

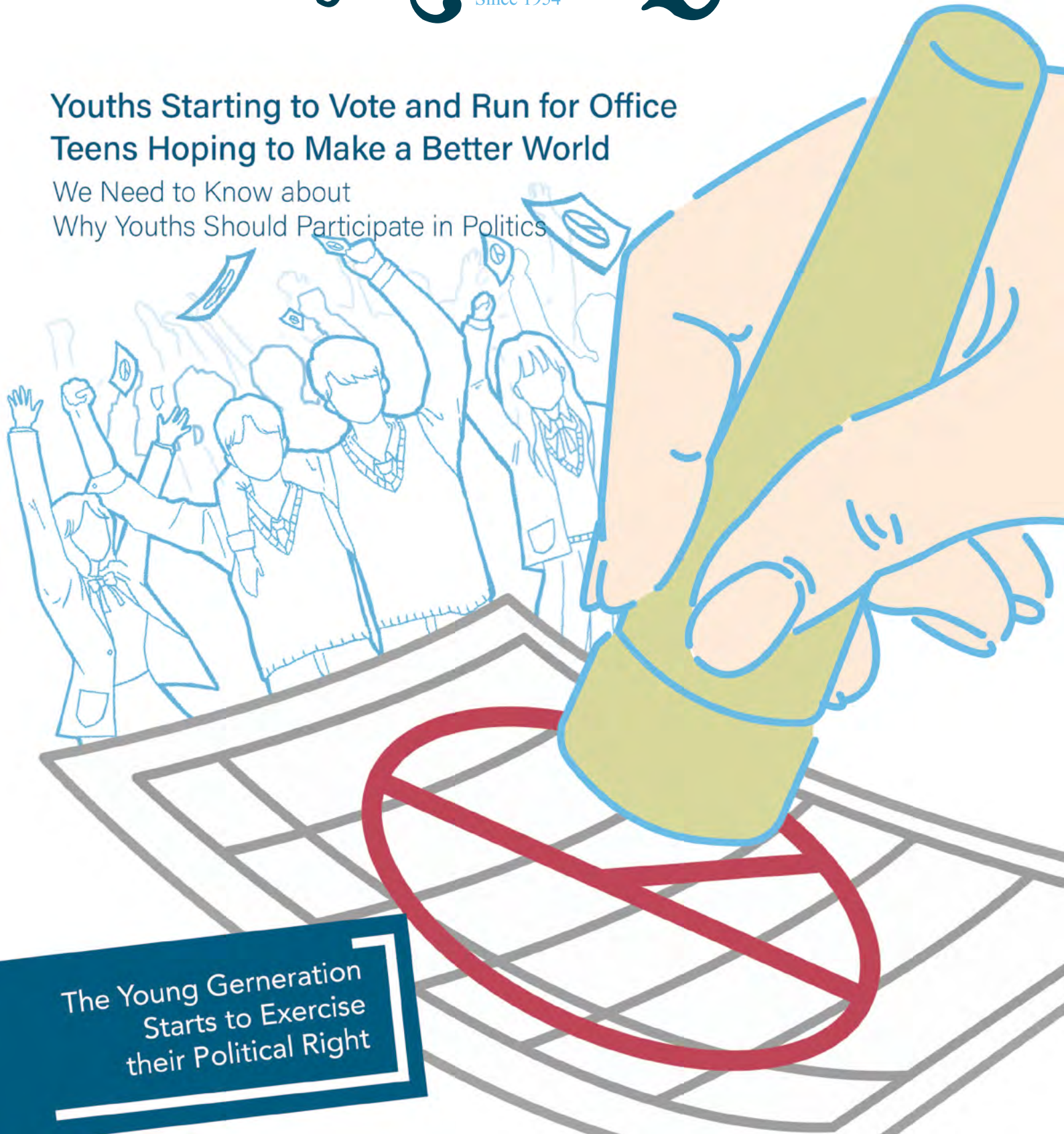
The Argus

No. 524 MARCH 11, 2022

Since 1954

Youths Starting to Vote and Run for Office Teens Hoping to Make a Better World

We Need to Know about
Why Youths Should Participate in Politics



The Young Generation
Starts to Exercise
their Political Right

The Argus

ESTABLISHED 1954

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Editorial

Courageous Footsteps

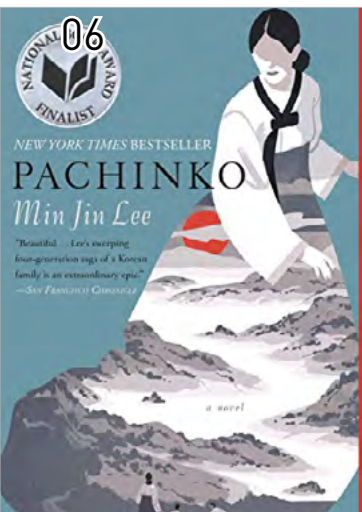
March is the month everything breaths a deep, new breath in and out. Everything willingly takes a new start especially in March: from the atmosphere that surrounds us to people including us. In March, warm spring air whiffles. Following the breeze, we can hear the joyful sounds of living beings, including giggling people. School in spring would be no different as it is filled with energy and vitality of students just like a social organism. However, since the COVID-19 period is getting longer and becoming more serious, the brightness and the vitality that school has had now seem to perish. The strong energy not only in society but also in individuals has drastically decreased. Sadly, it is an undeniable truth. We are struggling to prevent ourselves from losing our “self” in our own way in this pandemic era.

This March is also a time to make a new breeze in politics as there is a presidential election in Korea on March 9. Young people should take a courageous step of responsibility as the voting and candidacy age has been lowered to 18. The young generation should also be in charge and fulfill their new duty and right in a solemn manner. Considering that wielding new power entails significant responsibility, it is necessary to study the nature of the power and to realize its weight. Shin Jun-seo, a reporter who is very concerned about social issues, introduces the new world that our young generation faces regarding their right to vote and to run for office. The Argus also reports more significant upcoming issues in March. New leaders took office in March: new President Park Jeong-Woon begins his tenure, and the new student body leadership, “Eroom” the GSC, serves for the upcoming semesters. In the domain of economy, the fairness of fair trade is critically reviewed, and the concept of tapering is explained. In the culture section, the new trend of 2022 among the MZ generation is introduced to the readers, exploring the “Healthy Pleasure” and the background information of the novel “Pachinko,” recently expected to be presented as an Apple TV drama in March. Furthermore, The Argus suggests a novel perspective to view daily architectures with mathematic and scientific notions.

Coming back to courageous footsteps, the advancement of human rights is still in progress, and it always is achieved by new courageous steps that people take. If one wishes to enjoy their privilege with the new right, all the members of society should be willing to actively participate in politics and the management of the actual country they live in. Citizens should use this opportunity to speak up and raise their voices so that all opinions are heard. Please, be confident and do not hesitate to take responsibility as a dignified citizen. The Argus, in this March issue, encourages you to take a step further from where you stand. ☞

By **Park Kun-ha**
Editor-in-Chief

박건하



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>> What is suffrage? Suffrage is a political right which guarantees that citizens can participate in politics. The extension of political rights is very important because it means that the awareness of human rights in that society has been raised. Political rights are one of the fundamental rights that every people possess and can exercise. But until recently, youths under 20 were not able to vote or run for office. The Argus investigates recent changes which made 18-year-olds able to vote and participate in politics.

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Prof. Park Jeong-Woon Becomes HUFS President

Prof. Park Jeong-Woon, the new president of HUFS, begins his tenure and will serve a four-year term starting March 1. President Park, who serves as the 12th president of HUFS, is a professor of the Department of English Linguistics and Language Technology.

President Park's main pledges are as follows. First, regarding the Songdo Campus, he announced that he would build a high-tech education infrastructure, and a data center for a future-oriented campus. He also expressed his ambition to solve the problem of duplicative departments, which had not been resolved since the integration of Seoul and Global Campus. In addition, he made a pledge to hold the "President's Office Hour" once a week on both Seoul and Global Campus for two hours, to communicate with HUFS students and staff. Regarding the expansion of HUFS finances, he made a pledge to expand business cooperation with school operations institutions and attract industrial support funds.

