

The  
First Issue Published July 1, 1954  
**Argus**

No. 441  
OCTOBER 12, 2011



# Celebrate HUFS Underground Complex



HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES

# The Argus

ESTABLISHED 1954

Published monthly except the school holidays by and for students of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, The Argus, the oldest campus English newspaper in Korea, pursues the highest standard of campus journalism.

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Printed by HONG DESIGN | Tel: 464-5167 Fax: 464-5168

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## In-Depth on National

Last semester, lots of undergraduates of the country went to Gwanghwamun to get their demands that Half Price Tuition should be practiced. Also, the government announced easing plan of university tuition, but it does not seem to solve the problems. In this month, we analyze the effectiveness of easing plan and suggest further steps to solve the problems.



## Visiting

In this month, The Argus visited a newly elected 28th President of the HUFS Alumni Association. Kwon Soon-han talks about HUFS's yesterday and today, suggesting a picture for the better tomorrow.



## Main Issue

In general, 'Populism' sounds like a negative word, in that it is thought to help poor people imprudently without considering national wealth. However, populism has the Janus face. It is because populism could contribute to domestic economy grow so that the public become properous.

### T & C Tower

Some politicians have instilled negative aspects of populism into our minds. They insist that populism is just a strategy to gain popularity. However, populism can be defined as a political means to reflect opinions of the public. Seeing examples of other countries, you can find populism can lead to successful results.

### Parallel Code

There are positive and negative aspects in populism. Lula's populism is judged to be successful. But, Peron's populism is valued as a failure. What is the difference between two? Common and different points will be dealt with. Let us learn lessons from the parallels.




# Desirable Popularity

Is popularity a bad thing? The ‘Ahn Chul-soo Syndrome’ hit the country when he was considering running for the Seoul mayoral by-election. Although this successful 49-year-old software businessman announced that he would not run in the election, his ratings greatly increased and are now ranked high enough that he is regarded as a strong presidential candidate. However, some Korean journals have pointed out the syndrome is based on populism. Is this fair criticism?

Popularity itself is not a negative concept. As democratic rules explain, if the public wants something, it should be an important matter. Furthermore, in listening to what people truly want, leaders should find the deeper meaning of popularity. Therefore, before discussing whether he can be politician or not, they should first focus on what the syndrome means: the public wants reform. The principle can also be applied to other hot issues such as social welfare and tuition fees at universities even though the media has criticized the measures as being based on welfare populism.

Meanwhile, a necessary condition is now required of us, the public. We should find out how to call for something before simply claiming it. It means we have to be concerned about the contents of the public’s demands. Can you correctly demand what we need? Have you ever attempted to think deeply about possible and detailed measures for a free welfare system or half-price tuition? An opinion without a logical basis has no power. To make the voice of the public much stronger, knowledge about society is first needed and only then can correct measures be considered. It is a principle that the public should follow under democratic rule. It is also the way to overcome a weakness of democracy in that a foolish public can lead to bad results.

If public opinions are formed by careful processes and thinking, they can be more powerful and finally, can reach a ‘desirable’ popularity. In this month, The Argus reports on popularity in Korean current society and HUFS. If you have argued strongly for something that is related to the current issues, you might find the answer reading our articles. We, The Argus reporters, hope you have critical eyes in judging reality through the magazine. 

*Editor-in-Chief*  
**Cha Eon-jo**

# Students Debate Desertification at the HIMUN General Assembly



Yang Eun-young / The Argus

▲ A representative student addresses in 35th HIMUN

**T**he 35th HUFs International Model United Nations (HIMUN) General Assembly, co-hosted by Korea Forest Service, was successfully held on Sep. 3 at the Convention & Exhibition (COEX) Auditorium.

The subject of the 35th HIMUN was, 'The Role and Effort of International Society in Combating Desertification.' To debate this year's subject, representatives of Korea, Australia, Germany, Japan, Spain, the People's Republic of China, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Sudan, Tadjikistan, and the United States participated in the conference.

The 35th HIMUN was divided into two sections: 'Finding a Solution for Environmental Refugees by Desertification,' and 'Seeking

Ways for International Aid to Solve Desertification.'

At the beginning of the conference, many speakers, including Green Child Ambassador Hwang Seung-bum, offered their congratulations, and many performances, including one by a Korean fan dance troupe, entertained the participants.

HIMUN was first held in 1959 with the subject, "The Armament Reduction of the UN," and has been held annually since 1989. As the conferences of the HIMUN General Assembly were conducted in many languages, HIMUN provided equipment and translators offering simultaneous interpretation for each language into seven languages: Korean, English, Russian, French, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic.

In an interview, Jeon Min-Gyeong, the chairman of the 35th HIMUN said that from his participation in HIMUN, he could gain confidence and got to meet many good people.

Jeon said the reason why the discussions at this year's HIMUN Conference might not have been concrete was that the subject of desertification is difficult to put into concrete terms.

Finally, he mentioned that through planning and working for five months to make the HIMUN General Assembly successful, he worked with many great people who have since become close friends. Jeon also said that he developed a sense of responsibility as a chairman, which he strongly feels is invaluable.▲

**By Kang Young-joon**

# The 2011 Global Job Fair Is held

The 2011 Global Job Fair was held at Globee Dorm on Sept. 7 and 8. The Job Fair provided information about employment and also gave students opportunities for counseling. Almost 50 companies including Samsung, CJ, and SK participated in the Job Fair to promote their recruiting which they always do most actively in the fall. The fair was organized by the General Student Council, the Career Department Center, and Corp. Hankyung Disco.

Despite the limited space in Globeeteria, many seniors seeking employment came to the fair to get as much information as they could. The students crowded around several of the corporate booths, reflecting the popularity of these companies and the intense competition for jobs. At HUFStoria, which is located near Globeeteria, free photo shoot



▲ The corporate booths are in a row with students seated for counseling

sessions and image consulting was prepared for the students.

Nam Suk-ho, a senior who majors in business, said, "I think this is a precious chance not to be lost for students preparing for employment. I gained a lot of information at this event. However, it would be better if there was more space for us to use while we are waiting to

meet with the company representatives." One of the people in charge of recruitment at Hyundai Stock Firm, Kong Sun-sik, said, "After meeting many students, I feel that HUFStians are very capable. However, it is somewhat disappointing that only a few of them know exactly what they want to ask of us."

By Woo Hae-chung

# Koh Seung-duk Suggests the Ways of Success

Koh Seung-duk, a famous member of the National Assembly and lawyer, visited College of Humanities on Sept. 19 in the Seoul Campus to lecture HUFStians how to succeed. "A man lives his life as he dreams, thinks and acts. And most important thing to live a life is to think getting better as you tried hard," said Koh. "Living a life to the full is not the condition of success but survival in this competitive circumstance. You should find your strength which can

be differentiated from others," he mentioned. He also defined the effort on his own, as doing more than successful man.

He divided ways to live a life into four types from A to D. People of type Ace (A) does their job of their own accord and has made a habit of preparing in advance. People of type Better (B) try to work properly. Type Common (C) only do given works and do not have will to progress. The last type Dead (D) do their job unwillingly and constantly find

reasons why they cannot do that job. "To be a person of type A makes a difference from others," stated Koh.

In the last of the lecture of Koh provided a blueprint for the future of Korea where people can realize their dreams. Many students were inspired by his lecture. Kim Da-hye, a student who majoring in Arabic, said "Through his lecture I realized successful people have common denominator, then I realized the necessity of life planning."

By Yang Eun-young

# Outer Wall of Graduate School Remodeled



▲ The exterior of remodeled Graduate School  
▶ The lounge of Graduate School



The ceremony for the remodeling of the outer wall of the Graduate school was held on Sept. 5. The ceremony was begun with opening address, followed by a report on construction, then President Park Chul's congratulatory message, the presentation ceremony awarding card to meritorious builder, and a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The remodeling had started in Feb. of 2011. The construction includes replacing all finishing materials of outer walls, windows, doors, putting up

decoration tower on rooftop, arranging pipes of air-conditioning plant, making lounge, installing outdoor lighting, and many other improvements.

In President Park's congratulatory message, he said, "I would like to thank everyone who assisted this construction." And "I am satisfied because all parts of Graduate School look better." Kim Jae-joon, the Construction Planning Team leader, said, "As Graduate School is situated at the roadside, it heavily influences images of HUFs. I am proud

of its new, neat style."

