Argus. According to his observations in Indonesia and Korea, the main difficulty comes from comprehension of philosophical terminology. He believes that as long as one knows how to understand philosophical jargon, philosophy can be fun and easy.

Another tip suggested by Professor Mukhtasar Syamsuddin is to study the biographies of philosophers. After we identify philosophers who fit our interest, we can start studying their thoughts. One can examine Professor Mukhtasar Syamsuddin's thought on how to study philosophy in his remark, "Philosophy is a science that demands a lot of rational and logical thoughts. Using the framework of the philosophers is the most appropriate method, for we can build our argument by considering the thoughts of others."

On this particular occasion, we presented an article about Professor Mukhtasar Syamsuddin from Indonesia. However next time, it could be you, one of the readers of The Argus. No matter what your nationality is, when you have outstanding academic achievements like Professor Mukhtasar Syamsuddin and other HUFSSans, you may all have the same opportunity to appear in this column. Nothing is impossible! 🙏

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Do Not Blame Yourself:

Diet Failure May Not Be Your Fault!

By Lee Eun-ju

Reporter of Theory & Critique Section

The season of high sky and horses being fat, autumn is in the air. People can gain weight easily because of excessive appetite and also because they need more calories for heating their bodies in the cold winter. Autumn is a season that one pays attention to one's diet. Having a nicely shaped body is everybody's dream and that's why many of us care about diet.

Researches show that the most important factor in losing weight is the will of the person

Researchers at the Utrecht University of Netherlands wrote in a scientific journal that looking at a photo of a cake helps one to lose weight. The researchers in this study tricked the subjects by saying that the experiment was a memory test, and divided the subjects into two groups. One group was shown photos of chocolate cake and the other group was shown photos of flowers. Then they asked the subjects to plan a menu and select, between chocolate and oatmeal cookies. The group that was shown photos of chocolate cake tried to make a healthier plan and selected oatmeal cookies, showing a strong will for losing weight. Researchers concluded that photos of food sometimes help strengthen the will for losing weight and being healthy. They advised to look at a picture of a cake, if people are worried about their excessive appetite.

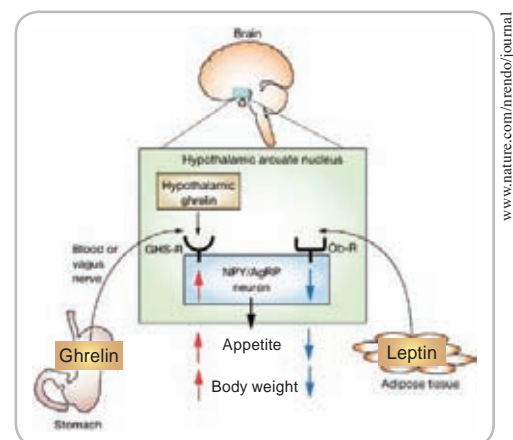
The results show that the most important thing in losing weight is the will of the person. Actually people who failed to lose weight often blame their lack of will and this can lead to a lack of confidence. Everyone starts losing weight with strong will to lose weight but there are few people who can maintain the efforts until they reach their goals. The reason for failure is not



entirely psychological, and can be blamed on the hormones that control our appetite. Two of these hormones, leptin and ghrelin, are the best known to control our appetite.

What does leptin do?

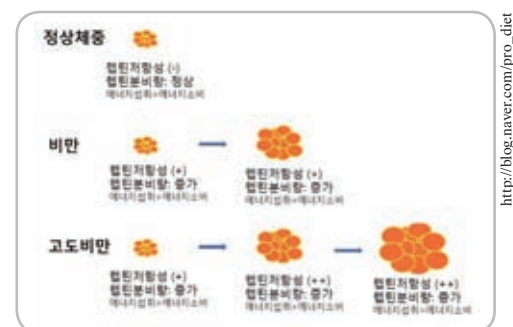
Leptin is protein hormone secreted in the fat cells when body fat increases; it stimulates the part of brain that controls appetite. If leptin acts actively, the amount of food intake is reduced and the sympathetic nerves are stimulated so that each organ starts consuming energy. According to Park Young-woo, a specialist in obesity, obesity is the situation when body fat is so piled up that leptin cannot deliver appetite inhibitory signals to brain making it falsely assume that there is a lack of body fat. Therefore, if the leptin's functions become erratic, the system that maintains body weight is in disarray leading to obesity. On the other side, when leptin delivers the appetite inhibitory signals to the brain, we can lose weight.