In regard to President Park's pledges, the 56th General Student Council (GSC) <Eroom; Achievement> said, "We hope that President Park will actively engage in communication with students. In addition, for a better HUFS, we hope for the president's best effort to fulfill his pledges." As the GSC said, The Argus also hopes that the president will put passion into fulfilling the pledges during the four-year term and make HUFS more prestigious. 📰



▲ The Dongwon Education Foundation, which owns HUFS, appoints Prof. Park Jeong-Woon as the new president of HUFS on December 20, 2021.

By Yang Yu-min
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HUFS Notice on 2022 Spring Semester Undergraduate Class Delivery

On January 13, the Dean of Academic Affairs of HUFS announced the information regarding undergraduate class delivery for the 2022 spring semester, including in-person classes with fewer than 40 students.

The attendance measure will have the school go hybrid with online and offline classes. Classes consisting of 40 students or fewer will be delivered face-to-face. Students should participate in class on campus, wearing a face mask. On the other hand, classes consisting of 41 or more students will be delivered online until the end of the semester. The class delivery type is determined by the class capacity. Class capacity means the maximum number of students indicated for each class stated on the course schedule during the course registration period. There is no change in the class method according to the actual number of students taking the course. The class delivery type will be stated on the syllabus as well as on the lecture schedule.

For face-to-face classes, if there are students who are unable to participate in the classes face-to-face due to self-quarantine, suspected symptoms, or foreign students who are not able to enter the country, the class will be conducted both "face-to-face" and via "real-time online lectures" at the same time, also known as "mirroring." For classes without such students, only face-to-face delivery will occur.


Online classes include both real-time attendance checks using QR code and real-time online lectures using WebEx, Zoom, Google Meet, etc. Online lectures can be replaced with real-time 50-minute learning activities including video materials produced by the instructors themselves, small group activities, Q&A, etc. Class day and hours are the same as the actual class schedule.

The Office of Academic Affairs said, "HUFS aims to ensure the safety of the school community and deliver quality learning during the COVID-19 pandemic with these measures." 📰

By Kim Jin-seo
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Reserve Force Application is in Progress

Students in the reserves of the Korean military can apply for reserve force training by March 29 through the school website. The program allows student reserves to train eight hours contrary to conventional reserve training that takes three days.

Veteran undergraduates can apply via the web information system. Others can apply through the school website, reservist section in the campus life category. Soldiers in active service and soldiers discharged within two weeks need to be careful to input the right military serial number because it may be handled as a transfer if there is an error. However, any exercise postponed before the application must be carried out as usual. Phone and email are the ways the military notifies reserves about information regarding training, so students have to update if they have alterations to their information. Yoon Dae-kyung, the Division of Japanese Language, Literature and Culture '20 said, "I knew that the reserve force application is through the school website, but I did not know the exact deadline." 

By Cho Eun
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Tuition Payment for Students Attending Extra Semester Starts

Tuition payment for students attending nine semesters or more should be remitted March 14 to 18. The tuition varies by number of credits. Unlike the general payment period (February 17 to 23), payment for the extra semester is starting in March. Students taking one to three credits ought to pay one-sixth of the total tuition. Those taking four to six credits must pay one-third, those taking seven to nine credits pay half, and those with over 10 credits must pay full tuition. The tuition will be calculated based on the credits on March 8, when the registration is finalized. The tuition fee bill will be updated on March 11. According to the Finance and Accounting team, a refund is not available during the revocation of the registration term from March 23 to 29. Park Si-eun, Department of German, '18 said, "I intend to take extra term classes and I knew the tuition difference, but I did not know the payment time was different from ordinary." 

By Cho Eun
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HUFS Signs Field Practice MOU with Planear

HUFS signed an "Industry-academic cooperation field training internship practice" Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with "Planear" on February 7. Planear is a company which plans, creates, and operates digital content and conducted live commerce with Hana Bank in November 2021. HUFSAbility, the career employment supporting center of HUFS, operates "2022 domestic, overseas field training" and has signed MOUs with various companies including the Korea International Trade Association and Korean National Commission for UNESCO. HUFS provides financial support for the field training program and the internship provides students an opportunity to work for three months in the company, searching for careers after graduation and building their careers.

Planear, one of the companies taking part in the internship program, would add fresh fuel to making inroads in the foreign commerce markets with talented students of HUFS, who are leading the era of globalization. HUFSAbility said the recruiting has concluded and the company is in the process of selecting the candidates. Also, it noticed that the internship programs are usually finished from six weeks to four weeks before the new semester starts. 

By Kim Ye-ji
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HUFS' New Companion in 2022, <Eroom: Achievement>

By Yang Yu-min

Staff Reporter of Social Section

The president represents the country, President Park Jeong-Woon represents HUFS now, but who represents HUFS students? That's right, the General Student Council (GSC). In particular, 2022 is the year when the new president and the GSC take their first steps together. For this reason, the role of the GSC has become important as a liaison between the president and students, and the 56th GSC <Eroom: Achievement> exists to fulfill this role. The Argus met with the 56th GSC <Eroom: Achievement> and confirmed their pledge to make today's HUFS shine brighter together.



©The 56th GSC <Eroom: Achievement>

▲ President Lee Min-ji (L) and Vice President Han Su-hye (R) lead the 56th GSC.



The 56th GSC <Eroom: Achievement>

The Argus: Please introduce <Eroom: Achievement>.

Eroom: Achievement (Eroom): First of all, “Eroom” is a noun form of the Korean verb “to achieve.” It also contains the aspiration to fulfill the trend that the previous GSC had built up over years. In particular, as the new president will start his term from this March, the idea that students' opinions should be reflected in the president's policies was strong. Therefore, it also includes the meaning of “We will ensure that students' opinions are reflected by HUFS administration.”

<Eroom: Achievement> can be described with the word “Accompany,” as our key focus is to make changes together with students.



HUFS Shining with <Eroom: Achievement>

The Argus: The new president's term begins on March 1, and as a representative of students, the role of <Eroom: Achievement> has become more important. What is your plan to communicate with the new president?

Eroom: We also think that the communication with the new president is the most important thing. Particularly in the first year of the term, depending on the relationship and response from us, the president's attitude toward the GSC and students will change for the remaining term. We made two pledges about the conversation with the president.

1. Conversation with the President

After the presidential election last year, about 500 students participated in the survey conducted by the former GSC <To HUFS>. In response to the question “What kind of communication between the president and students do you think is necessary?” most students answered, “direct communication between the student and the president is needed.” Based on these results, we will create a bulletin board on the school website for direct communication with the president, and noticed the situation where the opinions of students were reflected in the policy. Currently, we consider what kind of courses, contents, and programs the students will actively participate in. Toward this end, we will conduct a survey of students.

2. Meeting with the President

“Meeting with the President” is a communication pledge between the president and us. As the new president’s tenure begins in March, nothing has not been specifically discussed. However, President Park made a pledge to hold meetings with students, so pointing out that pledge, we will continue to demand communication. In this regard, if there is anything we would like to politely ask the president, the process of communicating should not be full of empty formalities. We also hope that president actively identifies the needs of students and makes an effort to reflect them in the policies.

The Argus: In the presidential election last year, there was no English translation of the candidates’ pledges, so the participation of foreign students was not high. As you can imagine, the language barrier limits foreign students from fully enjoying HUFS life. What is your plan to address this?

Eroom: In fact, the previous GSC also felt the need for translation. However, the problem was that the translation process took a lot of time as there was a lot of information to be announced. In addition, there is no standard for which

announcements to be translated, and our practical competency is not enough to translate all announcements. Rather than delaying the notice that should be delivered, we consider uploading the notice in Korean first on Instagram, then leaving a comment with an English translation. Currently, we are considering cooperation with the “University Students Interpreters’ Association” or constituting the translation TF team, to deliver as much information as possible.

The Argus: Do you have any pledges that are different from the previous GSC?

Eroom: We have a “Student Festival Planning Committee.” Through this, we intend to plan and hold Quinquatria, HUFS festival, together with the students. As previous Quinquatria was only conducted at the level of the GSC, the participation of students was low, and it made the hard-working executives saddened. For this reason, through the Student Festival Planning Committee, we will try to plan a Quinquatria that students really want. We think this is our differentiated and most special pledge. The Student Festival Planning Committee will be recruited before Quinquatria, so we ask for a lot of interest from students.



Final Word To HUFS Students

The Argus: Please give a final word to the readers of The Argus.