Yoon You-jeong, freshman majoring in Economics, said "It disturbed everyone before being completely remodeled, especially students who have a class at the graduate School. After completion, it seems to be an entirely different building. I hope other buildings, especially a library, will be remodeled soon."

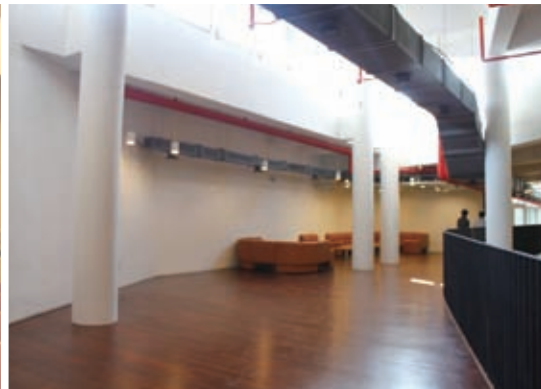
By **Kang Young-joon**

# Underground Complex on Seoul



“This is only a part of our giant leap for the nation’s top five universities,” said President Park Chul at the opening ceremony of the underground complex and remodeled old main building on Sept. 23.

The Underground Complex, which has been HUFSSans’ cherished desire for better facilities, covers an area of 3800 pyeong accommodating up to 2000 students. It is composed of lecture rooms, seminar rooms, a fitness center, international conference rooms, the main auditorium and parking lot. For this newly built underground parking lot, HUFSS is expected to become an eco-friendly campus with no cars above the ground.



◀◀ The conference room  
◀ The lounge



▲ The fitness center  
◀ The auditorium



# Campus Unveils Its Appearance

Adjacent to the underground complex, the white building which had been used as a main building for last decades completed its remodeling to be transformed into a memorial hall. This building will perform a great role in providing confidence to every HUFSan and encouraging school spirit.

“We have to not only focus on the external developments but also eradicate the dispute among us for the inner growth,” added President Park Chul. The underground complex will be opening to the general student body within a few days. ☞

By Woo Hae-chung



◀◀ President Park Chul is planting a commemorative tree

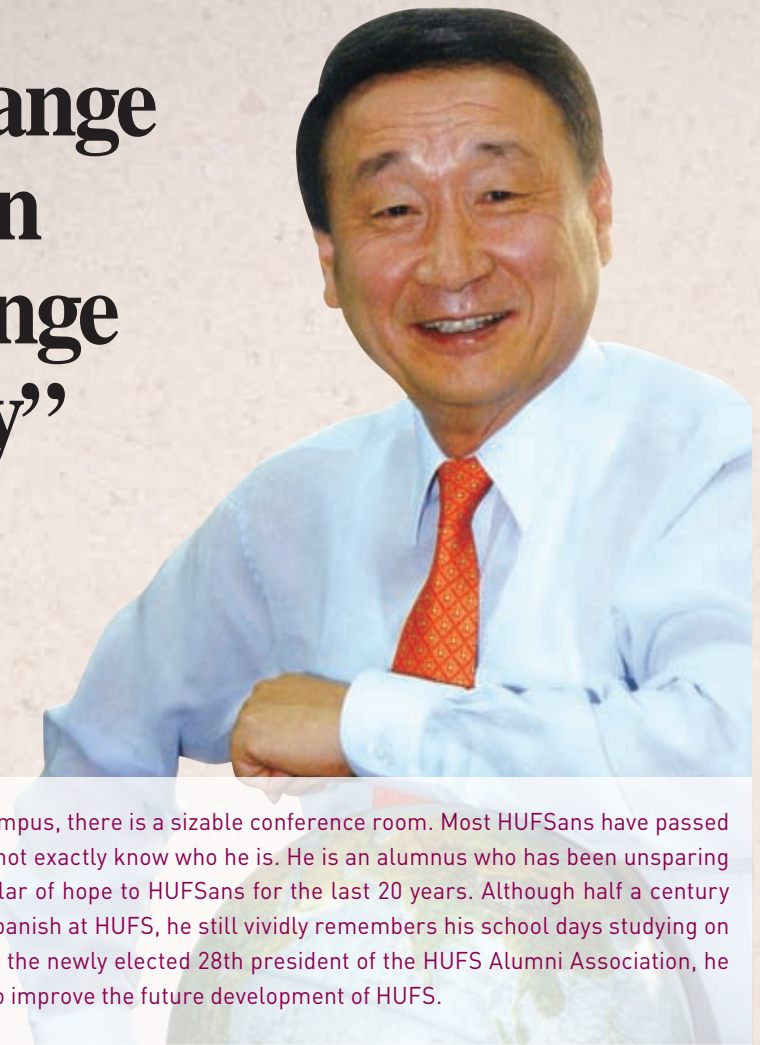
◀ The right side of Memorial hall



The main road from the front gate

# “You Cannot Change Your School even If You Can Change Your Nationality”

By Woo Hae-chung  
Reporter of Campus Section



**O**n the first floor of the main building on the Seoul campus, there is a sizable conference room. Most HUFSSans have passed by the ‘Kwon Soon-han conference room,’ but may not exactly know who he is. He is an alumnus who has been unsparing in his support for the university and has been a pillar of hope to HUFSSans for the last 20 years. Although half a century has passed since his first entrance to the Department of Spanish at HUFSS, he still vividly remembers his school days studying on the hill of Minerva. As the owner of a trading company and the newly elected 28th president of the HUFSS Alumni Association, he would like to support students in as many ways as he can to improve the future development of HUFSS.



Kwon's old photos taken on the hill of Minerva



**Argus : Congratulations for being elected as the 28th president of the HUFSS Alumni Association. What do you think allowed you to gain a majority vote?**

**Kwon Soon-han (Kwon):** Due to the characteristics of HUFSS which specializes in foreign languages, many alumni tend to work abroad and live in diverse countries. Therefore, they feel much more special affection to our school than any other universities. Despite the strong affection of individuals to the school, however, the alumni association has not fully developed. I think most alumni have felt the need for changes and acknowledged my support and leadership for the last few years. I think that is the reason I was chosen. I will try to meet their expectations as far as possible for the next two years.

**Argus : What inspired you to donate, support, and work for HUFS?**

**Kwon:** I heard that many students are having problems in paying expensive tuition fees. I know how difficult it is because I had the same experience that current university students are having. While I was attending the university, I had to stay up all night working to earn money to pay the tuition fees for my siblings and myself. I could not even afford to buy a textbook. Due to my past, I do not want to pass the same difficulties down to the current students. That is why I started to do something for HUFSSans.

**Argus : While you were a student, what was your future dream?**

**Kwon:** In my school years, HUFS initiated the dual major system to enhance students' abilities. Therefore, I decided to major in business and that led me to get a job at a trading company. I was too poor to regard other options, but the difficulties made me much stronger. I worked hard for the company and accumulated knowledge so that I could start running a company by myself.

**Argus : Have there been any obstacles in owning the company?**



**How did you overcome them?**

**Kwon:** Being a businessman and the leader of a company means I have to go through enormous amounts of risk. Initially, I had to attract the investment necessary to launch a business. With the help of my siblings who mortgaged their houses, I started my business. I had to work much harder because I not only owed them money, but also trust. Therefore, I visited foreign clients by myself and showed them confidence and finally these efforts gave me success.

**Argus : Your column for the newspaper entitled "It is time to teach young people what they should not do" was very impressive. What things should university students not do?**

**Kwon:** These days, the number of members in families is getting smaller and it brings about problems such as irresponsibility among young people. However, as we all know, society is not a place where we can live alone. Accounting for globalization, we must learn what we should do to live in harmony with others. I hope that every HUFSSan keeps this in mind.

**Argus : As the President of the HUFS Alumni Association, what are your plans for the next two years?**

**Kwon:** Soon, the 60th anniversary year for the establishment of HUFS is coming. For a long time, we have been one of the most prestigious universities in Korea. In addition to celebrating our history and footsteps, an objective evaluation must be completed at the same time. At some point, our development slowed down. I think it is all because of a lack of harmony among the school, alumni and institution.