Ghrelin and leptin are the best known hormones related to our appetite

What stops leptin from working?

There are many reasons why leptin cannot deliver appetite inhibitory signals to the brain. Sweet things like sugar inhibit leptin, since they make insulin that maintains our blood sugar levels. Also human blood sugar rises rapidly when we eat large amounts of carbohydrates. Our body secretes insulin to take sugar apart for using it as energy. However, refined carbohydrate is converted to sugar in the body quite quickly and when blood sugar rises instantaneously, excessive insulin is secreted to metabolize it. Finally, the body reaches a low sugar state that makes one feel hungry leading to binge eating!



The relationship between obesity and leptin

What does ghrelin do?

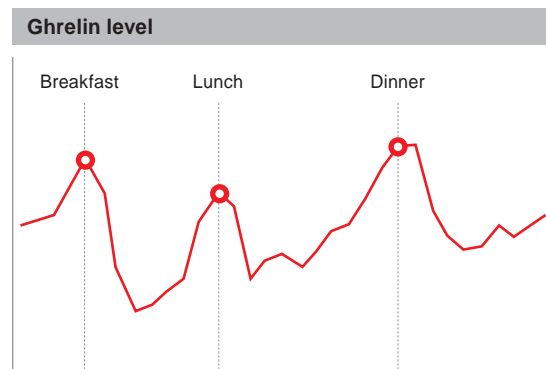
In contrast to leptin, ghrelin is an appetite-inducing hormone. Oh Seung-joon, the professor of internal medicine at Kyunghee University, said that ghrelin is mainly secreted in the stomach inducing hunger and a craving for food. Especially before eating, when the stomach is empty the amount of ghrelin secretion is high. The signals sent to the brain by ghrelin hormones induce appetite and make us look for something to eat so that we can appease the hungry stomach.

Southwestern Medical Center of the University of Texas published the results of a research work about ghrelin's impact on our appetite. The researchers said that they have found, after studying with lab rats, that

ghrelin stimulates appetite and eventually leads to overeating. They put high-calorie food and low-calorie snacks in separate rooms and familiarized the locations to the rats in the experiment. Afterwards, they injected ghrelin to some of the rats and let them choose the food of their choice. The rats injected with ghrelin showed a preference for the room with high calorie food, whereas the rats not injected with ghrelin did not show any particular preference for food.



<http://blog.naver.com/zihwazajh>




When the stomach is empty, the amount of ghrelin secretion is high. This induces appetite and makes us look for something to eat so that we can appease the hungry stomach.

What makes ghrelin active?

Ghrelin is activated by stress. When we get stressed, the stress hormone, cortisol is activated and ghrelin is secreted. In fact, Joblink (www.joblink.co.kr) conducted a survey with 2,083 employed men and women (1145 men, 938 women) and asked them how they relieved stress. 25.4 percent (541 people) answered that they relieved stress by binge drinking and binge eating.

Ghrelin is also activated when we do not get enough sleep and indulge on sweet food. Many countries use high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS), made of cornstarch, as artificial sweetener. According to an article published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition in 2004, HFCS can induce obesity. There is a strong correlation

between the intake of HFCS and increase in obesity. In addition to that, University of Tennessee also published a research claiming that HFCS affects the levels of insulin, leptin, ghrelin and induces overeating leading to obesity.

The reasons why people get fat vary widely. Hence, there is no absolute explanation for it. Obesity induced by hormones is a plausible explanation. As mentioned above, many hormones are involved in inducing or inhibiting appetite; it may not be a simple matter to lose weight. That is why the number of people who succeed in losing weight is far smaller than the number of people who fail to lose weight. However, it is sure that uncontrolled diet can ruin our body. Leptin and ghrelin are the primary hormones that can control our appetite. The most important thing is to change our lifestyles to let the hormones do the balancing act in favor of our health. 