Eroom: It’s our first time to serve as the GSC, so there will be a lot of mistakes. So please give us a lot of feedback. Unlike the previous GSC, we removed the sentence “DMs are not accepted” from our Instagram profile. It is our first step toward becoming a more friendly GSC as many students often use Instagram. So, freely contact us with feedback, requests, suggestions, etc. Students’ opinions become a new direction for us. <Eroom: Achievement> is working hard to reach out to students, and will continue to do so.

<Eroom: Achievement> revealed their ambition to become a “friendly GSC.” In line with these aspirations, they did not neglect the opinions of one student and showed an attitude of listening throughout the interview. In March, the scent of spring tickles the tip of the nose, and a new wind, which leads to change, descends upon HUFS. It is the GSC who continues the flow of change as the leader, but it exists because of the students. Changes can be realized only when the GSC and students work together. For this, how about knocking on <Eroom: Achievement>’s room door? 🚪

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"Pachinko" and Korean-Japanese: Dark Immigrational History

By Cho Eun

Staff Reporter of Culture Section

“History has failed us, but no matter.” That is the first sentence of the novel “Pachinko,” which Obama, the former president of the United States, recommended and which was chosen as one of the “10 Best Books of 2017” by the New York Times. The book shows the desperate life of Koreans living in Japan by telling the story of four generations of a Korean family starting from the Japanese colonial era. The fact that the novel about Korean Japanese life, which a Korean American author wrote, is recognized by the United States, United Nations, and the world over is exceptional. Through the Korean Wave, the world is paying attention to Koreans and Korean immigrants who had been alienated. Celebrating “Samiljeol,” Korean Independence Movement Day on March 1, The Argus looks into the original novel “Pachinko,” presented as an Apple TV drama this month, and reveals the reason why this story of Korean Japanese is loved.

Before Reading

- **Zainichi:** “Zainichi” is a Japanese slur that refers to Korean Japanese who immigrated to Japan during the Japanese colonial era, from 1910 to 1945. Zainichi moved to Japan to study, make a living, or were taken by force and were discriminated against being people of colonial Joseon.
- **Pachinko:** The title of Lee Min-jin’s novel “Pachinko” refers to Japanese gambling, which is a legal game in Japan. In the 1950s, many Zainichis ran Pachinko businesses because it was hard to get a proper job.



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1. Summary

In 1910, Hoonie, who was born in Busan with deformities and runs a boarding house, marries Yangjin, whose family was struggling in poverty, and has their daughter Sunja. Sunja meets a man named Koh Hansu at a market. They fall in love with each other, and Sunja conceives his child. But Hansu has a wife and children in Osaka, Japan, so Sunja refuses to be his concubine. A man living in Sunja's boarding house, Baek Isak realizes Sunja is pregnant and decides to marry her, and they leave for Japan.

In 1933, Sunja and Isak arrive in Japan and Sunja bears Noah, the son of Hansu, and Mozasu, the son of Isak. Isak goes to jail and gets tortured for religious reasons and dies. Meanwhile, Isak's brother Yoseb and his wife Kyunghee do not have a child because of infertility. Losing Isak, Yoseb tries to be respectful of all the family including Isak's, but he becomes a victim of an atomic bomb. For a living, Sunja sells kimchi, and Hansu secretly helps her.

In 1962, Noah attends Waseda University and gets to know the truth of his biological father and leaves his family. He hides that he is Korean and works at a pachinko parlor. He fears it being revealed that he is Korean, and he commits suicide when his mother Sunja finds him. On the other hand, Mozasu does not hide being Korean and responds violently to discrimination. He takes over the pachinko business and has a son, Solomon.

In 1989, Solomon grows with no difficulty by the wealth that the pachinko business gave, and he goes to study abroad in the U.S. and marries a Korean American woman, Phoebe. Then they come back to Japan together. Solomon gets betrayed by his trusted superior Kazu and takes over the pachinko business of his father Mozasu. Phoebe cannot handle the discrimination in Japan and goes back to the U.S.

2. Zainichis, Who Are They?

2-1 One Above the Boundaries, The Identity Confusion

The majority of Zainichis struggle to build their identity under the oppressive circumstances between Korea and Japan. They are born and live in Japan using Japanese but are humiliated as being dirty, having Korean ancestors. Oh Tae-young, an assistant professor of Dongguk University Gyeongju Campus, who wrote a paper on "Pachinko" said, "Humans can have an identity crisis when they are establishing themselves, but Zainichis were denied normal opportunities because of their identity being Korean." Professor Oh explained that they could not avoid the discrimination, whether they tried to build their identity as Japanese or keep the Zainichi identity.

Being denied of any identity, Noah from the novel conceals that he is Korean to avoid discrimination. He enters Waseda University to be approved as Japanese, but despairing that the fact that he is Korean remains. Thus, he fears being found out. On the other hand, there are Zainichis who hold to being Korean, like Mozasu in the novel. Mozasu does not conceal that he is Korean, and he inherits the pachinko business. He tries to overcome discrimination by his wealth and sends his son Solomon to the U.S., but like what Kazu, Solomon's superior, said, it was impossible for Zainichis to avoid discrimination, no matter how they tried.

2-2 Remaining Discrimination

Zainichis who live like Noah and Mozasu still exist today. Similar to Noah, many Zainichis conceal that they are Korean. Japanese journalist Ueda Takahiko wrote in his book, "The potential of Koreans in Japan," that there are plenty of Korean descendants in politics, entertainment, and sports. In fact, the biggest Japanese singing contest "NHK Kohaku singing contest" inevitably has Korean descendants. However, not many celebrities are open about being Zainichis because of many possible disadvantages such as losing their good reputation or ending their career.

For example, Yasuda Narumi who won the Japanese Academy Award for Best Actress resigned from the drama when the fact that she is a Korean descendent was disclosed. In contrast, people like Mozasu who keep their Korean identity face discrimination. An Chang-rim who won a bronze medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics for judo is also a Zainichi. He got a naturalization offer from Japan due to his talent, but he chose to remain as a Korean and has found it hard to participate in important matches. Regardless of what Zainichis choose, they cannot avoid discrimination and they belong nowhere.

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▲ Zainichi actress Yasuda Narumi resigns from the drama because her Korean identity was issued.



▲ An Chang-rim wins bronze medal in Tokyo Olympics 2020, as a Korean.

©Chosun Ilbo



©pachinko.kostie

▲ Pachinko business was how most Korean Japanese accumulated wealth.

2-3 Zainichis Have Nowhere to Go

“Koreans like me can’t leave ... In Seoul, people like me get called Japanese bastards, and in Japan, I’m just another dirty Korean no matter how much money I make or how nice I am ... All those people who went back to the North are starving to death or scared shitless.”

-p. 377, “Pachinko.” Grand Central Publishing

As Mozasu said in the novel, Zainichis at that time were foreigners with no place to call their own. They were strangers without a nationality in Japan, and betrayers in their homeland Joseon. That Noah, Mozasu, and Solomon all came back to the pachinko business aptly illustrates the life of Zainichis, having nowhere to go.

Zainichis are neither Japanese nor Korean. Consequently,

they do not have political rights or passports of any country, only having certificates of alien registration even though they live in Japan. History can tell the reason why. Kim Kyoung-hee, an assistant professor of HUFS Minerva College, said, “Every Korean who had Japanese citizenship as colonists lost their citizenship, by Japan losing the Pacific War in 1945, and their nationality was marked as ‘Joseon,’ which did not mean a nation but meant an origin,” and explained it was the same for Zainichis living in Japan. According to Professor Kim, after this, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, which is North Korea, and the Republic of Korea in the south were established, and the people of the Republic of Korea got citizenship as “Koreans.” Contrarily, as Japan does not recognize North Korea as a country, the people who had citizenship of “Joseon” became stateless people.

Zainichis had to choose one out of two nationalities. Unfortunately, neither North nor South Korea welcomed Zainichis, and Japan, where they were residing, considered them as a hazard and wanted to kick them out. However, South Korea did not need to create a homecoming program because Zainichis were able to come back by themselves, but it was different for those from North Korea. North Korea, not accepted as a nation, could only have brought Koreans back by a homecoming project, and they started a huge homecoming project as a diplomatic policy. The Japanese government, who wanted to send out Zainichis as soon as possible, thought North Korea’s

way of taking people on a large scale was more efficient than how South Korea was giving autonomy, because of which there were accidents like ships sinking because of too many people riding, fearing it was their last chance to return to Korea. Zainichis arrived in North Korea risking their lives, but the homecoming project of North Korea was just in name, and Zainichis still faced discrimination and poverty. There was no place celebrating or adopting Zainichis.