When I visited the Yonsei alumni hall to celebrate an acquaintance's marriage, I envied the pride that is evident in their luxurious facilities and the strong ties among themselves. Therefore, I thought the first step in creating a similarly strong relationship is to build a hall for the HUFS alumni. I expect that it will be very useful and meaningful to all of us, so I will try to raise funds for it during my tenure.

**Argus : That seems to be a great idea. We hope that every alumnus will pleasantly participate in raising funds for the hall. Closing our talk for today, is there something you want to tell HUFSSans?**

**Kwon:** To boil water, 100 degrees centigrade is needed. In this procedure, however, the lack of even one degree leads to a failure in the transformation. Life is the same as this procedure. Whatever you decide to start, you have to put in 100 percent of your effort to accomplish your goals. You should not give up even one percent while you are at the state of 99 percent. Keep trying with patience and you will succeed in the end. ☺

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# Community NON ART BUT ART Dreams



Kim Su-young / The Argus

**By Kim Su-young**

*Associate Editor of the National Section*

There is a new sensation in Gwangneung, Namyangju, which is because of the ‘Non Art But Art Project.’ Earlier this year, a group of artists attempted to enter a village in Gwangneung to change ideas about art with a village project. Through their artistic imagination, they are changing the village into a much more beautiful and creative space.

An area of 1,200 pyeong, once destined to become a parking lot, is being changed into a public space with things such as a public garden, pond, school of the village, and a rice paddy. Many projects operate smoothly at the site, for example, ‘Cafe C,’ ‘Machine Shop R,’ ‘Childlike Rice Paddy,’ ‘Timid Garden,’ ‘Village School,’ and others. These projects are making the village into a new place. The ‘Non Art But Art Project’ is different from other co-purification businesses. Park Chan-kook, who is the director of the project, works to instill a new sense of community in the people to intertwine them with dynamic relationships with the project. He works to make it a place of imagination for local people and immigrant workers where they can interact one another. He is a public artist as well as art director of the ‘Non Art But Art Project.’ Recently, The Argus had the chance to talk with him.

**Argus :** *As an artist, you have always been involved in work that combined social issues with art projects. Why have you chosen to work like this?*

**Park Chan-kook(Park) :** I think that when I was in school the social environment encouraged me to do this. When I began my university studies in 1980, there were only a few powerful men who dominated society, and they did so mostly through illegal force. In response, many students and citizens protested. Ever since that time, I have always been interested in social problems and was active in protests, though I studied painting as my major at university. Ever since, I have always had a strong interest in combining

art with the community.

**Argus : In the last thirty years of working, does anything stand out as more significant than anything else?**

**Park :** I did not realize it has been thirty years that I have been working, for it just does not seem that long. But of what I have done so far, no one project stand out. Rather, I have enjoyed working on many projects. As well as gallery exhibitions in Korea, and the Gwangju Biennale, I have been curator of major exhibitions, along with community mural projects in Japan, among other projects. One of my best memories is of a village in Gyeonggi-province doing art activities with children. Each child used their imagination and made a book with their paintings. By the way, the children drew wonderful paintings from their imaginations.

The surprising thing is to realize the possibilities that can happen when specialists and everyday citizens get together and come up with a shared vision. So with the communities' help, proceed with the projects. Thanks to the children, we made a blueprint we could work with and we built a bridge with about 20 million won. Above all, the children were happy with the project. Of course, their parents were too, and that is a good memory for me.

**Argus : Can you describe briefly the purpose of the 'Non Art But Art Project?'**

**Park :** 'Non Art But Art' begins with the question of the artist's role in the community, which is, "How can artists work in harmony and benefit the community, and at the same time, make their own way?" We as artists are always concerned about our work. What I want to do with my work is to integrate it into the life of the community, making life better for everybody.

Here are some ongoing projects that are making significant progress: 'Cafe C,' 'Childlike Rice Paddy,' 'Timid Garden,' 'Village School.' First, we made Cafe C as town hall where village residents can talk while they drink tea and eat. The building facilitates communication. With Childlike Rice Paddy's original name was "Childlike Rice Paddy and No Answer Farm." This project gets people to cultivate a farm using the ground of the riverside and also raising ducks. There are 20 ducks playing on a slide in the Pond in the middle of the rice paddy. The unique structure of the pond was inspired by the work of French architect Le Corbusier. The reason it is called Childlike Rice Paddy is because the artists do not mind the crops, the people gave the artists this nickname to tease them. So the artists naturally become childlike farmers.



▲ 'Cafe C' billboard

Kim Su-young / The Argus

Next, Timid Garden is a project that is changing an alley into something beautiful through mural work. This alley remains intact in modern times unlike the main streets that are always changing. Migrant workers mainly use the alley to get to factories and commercial areas. And there are grocery stores operating in the area for migrant workers. Artists are painting murals here and are working to stimulate and inspire the residents through this space.

Finally, Village School provides opportunities for mediators who will continue



▲ Grocery store operating for migrant workers and its immigrant owner.

Kim Su-young / The Argus



©Non Art But Art



▲ Childlike Rice Paddy and No Answer Farm.  
 1. Farmer plants rice in the paddy firsthand.  
 2. Children is learning natural ecology.  
 3. Ducks are playing on a slide in the pond in the middle of rice paddy.

with the project after the artists are finished and have moved on so that the project continues indefinitely.

**Argus : How did you first get involved in this project?**

**Park :** In the beginning, the Gyeonggi Cultural Foundation promoted community art in several areas, including Siheung and Namyangju. I had friends in Namyangju and that is how I got here. By the way, when I came here, large apartments and big and small stores were concentrated in certain areas, so we had some difficulties before we began the project because the area was very messy. The Gyeonggi Cultural Foundation gave us three months to get the project going. We had discussions with the residents about what we would do and made agreements with them to use the space, and this is how the project began.

The big question with the residents was, “If artists come to our village, what will happen here?” We had to get the residents to see that this was going to be fun and beneficial for them to really make it work. So we tried to reach an accord with all residents. As a result, communication between the residents and the artists is at the heart of the success of the project.

**Argus : Before starting this project, you established Milmeori Art School. Your project “The Warming Left Hand,” is also impressive. Could you talk about this?**

**Park :** Along with others I helped found Milmeori Art School as a nonprofit organization and established it in Yeosu in July of 2002, as a space for alternative culture-art-education. We had the dream to educate artists with cultural values and for a time realized it. Although the school closed, it was great while it lasted.

In case of ‘The Warming Left Hand,’ it is art education program for disabled children to have a good time along with their parents. Art activities such as

'Making Up Faces' and 'Making Raincoats' are a lot of fun for them. These and other activities help increase the children's imagination.

**Argus :** *In doing this current project, what are some of the difficulties you have faced?*

**Park :** The space was not clear at first, and we could not get started without the space being cleared. After arranging all the city's ground, some of the resident's disagreement with the project was difficult to overcome because the residents who conventionally maintained their areas complained about what we were doing, so the construction that they opposed did not get done. The purpose of this project is instill self-respect and community spirit that originates from the residents and emigrants, so we had to get them all in harmony with the project.

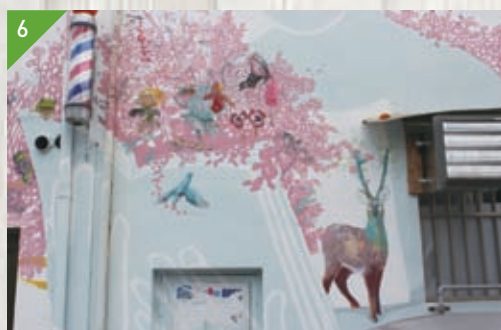
**Argus :** *What do you think drives the artist in you?*

**Park :** This seems to be question, "Why do you have the vision you have?" Another way to put this question is like this, "Is there any other way you would want to live?" These questions force me to think about what art has meant in the past and what it means now. What is different about modern vision than it was in the past may tell us something about the modern society. After all, art is basic to humanity. Above of all, though, what we are doing in the village demands of us to take the long term view but still look at the immediate situation. If this project was only about what people want in the short term, what would be our purpose with this project? It is the life of the villagers not only for now but for future generations that is important.