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Orwellian 21st

By Lee Yeong-eun


Editor of Culture Section

If George Orwell were alive today, I believe he would be amazed by how easily an individual's privacy can be compromised, not through an iron curtain of surveillance cameras. There is a much cheaper way — achieved with clicks on a mouse. Yes, I am talking about the much-loved social networking sites of Facebook, Youtube and their ilk.

In just under a decade, we have become wired to these nascent Social Networking Sites. In Korea alone, 25 million users are glued to their screens, engrossed in updating their online avatars. I remember being busy exchanging user names and emails with new friends during the first few weeks as freshman. Undoubtedly, no invention thus far has managed to link people together so quickly. However, such a powerful technology carried a fatal flaw that their creators, including Mark Zuckerberg and Jack Porsey, never envisioned: personal boundaries could be torn down using a computer and now, even a phone.

In their desire to express themselves, users may divulge sensitive information and pictures in their profiles, allowing anyone, even complete strangers, to glare into their souls. Sensitive information can be uploaded without knowledge. Some people argue that defenses against intrusion of privacy can be erected through maintaining proper privacy settings. However, I feel, the damage to our privacy is already done. Personal space has been nonchalantly dismissed as something worth little as users feel that in this Information Age, there is no choice but to stay connected, and there is no harm in it since everyone is doing it. However, we can be compromised. Take the story of companies now examining the profiles of potential employees and rejecting at least a third of them due to various unfavorable details being unearthed on networking sites. Clearly, companies have opportunities to expose the skeletons in people's darkest closets through browsing their social networking accounts. The potential to abuse this information to defame or unfairly dismiss others is there.

Furthermore, in the hands of truly malicious individuals, networking sites can become deadly weapons that can inflict serious damages on others. Take the case of Dharun Ravi, pushing his roommate Tyler Clementi to suicide by surreptitiously videotaping his tryst with another male and uploading it on the Internet and advertising about it through Facebook and Twitter. The potential of harm is surely there, yet curbs to prevent such abuse of power are sorely lacking. Anyone of us can be a victim.

Yes, Facebook and its brethren are addictive. Having devoted hours to live in a virtual community, I realize the value of such websites in establishing closer relationships with others. However, we must also be cognizant of the fact that such tools have the potential to become intrusive Orwellian machinations that can endanger our lives both online and offline. For better or worse, such devices are here to stay. The only effective way to counter them is to preserve and respect our own and others' personal space. Let us strive to remain in control instead of letting ourselves be controlled by the technology we have created. 

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The Unveiled Facts of Rome



By Choo Yong-wahn

Reporter of Campus Section



Lee Ji-yeon
Department of Italian '07

“Romance in the dormitory? It did not apply to me since I stayed in a women’s dorm with nuns,” said Lee Ji-yeon who attended the University of Rome (Universita di Roma) last semester. She began to tell *The Argus* about her amazing experiences in detail. Although she stayed only with women, Lee felt more comfortable adjusting in that particular environment, where people were careful about their behaviors.

In Rome, many things were different in the school setting. People were quite casual about coming to class on time, and professors were lax about attendance. There was even a separate test for those who could

not make it to all the classes. However, that did not mean that studying was not taken seriously. Professors were professionals in their fields beyond the school setting, and students mostly attended graduate school. Undergraduate programs were offered on three year basis, and most students took an additional two years to get a master’s degree. Just one might imagine, Rome is full of artistic heritage sites. Lee was able to see a lot of artistic interest among ordinary students. Since Italian students receive art theory education during their high school years, they could explain and give critiques when they went to museums.

When asked about what Italy is really like, Lee gave several surprising examples. ‘Carbonara spaghetti’ in Italy is made with pork, eggs and pepper, but does not contain any cream sauce. In addition, a popular brand of accessories among college students is not Prada or Gucci. Surprisingly, many students in Italy

have 'Pucca' character bags, which are from Korea. However, many people did not know much about Korea, often confusing North and South, even during the World Cup.

Lee also said that the way people make friends was quite different in Italy. There were no official interactions between people in the same major, but people got to know each other through enrolling in the same classes. She felt that the Korean way of making friends seemed tighter.