▲ Zainichis do not have passports. They only have travel certification(L) and re-entry permit(R).



▲ Many Zainichis ride the North Korean ship to go back to their homeland.

settlers and immigrants formed and developed. Most Americans, whose ancestors experienced the hardships of settlement, immigration, and discrimination, were comforted by “Pachinko” and “Minari.” Professor Oh said, “‘Pachinko’ and ‘Minari’ show the peace of migrants and love of humanity beyond race, region, age, and sex,”



▲ The movie “Minari” demonstrates an immigration story of a Korean family in U.S.

then explained the reason why the diaspora story is well received. He mentioned, “After President Trump, white supremacy, and other conflicts and discrimination have deepened. Consequently, ‘Pachinko’ and ‘Minari’ are effective because they are based on social imagination, which pursues a harmonious human community without prejudice.” However, the problem of discrimination has not ended in the U.S., and it is not only about ethnic groups. Professor Kim said, “Through globalization, the period where everyone can be part of a diaspora, and where minorities like immigrants, women, and elders emerge, has come, so stories about their lives are flourishing.”

3. The Reason for the Success

3-1 Diaspora literature: Empathy and Diversity

How could “Pachinko,” the story of Zainichis, be loved all over the world? Recently, the story of the diaspora is garnering attention. “Diaspora” means a certain ethnic group who leaves their “homeland” and settles in another place and makes a group. Thus, the diaspora story is an “immigrant story.” “Pachinko,” which Korean American author Lee Min-jin created, is about Zainichis who left for Japan from Korea. Similarly, “Minari,” by Korean American director Chung Issac, is about a Korean family who went to the U.S. Both works show the ordeal that immigrants hoping to settle must overcome.

How could a book related to diaspora, the story of immigrants, attract the world’s attention? The reason is the empathy for immigrants. The U.S., where both works started emerging, is a country of immigrants, which

3-2 Easy Approach, Fresh and Deep Contents

Empathy for immigrants and the wave of globalization are not the only reasons for the popularity of “Pachinko.” Regardless of how good the story is, it is useless if the book is not read. For success, the product needs an easy approach without causing distress, and “Pachinko” and “Minari” show commonality in that point. Both works are American products which American creators made in English. Joo Hye-jeong, a lecturer of Chonnam University explained, “Matching the names and images from the Bible to the characters appealed to the Western mindset and reflected major literature of the U.S.” Unlike previous works, which had a psychic distance made by culture

Culture Focus

difference and awkward translation, both products made it easy for audiences to accept the newness of Korean culture through a familiar language and form.

This easy access enabled the audience to concentrate on the unique and deep content. Kim Hyung-rae, a professor in the Department of German at HUFS, who teaches about literature and culture, explained that the unique Korean sentiment “Jeong”^{*} between family and “Han”^{**} made by a fatigued life, appear in “Pachinko” and “Minari,” emoting comfort and stability and reflecting humanity and the love of the human community. Another point of note is that both fictions have honest stories based on real experiences. “Pachinko” is literature which the author Lee Min-jin worked on for 30 years; she lived in Japan for four years and created the story based on interviews with many Zainichis. Likewise, “Minari” is an autobiographical film of director Isaac’s childhood. The authentic story moved the audience.

When director Bong Joon-ho won the Academy Award

for Best Director, he quoted Martin Scorsese, “The most personal is the most creative.” This quote also applies to “Pachinko” and “Minari.” Both real stories of individuals have satisfied either empathy or uniqueness and attracted lots of attention and well-deserved acclaim.

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▲ Lee Min-jin, a Korean-American author, wrote “Pachinko.”



©kemusa

▲ Chung Isaac (L), the director of “Minari”, and Steven Yeon (R), who acts the father character in “Minari”, are both Korean-American.

“History has failed us, but no matter.” The weight of the first sentence from “Pachinko” feels different after knowing the life and history of Zainichi. The history which has been destroying lives is still on-going. The value of culture is lofty, and it is important to preserve various cultures. However, evaluating one’s value only by culture is undesirable. In addition, is it right to categorize people by culture, nation, gender, and age? In the end, it is only reasonable to see each other in the same way as human beings. The Argus hopes that students of HUFS do not follow the prejudicial footsteps of history but rather that they become independent global citizens who make their own way and see all individuals as equally valuable. 🇺🇸

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***Jeong**: Korean traditional feeling which refers to love, compassion, friendship, and other emotional bonds between people.

****Han**: Traditional Korean feeling that refers to sadness combined with depression, misfortune, etc.



Era of HEALTHY Pleasure Begins! No More Guilty Pleasures

By **Kim Ye-ji**
Staff Reporter of Culture Section

Like an immature child, people may have done something that they are not supposed to do just seeking pleasure. This is called a “guilty pleasure.” The term is used in various situations, but it is often used by people with unhealthy lifestyles. They often feel guilty while eating delicious foods with high calories and low nutrients such as fried chicken and pizza, feel happy lying in their bed all day but feel ashamed that they have not exercised just for 10 minutes at the same time. However, it is now old-fashioned to say, “Good medicine tastes bitter” or “You have to endure all the pain to have a nice body.” Now the era of “Healthy Pleasure” has arrived. This new trend, a combination of “healthy” and “pleasure,” is no longer an obsession with health in a whirlpool of shame and guilt, but a new way to promote health led by the current generation. It tries to take care of health and pursue pleasure at the same time. The Argus will help readers understand the new health care trends and expand the concept of health care, by looking into the phenomena and causes of its appearance and eventually improve the understanding about the generation to which they belong.

Phenomenon 1

The Beginning of Happy Dieting: Diversification of Health Care Foods

“Skinny Pig” is a domestic ice cream brand. The word skinny and pig sounds quite contradictory, but the low-calorie ice cream invented by Skinny Pig helps people who like sweets to stay in shape while eating ice cream. As readers can see from this case, unlike in the past



▲ Skinny Pig is a low-calorie ice cream brand which became popular among young people.

when people assumed they had to endure abominable diets to keep healthy, the



▲ Sous-vide is a healthy recipe with low calorie, maintaining the unique taste of the ingredients.

current MZ generation values both health and pleasure, seeking food that is

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healthy and delicious at the same time. These changes have created a new trend replacing the healthy diets of the past, which were only composed of vegetables and low-salt foods. “Low food” refers to food that contains essential nutrients but has few calories, no salt, or low salt. It also may have reduced sugar. Happy dieting is characterized by foods with alternative sweeteners such as stevia* or allulose* instead of sugar and enjoying meals with low-calorie ingredients such as konjac and tofu instead of flour. More and more people prefer healthy and delicious “low food” foods, and various low food menus are also being introduced domestically on platforms such as Market Kurly or Hello Nature. Recently, the recipes for dishes have also changed. The sous-vide method, which reduces calories while maintaining the unique taste of ingredients without frying or baking, is also a current trend. Sous-vide involves slowly heating food in a sealed bag with water at an accurately calculated temperature, and this cooking method has the advantage of preserving good nutrients and the ingredients’ shapes that could otherwise be destroyed during high-temperature cooking. These days, cooking tools for sous-vide, such as vacuum packaging, are easily accessible, making it easy to try the recipe at home.

In addition, there are many ways to enjoy snacks and desserts known to be useless in a healthy way. Some healthy desserts include snacks such as konjac tteokbokki* and chicken breast dumplings, chocolate protein brownies, and ice cream with no artificial flavors, pigments, or preservatives. Choi So-hyun, a student of the Department of Dutch at HUFs, said, “I have purchased ice cream with reduced milk fat and sugar content through recommendations from my family and friends and through social media advertisements. I expected it to be less delicious as it contains healthier ingredients than the common ice creams, but I have repurchased it several times because it tasted the same as regular ice cream.” It is now

an outdated idea that sweets should be unconditionally avoided.

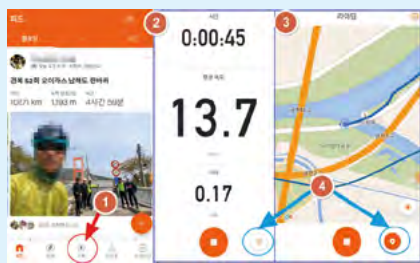
*Stevia: a natural sweetener and sugar substitute derived from the leaves of the plant species *Stevia*

*Allulose: a low-calorie epimer of the monosaccharide sugar fructose, used by some major commercial food and beverage manufacturers as a low-calorie sweetener

*Tteokbokki: a popular Korean food made from small-sized rice cakes (tteokbokki-tteok)

Phenomenon 2

Gamification: Taking Care of Health Like a Game



▲ “Strava” is a mobile application which motivates a user to keep exercising.