**Argus :** *Finally, what do you want to say to university students dreaming of art?*

**Park :** Today, university students seem to be concentrated only on enhancing their abilities, so they do not have time to seriously think about art. Increasingly, this limits the scope of their activities. However, I think that not only students should dream of art, but all of us need to consider the relationships we have with art. If you only concentrate on improving your abilities, would you know what you really want? Or who you really are? Accordingly, if you want to find what is real and sustaining in your life, you need to open your eyes and look at the world for what it is so you can truly see what is important. I think this is the real and necessary function of art.

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▲ Timid Garden



# Populism, Is It Properly Used?

**By Kang Young-joon**

*Reporter of Theory & Critique Section*

People's interest in free school meals has increased since Kwak No-hyun, Seoul superintendent of education, and Kim Sang-gon, Gyeonggi superintendent of education, pledged to provide free school meals and was elected. Recently, with several issues resulting from such free welfare promises such as 'the inhabitants' poll on the scope of free school meal' implemented by Oh Se-hoon, former mayor of Seoul, and 'Half Price Tuition protest' arisen, the mass media criticized free welfare as populism. These media reports make one wonder if populism is properly used in Korean political life.

## ▶▶ What Is Populism?

Populism is a form of political organization. Politicians make use of it for accomplishing political goals while only considering the general public's demand because of the proposal's popularity without considering original objects of a policy such as the policy's possible reality, related value judgment and telling right from wrong.

The concept of populism originates from ancient Rome, the Gracchi's reformation. The Gracchi were tribunes consisting of Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus and Gaius Sempronius

Gracchus. They carried out policies such as giving civil land and cheaply selling corn for winning support.

People's Party in America originated the term 'populism.' The party insisted policies such as a progressive income tax, government regulations on transportation and communication, and a ban on collusion among mega-corporations. They tried to protect right of small farmers and skilled manual workers. Since they called themselves populist, individuals who tries to protect right of neglected class of people are often called populists, and a form of political organization insisting policies for the public is called populism since then.



## ▶▶ Why Is Populism Negative in Korea?

### The causes of negative populism in Korea

Populism is originally a neutral word. However, it is linked with Peronism, an Argentine political movement based on the programs associated with former President Juan Peron, which the Occident criticized for spoiling Argentina's economy because Peron implemented policies for the public without considering national finance. In our country, when a journalist Ryu Geun-il wrote his column on a KBS program, the former President, Kim Dae-joong, had appeared on, he defined populism as politician's image strategy accommodating to popularity. After that, populism is only negatively used in Korea. Ha Sang-sub, Korea-Latin America green convergence center priority research professor, said the press and politicians in Korea tend to unconditionally criticize welfare policy with using populism as political weapon.

### Grounds for criticizing populism

First, populism is criticized for having a bad influence upon national economy. The national economy may suffer economic loss from indiscriminate welfare policies. Populism is also criticized for ignoring policies taking different ways. As populism is a form of political organization implementing policies considering the public's demands, populism can be described as a giant current. For example, in Korea, these days, the public's demand is free welfare, and to insist on that demand, the public often demonstrates. In this situation, our country's populism and current is free welfare. Therefore, so called conservative party, the Grand National Party-Hannara, current ruling party in Korea, had to enact a reducing tuition fee policy.

## ▶▶ Another View on Populism

Populism can be diversely defined scholar by scholar. So called the definition above and a definition below are correct definitions.

### Another definition and interpretation of populism

Populism is sociopolitical thought that urges social and political system change handing over political authority from political leaders to the public, and that demands for politics by not the elite but the people. This is considered an academic definition.

Populism can be interpreted as political ideas and activities speaking for the people's demands and desires. So a populist can include all the politicians. That is because populism means

political activities reflecting majority's demand, and they are elected by majority of people. In other words, all the politicians should be a populist and enact populist policies.

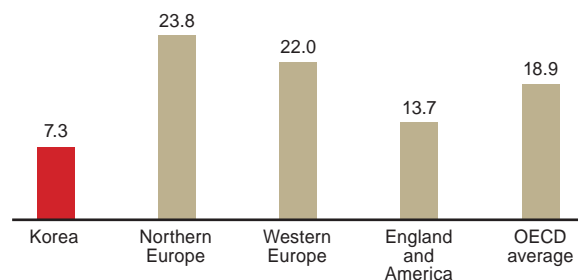
In Korea, misusing and abusing of populism is quite frequent. In fact, Korean politicians and the press are unconditionally criticizing welfare policies. They said that Korea currently has no budgetary appropriation for implementing welfare policies and if those policies are implementing, Korean economy will be ruined like Argentina's in the 1970s. But, according to Professor Ha, success or failure of populism can be judged only in the specific situation. The Korean current situation is truly different from Argentine situation of the past. So, unconditionally criticizing welfare policies is incorrect without some implementation to judge results.

### The right function of populism

Lee Myeon-woo, the head of regional research lab in the Sejong Institute, said that democracy, presently the fairest political system, can be interpreted as populism. That is because democracy is administrated by the people. If the opinions of the most people are fully reflected in politics, implemented policies would satisfy public demands.

### Comparing each country's ratio of public welfare expenditure when per capita GDP is about \$18,000

Korea was in 2006  
Unit : %, Source : Korea Institute for Health and Social



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## ▶▶ Populism in Other Countries

In Korea, populism is only negatively used. But, in other country, populism has not only negative effects but also positive.

### In Brazil

Representative welfare policy in Brazil is Bolsa Familia. The policy provides a family with cash if their monthly income is lower than the minimum cost of living. Income support policy like this was criticized for kindness policy. However,



▼ One of the Korean policies criticized for populism, free school lunch program



<http://su.election.go.kr>

in then Brazil, the number of people living in poverty is about 50 million and a child died of starvation per 5 minutes. In this situation, the Brazilian President Lula overcame inflation, reformed government employee's pension system, increased foreign-currency holdings, reached an agreement between classes and implemented conditional welfare system to realize a welfare system supporting the disadvantaged. Therefore, during his term, the poor rate in Brazil was decreased from 34 percent to 22 percent, and rate of economic growth in Brazil was increased by 7.5 percent. Also, Brazilian GDP had tripled, foreign-currency holdings had increased by 10 times since his inauguration, and inflation rate decreased from 12.5 percent to 5.6 percent. Finally, Brazil became a creditor nation and the world 8th great economic power. Consequently, Lula's populism is judged to be successful. This populism has the uppermost limit in that not implemented universal welfare. Policies that significantly reduced the poverty rate and developed Brazilian economy should be regarded as a good populism.



#### In Japan

The former head of the Japanese government, Junichiro Koizumi, was also judged to be successful. He compared vested interests to vultures and vested rights to evil doers, he then tried to overthrow them which collusively tied relations between government and businesses, and dissipated Japanese national budget. Thus, he became popular by breaking them down, and privatizing post office. The reason why these policies were judged to be successful is to reduce dissipating national budget, and his approval rating was over 50 percent at his retirement.

In Norway

The Progressive Party in Norway is judged as the most

successful right party in Europe. The party, which was established in 1972, had accounted for five percent in the Norwegian Parliament in 1973 and expanded their parliamentary seat by 22.1 percent. They, different from other populism, spoke for the rich, who feel they paid by tax, and laborers, who are stricken with a victim mentality to immigrants. They insisted reducing taxes for them, privatizing national property, severely punishing criminals, tightening immigration rules and stopping development assistance to developing countries. Especially, they contended that rising rate of unemployment and economic inequality can be solved by investing Norwegian enormous petroleum fund not in foreign marketable securities but in welfare policies like supporting schools, health services and gasoline subsidies, which were recognized as public demands. So, many parties in Norway adopted the progressive party's insistence. This populism has a critical point in that strengthen thought, Norwegian V.S. immigrant. But, as they reflected public demands and suggested an alternative for implementing welfare, their populism is judged to be successful.



Populism is a neutral word, not a negative word as we are currently using it. Populism can be a negative word depending on standpoints about objectives. But, like Brazilian, Japanese and Norwegian populism, populism can be a positive word. And as like an academic definition, the French Revolution can be populism. By using populism exactly, we have to demand policies, which do not ruin our economy by measuring budget precisely, and are fitting public demands which are not controlled by only the elite. First of all, without implementing any policies to judge their efficacy, unconditional criticism should disappear. ☹

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# Two Sides of Populism

By **Kang Young-joon**

*Reporter of Theory & Critique Section*

Populism has arisen frequently in South America. Out of their populism, the most famous people are Peron and Lula. Peron was the Argentine President, who instilled negative populism into our minds. Compared with him, Lula, who was the Brazilian President, and whose approval rating was the highest ever, instilled positive populism into our minds. Let us compare them and then consider what we could do.