Italy collects differing amounts of tuition from students depending on their income levels. Lee Ji-

yeon explained that tuition was divided into seven different levels, ranging from the equivalent of 80 thousand won to 250 thousand won per semester. This is dramatically lower than in Korea, so students have a relatively smaller burden in terms of tuition.

Another tip that Lee provided was about traveling in Europe. Through her Italian visa, she was able to enter many museums for free in France and England. She said many students were not aware of this fact and she wanted more people to take advantage of this opportunity.



Claudia Picchioni
(Exchange student from Italy)

Originally majoring in Korean in Rome, Claudia Picchioni came to HUFS just several weeks ago. When asked about her difficulties, she explained being exposed to Korean is not a source of stress, since her major goal this semester is to improve her Korean.

Picchioni originally majored in Japanese, but shifted to Korean. When asked about this, she said that Korean pronunciation seemed exotic and interesting at the same time. At her school in Rome, one must pick a major and a minor. Not that many students choose Korean as their major, but many people who major in Chinese and Japanese choose Korean as their minor.


According to Picchioni, there is no concept of "student club" in Italy. This was a new aspect of culture that Claudia encountered in Korea. She participated in the Taekwondo club at HUFS and plans to visit the Samulnori club. Picchioni also mentioned that it was great to eat out together with friends at HUFS, since eating out in Italy happened only about once a month due to its high cost.

As this interview was conducted in a cafe, Claudia explained the differences in coffee culture between Italy and Korea. Most of the coffee in Italy is pure espresso, but not as thick as one might imagine.

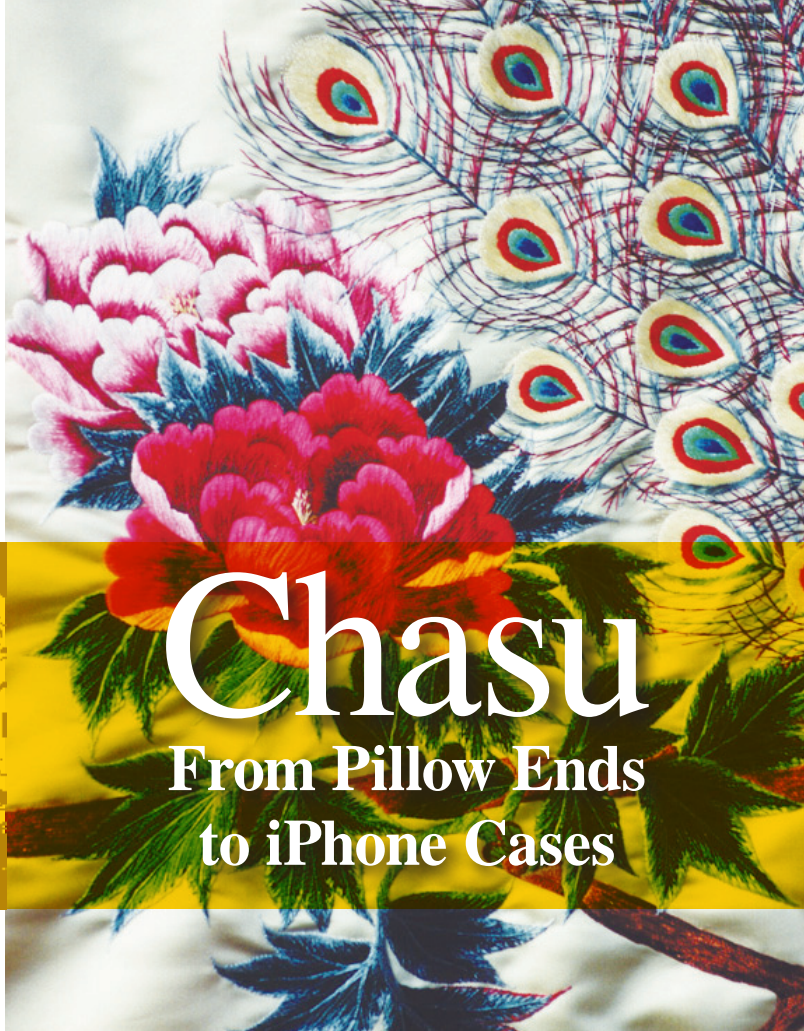
Therefore, people take out their coffee or sit down for only couple of minutes since a cup of espresso can be finished in just a few sips. Thus, it is odd to have group study or long conversations at a cafe in Italy.