▲ “Yafit Cycle” is a way to exercise indoors with other users using tablets and a stationary bike.

One of the most accessible exercises that can be done without an expensive gym registration or equipment is running, but how would someone feel if he completes a long-distance race but actually ends up finishing 760th out of 800 people? Caring about health as if playing a game, by competing with others, is a new trend of the MZ generation, and it is part of gamification. The mobile exercise application “Strava” is a health application that measures individual records and allows users

to compete with one another. It is an efficient way to maximize pleasure through gamification, as it has high accessibility, can easily be downloaded to smart devices, creates competition, and rewards achievements. With this trend, home training companies like Peloton, running applications like Strava, and Challengers are growing rapidly. According to Appany, an app store ranking site, the number of global downloads of health and fitness apps in 2021 reached 2.48 billion, increasing 26 percent from 2019 (19.7 billion), before the pandemic. “Yafit Cycle,” launched by the domestic company Yanadu, is a way to work out indoors while feeling like riding an outside bicycle by linking an application to a stationary bike. Moving the virtual character on the screen of the tablet PC attached to the front of the cycle, users can complete missions such as collecting gold bars with friends running through landmarks in major cities.

Beyond simple exercises, digital treatments that cure drug addiction are also being developed with a game format. Addicts using the application “Reset” developed by the U.S. company Terapeutics can spin an online roulette after completing education and missions every week. They can exchange the prize for Amazon products. As readers can see from the case above, health care is turning into a fun activity consisting of achievement and rewards like in a game, not a boring routine emphasizing “No pain, no gain.”

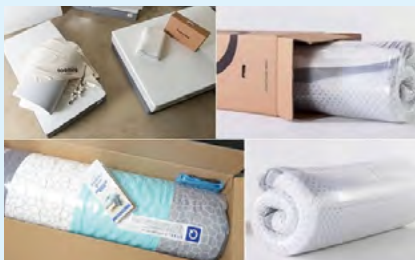
Phenomenon 3

Generously Investing Money on Sleep: The Growth of Sleeponomics

“Sleeponomics” is a compound word of sleep and economics. With the development of sleeponomics, the number of young people who generously spend their money on purchasing bedding such as pillows for a good



▲ “Sound Sleep Gallery” is a deep-sleep editing store launched by Shinsegae.



▲ Roll pack mattress is much more convenient than normal mattress.

night’s sleep has largely increased. Unlike in the past when sleeping was considered as just a break for the end of the day, now more and more consumers are opening their wallets in the sleeponomics market as their interest in high-quality sleep increases.

As consumers are willing to invest generously for a good night’s sleep, companies have started to introduce corresponding products one after another. Shinsegae Department Store’s bed sales have been on a high march for more than two years since the second half of 2019. Shinsegae Department Store compiled bed sales from January to November 2021, and it identified a 27.8 percent increase from the previous year. Jo Jae-sung, the Sales Division Leader of mattress manufacturing brand “One-third,” said, “The current generation is trying to improve the quality of their sleep with increased economic power. COVID-19 has increased the hours people stay at home, drawing a lot of attention to furniture and home appliances, which has

triggered the overall furniture market to grow.” In addition, according to the Korea Association of Sleep Industry, the scale of the domestic sleep market was estimated at three trillion won (US \$2.4 billion) in 2019. Considering that it was about 480 billion won (US \$400 million) in 2011, it has recorded an increase of more than 500 percent over eight years. The sleep industry is constantly releasing products and services related to sleeponomics. There are also some other products and services related to the trend of pursuing high-quality sleep, such as “Sound Sleep Gallery,” a deep-sleep editing shop that collects and sells only sleep-related items, the “Rollpack mattress” that can be installed directly, and “H Sleepomics,” a smart bedroom equipped with 3D natural sound.

♥ Cause 1

Food Industry Providing Various Options

Unlike in the past, when moderation and giving up certain foods were regarded as the essence of dieting, the development of the food industry has created more diverse options for consumers. The ketogenic diet, comprising only fat and ketones*, which are more efficient than glucose and carbohydrates, and the vegetarian diet that pursues healthy and delicious food without consumption of any animal products are some of the various options of the current generation. The American market has already launched a series of menus for the ketogenic diet at food and beverage stores, and online distributors also operate the ketogenic category to increase accessibility and convenience for consumers. In this way, the development of the food industry has become fundamental for providing consumers with various options in their diet.

In addition to diversifying diets, marketing strategies that consider consumers’ changing values are also accelerating the spread of healthy



▲ Ketogenic diet is becoming popular as healthy way to lose weight.



▲ Alternative sweeteners are being more diversified.

pleasure. Lee Hyung-jin, the CEO of MyNormal company launching various health care foods, said in an interview with Seoul Economic Network that “The ketogenic diet is a food culture that emphasizes the value of ingredients such as organic, grass-fed*, non-GMO*, and clean labels* beyond the specificity of the diet itself, and it is receiving the attention of the MZ generation who values valuable consumption.” Companies are preoccupied with the development of various alternative sweetener production technologies, and the alternative sweetener market continues to develop over time due to government policies, changes in consumer trends, and technology improvements. The alternative sweetener market is growing at an annual average of 4.5 percent worldwide, and the size of the functional sweetener market in Korea nearly doubled from 5.9 billion won (US \$240 million) in 2013 to 10.5 billion won (US \$480 million) in 2020. CJ CheilJedang is the leading company in the alternative sweetener market, and it started its development with “Beksul Xylose Sugar” using xylose,

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which reduces the absorption of sugar in human bodies. Last year, it developed a technology that can mass-produce allulose, which tastes 70 percent as sweet as sugar but has only five percent of the calories. Breaking away from the old way of dieting that had only two options - starving or only eating vegetables - new healthy eating options are diverse with the development of substitutes.

*Ketones: Unlike fatty acids, ketones can cross the blood-brain barrier and provide energy for your brain in the absence of glucose.

*Grass-fed: Grass-fed beef comes from cattle that eat nothing but grass and forage for their entire lives.

*Non-GMO: Non-GMO products are produced without genetic engineering and their ingredients are not derived from GMOs.

*Clean label: Clean label is a consumer term that has been broadly accepted by the food industry, consumers, academics, and regulatory agencies.

📍 Cause 2

MZ Generation, the Game Players Who Get Gratification on Social Media

Where did the trend of “achievements and rewards in competition with others” stem from? Korea’s social media (SNS) utilization rate has reached 89 percent, nearly twice the world average, and the second in the whole world. As SNS usage rates have increased more than ever, a new era has arrived, where young people publicly prove their self-management on social media. In other words, gamification can be seen as a trend affected by the characteristics of the MZ generation, where people gain motivation by proving their activities through SNS to have fun and be recognized by other users. “O-ha-woon,” which is a Korean abbreviation meaning “workout for today,” is one such example. O-ha-woon is a newly coined term among the MZ generation, who has increased their interest in self-management such as through health care and exercising. It is also one of the representative exercise hashtags of the current generation. If one of the readers searches for the hashtag #O-ha-woon



▲ “O-ha-woon” is a new trend to post one’s daily workout on social media.



▲ Miracle Morning is a challenge spreading among young people to get up early and spend hours on self-improvement.

on Instagram, one would see more than 10,000 posts with the hashtag. With the prolonged COVID-19 situation, the current generation is using this to relieve restrictions on external activities, gain a sense of accomplishment or self-esteem, or relieve depression through exercise. It is not just a trend to make exercise plans alone and keep them, but to prove publicly, share, and maximize one’s accomplishment by using O-ha-woon.

In addition, some readers may have witnessed the new trend, Miracle Morning challenge, where people wake up early in the morning and practice self-development routines such as exercise and reading books, and eventually share their routines through YouTube vlogs or Instagram. Also, uploading one’s Body Profile on Instagram is emerging as a new trend. Once considered as exclusive

for bodybuilders and professional athletes, posting a body profile picture is a newly appearing trend in Korea. It is considered as a means to leave one’s most wonderful moments in a photo. Lee Tae-kwon, CEO of TAG1 Studio, emphasized the characteristics of the generation who likes to prove their accomplishments on SNS and share them with others. He also added, “In fact, it is not an exaggeration to say that more than 90 percent of people in their 20s and 30s who take body profile pictures are doing it because of SNS.” This characteristic of the MZ generation has transformed health care into a fun activity that can be done together, not a boring part of daily life that should be done all alone.