The scope of populism is extensive. According to professor Ha Sang-sub, a Korea-Latin America Green Convergence Center priority researcher, populism can be applied not only to politics and economics, but also to daily life. In this column, however, populism is discussed in politics and economics only.

## ▶ Positive Populism? Who is Lula?

Lula dropped out of elementary school for family reasons and worked from the time he was twelve years old. In 1964, after an accident on the job in which he lost his little finger, he joined the labor union. He became active in the labor union when his wife and baby died

because they did not receive medical attention. In 1978, he was elected as chairperson of the steel labor union. In 1980, he organized Partido dos Trabalhadores (The Labor Party, PT) together with other union leaders and intellectuals. In 2002, he was elected Brazilian President by full support of the common people.

### ▶▶ What Lula Did



<http://eage.daum.net/knoitor>

▲ Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva

Brazil has 50 million poor people out of a population of over 200 million. The gap between the rich and the poor widened greatly in that half of the national wealth was held by only 10 percent of the population and more than 60 percent of national farmland was owned by only 3 percent.

To solve this situation, the Brazilian government implemented the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), which provides cash to the poor. Lula extended CCT to cover more people, and implemented Cartao Alimentacao, which was managed by the Bureau of Food Security, which prepared and distributed food to ward off starvation and secure food safety. He also established Auxilio Gas, which was managed by the Bureau of Energy, provided the poor through LPG, Bolsa Escola, and Bolsa Alimentacao. In 2003, Lula combined these 4 welfare policies and formed the Bolsa Familia (Family Allowance,) which covered more people. As Brazil has a low national budget, procuring a social policy fund was difficult and its effectiveness and efficiency was noticeably low. So Lula reformed fundamental social problems. For example, Lula stopped importing combat planes and carried forward pension reform for government employees.

Bolsa Familia was next extended and covered more than 30 percent of the Brazilian people, including 11.4 million of the poorest of the poor. A pleasant side-effect of these welfare programs has been to increase consumption and revitalize the domestic economy.

### ▶▶ Negative Populism? Who is Peron?

In Argentina, Peron entered military school in 1911 and after that he entered the Military Academy. After graduation, he served as a commissioned officer and became a colonel in the army. In 1943, Peron participated in the so called 1943 revolution and played a key role as a colonel in the army. Soon, he was promoted to a secretary of Labor and then secretary of National Defense. When he was a secretary of Labor, he saw the poor condition and circumstances of the workers, tried to embrace their dissatisfaction and demands, through which he gained their votes and was elected President.



<http://blog.naver.com/leopard1>

▲ Juan Domingo Peron

### ▶▶ What Peron did

The Argentine economy had grown at 5 percent every year from 1860 to 1913 because of heavy agri-export to Europe. But, from 1914 to the 1940s, as Argentine export fell sharply due to the First World War, the Great Depression, and then the Second World War, the export-oriented economy became depressed. At the same time, a minority of the elite managed the politics, so the worker's demands were never considered.

When he became vice President, as secretary of Labor and a secretary of National Defense, he instituted a social security system covering all laborers. The contents of this system were ensuring holidays and vacation pay, relieving censorship of labor, and regulating the employers' rights to fire employees. He also established the Bureau of National Social Security, built cheap public housing, and secured from 10 to 15 days of paid vacation with progressive legislation. During his first seize of power, he enlarged the social security system, which included augmenting holidays for laborers, provided vacation bonuses, and establishing insurance for accidents and disease. In 1948, he established the Foundation of Social Aid run by his wife, Eva Peron. This foundation built 1,000 schools out of the 4,000 schools built from 1943 to 1950. Last, he

industrialized Argentina diversifying the economy from more than just agricultural export.

In 1951, 70 percent out of all laborers received benefits from the social security system. But in 1949, the Argentine economic crisis, accelerated by the global economic downturn, grew worse. Increase in payments led to a sharp increase in consumption, causing sharp inflation. Owing to pressure to increase consumption, rising prices surpassed the wage increases, such that real wages fell in Argentina. Last, the Argentine economic infrastructure was weakened because Peron squandered the country's fixed capital on nonproductive enterprises, and thus GDP fell from 62.3 trillion pesos in 1948 to 49.3 trillion pesos in 1952.

### ▶▶ Comparing Two

#### Common points

Both implemented welfare policies for the disadvantaged. Peron spoke for laborers who were ignored for a long time, carried out policies reflecting workers' demands, and helped them participate in politics. Lula campaigned to eradicate hunger since being elected. He set as his political goal, Fome Zero (Zero Hunger,) and for the sake of his goal, he helped many poor people enter the middle class by implementing conditional welfare policies.

Thanks to their policies, the disadvantaged, including the poor and laborers, received social security, and Argentina covered 70 percent of all laborers and Brazil covered 30 percent of the total population.

#### Different points

Lula implemented policies by gathering many opinions because his party was a coalition party. But, Peron was dictatorial because he made his own party, Partido Justicialista, the so-called Peronist Party, and he implemented policies maintaining his power as he gained many votes by carrying out social security.

As Lula was in a coalition party, his policies helped national wealth, and with the Brazilian economic boom, the Brazilian economy increased sharply. But, Peron was dictatorial and wasted the national budget by covering too many people too fast, and with the economic crisis, the Argentine economy was greatly damaged, and Argentina underwent economic decline.

### ▶▶ The Message to Us

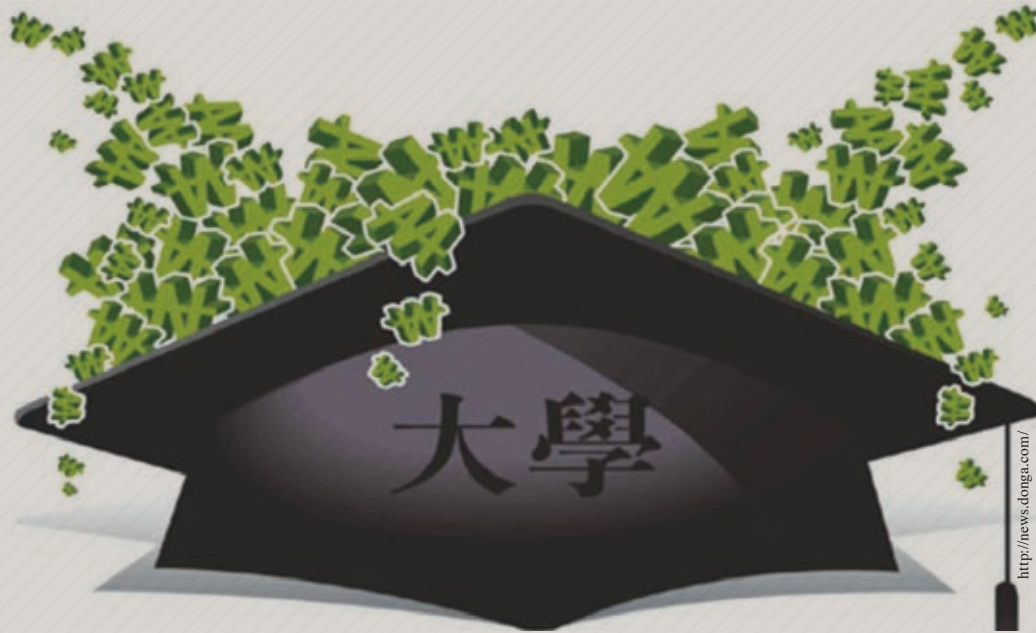
We should be careful of Korean policies only enacted by the elite, not by the people's collective will. These days, however, public demands such as free school lunch program and Half Price Tuition policy are quietly reflected. Like Lula, we have to enact our desired policies by gathering public opinion.

Also, according to Kim Won-ho, Dean, Graduate School of International and Area Studies, we must be careful not to be seduced by authoritarian populism. Our society should recover the party system, reinforce civil society, relieve economic inequities, and help the disadvantaged develop themselves to curtail the number of them who are easily seduced by authoritarian populism. To relieve economic inequities, we have to help the poor people reach the middle class, and teach the middle class proper democratic principals and inspire them to develop their human resources.

