


The Argus

No. 515 DECEMBER 15, 2020

Since 1954

Everybody's favorite poison: Botulinum



Botulinum toxin products, boasting a prospering industry, is used for medical and beautification purposes. The toxin helps a countless number of people in various ways. However, it is the most dangerous poison in the world, with 1 gram being enough to kill a million people. The Argus introduces the overlooked botulinum toxin's two-sidedness with biological and medical facts.

The Argus

ESTABLISHED 1954

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

- *President and Publisher* Prof. Kim In-chul
- *Executive Editor* Prof. Nam Won-jun
- *Copy Readers* Prof. Merrilee Brinegar
Prof. Joseph R. Vincent
Prof. Chris Kobylinski
- *Editor-in-Chief* Park Chang-hwan(G-4)
- *Editorial Consultant* Jeon Nu-ri(G-4)
- *Editor* Jang Soo-hyun(IS-3)
- *Staff Reporters*
Choi Yea-jin(GB-3)
Kim Ha-kyung(ELLT-1)
Song Chan-ho(EIT-3)
- *Argusian* Na Geum-chae(CFAC-3)
- *Illustrator* Tuyung Park

107, Imun-ro, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul, Korea
(Postal Code 02450)
Tel: (02) 2173-2508 Fax: 2173-2509
81, Oedae-ro, Mohyeon-eup, Cheoin-gu Yongin, Gyeonggi
Province, Korea
(Postal Code 17035) Tel: (031) 330-4113
Printed by HONG DESIGN | Tel: 464-5167 Fax: 464-5168

Editorial

Taking the Right Amount of Steps

What I realized as this year comes to a close is that I ought to pace myself. Looking back at the past four years of my life in university, I realized that I had no break, whatsoever. Whether it was practicing my instrument for a HUFSPHil concert, or planning events for a congregation, or training my skills at The Argus, I never really took the time to rest on my own accord.

With utter optimism, I always agreed to add one thing after another to my already packed schedule. It was only after COVID-19 hit earlier this year that I spent a considerable amount of time at home. I always thought I would be restless when suddenly forced into inactivity. At the cusp of the corona outbreak in Korea, I had planned my year in advance, and there was no time for rest.

Then, I spent half a year of sedentary life, almost always at home. Truth be told, the corona blues did hit me, but my constant physical fatigue faded and the fog in my brain lifted. I drew back from my obligations in various relationships to focus on myself, which led me to notice how much I prefer the peace. People would tell me that I always looked tired, and it took me something as big as the corona crisis to realize, that, yes, I was tired, and more importantly, I was trying to make too much out of the limited resources I had.

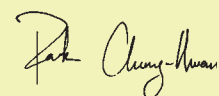
Though I have no regrets about cramming as much life I could into my four years of college, I wish I had taken a step back to enjoy it all. The constant rush that defined my days never ceased to let me absorb the life that I was supposedly living. At one point, I was missing the whole point of living such a busy life: to live. In fact, I was doing quite the opposite and mindlessly completing a slew of unending tasks; not living but a slave to the idea of living.

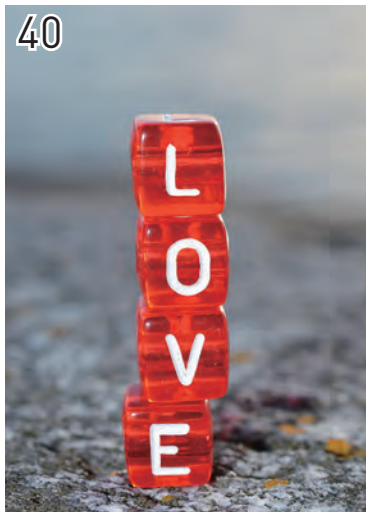
Honestly, it is no wonder Korean students normally take a gap year during college for self-development. I felt that I was simply not at liberty to do so, but the tumult that our college years bring us is more than enough to burn us out several times over.

Giving anything our all is great, but why we give is just as important. Taking the time to recharge and refresh our objectives, to reflect and rest on our own pace, in retrospect, is the more efficient and fulfilling life. 🌱

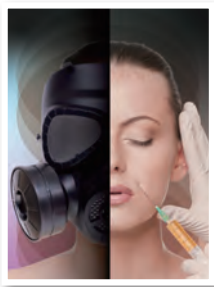
By Park Chang-hwan

Editor-in-Chief





CONTENTS



Cover Story

>> Botulinum toxin is naturally deadly to human beings. The toxin is powerful enough to kill the masses and bring demise, but the most minute amounts can be a blessing in disguise. Called "Botox," the protein treats illnesses and is a branded beauty product. What is this protein, which evidently has a plethora of upsides and just as many downsides? Find out in this December's 514th issue of The Argus.

02 · News Desk

04 · 24/7@HUFS

Let There Be 'Untact QUINQUARTIA'

08 · Akademia

One Veteran Diplomat's Lesson to Future Generations

13 · Cover Story

The Truth About Botox:
The Most Dangerous Poison on the Planet

19 · Footsteps

Rewind the History:
Following the Route of Gapsin Coup

24 · Agora

Where to Level Social Distancing Measures?

28 · In-depth on Society

Heavy Promise: Carbon Neutrality

34 · X-file

2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War: A Repetition of Tragedy 26
Years Ago

40 · Eye of The Argus

41 · Epilogue

HUFS Hikes Tuition for International Students



©gshufs/Instagram

▲ The GSA called for a protest against the tuition hike.

On Nov. 19, a meeting was held by the Enrollment Fee Deliberation Committee discussing a tuition hike for international students. According to the announcement released on Nov. 19, the council is planning to increase the tuition of international students by 6 percent.

According to the General Student Council’s (GSC) official notice regarding this matter, HUFS released a report explaining that this decision is based on Article 11 of the Higher Education Act. According to the report in question, “Universities may autonomously appropriate the tuition fee for international students, who are counted outside the legal enrollment maximum.”

An anonymous HUFSSan, upon hearing the news, said, “I think it is unfair to raise the tuition fee only for international students. It would be fair to increase it equally for everyone, but it would be best if it did not increase at all.” Besides this, the Global Student Association held a protest in front of the conference room where the meeting was held and released a statement opposing the hike. 📰

By Kim Yeo-won
gch05532@hufs.ac.kr

Access to Buildings Limited During Admission Process



©Yonhap

▲ HUFS is holding “untact” interviews for this year’s admission process.

From Nov. 19 to 23 and Dec. 10 to 14, HUFS has decided to run all courses online due to interviews and essay tests for the 2021 freshman admissions. Access to the Institute of Teaching and Learning Development and Social Sciences Building, which were previously used to take online classes, will be restricted.

Previously, space to take online classes were available on the 1st and 2nd floors of the library, the 2nd floor of the Cyber Building, the 1st floor of the Teaching and Learning Development Institute, and Room 203, 405, and 505 of the Social Sciences Building. The library can still be used during the period.

Regarding this notice, an anonymous HUFSSan said, “I live alone around the school and I feel uneasy because students from all over Korea are coming for interviews and exams. It will not be easy for some

students to take online classes in the library because of the limited availability of spaces.” On another note, HUFS has halted most offline classes for the duration of Social Distancing Level 2, which, as of writing this article on Nov. 25, is to last until Dec. 7. 📰

By Park Da-eun
201901454@hufs.ac.kr

HUFS Procures 300 Billion Won for Songdo Campus



▲ HUFS President Kim In-chul (2nd from L) signs the MOU with representatives from Hyundai E&C, Korea I&S, and ZINOL D&C.

HUFS signed an MOU on Nov. 20 with Hyundai Engineering & Construction, Korea Investment & Securities, and ZINOL D&C to develop the HUFS Songdo Campus as innovative grounds for data science.

According to the latest information obtained from industry sources, a data platform complex worth 240 billion won (US\$ 215 million), a lecture research complex of 30 billion won (US\$ 2 million), and a global standard dormitory priced at 30 billion won (US\$ 2 million) will be constructed with the money.

According to the recently updated schedule, the campus will house the Department of Computer Engineering, Information Communications Engineering, and the Division of Biomedical Engineering. Kim Song-ha, a freshman of the Department of Computer Engineering said, “I agree with the move to the Songdo Campus. The world is changing, and I think HUFS

also needs to walk in step with these changes. If we can combine technology and language, it will be a huge advantage of HUFS.” However, there are also concerns regarding this change. Jo Hyeon-seo, a freshman of the Division of Biomedical Engineering said, “I am worried I may have to take classes at two campuses at the same time. The new system may also have flaws in the first year.”

By Lim Chae-lynn

fls521@hufs.ac.kr

HUFS Promotes Korea Using Critical Foreign Languages

On Nov. 6, HUFS, the Center for Critical Foreign Languages Education (CFL) and the Korean Culture and Information Service (KOCIS) signed an agreement to cooperate in spreading education and the dissemination of critical foreign languages, and boosting the nation’s image at Korea Press Center, Seoul.

CFL will supervise and support the translation of national promotional content produced by KOCIS in 11 critical foreign languages. Malay/Indonesian, Farsi (Iran), Thai, Polish, Mongolian, Hindi, Turkish, Hungarian, Swahili, Uzbek, and Portuguese are selected from 53 critical foreign languages stipulated by Presidential decree. The promotional content will include subtitles or be based on the languages themselves.

In addition, both institutions will exchange information about the regions using the 11 languages. Kim Hyun-soo, a Malay-Indonesian Interpretation and Translation major ‘19 said, “I think positively about this cooperation. Critical foreign languages are difficult to study because they often lack dictionaries and information. This agreement will be a good opportunity to attract people’s attention to critical foreign languages.”

By Park Hye-lim

hyelim06@hufs.ac.kr

COVID-19 Forces HUFS to Go Online

On Nov. 26, HUFS rescinded its decision to carry on with Switch 1 classes and announced that all classes were to be held online. The change will go into effect on Nov. 24, the start of the 13th week of the semester. The announcement follows the decision made by the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters of Korea, which has elevated the Social Distancing Level from 1.5 to 2 starting Nov. 24.

According to the guidelines announced on Nov. 23, with Social Distancing Level 2, all offline classes are banned with the exception of: practical training and experiment lectures of natural sciences and engineering-related majors with less than 31 students and small-scale graduate school lectures with less than 11 students. For such lectures, professors and students can agree to meet offline. Moreover, the library and cafeteria will be opened with proper distance between seats, and exams can be held both on and offline.

By Nam Gyeong-eun

gyeongeunnam@hufs.ac.kr

Let There Be 'Untact QUINQUARTIA'

By **Kim Ha-Kyung**
Staff Reporter

“Welcome to QUINQUARTIA PLUS+” exclaimed Charming Jo, a YouTube star, beginning the annual event of HUFSS Seoul Campus. Before the opening, there had been worried voices because of the pandemic, but as it finally started, people cheered all together. The 2020 QUINQUARTIA was distinguished—while it used to be held like an offline concert in which it filled its list with popular celebrities, this year’s event was successfully accomplished as a student-centered online show. Despite COVID-19, its shift into online hosting worked as every student could participate, escaping from concern about infection. The Argus also took part in the contactless QUINQUARTIA, and met the people who planned, organized, and executed the successful online event.

▶ Park Ji-yong(ELLT 19') is singing in the Star Singer of Imun-dong.

DAY 1

19:00- 21:00 Star Singer of Imun-dong,
by Airy and Charming Jo

On the first day, eight HUFSSans gathered to be picked the best singer in Imun-dong. All participants showed off amazing voices, making the opening of the show splendid. After their performances, Airy of the Open Major Division '09 and Charming Jo commented on each singer. Then the final winner was picked via student votes.

1st Winner: Lee Jun-ho, Department of Russian '15
2nd: Hong Jina, Department of French Education '19
3rd: Lee Jin-sub, Department of Spanish '20

Lee Jun-ho: For me, participating in the Star Singer of Imun-dong itself was a valuable experience, and I was so elated to receive an award. Also, this experience will become a huge asset in my music life. Thank you again to everyone who supported me. Thank you.

21:00- 21:30 Cooking Class of Girin,
by cooks from Girin Pocha

The cooks from Girin Pocha, a Korean style pub in Imun-dong, made one of their best-selling menus' recipe public: the cream-chicken tteokbokki. They said, “We considered which dish we would teach you, because you cannot go outside like in the past because of the virus. We hope everyone will get through this pandemic era well.”

21:30- 22:00 The Truth in Jenga: Let Me
Know The Bottom of Your Heart

Six HUFSSans played a jenga game. The rule was that if the jenga tower collapsed or if the one who got a turn could not answer a question, then he or she had to have a glass of alcohol. With a familiar approach including simple but funny questions and missions, the show made many watchers laugh.



DAY 2

19:00- 21:00 **HUFS Kart League Finals by Kim Soo-hyun and Kim Taek-hwan**

The second day of the QUINQUATRIA PLUS+ began with the final league of an online game named Kart Riders, hosted by Kim Soo-hyun, an online game show commentator, and Kim Taek-hwan, a former professional Kart Riders player. The competitors had gone through preliminaries before the event, and they boasted their brilliant performances on the online live-streaming stage. The hidden game masters who were hiding among naïve HUFSans fought fierce matches and picked out the strongest.

Individual division (Item off)

1st – Jang Jae-hyun (ZangJess), Division of Chinese Foreign Affairs and Commerce '14

2nd – Byun Hyun-jun (D3CAL), Department of German '19

Team division (Item on)

1st – Strawberry

2nd - Arabiatta



▲ Staff of Kart League and commentators.

21:00- 21:30 **FILA, Fill Your Happiness**

After the keen game competition, Kim Na-hyun, the Chairperson of the General Student Council (GSC), paid a visit to FILA to meet Yoon Eun-soo, the Chairman of FILA Korea, who is an alumnus of the Department of Political Science and Diplomacy at HUFS. During the livestream, Kim explored the FILA building and took a look at the product line and the features of the office building. Soon after, she met with Chairman Yoon to listen to him talk about entrepreneurship. Responding to her request for advice to HUFSans, Mr. Yoon emphasized three values: humbleness, experience, and grit. She concluded the visit by giving him a Boo doll, the mascot of HUFS.

21:30- 22:00 **HUFS Media/FBS**

After Chairperson Kim's company visit to FILA Korea, videos which were produced by HUFS media and FBS, a HUFS broadcaster, followed. The HUFS media showed *We Were Completely Different* and FBS broadcast *Fufs Bee*.



▲ HUFS meets FILA.