📍 Cause 3

Sleep Connected Directly to Mental Health

According to the “Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service’s disease” statistics, the number of people who visited hospitals for insomnia surged by more than 140,000 from 2012 to 2016. Quality sleep is directly related to health for modern people suffering from insomnia under endless physical and psychological stimuli. ASMR stands for Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response and refers to psychological stability or pleasure that appears mainly in response to visual, auditory, tactile, olfactory, or cognitive stimuli. ASMR, which is used to induce sleep or for psychological stability, is another trend that the MZ generation has been leading.



▲ ASMR helps people to get mental stability and have a good night sleep.



▲ Calm is an application helping users to meditate.

According to statistics released in 2020 by single creator statistics service Knox influencer, YouTubers who uploaded ASMR videos from 2016 to 2020 are on course to get at least 2.5 million subscribers. As readers can see from the case above, it is becoming important to find a sense of mental stability by maximizing auditory, visual, and tactile satisfaction for high-quality sleep. Unlike in the past, when people repeatedly said that they must have a healthy lifestyle to have quality sleep, the current generation prioritizes high-quality sleep that can be achieved only when they meet their mental satisfaction at the same time.

The trend of pursuing high-quality sleep is a trend that reflects the MZ generation's tendency to value mental health. The spread of the Corona Blues caused by the pandemic has highlighted the importance of mental health management for a happy life. Therefore, the number of users of psychotherapy and meditation apps such as "Calm" and "Headspace" is rapidly increasing. The application Calm, which has been downloaded by more than 100 million people, is attracting users with meditation and sleep-inducing music recorded by famous singers and programs where users can talk with NBA star players for mental health. In this way, mental health management, in addition to physical health, is becoming more important. This is why the MZ generation has been spending their money so generously on sleep, which is directly connected to mental health. The current generation's attempt to manage both physical and mental health by making way for small bouts of happiness

in daily life, such as pursuing high-quality sleep and eating delicious meals, has created a new trend called "Healthy Pleasure."

Prospect 1

A New Wind Blowing in the Food Industry

The healthy pleasure trend, which gives consumers a variety of options, has promoted new attempts in the food industry. Drinking alcohol has been considered as one of the biggest enemies of health care. Recently, however, demand for premium makgeolli* made of healthy ingredients without artificial sweeteners is gradually increasing in Korea. Makgeolli without aspartame, an additive component with side effects such as causing cancer and worsening diabetes, is popular for its natural taste and smell, as it is made in a traditional way using only rice, yeast, and water. The growth of the non-alcoholic beverage market in Japan also shows the global trend of health pleasure. From 2016 to 2021, the Japanese non-alcoholic liquor market grew 13 percent in five years. In China, "Peong-keo-yang-sung" is also emerging as a characteristic of the younger generation. This new term, a combination of "Peong-keo" and "yang-



▲ Premium makgeolli is getting popular with no harmful ingredients.



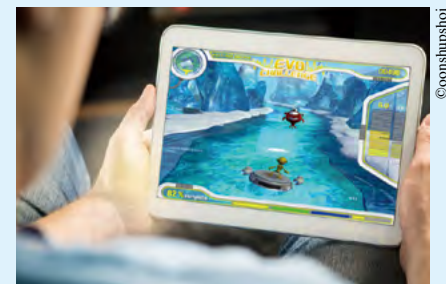
▲ In Japan, non-alcoholic beverages are popular among young people.

sung," means people who enjoy their lives but also actively manage their health by purchasing delicious healthy foods that will protect some small happiness in their lives.

*makgeolli: Makgeolli, sometimes anglicized to makkoli, is a Korean alcoholic beverage.

Prospect 2

Changing Society Using the Good Influences of Games



▲ Evo is a digital treatment for children who are suffering from ADHD.

Games, which have been perceived as harmful to health, are no longer avoided. The era of doctors prescribing "game drugs" (digital treatments) instead of drugs has arrived. "COVID-19, which triggered a society with less social interchanges, provided an opportunity for companies as well as individuals to feel the positive effects of gamification," said Gabe Zickerman, CEO of Gamification Co., in an interview with Economy Chosun. As social exchanges become more limited and the motivation that the current generation can gain is reduced, game-type self-management consisting of interest, achievement, reward, and competition is getting a huge spotlight.

Since research has shown some beneficial effects of games on the brain, game treatments for mental illness are also being developed. Digital therapy (DTx), which means medicine using digital technology, treats patients by making them participate in games through smartphone applications, virtual reality (VR), or advanced software programs using artificial

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▲ Application Reset treats drug addicts with playing games.

intelligence (AI). Since it does not work inside the body, the possibility of side effects is low. Also, it can be conveniently distributed simultaneously to numerous patients through apps. Since it is software, development and production costs can also be lower than those of actual drugs. “Evo,” a game developed by game developer Akili Interactive, is aimed at improving patients’ attention by controlling alien characters as a treatment for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Breaking away from the prejudice that “games are bad for your health,” the era where games treat people has now come.



Sleeptech, a Rising Market

Modern people’s efforts to manage their mental health are becoming diverse, such as relieving mental stress through quality sleep, meditation, and gaining confidence through SNS sharing.



▲ Developing sleeptech helps people to have a quality sleep with devices or IT technology.

Accordingly, following the growth of sleepomics, where people generously invest in bedding and sleeping products, “sleep tech,” is rising. “Sleeptech” is a new rising market which combines developing IT technology with the sleeping industry. Sleeptech refers to technology used to analyze a user’s sleep status through information and communication, Internet of Things*, and big data, and to help users sleep well based on the data. There are a variety of products that help one’s quality of sleep, by attaching them to surrounding wearable objects such as smart watches, rings, headbands, and pillows, or apps that analyze users’ sleep time depending on their wake-up time. Representatively, Samsung Electronics, Apple’s Smart Watch, and LG U+’s U+ Sleep Notification are examples of sleep-tech growth. “The size of the sleep market tends to be proportional to the country’s economic and technological



▲ Sleeptech is newly rising sleepomics with developed technology.

power,” said Jo Jae-sung, Sales Division Leader of mattress company “One-third.” It is expected that the technological competition to lead in the next-generation sleep industry market will increase.

*Internet of Things: Internet of Things is a system connected to the Internet to collect, control, and manage information by mounting sensors and processors on objects

The days of locking yourself up with the saying, “No pain, no gain” are over. It is anachronistic to isolate yourself for self-management or to restrain yourself painfully from small pleasures. From eating what you want, doing what you want, to resting when you want, MZ Generation’s new way to care for themselves through “healthy pleasure” has spread to the world. How would it feel if health care was not for others, but for “fun”? If some of the readers ever feel like giving up on their health, let’s eat low-calorie ice cream and get it back together.

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Imagination and Reality: A Fantastic Date with Salvador Dalí

By **Kim Ye-ji**
Staff Reporter of Culture Section

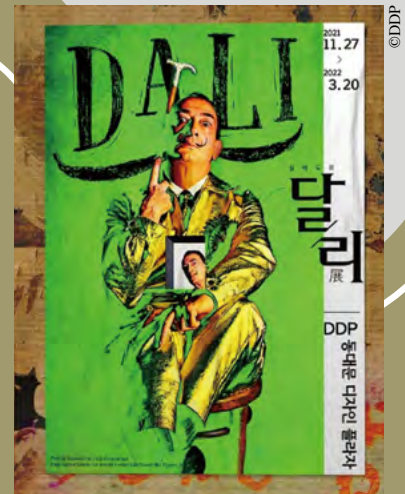
Let's go back to elementary art class for a moment. While listening to some boring theories of art, a picture – a clock flowing down on a desk and on branches – suddenly stands out. It seems as if the scene existed on the boundary between imagination and reality. The name of the picture is, as most students already know, “The Persistence of Memory” painted by Salvador Dalí. Salvador Dalí and his artworks are widely known to the public as they give some unique experiences to appreciators where they can see the images in his unconsciousness. The Argus visited Salvador Dalí's art exhibition “Imagination and Reality” in actual time and is going to let readers feel the beauty of unlimited expressions by looking into Salvador Dalí's life.