According to professor Ha, Lula gained popularity, implemented welfare policies, and raised the Brazilian economy mostly because his party was a coalition party and gathered many opinions. We must learn this lesson from Lula and stop criticizing welfare policies for no reason.

Lula made Fome Zero important and cut the budget on other policies, and because he did, the number of the poor fell from 57.49 million in 2002 to 41.78 million in 2007, and the number of the poorest fell from 23.35 million in 2002 to 14.64 million in 2007. Peron, though, superficially helped workers in order to maintain his power, and was eventually ousted by his supporters, the workers. Korea has to prioritize what we need most and cut the budget of policies less important. Also, Korean politicians have to truly care for the disadvantaged. These days, it is said that opposition parties must be united. If a coalition party appears, we have to gather all our opinions and implement policies so as not to ruin the Korean economy. Last, we should not be seduced by authoritarian populism. ☞

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# Further Steps to Solve the Problems

**By Yang Eun-young**

*Reporter of National Section*

**A**round the end of last May, the floor leader of the Grand National Party-Hannara (GNP), Hwang Woo-yeo, insisted that the GNP should have 'Half Price Tuition Policy'. There have been public debates about this. Many undergraduates held a candlelight vigil in Gwanghwamun to express their support for political circles enforcing the 'Half Price Tuition.' As university tuition has risen up to ten million won a year, many undergraduates are suffering. However, the political parties changed their policy. They are not consistent in carrying out the policy because they are not trying to solve the problem of high-priced tuition, but only use it to get the votes of undergraduates.



The education ministry, Lee Ju-ho, announces easing plan of university tuition

In this situation, on Sept. 8, the education ministry announced a plan to ease university tuition. However, this plan is contrary to the expectations of undergraduates. Many people are criticizing the government, as the plan is not about reducing university tuition, but about expansion of national scholarships. Moreover, there is no debate about national student loans.

### Plan for Easing University Tuition Announced by Government

The plan to ease university tuition will be in place by the first semester of 2012. The plan's support fund is expected to total about 2.25 trillion won. The government will support 1.5 trillion won and, through the self-efforts of universities, an additional 750 billion won is expected to be added

to the budget. Of the support funds provided by the government, all 1.5 trillion won will be provided in the form of university scholarships. In addition, the scholarships will be distributed to students based on their families' income.

This plan can be broken into two large parts. In the first part, beneficiaries will be identified as students who are existing welfare recipients to those who are in the third income rank. In other words, students who are existing welfare recipients and those whose family incomes are in the first, second or third ranks are eligible. Monthly family incomes of the first rank students total about 0.72 million won, the second rank is 1.58 million won and the third rank totals 2.18 million won. One-half of the government budget, 750 billion won, will be used for these low-income students. According to the government, this plan will reduce the higher education fee of the poor.

As for the second part of the program, the beneficiaries of support will be expanded up to students who are in the seventh family income rank. In other words, students whose family incomes lay within the first to seventh ranks are eligible for educational support. Family monthly income of the fourth rank students is about 2.71 million won, the fifth is 3.17 million won, the sixth is 3.62 million won and the seventh rank students is 4.14 million won. The remaining 750 billion won of the government's budget will be used as this part of the program.

Example of Easing Plan (Unit : million won)

type	welfare recipients	rank 1	rank 2	rank 3	rank 4	rank 5	rank 6	rank 7	rank 8	rank 9	rank 10
monthly income		0.72	1.58	2.18	2.71	3.17	3.62	4.14	4.77	5.69	8.48
the first part	4.5	2.25	1.35	0.9	not applicable						
the second part	0.9	0.9	0.67	0.45	0.9	0.67	0.45	not applicable			
self-efforts of universities	0.38 on average										
total amount	5.7	3.53	2.4	1.73	1.28	1.05	0.83	0.38			

http://news.donga.com

The government announced that they expect, through this plan, that universities will make efforts to reduce their tuitions and will also establish scholarship systems appropriate to their cases. The self-efforts of universities are to reduce or freeze tuition and expand the offerings of scholarships in their schools. If universities make efforts to reduce the tuition fees of about 750 billion won as the government expects, all students can benefit regardless of their family income. Tuition fees will be reduced by 5 percent or about 0.38 million won a year on average. Assuming that the two parts of the plans and the self-efforts of universities are practiced, all students can benefit by a 22 percent average reduction in tuition.

### Limitations of the Government's Easing Plan.

#### 1. Easing tuition or expansion of scholarships?

As the benefits are being concentrated among the poor students, the majority of students will not realize any change. According to a report by the Korean Higher Education Research Institute, poor students are not the only ones suffering from high-priced tuition, but are also joined by middle class students as well. For example, in a fifth income level household whose family income is 3.17 million won a month, the yearly tuition fee accounted for twenty one percent of their income in 2010. Only in the

tenth income level households whose family incomes are 8.48 million won on average, did the yearly tuition fee take up less than ten percent. In fact, most households suffer from high-priced tuition.

The government's budget is absurdly lacking as compared to High Price Tuition Policy. This policy is still being argued in the political communities and highly desired by the students. To implement the High Price Tuition Policy, about six trillion won is required. The government's current easing plan for university tuition only provides 1.5 trillion won, which is about one-fourth of the original High Price Tuition Policy budget. Moreover, the government's budget of 1.5 trillion won includes the 330 billion won budget for the current national scholarships provided by the Korea Student Aid Foundation. The new support fund actually consists of only 1.17 trillion won.

In addition, the scholarships provided to support the poor are attached with a condition that the students should earn at least a B average. Considering the situation of the poor, getting a B is not easy. "Students whose families are in the low-income group suffer not only from expensive tuition, but also living costs. Therefore, the chances are that they are under the worst conditions to study. The government's policy ignores their realities and is just an armchair argument," said Ban Sang-jin, a professor of the Department of Education at Chonbuk National University. In fact, according to a report by the Korea Higher Education Research Institute, only 19 percent

of poor students received a national scholarship in 2008. Also, six percent of the students didn't apply for the national student loan due to the condition that enrolled students should get more than a B grade according to a survey by the Korea Student Aid Foundation.

#### 2. Openness of University Education and an irresponsible government

Korea has an odd education structure in which private individuals shoulder most education fees. In the problem of the high-priced university tuition, students and their parents pay the majority of all tuition costs. In addition, the government shifts the responsibilities for areas such as bankrolls or investment to universities. According to an announcement by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) last September, the average share of higher education costs paid by the governments of OECD nations is 1.1 percent of their gross domestic products (GDP). Conversely, Korea only pays 0.6 percent. However, Korea's ratio of the amount that private citizens pay for higher education is 1.9 percent. This figure is quadruple that of the average OECD nations, which is only 0.5 percent. Korean private citizen's burdens for this education have remained the highest in the world for the last eleven years. "Fundamentally, government should expand their higher education budget. In this inadequate situation in which the private burden accounts for the largest part of the higher education



fee, the government's university tuition easing plan cannot solve the problem," said Kim Dong-gyu, the manger of Tuition Net.

The government's easing plan also cannot cover the fundamental problems of high-priced university tuition. There are even problems of universities saving the money and irresponsible educational foundations.

#### ① Exaggerated budget and saved money.

Universities can accumulate money, such as donations, to spend in the future for research expenses, scholarships and so on. However, this saved money is often abused and used as a means of accumulating of university wealth. Universities draw up an exaggerated budget which is not necessary and, with the leftover money, is used to buy land or build buildings which are more related to growing universities' wealth rather than student welfare. Moreover, as universities create unnecessary budgets, university tuition fees increase to make up for the lack of funds. For instance, Hongik University saved seventy nine billion won and 99.97 percent of this money or 78.3 billion won was used to establish buildings in 2008. Only 19 million won paid for scholarships.