DAY 3

Talk with the HUFS president were postponed two weeks due to personal reasons



©Office of HUFS President

DAY 4

19:00- 20:00 **Share Your Youth and Experience,
by Jang Hye-young**

To encourage HUFSSans who were carrying out a challenging online show, Jang Hye-young, a member of the National Assembly from the Justice Party, accepted an interview. Meeting with HUFSS interviewers, she shared her precious experience including the motive that made her get involved in politics, her spirit, and changes in her life after becoming a lawmaker.

20:00- 21:00 **Meet HUFSSans' Actor,
by Park Sung-woong**

Park Sung-woong, a movie star, (Department of Law '96) talked about his school life at HUFSS without pretense. He also shared his good memories of college with his brilliant expressiveness. Thereafter, he held a quiz show about *New World* (2013), a big-hit modern film noir that he appeared in.



▲ HUFSS meets Actor Park Sung-woong.

21:00- 21:55 **At Dawn With Shining Stars,
by Youn-ha**

Youn-ha, a famous singer (Division of Japanese Language, Literature and Culture '07) hosted a radio-format interview. Reading the stories which HUFSSans sent, she gave sincere advice and sympathy to those students who showed their interest in her participation in the event. She concluded the interview singing "Waiting," one of her most famous songs, looking forward to the day they would meet again.

21:55- 22:05 **Things We Took for Granted
(Original song by Lee Juck)**

A video clip by numerous HUFSSans singing was played, providing students with inspiration and hope.

22:05- 23:00 **Before Sunrise:
The Student Councils**

The Chairpersons of HUFSS student councils, including the GSC and the student councils from each college got together and recalled their memories of their activities in 2020.



▲ HUFSS meets Singer Yoon-ha.

DAY 5

19:00- 20:40 **HUFSTAGE Home Live by Shogah**

Shogah, of the College of English '11, met several HUFSSan singers and listened to their stories. Sharing their meaningful experiences, they performed a show in wonderful harmony. After the performance, they talked about the story behind the songs they sang together, getting to know each other more closely.

20:40- 21:00 **Despite Under The COVID-19**

A crowdsourcing documentary, "Despite under the COVID-19" showed each HUFSSan's life bearing things that HUFSSans encounter, through gathering the V-log in the era of COVID-19.

21:00-23:00 Explore The HUF S Life with BDNS

Moon Sang-hoon and Kim Jin-hyeok of BDNS (YouTube creator team) came to HUF S to explore the life of HUF SAns. They communicated with HUF SAns who were participating in QUINQUATRIA through YouTube comments and gave HUF SAns a huge laugh. “Explore the HUF S Life” proceeded with one main MC and six HUF SAns and all the HUF SAns who were viewing it live. The corner consisted of three parts: a character quiz of guessing pictures of celebrities, a quiz about HUF S, and a discussion about trivial controversies.



▲ HUF S meets BDNS.

Interview with the planners

Head Planner Koo Myeong-jun (Media & Communication '20): Hello. My name is Koo Myeong-jun and I was in charge of the planning of this year’s “QUINQUATRIA PLUS+.” I am only a freshman, but before attending HUF S, I had experience in the GSC of another university, where I took part in the planning of two offline school festivals. Such prior experience helped me in planning this year’s festival.

I consider this year’s festival as nothing different from those of the previous years. Besides the part where it was “untact,” we tried to make it as student-centered as possible. We attempted to change the mood of the university festival which normally includes programs like “Music Bank.” By pre-introducing programs such as, “*Nevertheless*,” and “*Things We Took For Granted*,” we had the objective of putting forth student participation as our core value. Gradually, we introduced the “HUF S Kart League” and “Center HUF STAGE” events of our online festival.

It was the first online festival I was ever in charge of planning and with no precedents, there were quite a few hurdles. We raised funds online, hosted an online market, and tried to overall, create a colorful and valuable festival. For this festival to be a model for the years to come, a total of four months was spent tirelessly planning and considering every

little detail. For the fellow HUF SAns worn out by COVID-19, we hope that our efforts were a source of strength, and if that is the case, I am happy. Thank you.

Head of Design Kang Byeong-hun (ELLT '19): My name is Kang Byeong-hun and I was in charge of the SNS artwork, the YouTube Live artwork, the production of the goods and more. This was all a first for everyone—the online festival—so the process was not so rosy. The most memorable part of the work was the “HUF S Kart League.” Three members, the Head of Planning, the Head of Media & Communication, and I, were put in charge of the operations, where we made up the E-Sports TF team and oversaw all the proceedings. It was maybe because as a part of this team, I was there from the beginning to the end of the operations that this memory is so fond. The participants of this festival are what made the festival, so to speak. The planning team’s objective of a student-centered festival was fulfilled in the end and that makes me happy. Moreover, I am thankful to the HUF SAns who participated through the live chats during our YouTube Live sessions. Your witty comments made it all the more fun. Thank you once again to everyone who took the time out of their busy lives to be a part of QUINQUATRIA PLUS+.



▲ Staff who struggled to make QUINQUATRIA PLUS+.

Despite concerns, Untact QUINQUATRIA PLUS+ ended successfully. Looking back on the first untact festival, HUF SAns were on the center stage of all the programs. HUF SAns’ voices resonates the whole stage, and several comments on the online led the festival. As the Head of Design mentioned, the main character in the QUINQUATRIA was each HUF SAns who participated in the festival. The first Untact QUINQUATRIA ended in great success, but this is just the first step. Untact will continue under the COVID-19, and this would change the form of life. Now is the time to meditate about the university festival just like concerts have to go on. While festivals like concerts are necessary, student-centered festivals are more meaningful. This meaningful start should influence future student councils and the framework of this free but well-organized QUINQUATRIA should have students looking forward to future festivals. ☺

hk9816@hufs.ac.kr

One Veteran Diplomat's Lesson to Future Generations

By Na Geum-chaе
Argusian

The world is a giant negotiating table and, want it or not, we are negotiators. Whether we are dealing with our professors, parents, or best friends, negotiation always takes place in every encounter with other people. As how well we handle these encounters determines whether we prosper happily or suffer frustration, those who understand the nature of negotiating and have cultivated their bargaining power can have the upper hand in this competitive society. Moreover, in the age of globalization where countries are deeply intertwined, the demand for an outstanding negotiator is rapidly increasing.

Professor Park Hee-kwon, a chair professor at HUFs, passed on the know-how of negotiation he gained while working as a diplomat through his book named, "Shall We Negotiate?" In recognition of its academic excellence, the book was selected to be included in the philosophy, psychology and ethics section of 2020 Sejong Books, a collection of outstanding books. What was the story that Professor Park Hee-kwon, who led numerous successful negotiations throughout his career, wanted to tell the future generations? The Argus met with Professor Park and asked him about the skills which are useful in practice and the qualities needed for being a great negotiator.



©Park Hee-kwon

An Introduction to Global Negotiation: Shall We Negotiate?

“Shall We Negotiate,” published in November 2019, is a guidebook for a successful life through bargaining power. The book contains various moments of negotiation we will face in the age of globalization, the qualities necessary for competent negotiators and practical skills that the experts on the negotiation should possess. It offers the author’s keen insight into the negotiation and useful advice from rich experience. In particular, the writer emphasizes the importance of the ability to reconcile differences and create productive communication, giving prime information to develop the art of negotiation.

“Shall We Negotiate?” is composed of three parts. In the first part, “Negotiation: The Art of Communication,” Professor Park defines what negotiation is and presents elements that determines the success or failure of negotiations. In the second part, “Your Negotiating Partner is the world,” tells readers what we need to keep in mind in negotiations with multinational negotiators. In the final part, “The Practical Guide to Become a Global Negotiation Master,” describes pragmatic strategies based on the theoretical foundations presented in the previous chapters and gives advice to future negotiation experts who will lead Korea in the globalized world.



South Korean diplomat Park Hee-kwon: 39 years of efforts to promote national interests

The author of the book, Park Hee-kwon, started the first chapter of his life as a diplomat after graduating from the Department of Spanish at HUFS. Afterwards, graduating summa cum laude from the Diplomatic School of Spain, he earned a doctorate in international law from Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. As a professional diplomat, Park successively filled various government posts including as Director General, Treaties Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT), and directed negotiations on international disputes, especially in Northeast Asia. In addition, he served as Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Kingdom of Spain and played an active role at more than 60 international conferences as the Head of the Korean delegation. The Argus met with “Veteran Diplomat Park Hee-kwon” and retraced his footsteps.

The Argus: Why did you decide to become a diplomat and how did you try to achieve your dream?

Park Hee-kwon (Park): When I was an undergraduate of HUFS, I was an ordinary young man from the countryside. Because of my poverty-stricken family background, I had no choice but to get a scholarship from the Korea Student Aid Foundation and teach English to teenagers to pay for tuition. Living in a society where everyone was suffering from hunger, I thought that overseas expansion was the only way for Korea to overcome poverty and wanted to pioneer my life abroad. Although there were a variety of jobs working abroad, the diplomat, a warrior who strives to promote national interests, seemed most attractive to me. The job is a manifestation of the slogan of our university, “Come to HUFS, Meet the World.”

Due to my underprivileged background, the foreign affairs official exam was a financially difficult undertaking. Thus, I determined to study hard for a year, and if I did not pass, I would get another job and support my family. During this time, I spent 15 hours a day studying. Looking back now, it was truly a lonely and tough, but at the same time, it was a very rewarding and wonderful experience. Finally, I passed the exam when I was a junior in college and worked as a diplomat for 39 years. What I want to say to my juniors in school who are thinking of becoming a diplomat is “Without going crazy with passion, one is unable to achieve anything meaningful (不狂不及).” If you have a firm will, there is nothing that is impossible. I hope HUFSans set their own goals and give 110 percent to achieving it.

The Argus: How did your major, Spanish, help you when you were working as a diplomat?

Park: Without any doubt, Spanish has been a great weapon for me during my diplomatic career, especially on the international stage. I have worked at the United Nations twice as a Legal Counsellor and a Deputy Permanent Representative. Performing chairman’s duties at numerous international conferences, I had my own principle: If I make a remark in English five times, I would speak in Spanish one time. By following this rule, I have seen on many occasions that countries which use Spanish as an official language show more amicable attitudes towards my opinions if I speak in Spanish. One time at a conference on disarmament, I remember an episode that one Cuban female diplomat kissed my cheek right after the meeting, very surprised by my fluent Spanish.

The Argus: Reminiscing your journey as a diplomat, what moment is the most memorable to you?

Park: The fact is, a diplomat’s life is never a bed of roses. There are countless moments when self-sacrifice and a strong sense of responsibility are needed, such as overseas service at diplomatic offices where we face relocation every two or three years and issues like child-rearing. However, I think that the sense of accomplishment and pride that can be felt by contributing to the promotion of national interests are feelings beyond compare which only diplomats can experience. Passing through the season, many golden memories come to mind, but the most memorable moment is the time when I had to risk my job to realize a noble value.

As an expert in the international law of the sea, I have managed negotiations with Japan over territorial and maritime issues. With national interest in mind, I was in a silent war with Japan, so

to speak. Until 2006, when I was working as Director General at the Treaties Bureau of MOFAT, our government had defined Dokdo as an uninhabitable rock. This made it impossible to claim its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Japan, on the other hand, said that Dokdo belongs to them, and claimed EEZ of it, defining Dokdo as inhabitable island. I thought that our government’s argument harmed national interests. I believed our nation was taking a minimalistic approach in an international territorial feud.

We needed to take a more maximalist approach. Japan argues that “Okinotorishima,” a coral reef roughly the size of a twin bed in the Pacific Ocean, is also an inhabitable island. Why

would they do that? It is to maximize the country’s interests by securing the EEZ drawn from the reef. It was not easy to change a long-standing policy. Of course, there was resistance within the MOFTA and a lot of variables had to be considered from several perspectives. Changing our government’s keynote on the Dokdo policy was really demanding, but I was positive that it would make a great contribution to furthering the national interest. Eventually, the change came through!

The Argus: Please introduce the virtues that a diplomat should cultivate.

Park: Among the books loved by diplomats, “Diplomacy,” written by Harold Nicolson, presents seven virtues that diplomats ought to develop: truth, accuracy, calm, patience, good temper, modesty, and loyalty. I basically agree with it all.

On top of this, I would like to emphasize devotion, or more precisely, devotion to national interests. Diplomats must distance themselves from power, wealth, and fame and dedicate themselves to promoting national interests, not to their own advancement or the regime. The public servant is literally a “servant” who lives a life of dedication and sacrifice for the public. While devotion to the national interests is a very important virtue for all public officials to establish, I think it is particularly necessary for foreign service officers, who deal with foreign countries on behalf of their homeland.

The Argus: Is there, for you, the ideal diplomat or role model?

Park: Harold Nicolson, as I have mentioned before, Britain’s Henry John Temple Palmerston, and our country’s Seo-hui—there have been a lot of great diplomats in history. Considering these examples, I think that an ideal diplomat is a person

who has insight and vision. It is because diplomats can maximize national interests only when they have these abilities.

I personally take William Henry Seward, who served as the United States Secretary of State, as my role model. Seward negotiated with Russia for the Alaska Purchase. Some of his contemporaries labeled the purchase as “Seward’s Folly” or “Seward’s Icebox,” as they contended that the United States had acquired useless land. But he was the man who looked ahead into the future. See how incalculable Alaska’s economic value is now, which only costed about 2 cents per acre at the time. I think an ideal diplomat is a person who works out a way to maximize the national interests while predicting the future.

Dear HUFSSans, Never give up, and Never give in. Where there is a will, there is a way.



Expert international negotiator Park Hee-kwon: Life is continuous negotiation

Economy, security, culture, international law; the authority professor Park holds as a negotiator knows no bounds. In line with this, Park left behind his beloved work as a diplomat and started the second chapter of his life as an educator, nurturing his apprentices at HUFS. By recording his realizations in his book, “Shall We Negotiate?” he shared his expertise with those who are to follow in his footsteps. Seeing through Korea’s turbulent situation in 2020, an era where the interests of the world’s powers intersect, he hopes for the book to resonate, even in the slightest bit, within Korean society, which still has ways to go in its culture of discussion and negotiation. The Argus continued the conversation with “Expert Negotiator Park Hee-kwon” based on his book.

The Argus: What is negotiation to you?