What is Surrealism?

Surrealism is a period in art history and a genre of art that pursues the realm of dreams and the unconscious. This concept was originated from poet Guillaume Apollinaire in 1917, and later was well-defined by the French poet Andre Breton. Surrealism appreciates a dreamland which is not ruled by reasoning and logic.

Who is Salvador Dalí?

- Birth: May 11, 1904
- Nationality: Spain
- Trend: Surrealism
- Quotation: A master of surrealism who left as his dictum “Surrealism is who I am.”



▲ From November 2021 to March 2022, Salvador Dalí art exhibition “Imagination and Reality” is held in DDP.

Culture Trip

On the Way to Go See Salvador Dali



▲ On the right side of DDP exit 1, visitors can see Museum 1 building.

From DDP station (Dongdaemun Design Plaza) Exit 1, Seoul, visitors can see the building *Museum 1* on the right. By the time the exhibition starts at around 10 a.m., there are often a lot of people who are waiting to enter. So, readers might want to be aware of the waiting system of the exhibition. After a moment in the crowd of those who are waiting to appreciate Dali's works, visitors can make their entrance by checking their QR codes and tickets. For more detailed explanations about the artworks, visitors can also buy an audio guide through the website popping up as they scan their QR codes in front of the gate.

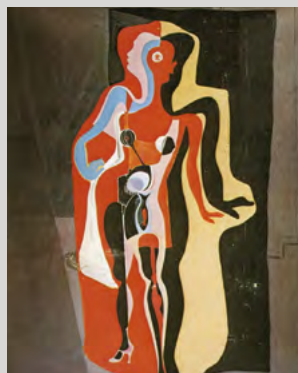
First Meeting with Salvador Dali

Looking into Dali's Childhood

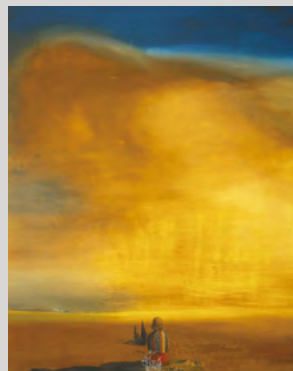
The exhibition starts with the childhood of Salvador Dali. On May 11, 1904, Dali was born in Figueres, Spain. He lived with his father, mother, and little sister who was four years younger than him. His little sister often became a model in his artworks. Dali especially liked to enjoy a vacation in Cadaques, a small city of Spain, and the memory in Cadaques greatly affected his art world. Among his works, visitors can see an interview video of Dali. "I always had to prove that I was a completely different being than my brother who died before I was born." What is this all about? In fact, the name



▲ In his childhood, Dali was interested in Impressionism.



▲ Dali was affected by Picasso and became interested in Cubism.



▲ "Sugar Sphinx" shows Gala's back in a wide grassland.



▲ "Gala's Foot" is a picture showing Gala holding her foot high up in the air.

"Salvador Dali" was given to his older brother, who died nine months before Dali was born. Dali's parents, who were in great misery, constantly tried to reflect the dead son against Dali and Dali pretended to be a genius to separate himself from his dead brother.

Dali's role model was Picasso, a cubist who is quite well-known. Dali visited Paris to meet Picasso, and on one side of the wall, there are words that Dali said when he met Picasso in real-time "When I first met him, I was so excited that I cried 'I came to meet you even before I visit The Louvre!'" Although Dali was interested in Impressionist art in his childhood, he started to pursue Cubism, affected by Picasso.

Hearing the Story of "Gala," the Muse of Dali

In 1929, Gala visited Dali's house with her husband for the first time and fell in love with Dali, who appeared to be attractive and versatile. Eventually in 1934, Gala decided to marry Dali who was 10 years younger than her, leaving behind her husband and daughter. Just for Dali, she appointed herself to be an artwork dealer and the model for Dali's works. After the death of Gala in 1982, Dali went through severe depression. Visitors can identify his love Gala in the works "Sugar Sphinx" (1933), which shows the back of Gala who stares at a wide grassland, or "Gala's Foot" (1974), which shows Gala who is smiling at Dali holding her foot high up in the air. Their solid relationship can be seen through the numerous portraits of Gala and a number of Gala's symbols repeated in Dali's works. He even turned his signature into "Gala Salvador Dali," which shows his true love for Gala.

Hearing to Dali's Dream of Last Night

The third section of the exhibition is composed of Salvador Dali's works based on his dreams. Dali considered that he could perfectly express his unconsciousness only in dreams and illusions. He belonged to the "Surrealism group," in which some surrealist artists of the period gathered with a common cause. In 1929, he held his first solo exhibition in Paris; and the pioneer of surrealism, Andre Breton, wrote



▲ "The Persistence of Memory" is one of Dalí's most representative artworks.



▲ "Jump roping girl" is an objet which frequently appears in Dalí's works.



▲ The illustrations Dalí drew in "Alice in Wonderland" was most responsive from the public.



▲ "An Andalusian Dog" is a movie Dalí and his friend Louis created together.

the preface for Dalí. One of his most representative works "The Persistence of Memory" was also created in this period. "Shadows of the Vanishing Night," which was created in 1931, shows a dark shadow coming to the clear sky and this seems to reflect his anxiety because his wife Gala was sick at that time. Beside the picture, there is the famous quotation of Dalí: "If I could choose, I would rather live in dreams for 22 hours a day, and only be awake for the remaining two hours."

Next, there are some explanations about the techniques Dalí used in his works. He used "automatic description" and "paranoiac critic" in his pictures such as "The Persistence of Memory," and "Dream Caused by the Flight of a Bee around a Pomegranate a Second before Waking." In short, it is a technique that follows one's unconsciousness but critically describes the fantasy world at the same time. Dalí consciously drew the images existing in unconsciousness and tried to change dreams and imagination into reality through hyper-realistic expressions. On one side of the wall, there are some *objets** frequently used in Salvador Dalí's works. Dalí had used shoes as an *objet* for most of his life, saying, "It is an *objet* that implies the most realistic virtues." In addition, he also used unique *objets* such as crutches, ants, and a girl jumping rope.

*Objet. *Objet* is a small object that is artistically valued

Listening to the Story of Salvador Dalí's New Steps

The fourth section of the exhibition consists of contents about Dalí's new steps toward the world, which might be unfamiliar to the public. After World War II, Dalí fled to the United States for eight years. However, his commercial moves, bizarre personality, and frequent conflicts with his acquaintances isolated him from the surrealist group that he had belonged before. Later, he began to enter a new phase, such as designing stages, collaborating with film directors, or working on illustrations of literary works.

As the visitors see that Salvador Dalí also designed the stage and costumes for his favorite opera "Tristan and Isolde," they can appreciate the movie "An Andalusian Dog," which he

directed with his friend Louis Bunuel. It includes some cruel and bizarre scenes, such as cutting a woman's eyeball with a knife or gathering a huge number of ants. The scenes were all based on his friend Bunuel's own dreams and Dalí said, "It was an attempt to break the existing cinema pretending to be noble and intelligent." Leaving the movie booth, visitors can investigate Dalí's new challenge when he stepped into book and magazine cover design in the 1920s. Dalí drew illustrations for classical literature in his own style, which was not quite popular at the time. The illustrations included in "Hamlet," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," some other Shakespeare's plays, "Don Quixote" written by Cervantes, and a romantic satirical novel, "Triangle Hat," are some of the most popular ones. The series of "Alice in Wonderland" was the most well-received. He also worked as a graphic designer with his unique style, such as using an air gun filled with paint and sticking bread to a hermit crab to use as a sponge.

Listening to the Story of Salvador Dalí, Nostalgic about His Hometown

The fifth section of the exhibition shows the return of Salvador Dalí to his hometown, Fortigart, where he spent most of his childhood. Dalí had rediscovered the familiar landscape of Fortigart and combined it with his interest in science and religion to create new works.

Passing by the works depicting Fortigart in a new style, visitors can watch the animated movie, "Destino," created by Dalí in collaboration with Disney. It shows a fresh attempt to present a cartoon character in live-action backgrounds, but it was left incomplete contrary to his expectations. The film, which was later completed in 2003, features a young girl and the god of time, Chronos.

Salvador Dalí Explains the Misunderstandings around Him

The sixth section of the exhibition displays Dalí's interest in logic, mathematics, and science. He investigated paranoid and critical interpretations against objects and four-dimensional



▲ Dalí collaborated with Disney and made an animation movie "Destino."