#### ② Irresponsible educational foundations

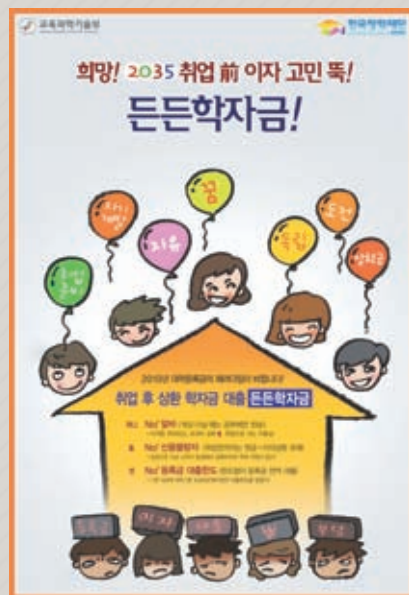
Educational foundations have to pay more than eighty percent of their operating expenditures to universities. Despite this fact, most educational foundations do not pay universities, but rather use the universities'

money as they like. For example, education foundations have to make a payment for their faculties' pensions or medical insurance premiums. However, the greater numbers of universities pay for these costs instead of the foundations. During 2007 to 2009, forty-six percent of universities, among the one hundred and forty nine in Korea, paid these costs instead of the foundations, according to the statements of Lee Sang-min, member of a legislative body.

Furthermore, there is no debate about a national student loan program. During the first semester of last year, the government enforced a revision of the national student loan system. Most students though have not used this system because its interest rate is too high. The loan system interest rate of last semester was 4.9 percent. It also charges

interest even when students are completing their military service. Beyond this, there are unnecessary conditions to receive a loan. To be eligible for a loan, students have to earn a B average, be in the seventh income rank, be under thirty-five years old and so on. Moreover, when borrowers graduate from school and earn more than the minimum cost of living of 1.44 million won a year as calculated this year, they should pay back the loan immediately. "To solve the high interest problem, the government should urgently bankroll the national student loan program. The Korea Student Aid Foundation manages the national student loan and if the interest rate is lowered, an increase in the foundation's financial burdens will be inevitable. Thus, governmental support is necessary. However, in the current case, the government includes the existing national scholarship of about 330 billion won provided by the Korea Student Aid Foundation, which will further exacerbate the issues. So it is doubted that the government even has the will to solve the problems regarding the national student loan program," said professor Ban.

Furthermore, the easing plan for university tuition that was announced by the government only applies to next year. It cannot be suggested as a long-term alternative for the high-priced tuition problem. Yeon Hui-deok, a researcher of the Korea Higher Education Research Institute, said, "The government's plan only applies to next year and this short-term alternative cannot solve the tuition problems so fundamental measures like the 'Half Price Tuition



▲ National student loan which has many problems.

<http://www.kosaf.go.kr/ko/scholar.do>

Policy' are necessary.”

### 3. Effectiveness of universities' self-efforts

The easing plan of the government is not compulsory for universities to follow, as it is only a recommendation so chances are that universities will not make any self-efforts to reduce tuition fees. “There is no way to force university's participation if the schools decide to give up governmental support or raise their tuitions under the justification of improving their competitiveness. For the time being, universities may reduce their tuition owing to the negative atmosphere of society regarding universities. But as time passes, there is possibility that they will raise their tuition,” said the reporter Yeon. Professor Ban also raises a question about the effectiveness of universities' self-efforts. He said, “Whether universities make self-efforts or not completely depends on the schools. If they do not make self-efforts, only the students will be hurt.”

Additionally, chances are that there will be discrimination according to the situation of the universities. “There is a study showing that income level has an impact on school records. According to this study, chances are that the rich will go to most prestigious universities, which have money to spare, and the poor go to freshwater colleges whose financial conditions are not good. In this situation, the government's easing plan cannot help poor students because their universities often cannot afford to make the self-efforts,” mentioned Professor Ban.

### Real Solution to High-priced Tuition

Unless reform is made, the chronic problems of universities, such as saved money and irresponsible educational foundations, will continue and governmental action will be ineffective unless it has a large bankroll. Thus, unless universities are reformed and a government bankroll of programs is provided at the same time, the problems of high-priced tuition cannot be solved.

#### 1. Government-oriented reorganization

##### ① Half price tuition policy.

###### ► Why

In the inadequate situation in which the higher education fee burden is mostly placed on private individuals, only the government's large bankroll can fundamentally solve the high-priced tuition problem. In addition, the public has a right to study and have an equal access to education. The government as well has the obligation to protect these rights of their citizens. According

to article three in the Fundamentals of Education Act, all citizens have the right to study and receive an education according to their ability and aptitude. Article four guarantees the equal opportunity of education. No member of the public should be discriminated against because of their financial state. The government should furthermore take steps to reduce the gap of educational conditions. In reality however, most nations have infringed on these rights so as the government practices the Half Price Tuition Policy, it will be protecting our rights. Ultimately, the government has to advance towards free education.

###### ► How

The political communities, which agree with the practice of the Half Price Tuition Policy, insist on the necessity to look for a source of revenue as part of adopting this subsidy. This will require allotting some parts of Korea's internal tax revenue to subsidize higher education. This bill is not an increased taxation bill and so needs to secure a budget. The Grand National Party-Hanara(GNP) has already submitted a bill to subsidize the higher



<http://news.donga.com>

Students should not be infringed their rights to study

education policy. In this bill, the GNP suggested that eight percent of internal revenue be allocated to support the subsidy. The Democratic Party has also proposed to gradually increase the subsidy from six percent in 2011 to 8.4 percent in 2015.

Some people oppose this policy from a financial standpoint. The important thing is not the financial affairs, but also the will to act on the policy. In the case of France, there was no university tuition for the ten years ago when their per capita income was \$24,400. However, in Korea, when their 2009 per capita income was \$28,100, many undergraduates suffered from high-priced tuition problems. The problem of equality between the poor and the rich can also be solved through this program. The adoption of the policy for all classes by collecting more taxes from higher-income brackets through graduated rates can help with the further redistribution of wealth.

## ② Reform of private universities by governments

As governments intervene in the management of universities to reform the private university-oriented system, the openness of universities can increase. It will also be possible to prevent chronic university problems such as saved money and irresponsible educational foundations. To do this, governments should expand their bankrolls to private universities. "Through the intervention of governments in private universities, a clearance of weaker private universities can be possible. And also, the weak private universities should be incorporated

into public institutes such as regional specialized schools," said Kang Nam-hun, a professor of Hanshin University's Department of Economics.

## ③ Improvement of national student loans

To lighten the financial burden of students, the national student loan program should be modified to charge lower interest rates. The objective of repayment should also be aimed at university graduates who earn regular income. Problems like requiring students who are performing their military service to pay interest needs to be amended. Like Korea, university tuition in the United States is also expensive though two-thirds of all students get financial aid from the federal government. In addition, thirty-three percent of students receive a fellowship free of charge. In Japan, student loans with fixed interest rates of up to three percent are provided. The national student loans in Norway and Poland do not charge interest while students are in school.


## 2. Restructuring of universities.

### ① Stop saving the money

The revised Private School Act that discusses preventing universities from the practice of accumulating money was passed last June in the National Assembly. It will be in force next year. The bill stipulates that money can only be saved to cover depreciation costs. Besides, universities should publish a settlement of the previous year's accounts before compiling a new budget.

### ② Education foundations should discharge their responsibilities

Education foundations should pay for their own operating expenditures. They should also not shift their responsibilities, such as their faculties' pensions or medical insurance premiums, to universities. The Democratic Party has moved for a revised faculty pension act. Through this bill, approval of the Ministry of Education will be needed if universities want to directly pay pensions or medical insurance premiums instead of the educational foundations.

Today many undergraduates suffer from high-priced tuition. Students' rights to study should not be infringed upon and they should have an equal opportunity for education. There is a responsibility not only bad private universities, but also the government who neglected the management of the universities. In addition, the government should not shift its responsibility on to the country's shoulders. Beginning with the implementation of the Half Price Tuition Policy, the government should ultimately progress towards free education. 

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# Stories of Foreign Cities

## HUFS students on modern Czech literature with the Czech writer Michal Ajvaz

By Dr. Ivana Bozděchová

*Professor, Department of Czech and Slovak Studies, HUFS*

Within its educational as well as social and cultural programs, the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies keeps close tracks of important events, dates, people, anniversaries of diverse countries and cultures, the languages and literatures of which it teaches. Over the last two years several such connections were brought to notice by the East European and Balkan Institute, now celebrating its 20th year of existence. Among many other events, such as the Institute's annual fall and spring conferences, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the establishing of diplomatic relations between Korea and the Central and East European states, its students and staff had a chance to welcome two distinguished contemporary Czech writers - Arnošt Lustig in September 2010 (for more information see Ivana Bozděchová: Czech Literature in Korea and at HUFS. *The Argus*, No. 435, December 15, 2010, pp. 30-31) and Michal Ajvaz in May 2011.