Park: Negotiation can be defined as “playing hard to get.” It is making decisions with limited resources, through cooperation and competition. Negotiation is not as grandiose as it seems. It is a part of life, and life is a continuation of negotiation. The world is a huge negotiation table with 7.7 billion participants. Take, for example, a crying child. They apply the means they have to ask for their mother’s milk. Growing a bit, the child negotiates with their mother. If that fails, they go to their father, their grandfather, and so on. In this way, negotiation is a “science that moves the world,” closely related to life itself.

The Argus: What is your most memorable negotiation?

Park: The most memorable one happened when I was working as Ambassador to Peru, where we succeeded in exporting 20 Korean-made trainer aircraft manufactured by Korea Aeronautic Industries. It was a first, exporting such a product to a Latin American country. The negotiations took about two years, testing my will and patience to the extreme. At that time, a company in Brazil held a monopoly on Latin America’s trainer aircraft market. Brazil’s influence in Latin America was absolute, with many pro-Brazilian forces both within and outside the Peruvian government working as deterrents both in the media and the Congress of Peru; they opposed the import. There were even unfounded reports in the media alleging that South Korea bribed Peru to export its trainers.

As an ambassador to the Republic of Korea, I went to President Umala, the then President of Peru. It was to request for the Peruvian government to stop ridiculous reports that stigmatized Korea as a dishonest country. President Umala, however, stayed silent. Dissenting opinion was extremely strong

throughout Peruvian society. Because of all this, I asked for a TV interview, thinking that I ought to directly appeal to the Peruvian public. In the interview, I discussed Peru’s brilliant past and its descent into a nation that exports only primary goods, then suggested a bright future in which Peru and Korea could produce aircraft together through technology transfer. Like a miracle, the public sentiment took a turn. At times, I wanted to give up, but the negotiations finally succeeded, marking a new era for the Korean defense industry. In this aspect, it was most memorable.

The Argus: You have presented Power, Time, and Information (PTI) as determinants of a successful negotiation. Let us say one overcomes TI with effort and strategy. How, though, does one find the higher ground when it comes to negotiating power?

Park: One must understand the nature of negotiating power. Negotiations are quite dynamic, and therefore, how one uses negotiating power changes its quality. From this, comes the “Paradox of Power.” Take the

Swiss, known for their neutrality, for example. During World War II, Germany tried to invade Switzerland. Before the might of the German forces, the very existence of Switzerland was at stake. The Swiss, however, got out of the pickle they were in, using their wits.

Switzerland told Germany, “German forces will obliterate Switzerland should there be war, but the Swiss will never surrender. We are certain that, at about the point when Switzerland is no more, Germany will also have suffered great loss.” Thus, the Swiss avoided German invasion, and they still boast an armed neutrality based on their strong self-defense capabilities. Generally, people assume negotiating power to

**The world is a big negotiating table.
Once you have bargaining power, you
are off to the races.**

be positively correlated with might. However, in the case of a Swiss, the underdog in might became the champion in terms of negotiating power. Like so, negotiating power is not merely based on “might.” Realizing negotiating power is fickle, one must use it wisely.

The Argus: Negotiation requires proper tempo control. What is needed for great tempo control?

Park: Controlling the tempo is tremendously important in negotiating. Tempo control is, in terms of PTI, most related to time. There is such a thing called, the “Paradox of Deadlines.” Many think that negotiations end when the deadline is met. However, even seemingly simple negotiations conclude too close to the deadline or even after the deadline. In my years as a diplomat, I visited China around 40 times to bargain. China’s negotiating strategy is called, “Man-man-di,” or “Cheon-cheon-hi,” in Korean, which means slow. China takes control of the time and pulls the negotiation in a favorable direction for them.

Korea was undoubtedly a nation of with a tradition of patience and persistence. However, the “fast culture” has taken place in mainstream Korean culture. A great negotiator calmly controls themselves with persistence. They must look at the negotiation and know exactly when to maximize the benefits. Haste may leave the negotiation rough-and-ready, which leads to huge losses. That is, the ability to control the time aspect of the negotiation is extremely important. Shortly put, a quick negotiation is not the important thing, but finding the right moment to make the most out of the negotiation is crucial, and for this, patience and calmness are musts.

The Argus: The preparation of a Best alternative to a negotiated agreement (BATNA) also may influence the success rate of a negotiation. What must be done to properly prepare this?

Park: Without alternatives, it is not possible to gain the high ground. In other words, one must have the ability to present a good BATNA to successfully conclude negotiations. For this, ample information is necessary. Take for example, Seohui, a diplomat of the early Goryeo dynasty, when the Khitan were threatening the Korean Peninsula. The main reason Seohui was able to produce diplomatic success with the Khitan was that he had all kinds of information about the Khitan, including the situation they were faced with. Secondly, flexibility is necessary. BATNA is kinetic, rather than static. During a negotiation, BATNA must be changed according to the circumstances. In sum, meticulous preparation, ample information, and flexibility are key requirements.

The Argus: At an actual negotiating table, there must be other difficulties. Is there your own know-how to become a negotiation expert?

Park: Actually, I too become nervous every time I am about to enter a negotiation. To give one more tip, train to become apt in presenting “yesable propositions,” or propositions that induce positive answers from the opposite party. For example, Hattusilis the Third of the Hittites and Ramses the Second of Egypt left behind in records letters they had sent to each other around the 13th to 14th century B.C.E. They are considered one of the best records of diplomacy. Ramses deceitfully sent plated gold instead of pure gold when paying back a debt to the Hittite King. Hattusilis did not denounce or rebuke Ramses. Instead, the Hittite wrote, “I believe the keeper of your house was dishonest and deceived both you and me.” Eventually, the Egyptian king justly repaid Hattusilis in full.

In fact, negotiating is not a zero-sum game, but a plus sum game, where a win-win situation ought to be induced. Winning 100-0 is not the objective, but to come out with a 50-50 or a 51-49 result. Vanity is never a good quality for a negotiator, who must continue to maintain international relations. Bragging about one’s benefits only leads to vengeful thoughts in their counterpart’s hearts. American diplomat Henry Kissinger said that he respects, out of all the diplomats, 19th century Germany’s Bismarck. After the unification of Germany into a single stage, Bismarck halted German expansion, citing the fact that Germany should become Europe’s neutral mediator. A great negotiator has humility and control in this way.

The Argus: For HUFSSans who are going to face countless moments of negotiation, is there any message you would like to add?

Park: Humanity accumulated knowledge, which in turn led to our control of Earth and its ecosystems. However, COVID-19, an invisible threat, is tragically limiting our actions and the economy. Such “unknown unknowns” will continue to occur; unexpected ordeals will come our way. Develop the creativity to deal with these new problems; that is, the ability to stand up instead of wallowing in the abyss of hopelessness. COVID-19 highlighted the rising populism and nationalism all across the world. Korea, a country with heavy overseas reliance, must negotiate and persuade ever more going forward. With resilience and creativity, I hope you HUFSSans overcome it all. I believe that negotiating will become an important tool for you, regardless of your walk of life. 🇰🇷

nak3096@hufs.ac.kr

The Truth About Botox:

The Most Dangerous Poison on the Planet



©Aesthetica Med Spa



©News Hankuk

▲ People wear gas masks against bioterrorism.



©Daring Gourmet

▲ Botulinum bacteria were found in sausages.



©Korea Biomedical Review

▲ Jueveau by Daewoong Pharmaceutical(L), Medytox by Medytox(C), and Botulax by Hugel(R) are different types of Botox.

By Choi Yea-jin

Staff Reporter of Theory & Critique Section

Get a Botox injection on your V-shaped face for only 15,000 won (US\$12)! You may have seen this advertisement at least once, especially if you live in Korea. The Botox injection is affordable—many people get it, and thus, it is familiar to the public. According to research by Huons, one of the Korean companies dealing in Botox, the industry recorded increased profits of 18.8 percent in one year. In addition, Goldman Sachs foresaw that the market capitalization of the Chinese Botox market would reach about US\$ 1.5 billion. It is indeed, a big deal.

However, the fact is that Botox is a kind of “toxin,” called botulinum, and it has even been used as a biochemical weapon by the U.S. army; enough fact to prove that the toxin could be highly dangerous. As such, The Argus tried to objectively analyze the botulinum toxin that is somehow taken as an easy matter by people worldwide and then, shed light on the ambivalence of the substance.

Botulinum toxin

The botulinum toxin is a type of poisonous protein. This toxin is originally a material that a kind of bacteria, named *clostridium botulinum*. It is often found naturally, and in this case, it has no toxin. However, if the bacteria are kept in anaerobic storage, it then produces toxic material. In Germany in the 19th century, there was an incident where over 200 people died after eating rotten sausages. During the investigation process, botulinum toxin was found. This is also where the name, “botulinum”, originates; it was coined from *botulus*, a Latin word that means sausage.

Botox

The often-used term, Botox, originally means the name of a product—a type of injection for muscle contraction—from Allergan, an American pharmaceutical company. Only five countries around the world have the technology to manufacture botulinum toxin products: Korea, China, Germany, France, and the U.S. In addition to Botox from Allergan, there are other botulinum toxin products available, such as Xeomin of Merz in Germany, Jeuveau made by Daewoong Pharmaceutical in Korea and Meditoxin of Medytox in Korea. The efficiency and price differ depending on products, and therefore, sometimes they are called different names, though they are just called Botox in most cases.



©Korea Herald

▲ Botox was originally developed by Allergan, USA.



Botulinum helps us

Botulinum for medical use

The first case where the botulinum toxin was used for a beneficial cause was when it was used as a cure for strabismus, or misaligned eyes. In 1977, Alan Scott, an American doctor reported a successful experiment on a monkey which was cured of its crossed eyes with the toxin. He then tried to apply this treatment to human beings. As he injected the most minute amounts of the toxin into the eye muscle, he could witness that the strabismus symptoms got better. Thereafter, the Food and Drug Administration of the U.S. (FDA) permitted it as an official medicine, and it has been widely used hitherto.

The medical areas where the botulinum toxin is applied are so diverse that it is even called a panacea. At the Department of Neurology at Yonsei Severance Hospital, in fact, there is a botulinum clinic that applies the material to various medical treatments. Botox is used to treat strabismus and headache, and to treat muscle cramps or muscle stiffness. What these diseases have in common is that they are a matter of muscle and nerves. So, what is the principle of botulinum toxin behind treating these diseases?

Human muscles are moved by the stimulus of motor nerves, and a neurotransmitter called acetylcholine causes the irritation. When botulinum toxin is injected, however, the toxin binds itself to the receptor of the nerve cell, making a hole in the cell membrane to penetrate the cell. Botulinum toxin which enters the cell, paralyzes nerves by preventing the secretion of the neurotransmitter, acetylcholine. In the end, when the stimuli that moved the muscles disappear, the contractions of the muscles are suppressed, and the muscles are paralyzed. According to



©Giverson Department of Neurology

▲ A neurologist uses Botox to treat a headache.

such principle, when Botox, a drug made of botulinum toxin, is injected directly into the muscles of the diseased area, abnormal muscle movement is controlled, and nerve-induced pain is relieved.

For example, let us look at Botox's principle of treating headaches, a long-standing trouble for modern people. In 2010, the FDA approved Botox as a treatment for chronic headaches and the American Academy of Neurology recommend Botox for patients suffering from such a condition.

To understand the treatment process using Botox, one ought to know how headaches become severe. Headaches occur through the contraction and relaxation of cerebral blood vessels, where nerve peptides (a type of amino acid) bond and are released at the end of the neuron. Neuropeptides act as a neurotransmitter and acts on the blood vessels. This sensitizes the nerve endings and releases interstitial fluid—liquid between blood vessels and cells—into the vascular space of the peritoneum, which covers the inside of the abdominal wall, and at the outermost part of the meninges, which is the membrane that surrounds the brain and spinal cord. Consequently, this leads to more severe headaches. This causes people to become susceptible to outside stimuli as causes for headaches and also to vomit occasionally.

Botox, however, suppresses the nerve peptides that cause headaches, thus alleviating pain. In general, when Botox is injected into a total of 31 skin muscles, including the back of the patient's head, the neck, shoulders and forehead, the muscles around the blood vessels leading to the brain are paralyzed. As a result, the secretion of the nerve peptide, the neurotransmitter causing pain, is controlled. By the changing of the pain receptor that signals pain, the headache is relieved. In other words, Botox prevents nerve activity in the muscles around the head. Unlike medicines that need to be taken on a daily basis like painkillers, Botox can have a long-term effect lasting for several months. According to the Severance Botulinum Clinic, more and more patients are seeking Botox treatment because the injection is much more effective than traditional methods.

Daedal Research, a global market analysis company, predicted that the global botulinum toxin market will reach US\$ 5.9 billion in 2021, of which about 55 percent, or US\$ 3.2 billion will be accounted for by the treatment market. Likewise, the possibility of developing botulinum toxin to save people is endless.

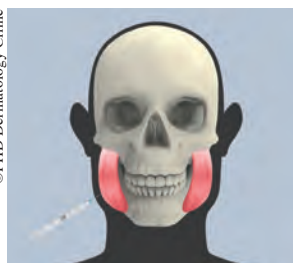
Botulinum for quick appearance enhancement

In 1990, a Canadian doctor named Jean Carruthers injected Botox around a patient's eye for the purpose of treating muscle spasms. The doctor then found that the wrinkles around the eyes were straightened and informed her husband, a dermatologist who was looking for ways to get rid of wrinkles. This was how Botox began to be used for the first time for beauty purposes. About ten years later, in 2002, the FDA approved Botox as a skin wrinkle improvement agent. Korea also approved the use of Botox in 2008 for cosmetic purposes such as the treatment of forehead wrinkles. Botox is now an integral part of beauty treatments.

Botox is the most popular cosmetic procedure in the United States, with more than 7 million Americans receiving Botox treatment in 2016, according to the U.S. Beauty and Plastic Administration. Botox is also immensely popular in Korea for the following reasons: Four out of nine companies around the world that make botulinum products are Korean companies and Botox made by these companies is cheap and of good quality. Moreover, so many plastic surgery clinics and dermatologists competitively lower the price of Botox procedures to attract customers. That is why customers have easy access to low-cost Botox treatments in Korea.