The way of studying is also different in Italy. Studying is considered to be an individual task, so it is rare to see students studying together. Another characteristic of Italians is that they often use expressive body language. Claudia gave an example of pointing the chin with the index finger while constantly turning it, which means that something is delicious.

Italy has regional variation as in the case of Korea, but in Italy the regions differ from north to south. Picchioni explained that this is a result of the differences in each region's primary economic activity, with the south focusing on agriculture and the north being more industrialized. College students nowadays tend not to be very interested in politics. Picchioni also explained that religion does not have much significance for many young Italians compared to the past, even though 90 percent of the population identifies itself as Catholic.

Most Italian students go on to professions relating to their majors in college. Accordingly, Picchioni hopes to utilize her Korean skills in her future career, perhaps working as an interpreter or a career woman traveling around the world. 

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Chasu

From Pillow Ends to iPhone Cases

By Choi Eun-sil
Reporter of Culture Section

There is a Chinese drama called “Cheondangsu” opening this November, starring Han Ji-hye as a genius Chasu designer. As China is highlighting the importance of embroidery, The Argus also wanted to learn about the importance of Chasu, so we went to The Museum of Korean Embroidery, which is located in Nonhyun-dong, Seoul, on the fourth floor of a small building. The museum is small, but it exhibits different kinds of pillow ends, sitting cushions, folding screens, and other items enhanced with this distinctive Korean embroidery.

What is Chasu?

Chasu is Korean embroidery. First, the embroiderer makes a sketch of the

pattern or design on the leather or cloth. After that, she-or-he follows the pattern by using needle and thread, sewing it on the material, and that is how it is done.

Characteristics of Korean Chasu

Even though it has similarities with the embroidery of China, Vietnam, and Japan, Chasu is distinct from the embroidery of these other countries. For Chasu, not only the outlines but also the whole background is full of color. Whereas other traditions of embroidery only cover the outlines of the sketch, Chasu fills in the whole background. In this way, the colors of the background are also parts of the embroidery such that the hue and the outlines become more vibrant. Not only that, but Chasu also highlights the shading.

Korean traditional Chasu varies in range since it is not only found

on clothing but also on household and personal items including sitting cushions, daenggi, handbags, spoon cases, and other items. In Korean folk painting, it is preferred to leave blank areas, emphasizing the beauty of space. By contrast, Chasu fills almost every space of the cloth with minor patterns around the major pattern. “It is easy to believe that Korea did not develop colors in arts as Koreans are thought of as the ‘white-clad people.’ However, Koreans did indeed develop many colors, as can be seen in Chasu,” said Huh Dong-hwa, director of The Museum of Korean Embroidery.

The difference between Korean and Chinese embroidery is that the Chinese use thin threads for their decorations. Koreans, on the other hand, use thick threads to add practicality. In addition, Koreans use a variety of colors and designs to show a sense of beauty. In a



The overall view and display of The Museum of Korean Embroidery



Pillow end

book by Huh Dong-hwa, French museum directors, Jean François and Zarigue France Guime, are cited as saying, “It is difficult to find embroidery as colorful, harmonious, and elegant as Korean Chasu.”

✧ The history of Chasu

We do not exactly know where and when our Chasu tradition began, but needle-shaped stones were found among relics of Bronze Age Korea, and maybe it was there. In “Samgukji Buyeojeon,” there is a record on cloth made of “su,” which is said to be worn by the people of Buyeo. “Su” is a kind of silk with different kinds of threads sewn on it. From this, we can surmise that Chasu started back in the times of Buyeo. In the era of the Three Kingdoms, the nobles desired the finely made embroidery, and thus their demand led to the Korean embroiderers refining Chasu to a high art. In the Goryeo Dynasty, Chasu was popular among both the nobles and the commoners. There were even laws prohibiting the use of Chasu since the taste for Chasu grew to be very extravagant and time consuming. Chasu was also used for Buddhist ceremonies, and since Buddhism was very popular then, Chasu was even more in demand. Entering the Joseon Dynasty, because of the growth of commerce and handicraft manufacturing, Chasu became even more popular and could be found in

private houses. In the Joseon Dynasty, there were two types of Chasu, one was “Gung-su,” produced in the palace, and the other was “Mingan-su,” produced in private houses.