Having been invited to 24th Jiyong Festival held every year to commemorate the literary spirit of Jeong Jiyong, Michal Ajvaz came to South Korea first to participate in this

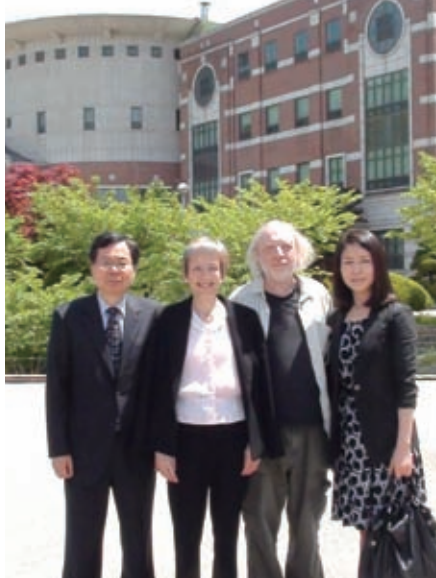
international literary event at Okcheon as its foreign poet. His participation in this meaningful event was organized by Seoul's Silver Train agency and - courtesy of Embassy of the Czech Republic - Michal Ajvaz visited also the HUFS Global campus in Yongin to meet with the students of Czech language. He presented them with a lecture on the topic of Czech Literature's Destiny in the Second Half of the 20th century, which was introduced by a short reading from his book and followed by discussion. And the HUFS students of Czech sang a Czech song and danced a Czech polka for him afterwards. In his free time, Michal Ajvaz went to see the monument dedicated to Jaroslav Seifert, the Czech Nobel Prize poet, and to Karel Čapek, the distinguished Czech writer. The monument has been put close to the campus lake thanks to the Department of Czech and Slovak Studies, HUFS and the Czech Embassy in Seoul. He enjoyed the campus and visited also the University library to see a representative collection of Czech fiction and writings kept there. Accompanied by the HUFS professors from the Czech department, he visited the Waujeongsa Temple in Yongin to see the 12 meters long and 3 meters tall Lying Sakyamuni Wood statue, the world's largest wooden Buddha statue. He also met with Korean journalists and publishers in Seoul.



As Michal Ajvaz says it is interesting for him to get acquainted with different literary receptions of his books and moreover, he likes to meet first perceptions in foreign cities, where the city shows itself, reveals its mood. These impressions play quite an important role in what he writes. Since many of the stories in his books spontaneously arise from the spirit of foreign cities, let us wish and hope that Korea and its cities could bring a fresh, fruitful inspiration for his further writing.

Native to Prague, Czech Republic, Michal Ajvaz (1949) ranks nowadays among the best and most popular Czech writers at home and he has already achieved a significant response and recognition for his works internationally, too. He graduated from the oldest university in the country and Central Europe, Charles University in Prague (established by the Czech king and Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV in 1348,) which is one of HUFs partner universities. He majored in Czech literature and aesthetics, then worked manually in different occupations - as a janitor, night watchman, or pump attendant, as well as an editor at the literary weekly *Literarni noviny* (Literary News) after the Velvet revolution in 1989 (which meant the fall of communism in the former Czechoslovakia.) He works as a researcher in the Czech Academy of Sciences now.

So far, Michal Ajvaz has published sixteen books: four novels, a book of poetry, short stories, a book of two novellas, four books of essays, four



▲ Michal Ajvaz with the Czech language HUFs faculties

books on philosophy and two books of philosophical correspondence (in collaboration with Ivan M. Havel.) His books were translated into several languages (e.g. English, French, Russian, Polish, Hungarian, Slovenian, Swedish, Dutch.) One of his short stories appeared in Korean translation in an anthology Prague - City Loved by Writers published by Happy Reading Books in 2011. The American edition of his novel *The Golden Age* reached No. 1 on UK's list of Amazon Best Books of 2010: Top Ten Science Fiction/Fantasy Selections and made it also to No. 37 on US Top 100 Editor's Choice: Best Books of 2010. He was also awarded Jaroslav Seifert's Prize for his novel *Empty Streets* (in 2005.)

Michal Ajvaz started to publish when he was forty, before that he had already written surrealist texts (poetry and fiction.) His books are different stories intertwined, in some of them there are people living on the border of the community or in direct conflict with it.

The bizarre and sometimes also cynical movement of images is typical and somehow natural in Ajvaz's artistic manifestation - his books are filled with animals surfacing in miscellaneous situations and spaces, sculptural works emerging in forgotten or completely inappropriate localities, and so on. Even though his books are fantastical on the whole, the plots remain classic stories (with a plot line and a denouement.) As he claims, his writing begins with some feeling, often tied to some definite space, and he even does not have any ideas to be expressed nor the topic or plot to write about. His feelings recall for him a white fog, in which indistinct shapes and individual stories flicker, wanting to be liberated from the fog, to be given a form. Even though it looks like it, there is nothing in his writing taken from his dreams. He believes that dreams are not the only sphere from which to extract imaginary and fantastic plots, but that especially our consciousness could offer subjects of many fantastical novels. In his opinion, we are discovering the sense of our existence by that which we have yet to enter, into "the opening of unknown lands."

"To really leave one must leave everything behind and go smiling and empty-handed with no thought of return. Those who depart while counting on returning do not leave home, even if they reach the white cities in the depths of the jungle and repose on the marble of its squares: their journeys remain woven into the tissue of the objectives that create the space of home; the shining borders of foreign parts retreat before them."

(M. Ajvaz: *The Other City*. Transl. by G. Turner, Dalkey Archive Press, 2009, p. 162)▲

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◀ Michal Ajvaz lecturing for HUFs students

◀ Michal Ajvaz at the Jaroslav Seifert's monument



## From a Robust Fan of the Magazine

**I**t has been almost five months since my friend joined The Argus. Since then, I have always been concerned with this magazine. As the last edition of The Argus includes my dear friend's first article, I could be brave enough to write a 'Letter to The Argus.'

The last edition of The Argus was particularly interesting in that it included many issues that I have recently been following. For example, the SSM issue was introduced by a professor in one of my classes, and the psychopath issue also attracted my attention in that there seems to be an increasing number of them roaming around. Thus, I would like to give an 'A' to it.

The most interesting article of the edition for me is about the psychopaths. Nowadays, the world seems to be even more dangerous due to the increasing number of cases involved with insane people. For example, the case of a crazy man in Sweden who massacred almost everyone on an island was horrific. The article helped me understand what a psychopath is, and I felt a little relieved to have a better grasp on what once seemed unfathomable.

I hope to see many additional interesting articles in the upcoming editions. If I can request for the next edition, I want The Argus to deal with the issue regarding the integration of the two HUFS campuses, because it is definitely one of the most controversial issues on campus.

**Kim Moon-Gyeom**  
(Division of Economics II)

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## My First Magazine at HUFS, The Argus

**T**he Argus is the first magazine that I have read since my entrance to HUFS. It was more interesting and useful than I expected to be. I think it is dealing with a lot of interesting issues which attracts readers to read. Not only that, I could gain a lot of information related to HUFS and psychopath. I think The Argus is the best newspaper among all universities in Korea, which makes me be proud of. I would like to recommend it to the other students and share it. I am looking forward to reading the next masterpiece of The Argus! 📖

**Park Min-ji**  
(Division of Chinese II)

# 한국외국어대학교 영자신문사 디아거스의 새로운 주역을 찾습니다

(C) RICHARD, THE ARUGS, HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES

1. 원서마감: 10월 27일 목요일 18시
2. 필기고사: 10월 27일 목요일 18시
3. 면접고사: 10월 28일 금요일 18시
4. 원서교부: (서울) 국제학사 402호 (글로벌) 학생회관 211호
5. 문의사항: (편집장) 010-7144-5308  
(서울) 02-2173-2508 (글로벌) 031-330-4113

\* 필기고사 및 면접고사 장소는 추후 개별 공지





# Populism, Honeyed Word?

The Janus face of populism