The most popular area where Botox is injected is the face. To change the shape of a face, jaw surgery is necessary, but the public prefers a simple Botox treatment, as such an operation is difficult and comes with great risks and side effects. The parts of the face where Botox can be treated are many—first of all,

©PHD Dermatology Clinic



▲ The red part is where the Botox for square jaw is injected.

for a square jaw, Botox is injected into one of the jaw muscles, called the parrot. Our jaws have a muscle, which moves our jaws when we chew food. Among the moving muscles, the muscles located in the lower jawbone from the cheekbone are called the bridge muscles. The lower jaw muscles, which are used to open and close the lower jaw, develop a lot and thus cause square jaws, as they are the muscles that people always use. If Botox is injected into this area, the bridge muscles are temporarily paralyzed, and the strength of the muscles is weakened—making the chin look slim.

According to Able Dental Clinic, located in Imun-dong, the same principle is used to perform square jaw surgery on patients with a habit of teeth grinding and for orthodontics for aesthetic purposes. Injecting Botox on the bridge muscles reduces muscle strength, making it easier to correct teeth and the habit of grinding one's teeth.

Botox also inhibits sweat and saliva secretion as well as such muscle relaxation. This feature is mainly used for patients with hyperhidrosis who sweat a lot and suffer social discomfort because of excessive body odor; or for patients whose faces look bigger due to hyper salivation and enlarged salivary glands. It may not seem like a serious disease for those who do not suffer from it, but it causes lots of discomfort, and Botox treatment works like a charm. If the salivary gland, which is the external secretion spring of the body, becomes bigger and droopy, the salivary gland protrudes out of the skin and makes the whole face look bigger. When Botox is injected into the muscles near the chin gland, the salivary gland located below the jaw, the salivary gland is inhibited due to muscle paralysis. As the salivary glands with less activity become smaller and thinner, the face line sharpens accordingly.

Botox is also used to treat hyperhidrosis and excessive sweating, which is primarily caused by excessive secretion of acetylcholine and a neurotransmitter. Botox injections on the skin of the sweaty area act on the end of the sympathetic nerve distributed in the sweat glands to suppress the secretion of acetylcholine. Consequently, sweating is suppressed, and the odor of sweat and social discomfort is solved.



Botulinum kills us

Subject to regulation of the Biological Weapons Convention



▲ It is a botulinum bacteria seen under a microscope.

Botulinum toxin, which paralyzes and destroys nervous tissue, is actually the most powerful toxin in the world, killing about one million people with just one gram. Before botulinum toxin was used for medical purposes, it was used as a biochemical weapon through aerial spray in several countries. When botulinum toxin is sprayed into the air, it is absorbed into human lungs and skin, causing nerve paralysis and destruction, leading to death. It was also known that Iraq produced 19,000 liters of botulinum even during the Gulf War, a war between Iraq and multinational forces in 1990. That is enough to kill the world's population three times. At that time, Iraq was loaded with anthrax on 2 of 15 missiles and botulinum on 13, indicating that botulinum was more powerful than anthrax.

Even in Korea, the dangers of botulinum cannot be ignored. US Foras, Korea is implementing the Centaur project in Korea to defend against biological weapons attacks. However, just recently, according to the data received from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy on Aug. 8, 2020, it was revealed that the U.S. military

introduced three bacteria, including botulinum, into Korea three times since 2017. The facts that U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) classified botulinum as the most dangerous substance, Category A, and that the amount of botulinum brought in at Busan port Pier eight increased every year lead to a fierce reaction in Busan.

In addition, one can become infected with botulinum toxin while eating. The first food that causes botulinum toxin is honey. Honey causes infant botulism. According to a report by the CDC, 60 percent of the 145 cases of botulism in the United States each year are from infants younger than one-year-old who ate honey. The botulinum spores in honey are so small that they die from the stomach acid of an adult, so they are usually harmless.

However, because infants have low immunity and low gastric acidity, it is easier for spores of botulinum bacteria of honey to grow and multiply in infants' gastrointestinal tract when they enter the body. Ingestion of honey in newborns can lead to nerve palsy, breathlessness, and death. In fact, in Tokyo, Japan, in 2017, there was a case where a 5-month-old baby died after eating baby food mixed with honey. Because newborns are more susceptible to botulinum toxemia after eating honey, the FDA, CDC, and the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare are instructing parents not to feed infants honey.

The second food is spoiled meat. In particular, this case is mostly found in the food culture of the Inuit in Alaska, U.S. Looking at reports of botulism food poisoning in the United States, the incidence rate in Alaska is more than 30 times that of other states. Inuit have a custom of storing and fermenting meat in the snow and then eating it raw later, which allows bacteria to grow in the spoiled meat.

The third food is canned food. *Clostridium botulinum* is an anaerobic bacterium that can grow in an oxygen-free environment, so it is also infected through canned foods. If food in canned food is not sterilized, surviving spores proliferate in the human intestine and secrete botulinum toxin, which causes botulinum toxin. Botulinum toxin disease is one of food poisoning and is classified as a first-class legal infectious disease, a neuroparalytic disease with a mortality rate of 99 percent. Antibodies are being developed in countries around the world to treat this, but the development has not been successful yet because the molecular weight is small and there are seven types, from A to G types.

Side effects of Botox treatment

One of the most common side effects of Botox is tolerance. Tolerance develops when excessive doses of Botox are given or through repeated injections. Having tolerance means that it does not work, and once tolerance develops, it is likely to last a lifetime. In this case, it cannot be used for cosmetic purposes, and botulinum toxin cannot be used even

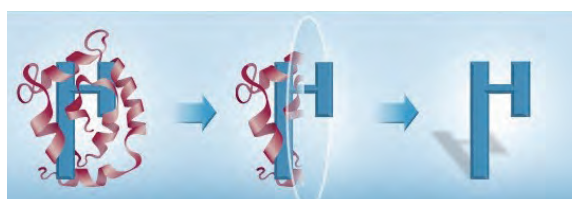
when treatment is needed due to neuromuscular disease later. Cholinergic synapses blocked by botulinum toxins form new synapses and replace them. In addition, the existing synapses that have been blocked are gradually regenerated to restore their original function and last an average of three to four months. However, after this period, the effect disappears, and there are many cases of receiving Botox reoperation as the square jaw muscle reduced by the Botox procedure regrows. This frequent reoperation leads to Botox tolerance.

The reason for the development of tolerance is the complex protein contained in Botox products. Botox products



▲ This boy has botulism.

©Wikipedia



▲ It is a process of making pure toxins by removing complex proteins.

©Viviline Clinic



▲ Facial muscles are paralyzed as a side effect of the Botox treatment.


are a combination of neurotoxins and complex proteins. However, our body recognizes this protein as an invasion of foreign substances and produces antibodies, a substance that fights to eliminate it. Therefore, if there is no complex protein that our body rejects, the risk of resistance to Botox decreases. Products containing only neurotoxins without these complex proteins are called pure toxins. In order to make pure toxins without tolerance, advanced technology is required to separate only neurotoxins from complex proteins.

In addition, Botox has side effects that spread to other parts of the body other than the place of injection. The advantage of Botox, which that it only partially paralyzes the muscles of the injection site without affecting other parts of the body, might be false. In contrast, on April 30, 2009, the FDA announced a problem that occurs when a “botulinum toxin preparation” is transferred from the injection site to another part. It can cause symptoms similar to “botulism”, such as unexpected myasthenia, change of voice, incontinence, difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, and decreased vision.

In addition, according to Science Daily, the research team of Edwin Chapman, Professor of Neurology at Wisconsin State University in the U.S. has experimentally confirmed that botulinum toxin, which is commonly used for medical purposes, moves between neurons (nerve cell bodies) and has also succeeded in imaging. In other words, this is a result proving that even if a square jaw Botox for cosmetic purposes or a Botox for therapeutic purposes is applied, toxins can affect the injection site. These side effects are more likely to occur in young children. According to the FDA in 2008, 9 of the 16 deaths from Botox were children. Most of these cases were botulinum toxin injections for the treatment of muscle stiffness caused by cerebral palsy. Children under the age of 12 have relatively less body fluids than adults. Therefore, when toxins are injected into the human body, the ratio at which body fluids can be diluted is low, and the concentration of toxins in the body can increase rapidly. Therefore, special attention is required when injecting Botox into children.

No one would have expected that the botulinum toxin found in people who died after eating spoiled sausage would be the most dangerous poison in the world. Who knew that botulinum, used as a biochemical weapon, could cure a variety of human diseases? During the 200-year history of Botox, the changes have been endless and are still ongoing. The global botulinum toxin market, which had a market size of US \$2.5 billion in 2013, has grown to about 5.4 trillion won (US \$4.85 billion) in 2019, according to Global Market Insight, a market research institute.

Daewoong Pharmaceutical, which developed the domestic botulinum product Jeuveau, said, “Jeuveau sales in the third quarter of 2020 increased by KRW 11.3 billion (US\$ 1million) compared to the third quarter of 2019. Compared to the same period of the previous year, sales in Korea and Southeast Asia grew, and new markets such as Canada and Brazil also generated sales, driving great growth. In addition, Jeuveau, the first Korean botulinum toxin product to be approved by the FDA, will do its best to gain global competitiveness through the Quality by Design system of the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety.”

But we must not forget the dark side of botulinum toxins. This is because no one knows how this toxin, discovered by accident and used by chance, will be used in the future. It is important to be alert and careful about botulinum as the future purpose may be a good or a bad direction. Let us calmly evaluate the benefits and risks of botulinum, which has both angelic and devilish faces. 



▲ Daewoong Pharmaceutical produces Jeuveau in different doses.

©Daewoong Pharmaceutical

yeajinchoi@hufs.ac.kr

Rewind the History: Following the Route of Gapsin Coup

By **Song Chan-ho**
Staff Reporter

Modern Korea started with a sad history. Joseon, the last dynasty of the Korean Peninsula was heading into ruin, leaving its brilliant past behind, and its neighboring countries, China, Russia, and Japan, all of which were the strongmen of East Asia, were casting covetous eyes on the small country. Many in the Korean Peninsula were requiring “Gaehwa,” which is opening up the nation to adopt Western culture. The old dynasty, conducting highly exclusive policies against outside countries, did not seem to respond to the urgent voices, though. In this chaotic era, there were some young men who took action to save the country from perishing—they were the radical Pro-Gaehwa group, who brought about the Gapsin Coup on Dec. 4, 1884. In light of Dec. 4, 2020, which marks the 136th year since the launch of the coup, The Argus retraced the route that the radical Pro-Gaehwa took during their rebellion.

In those days...

In the latter days of the Joseon dynasty, those who were insisting that Joseon needed to accept the culture and technology from the West were called Pro-Gaehwa, and they were divided again into moderate Pro-Gaehwa and radical Pro-Gaehwa. The radicals, who were young men in their mid-20s on average, were familiar with Western culture through their studies abroad, and thus, enlightened. They felt that Joseon could not escape from its destiny to fall unless the old-fashioned country took desperate measures; for this, they thought it needed a revolution.

Intervention from China was worsening because Queen Min, also known as Empress Myeongseong, subdued the uprising of Joseon's obsolete army with Chinese help in 1882. Chinese military presence, which were the biggest annoyance to the radicals, persisted until they retreated as the Sino-French war broke out in 1884. Additionally, Takezoe Shinichiro, the ambassador of Japan at the time, promised that he would dispatch 150 modernized Japanese soldiers to help them out—the radicals could not miss this chance, so they decided to rebel.

©Song Chan-ho/The Argus



▲ The General Postal Administration was small, but dealt with the uppermost postal work in Joseon.



General Postal Administration: first modern postal service office of Joseon

Following the footsteps of the radicals, The Argus headed to the site of the General Postal Administration of Joseon, where the coup started. Arriving at the Jong-gak subway station, the reporters walked through the path from Exit Number Two and came across Joge Temple. Its front entrance was surrounded by a beautiful flower garden. Besides the huge temple, there was an old cottage, and that was the General Postal Administration, in its original form. Considering the fact that it was supposed to manage the entirety of Joseon's postage, it was rather tiny. Even so, it was very tidy at the same time, and well-managed.

Dec. 4, 1884 was the date of the opening ceremony of the office in question. Many notable figures of the time took part,

including high ranking bureaucrats—the moderate Pro-Gaehwa, who were the targets of the radicals were participating. It was at this spot that the radicals tried to assassinate the moderates with their small forces and the support of the Japanese troops. They failed on the first try, but after chasing their targets down, the radicals succeeded in killing some of the leading figures of the moderates; this meant that there was no going back for their rebellion, and the situation progressed quickly.



The Grounds of Gyeong-woo Gung: royal concubine's shrine

After visiting the General Postal Administration of Joseon, The Argus moved to the grounds of Gyeong-woo Gung, the ancestral shrine for Park, the concubine—wife of a king, but not a queen—of Jeong-jo, Joseon's 22nd king. With much difficulty, a small signpost, dirtied with age, could be seen. It marked the place where the building was once situated. While the reporters felt it was absurd that one of the main places of the Gapsin Coup was left to rot like this, they came across the Bukchon Hanok Village. This site, a tourist attraction where visitors can experience traditional Korean life, was just besides the site of Gyeong-woo Gung. The Argus approached a personnel of the village and asked if these grounds were really that of Gyeong-woo Gung, and if not, where exactly it was.

“If you want to know more about the Gapsin Coup, please come in,” said the staff member, introducing the reporters into the Hanok Village. He led the way to a map of the village and the surrounding region. Pointing key spots on the map, he explained, “The whole region was actually the stage of the Gapsin Coup. Where these places stand now—the



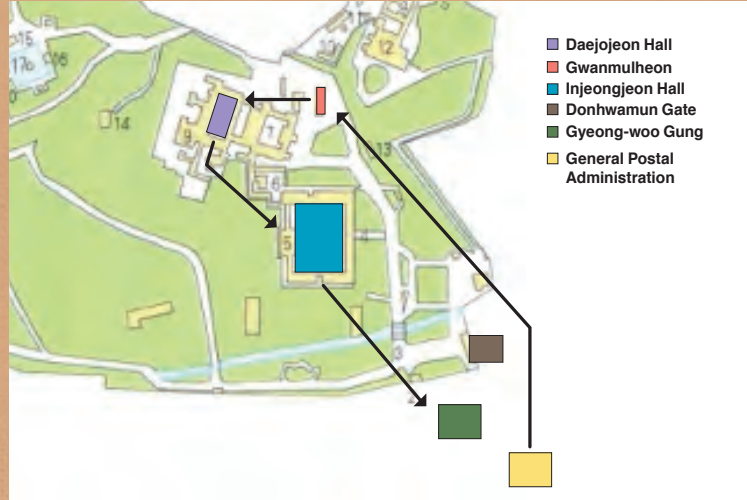
▲ The sign marks the site where Gyeong-woo Gung once stood.