✧ Kinds of Chasu

Chasu has been used in the past and up to now in various ways, especially in our daily lives. The uses in the past were for pillow ends, children’s quilted socks, daenggi or ribbons, norigae or Korean traditional ornaments, sitting cushions, and other items of daily use. Hwal-ot or ceremonial clothes for women, and Hyoong-Bae, embroidered patches on the breast and back of official uniforms were used as “clothing Chasu.” “Decoration Chasu” is used mostly on folding screens. “Buddhist Chasu” is used for Buddhist ceremonies.

Chasu continues to be used as it was in the past. However, it is constantly being developed into newer fashions. Today, it is used on wallpaper. “Shinhan Wallcoverings” uses Chasu to make floral designs more ample and realistic. One of the most interesting uses is on iPhone cases. As we use more and more iPhones, cases with Chasu on them are becoming more popular. On May 25 through May 28 earlier this year, the “World Information Technology Show 2010” was held at COEX in



iPhone case made of Chasu

Seoul. The Korea Craft and Design Foundation submitted over 30 different iPhone cases for the exhibition made by traditional master craftsmen. The cases were made of bamboo, silver, gold, jade, varnished with lacquer, hanji, or traditional Korean paper handmade from mulberry trees, lacquerware inlaid with mother-of-pearl, quilting, folk painting, Chasu, and other traditional craft techniques. The reactions of the visitors were enthusiastic with people asking, “Can I buy this?” and “Are you planning on exporting these?” Chasu is also used on earrings, shoes, and many other items.

✧ The Symbolism of Chasu

Many symbols are used in Chasu. Some of the most commonly used symbols are the Mandarin duck to symbolize the love and chastity between married couples, the chicken to represent auspiciousness and a promising start, chrysanthemums as elegance and high chastity, the sun and moon for the absolute being, and the tiger to represent bravery and courage.