©Song Chan-ho/The Argus



©Song Chan-ho/The Argus

▲ An official of the Bukchon Hanok Village introduced the region to The Argus.



©Ministry of Education

▲ In the map of Chang-deok Gung, the arrow indicates the route where the radicals took the king and queen to Gyeong-woo Gung on the first day of the coup.

Constitutional Court of Korea, Jeongdok Public Library, Duksung Girl’s High School, and the site of Gwanhyewon, which was the first modern hospital of Joseon—are where the members of the radical Pro-Gaehwa used to live. They were the elite and were the sons of the wealthiest families in Joseon. They studied and debated together, then finally decided to unite and carry out a revolution.”

He added, “Gyeong-woo Gung was the place that the radicals held King Go-jong, the 26th king, and Queen Min. However, it was too small and poorly managed. It was found later that the officially-marked spot of the building turned out to be wrong, and according to the latest research, the grounds of Hyundai’s parking lot were where it was actually located.”

Gyeong-woo Gung, the original owner of the grounds later has been joined together to “Chil-Gung,” the seven shrines for the seven concubines who gave birth to the Kings of Joseon, but were not able to become a queen, in Gungjeong-dong, Jongno-gu.

After assassinating important figures of the moderates, the radicals falsely reported to the royalty that the moderates and the Chinese army conspired to commit treason and took them to the small concubine’s building. Because the shrine’s locational advantage, being tiny and narrow, the radicals believed that they could defend against the enemies effectively.

King Go-jong and Queen Min quickly escaped, but Min, who was the head of the moderates felt that something was wrong. She secretly called for a person on the outside and found out the truth. The Queen thereafter called a surviving moderate through him and sent a request for assistance to China. Then, she demanded her “protectors,” or those she assumed to be captors, to take her back to Chang-deok Gung, her normal place of residence. After persistent demand, she and the king were returned to the grand Chang-deok Gung with the radicals by their side.



©The Academy of Korean Studies

▲ Gyeong-woo Gung was enshrined together with the other six shrines for concubines in Jongno-gu.



©Song Chan-ho/The Argus

▲ The parking lot of Hyundai’s headquarters building is where Gyeong-woo Gung actually existed.



Chang-deok Gung: the royal palace constructed 600 years ago

The reporters turned their way to Chang-duk Gung, where the climax of the rebellion occurred. Chang-deok Gung was constructed in 1405 as a “Haeng-gung,” which was where a king provisionally stayed. However, as Gyeong-bok Gung—the original “Bup-gung,” the main residential palace of the royalty—was burnt during the Japanese invasion in the late 16th century, Chang-duk Gung was promoted to an official Bup-gung. The Cultural Heritage Administration introduced the palace as follows: “Chang-deok Gung is the most well-managed palace of the Joseon Era, and it features harmonious scenery with nature which shows the tradition and sentiment of the Korean people. This led the palace to be registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997.”

Seemingly because of its fame, there were a lot of tourists in front of the palace, even amid the coronavirus pandemic. Still, the quarantine process was highly strict; all visitors had to sign in with their names, wear a mask, take a temperature test, and then use disinfectant.

The first thing that welcomed The Argus was the Donhwamun Gate, the front gate of the palace. Although it had been ruined when Japan invaded the Korean peninsula in the last 16th century, it was restored in 1609. Befitting its status as the front gate of the palace that represented Joseon, it showed off its greatness, dwarfing the people standing before it. Crossing the front gate, the reporters could also see the Seonjeongmun and Injeongmun Gates, both of which were paths

to the Injeongjeon Hall, the place where the ceremony for the king’s accession to the throne was performed. The Injeongjeon Hall was indeed a massive and splendid place, well-matched with its purpose.

Passing through all of those traditional constructions, The Argus found Gwanmulheon: the building that King Go-jong and Queen Min were moved to as well as the operations center of the radical Pro-Gaehwa. It is said that the radicals picked out Gwanmulheon because it was easy to guard themselves, which was the same reason as they had done at Gyeong-woo Gung. Indeed, the reporters felt it was small, and the place where it was situated itself was very narrow, surrounded by walls.

Coming back to Chang-deok Gung, Queen Min called in the Chinese army to eliminate the rebels, and China, who wanted to keep its position stable in the Joseon dynasty, dispatched more than a thousand of soldiers. This was out of hand for the radicals who could only mobilize an army of just more than a hundred of men; and Takezoe, who promised to send his elite soldiers, betrayed them—he withdrew the Japanese troop as soon as the situation seemed to go wrong. Losing every advantage that they premeditated, the radicals gave into the Chinese forces and Min’s back-ups, and their rebellion concluded as a ‘three-day rule’ on Dec. 6, 1884.”

©Song Chan-ho/The Argus



▲ Donhwamun Gate, showing off its firm structure, is the front gate of Chang-deok Gung.

©Song Chan-ho/The Argus



▲ Injeongjeon Hall is where the ceremony for the king's accession used to be held.



©Song Chan-ho/The Argus

▲ The radicals used Gwanmulheon as their operations quarter.



©Cultural Heritage Administration

▲ Daejojeon Hall was the residence of King and Queen.



Looking back: why did the coup fall through?

The platform that the radical Gaeheo planned to proceed with, called “Jeong-kang,” is said to have contained more than eighty articles, originally. At the moment, however, only fourteen articles can be identified through “Gapsin Ilok,” a report about the rebellion, written by Kim Ok-kyun, the leading member of the radicals. The fourteen failed-to-execute policies involved radical attempts: military reform, tax reform, and the abolition of the caste system—especially beyond conception for those who lived in a dynasty era.

There are two main reasons why the Gapsin Coup could not succeed. First, the radicals failed to gain support from the public. They were enlightened elites who experienced modern culture abroad, but they did not take the fact into account that the public in the era had lived through 500 years of a pre-modern monarchy. What was more, they were noblemen, and thus they lacked a deep understanding of what exactly the ordinary people were suffering from. In the Joseon era, most people were tenant farmers. They could not own their territory, and therefore, no matter how hard they worked, they were barely able to make ends meet. Nonetheless, they did not include any land system reform in their revolutionary plan.

The second was more self-destructive: they borrowed power from Japan, in an era when anti-Japanese sentiments were prevailing amongst so many people because of its blatant ambition to take over the peninsula. Their justification was to protect Joseon from the clutches of the Chinese empire, but eventually, they provided a huge reason for another imperial power—Japan—to meddle in Joseon by bringing their army in the rebellion. This allowed the rising empire to take one more step to stretch its rule to the falling kingdom.

In the end, the radicals were abandoned. Kim Ok-kyun, who was in charge of the coup, sought asylum in Japan, but later, he was found by an assassin from the dynasty. Killed on the spot and then moved back to the Korean peninsula, his body was cut in pieces and then scattered throughout the country.

The Gapsin Coup failed to take a curtain call, leaving great regrets behind. However, it deserves remembering because it is a revolution led by the young and greatest elites of the time to save the descending country. When The Argus visited the stage of the coup, although in some aspects it had not looked like what had been expected, we could experience, and determine lots of things. Through exploring the Gapsin route where the souls of the drastic youth were felt, The Argus wished that HUFsans, who are the students of one of the most prestigious universities in Korea, famous for nurturing global talent, could consider what role they would play when the community faced danger, and what responsibility and resolution the role would take. 📖

sch8775601@hufs.ac.kr

Where to Level Social Distancing Measures?



©Park Chang-hwan/The Argus

By Jang Soo-hyun
Editor

Keeping COVID-19 under control seems like an unsolvable task. The number of infected repeatedly soars only after it settles down ever so slowly. Fiddling with social distancing measures is a double-edged sword. Both strengthening and easing social distancing have their advantages, but disadvantages at the same time, and finding middle ground between the two seems to be the aching question. What do HUFsans think is the solution to social distancing? Also, what do they think about the newly changed five-level social distancing?

An Kwan-ho,
Business Administration '16

Kim Se-chan,
Broadcasting & New Media '16

Kim Ga-young,
Department of Vietnamese '18

Park Hyung-bin,
Division of International Studies '18

Starting Nov. 7, 2020, the Korean government is implementing a five-level social distancing.

Level		Level 1	Level 1.5	Level 2	Level 2.5	Level 3
		Sporadic Outbreaks	Community Transmission Begins	Full-blown Community Transmission	Nationwide Epidemic Begins	Full-Blown Nationwide Epidemic
Outbreak Status		Seven-day average of daily new infections: under 100 in the capital area; 30 in South and North Chungcheong, South and North Jeolla, and South and North Gyeongsang provinces; 10 in Gangwon and Jeju Island.	Seven-day average of daily new infections: under 100 in the capital area, 30 in Chungcheong, Jeolla and Gyeongsang provinces; 10 in Gangwon and Jeju Island. Seven-day average of daily new infections among people aged 60 or older: under 40 in the capital area; 10 in Chungcheong, Jeolla and Gyeongsang provinces; 4 in Gangwon and Jeju Island	When any of the following three criteria are met: 1) New infections double in an affected region after one week of Level 1.5 social distancing. 2) Level 1.5 infections continue simultaneously in two or more regions. 3) Nationwide daily infection cases remain over 300 for a week.	When any of the following three criteria are met: 1) Nationwide seven-day average of new infections stays between 400-500 2) Nationwide infections spike under Level 2 social distancing. * Proportion of patients aged 60 or older, new infection rates, and hospital bed capacity for the severely ill can be considered as additional factors.	When any of the following two criteria are met: 1) Nationwide seven-day average of new infections between 800-1000. 2) Nationwide infections spike under Level 2.5 social distancing. Proportion of patients aged 60 or older, new infection rates, and hospital bed capacity for the severely ill can be considered as additional factors.
Core Restrictions	Schools	In-person class attendance capped at two-thirds of student body, with adjustments allowed.	In-person class attendance strictly limited to two-thirds of student body.	In-person class attendance capped at one-third of student body, except high schools at two-thirds.	In-person class attendance capped at one-third of student body.	All classes move online.
	Social Gatherings	Gatherings of over 500 people require prior consultations with local authorities. Antivirus measures mandatory throughout event.	Festivals and certain other types of gatherings with over 100 participants banned.	All gatherings of over 100 people banned.	All gatherings of over 50 people banned.	All gatherings of 10 people banned.
	Religious Services	Worship services allowed, with every other seat left empty. Meals and non-worship gatherings discouraged.	Regular worship services allowed with indoor occupancy rate under 30 percent. Meals and non-worship gatherings prohibited.	Regular worship services allowed with indoor occupancy rate under 20 percent. No meals or non-worship gatherings.	All religious services move online. A maximum of 20 persons can attend in person for assistance. No meals or non-worship gatherings.	All religious services move online. No meals or non-worship gatherings.

©Korea Herald

The Argus: Should Korea strengthen, or ease, its social distancing measures?

■ **Kwan-ho:** Korea needs to strengthen social distancing measures because the virus is threatening our very existence as humans, and nothing is more important than our lives. The government may be worried about the economy, but a country exists by its people. If the people are being threatened, that economy will have no place to exist. People’s lives should be prioritized over the economy.

■ **Ga-young:** I also agree that life should be prioritized, and we can still prioritize life by following the COVID-19 prevention guidelines. In the past 10 to 11 months, we have experienced a downturn in the economy. Many business owners are struggling or even deciding to permanently close up shop. This is a matter of survival. This is not a short epidemic, it is a pandemic, which has been long drawn out. It has been months; months turning into a year. At this point, the government’s job is to find and seek the middle ground between regulating business activities and disease control.

■ **Se-chan:** I do not agree with setting a middle ground. My family runs a small business, and the middle point is not helping. It would rather help to have a strong policy be

implemented that will completely lower the number of infected so we can go back to doing business as usual. If we have a middle ground, the number of infected continues to fluctuate. Self-employed families like mine will continue to face instability. As a self-employed family, we do not know what to do.

Another wave of infection may come, and the national college entrance exam is coming up. People are going to have year-end parties soon, so this is the time to bump up another level in social distancing. We should enforce laws, instead of giving simple warnings.

■ **Hyung-bin:** I disagree with the strengthening of the stages. Rather, Korea should relieve the stages set up by the government. We should look at this from two perspectives: economy and psychology.

First looking from the economic perspective, people talk about how economic growth such as GDP is on the decline due to the effects of COVID-19. However, it is not only the GDP, but also the country’s global competitiveness that we should be looking at. China in the 3rd quarter of 2020 has managed to make a U-curve in its economic growth. Our neighbor was also in decline, but it managed to bounce back and now is

on a significant rise. China used the COVID-19 chaos as an opportunity to recover. The Japanese are also recuperating from their economic shock. That being said, if these surrounding countries are managing to bounce back and increase in economic growth, South Korea's economic competitiveness will decline and we will fall back in the global competition. We should at least lessen the stages so that the country maintains economic competitiveness in the global society.

Second, from the perspective of psychological effect are the Corona Blues, a condition where people feel depressed because of COVID-19. The psychological aspect positively correlates with the country's economic growth. For example, if France wins the World Cup, the atmosphere of the following year will be overall positive, which positively correlates with their economic growth. Needless to say, France would experience economic growth. Likewise, strengthened regulation will induce stress and depression, which, by this logic, implies an economic downturn. In addition, under strong regulation, the people's discontentment towards the government will increase and their voices blaming the government will amplify. To reduce these ill feelings toward the government, Korea should be relieving the stages.

■ **Se-chan:** There are no guarantees when it comes to economic growth. Also, this problem is a matter of life. We ought to think twice before following the steps of other countries who act for their economic growth. Korea should put more emphasis on individual lives, even though China may put more emphasis on economic growth.

COVID-19 can become a personal problem. What if one of our relatives gets the virus? The abstract virus suddenly becomes a personal problem. Economic status is important, but it is not all about the numbers. We cannot ignore the individual

losses that occur. I hope COVID-19 will come to an end soon, but until then, we need to save as many people as we can.

■ **Ga-young:** Regulating may not be the answer. The main reason for maintaining social distancing rules is to flatten the curve to help health care services be increased and improved. However, when there are huge spikes or big infection waves, our health care faces great pressure, which cancels out all the previous efforts or disinfection rules. What is the use of all that regulation if the government does not put a restriction or take legal actions?

The Argus: *What do you think about the newly changed five-level social distancing? Is there room for improvement?*

Kwan-ho: I doubt its effectiveness. The new social distancing has been implemented since Nov. 7. Since Nov. 11, Korea has consistently had over 100 new daily infections, but the government only decided to move up to level one point five on Nov. 19.

In addition, there is no change in our daily lives when there is a change from level one to level one point five, which raises questions about the reason for adopting this system that has been segmented into more stages.

Ga-young: It may be a positive attempt to deal with the overall situation. Since COVID-19 is no longer a story of a different world, but a story of our everyday normal lives, it was a positive attempt to better deal with the situation and reduce the blind spots.

Se-chan: I am not sure about its effectiveness. The newly implemented five-step system may have been done to lessen the impact on the economy. In the prior three-step social distancing regulations, the difference between level one and level two may have been too big, which may be why they have added an extra step. However, there needs to be more legal enforcement of these standards, rather than simple warnings.

Hyung-bin: It seems to be a short-term plan implemented to lessen the burden of business owners. As of right now, there is confusion over when to enter each stage and transitions are unclear. Students are not feeling any changes in their daily lives and universities themselves do not feel the need to initiate new policies or new rules, which leads to questions over the effectiveness of these stages.

Kwan-ho: One of the options for effective disease control can be adjusting the number of each stage. The recent rise in the confirmed cases show flaws in the existing policy. Nonetheless, the newly changed agenda still misses the point by simply dividing the existing one into several more stages. Preventive measures should focus on the number of confirmed cases, which is the main indicator of the seriousness of the situation. By lowering the number of confirmed patients by each of the



▲ Kwan-ho (L) and Se-chan (R) believe social distancing measures should be strengthened.

stages, it could effectively control the disease as more strict regulations will go into effect.

Hyung-bin: I agree, the government needs to make sure that it is time for the citizens to be afraid of the governmental authority. If individuals have followed sanitation recommendations, there would not be mass infections. Additional government enforcement is the way to make sure prevention happens on an individual basis.

Kwan-ho: In classrooms, during lectures, I see students wearing their masks, but once you step out into the campus grounds, there are a lot of HUFsians who are not wearing their masks. When I go to a coffee shop, I see about one-third of the customers not wearing their masks. We as students need to take more responsibility for what we must do in this situation.

Recently the government has implemented individual responsibility and a 100,000 won (US\$ 89) fine to those who do not wear masks in public. I think the government should continue the effort to stop the virus at a personal level, instead requiring something only from institutions. When we look at the five stages, they are many sanctions on companies but not on individuals, who are responsible for not complying with the guidelines, not wearing their masks, and continuing to spread the virus. Sanctions on individuals will encourage responsibility for their own actions and help control the spread of the disease.

Ga-young: In addition, there are small groups that do not follow social distancing measures only for the benefit of themselves. There are religious groups that continue to hold services and meet in groups. Those people should receive the necessary punishment.

Kwan-ho: Moreover, the government should claim their right to indemnity to go down to an individual scale. For example, if one person infected more than 10 people, there should be a higher fine imposed. This way people who are responsible for mass infections will be inflicted with a punishment. The government should set standards for a penalty when a person spreads to several different people. This way individuals will feel a stronger sense of responsibility. If one, unfortunately, gets



▲ Ga-young (L) and Hyung-bin (R) share their opinions.

infected but still abides by the quarantine rules, the virus would not spread as much.

Hyung-bin: On top of that news media should increase their coverage of COVID-19. There are many distractions such as the US election and the Seoul mayor election, and these distractions draw the attention away from COVID-19. If the media refocuses on the dangers of COVID-19, the people's awareness of the prevention of the virus will be reinforced. There is nothing more effective than the media that influences people's thoughts.

Kwan-ho: In the National Assembly election of April this year, the news coverage emphasized how much quarantine measures were focused on for the election. Even though the coronavirus was a serious problem, the election was one of the most participated yet and still did not result in mass infections. We should take more caution and be careful with virus prevention.

Hyung-bin: Maybe the other news should be covered along with how to follow quarantine rules. This way, any event could be used as an opportunity to emphasize COVID-19. For example, the increase in mail-in ballots for the 2020 US presidential election being reported could reemphasize the seriousness of COVID-19.

Since the beginning of the year, and now till the end, COVID-19 is an unending problem. The pandemic seems a long way from termination. The Argus hopes for readers to dwell upon the problem and think of possible solutions or ways for improvement when it comes to social distancing measures. Individually as readers, take them into action and take caution. Take another moment to think about the hardship workers are experiencing during the pandemic, the hard work government officials are going through, and the sacrifices medics are making, to reflect and question: Are we abiding by the social distancing measures? 🇰🇷

soohyun1207@hufs.ac.kr



©SBS

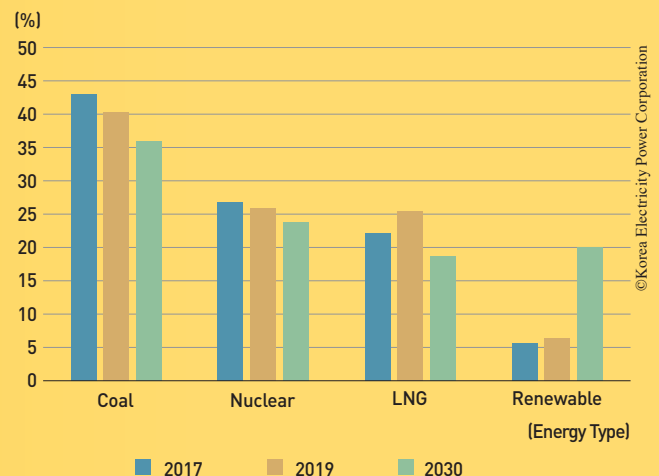
Heavy Promise: CARBON NEUTRALITY

By **Kim Ha-kyung**
Staff Reporter

“**A**iming for carbon neutrality is a global trend and that Korea must do its part as a member of the international community.” President Moon Jae-in made this remark at a cabinet meeting held on Nov. 3. Since then, there has been talk of reducing fossil fuels and reducing carbon emissions. Park Jin-kyu, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, emphasized in his inauguration ceremony, “Carbon neutrality is necessary and for an eco-friendly, low-carbon emission economy, Korea should take preemptive action.” This means that Korea is starting to follow the global trend of carbon neutrality. Carbon neutrality is to achieve zero practical carbon emission by absorbing the same amount of carbon which is emitted.

Currently, up to 70 countries have declared carbon neutrality, including 65 countries that declared carbon neutrality at the World Climate Summit in September 2019. Also, China has recently declared that they will achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. Carbon dioxide is a key greenhouse gas which leads to global warming. Although there is good intention in trying to achieve carbon neutrality, it is hard to reach. On Nov. 12, Yoo Dong-soo, Vice Chairman of the National Policy Committee, said, “Reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 is unrealistic.” The Argus tried to find why the policy is unrealistic and scrutinized the solutions.

Power generation distribution in Korea by energy type





Problem

Change of the power generation ratio

Nuclear power generation has decreased, and coal and Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) has increased. The increase of the renewable energy generation ratio is also noticeable. The change is closely connected with Carbon Neutrality. This is because the amount of CO₂ from each power generation varies.

First, the ratio of nuclear power generation has decreased. Unlike the general perception that nuclear energy is unconditionally dangerous, this method is not harmful, at least in terms of environmental pollution. As nuclear power undergoes a process of nuclear conversion, mass turns into energy, emitting little carbon dioxide. On Nov. 11, Vice Chairman Yoo Dong-soo also pointed out that nuclear plants emit little CO₂ and said, “With the nuclear phase-out policy, achieving carbon neutrality is not possible.”

The decrease in nuclear power production evoked an increasing ratio of thermal power generation by coal. According to Korea Electric Power Corporation, the coal-fired method is the largest supplement to reduced nuclear power generation, and it makes more CO₂ emissions. In addition, the ratio of LNG generation LNG is one of the new renewable energy sources defined by Korea Law, which are divided into new sources and renewable sources. This group of energy sources are designated to be an alternative to nuclear power. However, LNG is a fossil fuel categorized as a new energy and has strong connections with carbon emissions. Even though CO₂ emissions from LNG are considerably lower than other sources, it still leaves a higher footprint than nuclear energy. Thus, the total amount of CO₂ emissions has risen.

Other new and renewable energy sources should be checked, too. Energy sources that account for a high proportion of new renewable energy include solar energy and wind power. They have no problems in terms of power generation itself, but they have low energy production efficiency and carbon emissions comparable to thermal power generation when considering the environmental costs of initial installation compared to energy produced.

Cause

Policy decision making without experts

The change of energy power proportion is greatly influenced by government policy. Now Korea is aiming for both “nuclear phase-out” and “carbon neutrality” at once. First of all, the nuclear phase-out policy has been so successful that the ratio of nuclear power has decreased. However, the demand for electricity remains unchanged, with thermal and LNG power generation filling the void for nuclear power. Thus, the carbon emission increases. According to Cho Seong-jin, a professor of the Department of Energy Science at Kyungshung University, “The two policies that Korea has enacted to make an eco-friendly country contradict each other. There are no energy sources that outperform nuclear power in terms of carbon emission, efficiency, and stability for producing energy.”

The current government has placed a focus on eco-friendliness and the reduction of accidents, thus creating conflicting policies. But investigation of the decision-making process of the nuclear phase-out policy leaves some questions. Until recently, a hot topic in the papers was the disposal of the Shin Kori Nuclear Power Plant. The topic is considered a symbol of Korea’s nuclear energy policy. Joo Han-gyu, a professor of Nuclear Engineering at Seoul National University, said, “No scholars or area experts were invited to determine the policy, and the policy makers are not experts, not even one of them.” Speculation over whether there was a



▲ Local residents are protesting against the nuclear power plants.

©Pixabay

“nuclear mafia” that stole national subsidies could arise as well. However, Professor Joo added, “It is doubtful whether a policy decided without input from experts can produce meaningful results.” In short, a policy decided without experts could go wrong easily, no matter how good the goal is.

Solution

Establishing policies involving experts

To take one step closer to carbon neutrality, as mentioned above, including experts is essential. Now that the two policies about nuclear energy and carbon neutrality will not be simultaneously successful, Professor Cho stressed that nuclear energy is needed to get carbon neutrality. For this to happen, policy discussions have to be reconvened; specifically, to yield a more productive discussion, experts in the very field of nuclear or renewable energy must be included.

Professor Cho strongly objected to the nuclear phase-out policy and emphasized, “There is still a long way to go with renewable energy.” First, on the issue of nuclear power, setting aside its efficiency and low cost, other energy sources fall far beyond nuclear power in emitting carbon dioxide. Cho also commented regarding new and renewable energy, “There are a lot of problems with new and renewable energy. LNG emits a lot of carbon, and sunlight is the biggest problem. As the government provided subsidies, solar panels were recommended, but

©Pixabay



▲ Solar power, a type of renewable energy source, is not as positive as people may think.



©Wikipedia

▲ Kori nuclear power plant is a hot potato in the Korean energy industry.

most of the panels are from China, and their efficiency is low, so more carbon is emitted in the production and processing of those products. In addition, forests have been cut down quite a bit to install them, which is an example of an indirect increase in carbon emissions.”

Professor Joo also added, “To reach carbon neutrality, nuclear energy is needed, so the government must invite experts to get their knowledgeable input and make a new policy.” The two professor’s solutions are overlapping as if there is one correct answer.



Problem

Manufacturing-oriented industrial structure

Korea's industrial structure revolves around manufacturing. Manufacturing is an industrial structure that generates huge added value, but it also emits huge amounts of carbon dioxide. Concern about the environment at the individual level is rapidly growing, and efforts have been made to carry eco bags—although this has slowed down due to COVID-19—but they have no significant impact on carbon dioxide emissions. This is because companies emit huge amounts of carbon dioxide. According to the Ministry of Environment, industry, which accounted for the second largest portion of greenhouse gas emissions in 2013, after electricity and heat, recorded 31 percent. In addition, more than half of the emission of electricity and heat, and 13 percent of

transportation, are generated by industry. In other words, it is hard to achieve carbon neutrality unless carbon emissions are eliminated from the industrial sector.

In the “National Roadmap for Greenhouse Gas Reductions by 2030” report by the Park Geun-hye administration in 2016, there was a device to minimize burdening industrial sectors. After that, the Moon Jae-in administration revised the roadmap to reinforce the CO₂ reduction rate, but still at a ratio of less than other industries. Even so, the industry-wide reduction rate is even lower as it aims to reduce greenhouse gases through increased renewable energy electricity generation. In other words, the government is easing environmental regulations as much as possible for the economy.

Cause

Changing rigidity inherent in the industry

There are many reasons why it is difficult for companies to reduce their carbon emissions. First of all, carbon emissions cannot be reduced by replacing fuel. It is possible only by changing the process to improve efficiency and improve carbon emissions. Next, coal-fired thermal power generation produces most of the industrial electricity, which means there must be change in the design of the furnace. Also, industrial processes are highly specialized and elaborately woven. In order to make process changes for efficiency of one part, other processes must be changed simultaneously, but it is

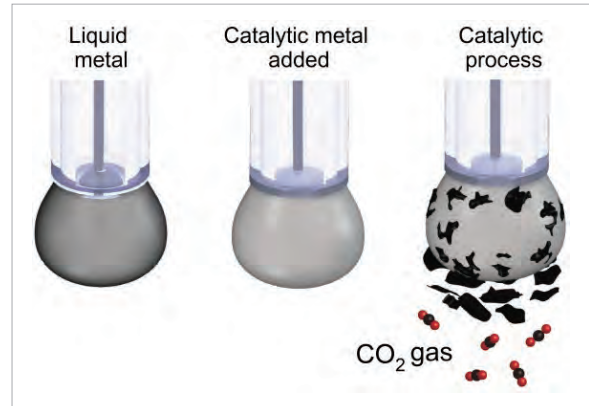


©Pixabay

▲ Steel industry emits a lot of carbon dioxides.

difficult to implement them. Finally, the process facilities that have already been built have a long life. With a lifespan of approximately 50 years, rebuilding and changing these facilities cost a great deal of previously unconsidered money.