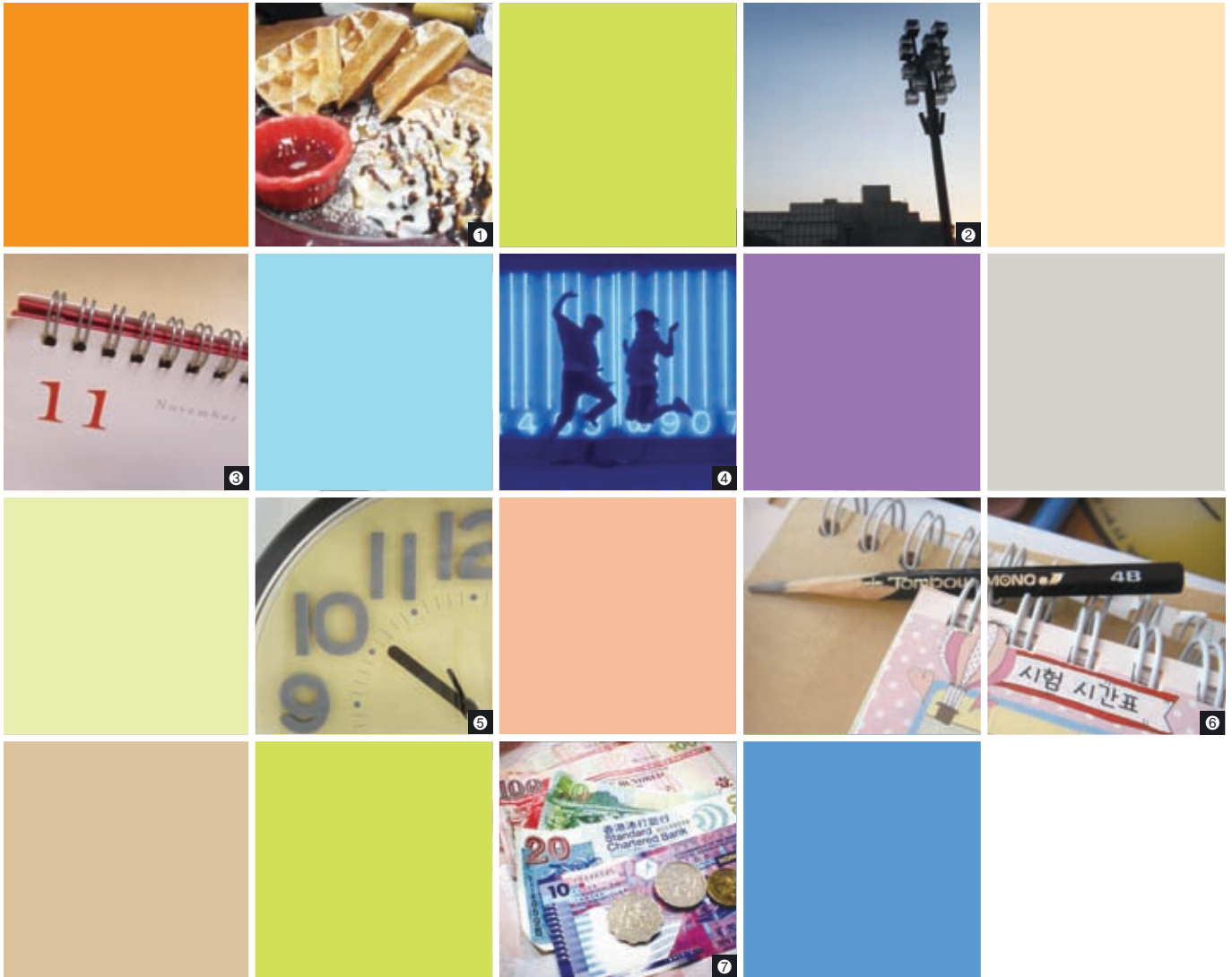
Most of us are unaware that Chasu is being used in so many ways, including the goods that we see everyday. As we found out, Chasu can be used in unlimited ways. Though Chasu is one of Korea’s oldest arts, it is also a part of modern Korea, connecting to our ancestors through craft, art, and enjoyment of the beauty. 📧

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Mirror decorated by Chasu

Let's Plan Our Lives



1. What about your diet plan?
2. Sometimes you can just rest.
3. How is your plan going?
4. Enjoy yourself in the planned life!
5. Time is tickin'!
6. Time to study! Your exams are not far away.
7. How about traveling?



A Good Friend, The Argus

The Argus gives me knowledge from common sense to current events. It is also pleasing to hear about what is going on around our school. I really like it since it provides information very abstractly, so I do not have to spend much time getting the information. Also, it helps me enhance my English skills, which I do not have much chances to do so. The Argus is a good friend that motivates me to study English.

I especially enjoyed the article 'Is Deja Vu a Surreal Thing?' because I could understand the origins of Deja Vu and also know the true meanings of it. Even though the word is often used, I did not fully know what Deja Vu actually meant before reading this article. I have always had interest in reading science magazines, so it was really fun for me to read.

I think it would be nice if the magazine deals with the G20 conference and the power succession of North Korea. It is a very up-to-date issue that many will be interested in.

I respect the hard work being done every month. I hope you keep up the good work as always. Fighting!

Choi Won-jin

(Department of Persian '10)

Motivation for a More Challenging Life

Iwould give an A+ to this magazine because it consists of various articles that are both entertaining and informative. The Argus is different from other college magazines. It has various of contents and deals with for more interesting issues.

I think the best article in the October edition was 'It's a Wonderful Heart-pounding Life.' This article motivated me to live a more challenging life.

Personally as a baseball fan, I think it would be nice if The Argus wrote more sports articles. But apart from that, I think The Argus is doing an excellent job and I'd like to tell them to keep up the good work! 🍎

Bae Min-kyu

(Division of International Studies '09)



HUFS held an unveiling ceremony of the monument commemorating the 50th anniversary of 4.19 Revolution Day



The Argus
www.theargus.org