In particular, the main cause of carbon emissions is the steel industry. The steel



©Intelligent Living

▲ Dr. Torben Daeneke found a clue to rewind CO₂ back into coal.

sector produces a quarter of the industrial sector's carbon dioxide emissions worldwide. In the steel industry represented by POSCO, large amounts of carbon dioxide are generated in the process of obtaining pure iron from iron ore. Cokes are used to extract iron from iron ore combined with oxygen. Coke carbon is a substance made up of pure carbon and reacts with oxygen to separate iron and releases carbon dioxide. High temperatures are needed for this reaction, and coal is used as a raw material for this high temperature. In other words, carbon dioxide is emitted in both the process of heat application and the process of separating iron.

Solution

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

The most fundamental solution is continuous energy efficiency improvement. According to Professor Cho, “Industries including manufacturing require a huge amount of electricity and for carbon neutrality, it is obvious that more electricity is needed.” He added, “Especially, it is better to produce locally because a large amount of electricity leaks during the transmission.” Paradoxically building a plant to produce electricity locally could be a main cause of carbon emission. So, Professor Joo suggested that nuclear power plants could be a breakthrough considering the circumstances.

CCS is another way to reduce the CO₂ in the air. This method, considered the most realistic method, is to

©chatsworthhouse



▲ The government announced the temporary allowance of the disposables due to COVID-19.

concentrate and bury it. Storing CO₂ made from industrial processes underground is classified into three: Pre-combustion capture, post-combustion capture, and oxy-fuel combustion. The first is done by processing such as gasification to separate CO₂ from fuel. The second is the collection of carbon dioxide emitted during the combustion process through an appropriate solvent, and finally the last way is to separate oxygen in the air to help combustion in the extraction of CO₂.

The technology to help this can be found in a paper published in 2019 by Dr Torben Daeneke of RMIT in Australia. He briefly explained the technology: “This is essentially a backup plan in the case that CO₂ emissions are not reduced sufficiently in time. Once the CO₂ is captured it should ideally be converted into useful products or alternatively into a form that can be stored indefinitely. We developed an electrochemical process that can split the CO₂ molecule into oxygen and carbon. The process effectively reverts the combustion process and turns CO₂ back into coal.” The paper also says, “We are currently working on up-scaling the process.” Considering the remarks, he is continuously developing the technology for practical use.



Problem

Rising use of disposable plastics

From the end of 2019, Starbucks started using paper straws instead of plastic straws. Blue Bottle also stopped

distributing plastic straws and offered bamboo straws. Despite this growing interest in reducing the use of disposable plastic products, per capita plastic waste emissions increased in 2020. According to a report released by a joint research team including the SEA in international journals, South Korea’s per capita plastic waste generated was 88 kilograms as of 2016. This means South Korea ranked third in terms of the per capita plastic waste emissions worldwide after the U.S. and the U.K.

Moreover, according to the Ministry of Environment, plastic waste averaged 848 tons per day in the first half of this year. The figure is up 15.6 percent from the same period last year and is a sum of records from public waste disposal sites by local governments. Further, it will be much higher if future waste disposal at private sites is added. As such, plastic waste emissions were already high and are on the rise.

The discharge of plastic waste is a major drag on carbon neutrality. A research team at the University of California Santa Barbara analyzed the relationship between plastic and greenhouse gas emissions. Studies showed that in 2015, only 18 percent of plastic waste was recycled, and the rest was incinerated and buried. Most of the plastic is obtained through the extraction and distillation of oil, processed and flowing into the market and eventually discarded; in the whole process carbon dioxide is emitted directly or indirectly. In short, despite growing awareness of plastic disposal, Korea’s plastic use has increased, deterring carbon neutrality.

Cause

Change of consumption patterns

Plastic waste reduction has been a constant source of interest, yet it has been on the rise and has, in fact, risen sharply over the past year, according to the Ministry of Environment. This is due to the fact that consumers have begun to seek convenience. The increase in single-person households can account for the diversification and increase in sales of meal kits and lunch boxes, and the advance of delivery applications also illustrates the characteristics of modern people seeking convenience.

The influence of COVID-19 also cannot be ignored.

COVID-19, which began a year ago, did not simply shove people into their homes. This pandemic changed consumer spending patterns. People avoided meeting face-to-face and pursued non-contact consumption. Shutdowns and social distancing have led to increased online consumption and have increased the demand for take-out and food delivery. This, in line with the preference of consumers for convenience, has resulted in greater demand for disposable products including plastics.

In many cases, multiple use containers are not used for hygiene purposes. Cafes, which had recommended personal tumblers and mugs before COVID-19, also switched back to disposable cups. In particular, large franchises such as Starbucks have offered only disposable cups in batches. In addition, disposable items such as plastic straws and plastic spoons have also increased in use. As a result, the temporary use of disposable containers due to COVID-19 seems to have affected the increase in usage.

Solution

Extension of bioplastic and investment in carbon neutral products

In reality, to decrease the use of plastic is such a tough goal, especially during the period of COVID-19. In this circumstance, tightening regulation would be a policy that would do more harm than good. The advantages of plastic are that it is cheap and easy to mold. A solution is needed to maintain the advantages and reduce the disadvantages. The first substitute mentioned for existing plastic is bioplastic.

Bioplastic is a plastic made of renewable materials and contrasted with plastics made of fossils such as petroleum. The latter demands a long time to decompose, give off a lot of carbon dioxide while in the process of production and incineration. Contrary to this, bioplastic has a short degrading period, and the overall carbon dioxide emission is much less. However, the greatest flaw of it is its strength. Due to its defects, bioplastic is not widely used; but once this problem is solved, it will be a perfect substance to drive out the existing one.

Here is a way to check how much a product emits



▲ The Ministry of Environment labels products with the three steps of carbon emission.

CO2: the carbon footprint certificate. Korea is now implementing the carbon footprint certificate, and it is granted by calculating the emission volume of CO2. The certification is in three stages; the first is marking how much CO2 it emitted including the process of making, transporting, and disposing. The second mark is granted to the products that have reduced the emission of CO2 by 4.24 percent compared to their competitors. The third mark is given to the products which offset the whole CO2 emissions by buying carbon emission rights or by creating a forest. This certification—especially the third mark—requires encouragement at the national level, development at the industrial level, and use at the consumer level.

“As the world is running, we should not be walking alone.” On Nov. 11, President Moon Jae-in made this remark after receiving the report of carbon neutrality. Decreasing the emission of carbon is a global trend and Korea has to try to be a part of this trend. Carbon neutrality should be implemented for us, not for others; nevertheless, being bound by its name and not caring about other things is to be eschewed. Realistic factors are to be considered, and contradictions with existing policies also need to be considered. The most important thing in running is a direction, not speed. Looking back at how we have got here and modifying the route is needed. Now, it is time to choose one of the presented two options: what to leave and what to grasp. 📧

hk9816@hufs.ac.kr

2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War: A Repetition of Tragedy 26 Years Ago

By Na Geum-chaе

Argusian

Hans Morgenthau, one of the major figures in Classical Realism, defines power as “man’s control over the minds and actions of other men” in his book, “Politics Among Nations.” His theory, which began with an in-depth analysis of human nature, argues that international politics is a collection of the selfish, greedy nature of humans, and thereby, the struggle for power between nations is universal in time and space and an undeniable fact of experience. Although several weaknesses of Classical Realism have been exposed over time, Morgenthau’s achievements are still relevant in that it penetrated the chaotic nature of international politics and questioned the conventional wisdom—man is good by nature.

On sept. 27, the two arch-rival nations in the South Caucasus region, Azerbaijan and Armenia, resumed their war after 26 years of ceasefire, with the heaviest clashes in years. Although one of the world’s oldest conflicts ended with Azerbaijan’s de facto triumph, the dispute between the two countries seems to be unresolved. In the world at war with COVID-19, the territorial conflict between the two may be dismissed as one of countless wars in human history, but this case is stemmed from a complex and multifaceted problem. In response, The Argus met with Oh Jong-jin, a professor of Department of Turkish and Azerbaijani at HUFS, and discussed the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war in depth.



The background: What triggered the war?

The Caucasus region, where Azerbaijan and Armenia are located, are connected to the Black Sea to the west, and the Caspian Sea and the Central Asia to the east. To the north lay Russia's vast plains, and to the south, there are Turkey and Iran. Since the ancient times, the region was a crossroads of trade and a key gateway for sending troops into neighboring empires. For this, many empires throughout history aimed to take control of this region. Thanks to the rugged terrain of the Caucasus Mountains, a kaleidoscope of languages and ethnicities flourished in the Caucasus region, with various people also settling and blossoming their civilizations due to the crossroads nature of the region.

In particular, the South Caucasus, located south of the Caucasus Mountains, has a relatively high geographic continuity and population. The region held many long-lived nations as opposed to the North Caucasus, which consisted of tribes. Due to this difference, the three ethnicities of the South Caucasus, the Georgians, Armenians, and the Azerbaijanis, were able to receive statuses as independent republics during the region's Soviet rule. Shortly after the fall of the USSR, the three republics were able to find their place as new nations. Among them was Armenia and Azerbaijan. Armenia, even while surrounded by Muslim countries, is proud to be the first nation in the world to have adopted Christianity as its religion in 301 CE. Azerbaijan originates from the nomads that crossed over from Central Asia, who also founded the great Safavid Empire, or current-day Iran.

This region faced a wave of change in the 19th century, as a westernized Russia sought southward expansion and established militaristic dominance over the Ottomans and Qajar Iranians. The Russians succeeded in incorporating the Caucasus region into their empire. Under Russian rule, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan vigilantly awaited the chance to become independent when opportunity struck. As the First World War raged on, Russia's monarchy fell to revolution in the February of 1917. On October of the same year, Lenin's Bolshevik Revolution threw Russia into domestic disorder. Taking this chance, in April 1918, the three nations

of South Caucasus established an alliance and founded the Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic (TDFR).

However, the three ethnicities making up the newfound nation were different on too many grounds, and in just one month after its establishment, TDFR broke up into three: The Democratic Republic of Georgia, the Democratic Republic of Armenia, and the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. Meanwhile, in Russia, the Bolshevik Red Army seized victory over the anti-communist White Army and recaptured the Caucasus. In December 1922, the short-lived independency of the three Caucasus nations ended as they were incorporated into the Soviet Union. The Soviets seemed to have had success in unifying the many ethnicities under their rule, and as a part of the Soviets, the Azerbaijani and Armenians also seemed to coexist in relative peace.

However, in the February of 1988, as the discrepancies and inefficiencies of communism came to surface weakening the Government of the Soviet Union's authority, Karabakh Armenians of the Azerbaijani-controlled Nagorno-Karabakh region sent a petition requesting the central government to revert control of the autonomous oblast to Armenia. This was because although nearly 70 percent of the area's population was Armenian, it had been incorporated into Azerbaijan, and Karabakh Armenians worried this inclusion would remain forever, even after the Soviet Union collapsed. This incident

brought up old rivalries between the two ethnicities, and when the USSR fell on Dec. 25, 1991, Armenia and Azerbaijan gained independency and engaged themselves in full-on war.

After Russian troops pulled out of Azerbaijan in 1992, Armenia invaded for the reconquest of Nagorno-Karabakh and succeeded in occupying Nagorno-Karabakh and its surrounding Azerbaijani territories. With the help of Russian and French mediation, the two nations signed a ceasefire treaty in 1994, but intermittent skirmishes persisted between Armenian and Azeri forces. Azerbaijan, who had international recognition of their right to the territory, continued to request actual control over the region. Besides this, Karabakh Armenians established the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic on Dec. 10, 1991 as an unrecognized state, and currently also goes by the official name, Republic of Artsakh, which was chosen through a referendum held in 2017.



▲ North and South Caucasus physical map

©Eurasian Geopolitics

The Interview: Professor Oh Jong-jin at HUFs

So far, we have looked into the brief background of 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war. To seek a professional analysis of the war, The Argus visited professor Oh Jong-jin, a professor of the Department of Turkish and Azerbaijani at HUFs. Professor Oh graduated from the Department of Turkish at HUFs, and earned a doctorate in international relations from the Bilkent University in Ankara. The following excerpts from the conversation have been condensed and edited.

The Argus: Can you please explain the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, a war that has resumed after 26 years of ceasefire?

Oh Jong-jin (Oh): The First Nagorno-Karabakh War started in the winter of 1992, just a year after the fall of the Soviet Union, and lasted three years into 1994. At that time, all former Soviet republics, including Azerbaijan and Armenia, were in the process of newly forming their governments, so it was chaotic. Armenia, however, had been claiming the territorial rights to the Nagorno-Karabakh region since 1988, and when the Russians withdrew their troops from Azerbaijan in 1992, it was all-out war between the two budding nations. Azerbaijan did not have the forces to properly respond to the attacks and ended up losing Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding regions to Armenia; a ceasefire treaty was signed, and the conflict was concluded.

However, the underlying problem was that Nagorno-Karabakh was recognized, by international law, as Azerbaijan’s territory. Legally, the region was Azerbaijan, but Armenia held de facto rule over the territory, creating a queer situation. Due to this,

there arose intermittent clashes between the two nations. This past September, the clashes developed into a war. The two sides have radically differing opinions on who exactly started the war. Each, with their own reasons, are pointing their fingers at the other side. In any case, this is a war between militants in the Nagorno-Karabakh region who are backed by Armenia and Azerbaijan’s regular army.

The Argus: How exactly does the stance of Armenia and Azerbaijan differ?

Oh: As I have mentioned, each side has a different stance on how the war started. Among the Caucasus countries, Azerbaijan and Georgia, with their gas and oil development, became pro-Western. Russia, to keep things in check, placed Russian troops in Armenia. They were trying to balance the power, so to speak. Azerbaijan emphasizes this point. That is, if Azerbaijan had started the war, the Russian troops stationed in their nation would not have just let it happen. On the contrary, Armenia claims that they have no reason to war, amid their pre-existing economic difficulties plus the corona crisis.

Secondly, the nations differ on defining the nature of the war. For Azerbaijan, this is a civil war; its regular army are at war with rebels within their territory. On the other hand, Armenia deems this a war between civilizations and religion; there was, in fact, some effort to expand it to an international war. For example, there were talks about Islamic forces from the Middle East joining in, or the intervention of Turkish troops. However, under scrutiny, this claims are almost groundless, and it is most reasonable to consider this war as one between two ethnicities.

The Argus: Professor, as you have mentioned, there were talks about “Islamic forces participating,” and

History of South Caucasus

The history of South Caucasus consists of four decades.

- 1 The Kingdom of Armenia was a monarchy in the Ancient Near East.
- 2 Safavid Empire which included Persia was created and ruled by Azeri-Turkic..
- 3 The Treaty of Gulistan confirmed the cession of most of the South Caucasus from Iran into the Russian Empire.
- 4 The BTC pipeline shows the economic cooperation among the three countries.



©Cplakidas

the “intervention of Turkey” Why are you skeptical about these claims?

Oh: First and foremost, the militaristic outlooks were significantly favorable to Azerbaijan. When they became independent, they boasted a population of eight million and have now grown to over 10 million. On the flipside, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh had economic difficulties which led to population decrease; the current population of Nagorno-Karabakh is estimated to be around 80 thousand. In battles between the Nagorno-Karabakh militants and the Azerbaijan army, the latter is dominant. Notably, Azerbaijan has experienced fast economic development through natural gases from the Caspian Sea, marking a 36 percent development rate in 2002. By this growth, they were able to modernize their army, so there is definite different of militaristic strength between the two nations.

In addition, Azerbaijan is a secular nation; they also observed how Islamic militants left Syria and Iraq in ruins. Azerbaijan, with their militaristic edge and the desire to end this war in the domestic stage, would not want to take the risk of expanding this war. During this war, many civilian localities within Azerbaijan, including its second largest city, Ganja, were bombed, but Azerbaijan did touch Armenian territory at all, and even with the reclamation of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Azerbaijanis (Azeris) took 30 percent of the region, which corresponds to the proportion of ethnic Azeris in the area. Moreover, a long-term war was more favorable for the richer Azerbaijan with the spread of COVID-19 and approaching winter. Azerbaijan had no urgent reason to end the war.

Turkey is a secular country like Azerbaijan and both nations were established by the Turks, leading them to carry the slogan,

“One people, two countries.” There was a political narrative within Turkey that they would participate in any Azerbaijani crises. However, they did not this time. If Turkey intervenes, Russia must as well, but the situation was not so bad to the point that Turkey had to participate, and Azerbaijan did not want this war to become international. The message is that, if Russia participates in the war, Turkey will help Azerbaijan as a brother country. Personally, I suspect these speculations have arisen from the opinions of the many Armenian diasporas in America and France being reported in the Western news.

The Argus: The location of the conflict, Nagorno-Karabakh; does it hold any geo-political significance?

Oh: The Nagorno-Karabakh region consists of mountainous highlands. As war is now fought in a modern way, the strategic militaristic advantage such geography holds has now decreased, but still holds significant militaristic value. First, we must understand the Caucasus Mountains. The mountain range starts from the Black Sea and stretches on until the Caspian Sea, marking the border between Europe and Asia. The Caucasus can be divided into the Greater Caucasus and the Lesser Caucasus. The Greater Caucasus divides North Caucasus and South Caucasus, and the rough mountain range were a natural border that separated the various ethnicities and cultures.

In the Lesser Caucasus lies Armenia, and most of the country is high in altitude, but the west is a bit lower than the east. On the contrary, Azerbaijan’s western regions are higher in altitude, and the east borders the Caspian Sea. If Azerbaijan were to actually control the Nagorno-Karabakh region, Armenia’s entire territory becomes vulnerable to Azerbaijani forces; attacking from higher ground is much more advantageous. That is, for Armenia, the threat to national security grows. In this



©The Map Archive



©Fabiexhan



©SETA

manner, Nagorno-Karabakh holds strategic advantages to the owner, which is why Azerbaijan and Armenia are competing to secure this area as theirs.

The Argus: During this war, various countries from Turkey to France and Russia expressed their stances. In particular, it was Russian mediation that helped settle this conflict. What is Russia's stance on the 2020 Azerbaijan-Armenian conflict?

Oh: It can be said that Russia has once again proved its influence over the Caucasus. Azerbaijan and Armenia were both former Soviet Republics. Russian influence and remnants remain strong in former Soviet countries like Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan as well. It is because, in the process of becoming Soviet, the Russian language and culture were introduced. However, Azerbaijan had actually maintained its unique traditions and culture during the Soviet era, but this was because the USSR believed Azerbaijan had practical value in this way; through Azerbaijan, the USSR wanted to flip Iran over to communism.

Azerbaijan's population is at around 10 million right now. Iran's population sits at around 85 million, but about a quarter is Azeri. More Azeris live in Iran than they do in Azerbaijan. The Soviets focused on this point. Through Azerbaijan's prosperity and advancement, the Soviets wanted to take a "united front" approach. In other words, Azerbaijan was, for the USSR, an extremely useful bridgehead into Iran. For this reason, they let Azerbaijan's identity flourish, which leads to the present. At the same time, this region was a buffer zone between powers like Turkey, Iran, and Russia.

There is also a buffer zone to the north. Belarus and Ukraine are such regions. However, both nations had struggles with Russia due to their pro-Western actions. Russia and Ukraine clashed violently over the Crimean Peninsula. Russia did not want to make more problems amid troubles they already had. They wanted this war to be solved between Armenia and Azerbaijan, so they tentatively stayed silent over this matter. However, in the end, the peace treaty was signed through Russia, and Russian peacekeeping troops were deployed. In this

way, Russia showed their influence over the Caucasus region that no other country can parallel.

The Argus: What about the stances of other nations? What did Georgia, one of the three Caucasus nations, have to say about this conflict, and why?

Oh: Iran's stance can be concluded as "waiting and seeing." The stance roots from Iran's situational quandary. As mentioned before, a significant number of Iran's population is Azeri, and they hold significant positions in the Iranian elite. A prosperous Azerbaijan is a load to bear for Iran, but that does not mean Iran can support the Armenians. Armenia is a Christian nation, meaning Iran, as an Islamic nation, cannot become close, even with good intentions. Additionally, Iran is labeled as being in the "axis of evil." For all these reasons, Iran could only observe the conflict from afar.

Georgia also did not want to participate in this conflict and hoped that it be resolved quickly as Azerbaijan's domestic problem. First, Georgia holds a part of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipelines that carry natural gases from the Central Asian region to the Western world, without going through Russia. They receive passage money from Azerbaijan, which makes them economically dependent on Azerbaijan to some extent. Moreover, the 2008 Russo-

Georgian war, which was fought over Southern Ossetia, where Georgia surrendered in five days, left the Georgians with fear of the Russians. In conclusion, Georgia wanted the war not to become international and instead be resolved as quickly and as quietly as possible.

The Argus: Can you please explain the stance of Turkey, who first mentioned "Turkish intervention" and also France, who backed Armenia?

Oh: Turkey's message, as mentioned before, was that, should the war escalate, they would give military aid to Azerbaijan. However, this means conflict between Russia and Turkey. In fact, though, these countries will never collide. There are a few reasons why. In 2015, there was an incident where Turkey shot down a Russian fighter. The next year, in 2016, the Russian



▲ Professor Oh Jong-jin

©Na Geum-cha



© Oh Jong-jin

▲ The result of 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war as of November 9th, 2020

Oh: The fact is that the Caucasus region is complex, with a deep history and numerous ethnicities. Therefore, it is not easy to predict anything about this region. First, Russia has mediated a peace treaty. Azerbaijan will gain control over the territory it reclaimed during this war. The Azerbaijani government will most likely guarantee ethnic Armenians living in the Nagorno-Karabakh a place in their nation, as well as aim to offer them incorporation into Azerbaijan as citizens. The Armenians of the Nagorno-Karabakh region will have to choose between becoming a part of Azerbaijan and coexist or becoming isolated in a ceasefire situation.

As for Armenia, it is likely that the government will change through a new election. Even now, there are protests within the country by people who oppose the peace treaty. However, the positions of Karabakh Armenians and Armenia do not completely align. Some are favorable to incorporation, while others wish to maintain the de fact, unrecognized Republic of Artsakh and completely become independent of Armenia and Azerbaijan. We will have to wait and see what results.

Ambassador to Turkey, Andrew Karlov, was assassinated in Ankara by a nationalist. Did the two countries go into war or hold each other responsible? No, the relationship between the two nations were unexpectedly unchanged.

Rather, in 2018, Putin received an invitation from Erdogan and visited Ankara, where they discussed economic cooperation. Also, the two nations are cooperating to some extent through the Blue Stream, a trans-Black Sea gas pipeline that connects the two countries. Russia secures a supply route of their natural resources to the Western world, and Turkey imports natural gases from Russia, creating a win-win situation. Turkey, who has succeeded in growing their defenses, is no easy counterpart for Russia, either. The relationship of these two nations are complex and difficult to explain in short, and they are trying to maintain the balance of power.

As for France, who backed Armenia, the statement, “an enemy of my enemy is a friend,” explains their stance. France and Turkey have various scuffles from natural gas development clashes in the Eastern Mediterranean, to Syria and Libya’s civil wars. Moreover, it cannot maintain good relations with Azerbaijan because the Azeris have Turkish roots. With “Turkey” as a common enemy, France and Armenia intersect. By this logic, France is supportive of Armenia. Like the term, “you see what you know,” the more you know about the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, the more you realize how intertwined the interests of countless entities are.

The Argus: We took a look at the Nagorno-Karabakh war up until now. In summary, what do you think will happen going forward?

The spectrum of 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war was quite similar to that of 26 years ago, but the result was drastically different. The winner and the loser were changed, and Azerbaijan was able to recover some of its territory which had been taken away. However, is there a “real winner” in this war? As usual, the biggest victims were innocent civilians, and the conflict between the two nations, which was deeply affected by the rise and fall of the great powers, still seems to have not have been resolved. Then, how can such a dilemmatic dispute be settled?

Morgenthau emphasized the attitude of considering a situation from the perspective of the other party, which enables compromise, and warned of the danger of the crusading spirit, which looks on the struggle for power as the pursuit of goodness. He also stressed that diplomacy is the best means of preserving peace in the anarchic international society. To solve the fundamental problem between the two countries, the two need to refer to the advice of Morgenthau. Though unimaginable now, war is not new in Korea either, which suffered a war just 70 years ago. The Argus hopes that readers have this historical background in mind and be interested in the various conflicts taking place around the world. 📖

nak3096@hufs.ac.kr



Essays in Love


By Jeon Nu-ri

Editorial Consultant

Last month, I went to the wedding of someone I had been close to at work when I was an intern. The wedding was heartily beautiful and the couple seemed so blissful as if this marriage meant the world to them. On the way home, so many thoughts whirled around in my mind. All the thinking boiled down to one question – how do people decide to marry someone? Someone might say that marriage is what happens naturally when a decent person appears in front of you at the right time. However, I mean, deciding who I will spend the rest of my life with, is it not a super difficult and weighty process? How can I ever be sure that every day of my life, even if not full of extreme happiness, I will not be unhappy with this person? Every time I see couples passing by on the street, I wonder, “Do they really love each other?” It is not because I am skeptical about love and relationships, but just out of curiosity – how do various people each define love? I cannot offer any in-depth insights about love academically, but I just want to share what I have felt about love so far.

Love is giving and receiving trust. I value faith in relationships more than anything. There was an incident when I was a freshman that profoundly contributed to my current set of values. I thought everyone tells the truth to their loved ones and acts genuinely as a matter of course. It turned out that I was just naive. I realized that faith does not naturally build up itself – both giving and earning trust take efforts. In fact, it is very difficult for people who have been betrayed or ostracized by family members or friends or lovers in the past to believe someone. However, even a person with the deepest wounds can recover and sincerely trust another when he or she eventually meets someone who is filled with true love. There is no remedy for a broken heart but to love more.

Love is accepting each other's differences as they are. It sounds simple, but it is difficult to practice. I thought that I do not judge the way someone behaves or try to change them to my standards, but I was no different. When my beloved one spoke and acted differently than I expected, I felt uncomfortable and thought, *Why is he like this? If I were him, I would...* I guess I always wanted to get rid of every difference between us by forcing him, not myself, to change so that nothing could make us fight, “to nip it in the bud” before any conflicts arise. This idea was fairly immature – now I understand that being different is what makes a relationship even more amusing. People can learn from each other at any moment. Everyone needs to work hard to embrace the other person as they are. I choose to be with someone who makes me throw off my mask because he assures me that it is totally safe to reveal myself fully and that he is ready to accept even my worst self.

Finding out what love is and how to love is a lifelong study, but one thing is sure – it is a real cliché, but loving yourself is the most important of all. If you cannot or do not love yourself, you are definitely unable to love others. If you start to love just because you are needy and lonely, that love becomes a poison and you will end up being even more miserable. I hope that everyone can have a relationship where they can discover their new selves rather than losing themselves. I hope all HUFSSans have a warm year-end surrounded by people they love. 

wjssnfl10@hufs.ac.kr



#backtracking

Song Chan-ho

While backtracking, we meet the past we have left behind. It is a good teacher for our life, but dwelling too much on it would not be great, I think.

Choi Yea-jin

Sometimes, let us backtrack on the small bits of happiness in our daily lives.

Na Geum-chaе

It is really time to leave The Argus. If I backtrack the mistakes I have made in The Argus, they are too numerous to enumerate. Working as a reporter of The Argus, I was happy, thrilled, sad, and disappointed. I was happy to keep company with good people and thrilled to have interviews with people I have dreamed of. I was sad when my friends left by ones and twos and was disappointed when life did not go my way. I was tired of over-thinking everything and have looked forward to choosing to let go. Now, it is really time to leave The Argus, leaving all these feelings behind. I thought that it would feel like a million dollars, but it is not quite like that. Anyway, you did a great job, though. The Argus, take care! Just as The Argus was a happy place for me, I hope it will be a good memory for reporters who will be a part of The Argus.

Kim Ha-kyung

Looking back at this year, it was an endless string of struggles for me. I was and still am a thorough stranger in the field that I am in. As a stranger, I could see and hear new things, though the process is painful.

Jang Soo-hyun

Lying in bed before going to sleep, I often spend hours backtracking what I did yesterday, or the day before that. Then I realized that my train of thoughts eats me alive as I blame myself for what I cannot change. I usually do not go backwards, only because I am afraid of being called a quitter. Without even knowing, I move a little forward every day. Now, it is time for me to think about what is up for tomorrow.

Park Chang-hwan

2020 is a year that I want to backtrack least, but I will nonetheless look back, figure out what all went down, absorb it, and make it mine.

Welcome Aboard, 106th Cub Reporters!

— **Kim Yeo-won** / Division of French Language '18

— **Lim Chae-lynn** / Department of Malay-Indonesian
Interpretation and Translation '20

— **Nam Gyeong-eun** / Department of German '19

— **Park Da-eun** / Department of German '19

— **Park Hye-lim** / Department of Philosophy '19