▲ Stereoscopy is a technology that places a mirror between two similar but slightly different paintings.



▲ Dalí reinterpreted Michelangelo's statue in his own style.

interpretations such as "stereoscopy"* and "holography."* Stereoscopy is a technology that places a mirror between two similar but slightly different paintings, overlaps the two paintings so that viewers can experience a three-dimensional space of the painting. On the wall, there are some Dalí quotations: "It is possible to think more freely when you systematically create confusion," and "Anything that is contradictory creates a new life."

*Stereoscopy: Stereoscopy is a technology that causes 3D illusion.

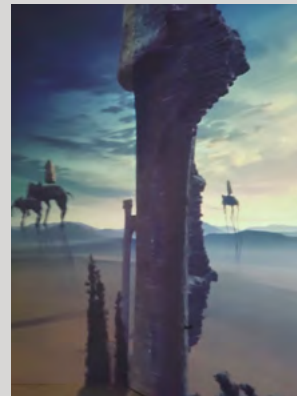
*Holography: Holography is a technology used to record and reproduce stereoscopic information with the phenomenon where two lenses meet and combine light.

Looking at Salvador Dalí's New Interpretation of the Masters' Works

The last section includes Dalí's reinterpretation of the masters' works. Dalí praised the art masters while reinterpreting and presenting their works. Among some reinterpretations, on top of the reinterpretation of Velazquez's portrait, there is a quotation from Dalí. "First, learn how to paint like the art masters. After that, do what you want. And everyone would admire you," visitors can see works that Dalí reinterpreted, such as a Michelangelo statue and Velazquez's portrait in his own style.

Goodbye to Salvador Dalí

At the end of the exhibition, appreciators can watch a video of "Dalí's Dream" that was specially produced by the Dalí Exhibition Space Montmartre in Florida, U.S.A. In addition, visitors can take pictures in a room depicting the face of Hollywood actress Mae West, who attracted Dalí's attention. It is a work that embodies her eyes, nose, and mouth with a frame and a fireplace in the room. It indicates how interested Dalí was in Mae West.



▲ In last part of the exhibition, a graphic video using Dalí's works is on screen.



▲ Getting out of the exhibition, there is a room that Dalí made giving shape to Mae West, a Hollywood actress.

Cha Wan, a 28-year-old woman who visited the exhibition, said in an interview that "I felt like I was walking in a dream while enjoying the whole collection. In particular, the video based on Dalí's works made me feel like I'm dreaming together with Dalí." "If I could choose, I would rather live in dreams for 22 hours a day, and only be awake for the remaining two hours." Salvador Dalí was an artist who only felt complete freedom in dreams and illusions. As what he said, The Argus hopes readers will find a way to express their ideals freely, releasing themselves from certain limitations or paradigms. 📺

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Naked Architectures: Hidden Science

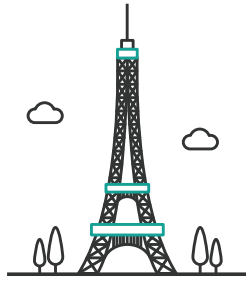
By **Lim Se-jin**

Associate Editor of Theory & Critique Section

In March 2022, the box office hit “Eiffel,” which was released in France last year, will be released in Korea. “Eiffel” is a film showing the completion of the Eiffel Tower and the fateful love of genius architect Gustave Eiffel, who designed famous structures such as the Eiffel Tower, the Statue of Liberty, and the Panama Canal. However, the teaser poster, which includes the appearance of the huge Eiffel Tower on the banks of the Seine River in Paris, raises questions among those who saw it. How could the gigantic Eiffel Tower last for a long time without collapsing?

To construct high-rise buildings such as the Eiffel Tower, build solid bridges that withstand strong winds, and erect structures that survive earthquakes, various scientific and mathematical thoughts and knowledge must be integrated. Therefore, The Argus will lead the readers to reconsider ordinary architectural creations and to examine various construction techniques and materials from a fresh, scientific, and mathematical perspective. The Argus introduces various principles hidden in structures by dividing construction materials into iron, wood, and stone, and aims to dig into science and mathematics in the interesting architecture world with readers.

Caduceus



The Symbol of Paris, the Towering Eiffel Tower

In 1889, 134 years ago, a huge steel tower was built in Paris, France. Despite criticisms that filled the newspaper and the raw and strong expressions of a “giant ungainly skeleton,” the steel tower, which was firmly built, has now become a famous landmark in France. Although it had to endure harsh criticism for damaging the city aesthetics at the time of construction the Eiffel Tower has become a symbol of Paris and has led some people to wonder what design principles are hidden in its beauty?

The Iron Revolution

At the time when the Eiffel Tower was built, the technologies or materials to support heavy buildings were not ample, so the heavier the building materials, the more difficult it was to produce a higher building. Then why was iron not used as a building material before the Eiffel Tower was built? Kim Jang-hoon, a professor at Ajou University's Department of Architecture, explained the reason as follows. “Iron had already appeared in Greek and Roman society, but there was a limit to its use in all areas of life because it required high-

temperature heat to process the iron and could only be produced in small quantities.”

However, in the 19th century, when the Eiffel Tower was built, the use of coal enabled mass processing of iron, so iron began to be used as a building material in earnest. Professor Kim said, “It was a turning point in the history of architecture for iron to start being used in the 19th century when stone was the main building material. At that time, iron was not a new material, but thanks to improved iron technology, thinner and stronger structures could be made, indicating the possibility of building huge structures.” At the time when iron-based architectures were just being introduced, Eiffel had big dreams of building the highest structure in Paris using a material called iron that was much stronger than stone. As a result, he successfully built the Eiffel Tower, a huge metal structure of 324 meters.

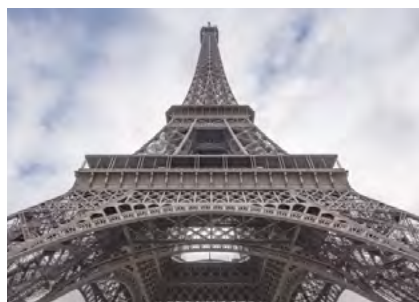
Biomimetics

Eiffel got the idea from a human bone while thinking a lot about the weight distribution of the Eiffel Tower. In those days, he analyzed structural advantages through the femur,* which has the thickest and hardest structure among the human skeleton. Through this process, he found that because the femur is closely connected around the joints, it quickly distributes the force received from the top and bottom to the surrounding joints and plays a role in maintaining the stability and balance of the body. Based on this fact, Eiffel designed the weight of about 10,000 tons of the Eiffel Tower to

move naturally to four legs on the floor, modeled after the curve of the femur. The Eiffel Tower, built by the principle of an ergonomic structure, demonstrates an excellent artistic sense by securing balanced stability against loads and using beautiful curves at the same time. Would this not somehow make the Eiffel Tower look like a bone?

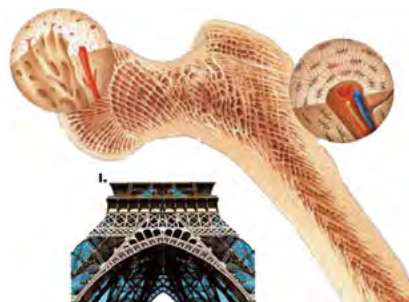
Just as bone curves were used in the construction of the Eiffel Tower, creating new technologies by imitating the behavior or structure of living things or the material they create is called biomimetics. Min Tae-gee, a hydrodynamicist at S&H Co. Ltd that produces precision parts for turbo engines in automobiles, explained that biomimetics came to overcome the limitations of traditional engineering solutions, saying, “Since human creativity alone makes it difficult to make something out of nothing, this technology was created in the sense of learning about the appearance or function of nature and adaptations to the surrounding environment for a long time.” Through this, we can realize that nature provides valuable hints to humans. If we listen to the sounds of nature, in the future, amazing structures that succeeded the wisdom and inspiration of nature will be able to be created.

*Femur: It is a long bone in the upper part of the leg.



▲ This tower is formed by over 18,000 pieces of wrought iron.

©Kakao



▲ The load carried by the joint around the femur is off-centre and this off-centre load distribution is also seen in the Eiffel Tower.

©Eternal Vigilance



Embracing the Golden Ratio of the Orient, Muryangsujeon Hall of Buseoksa Temple

Trees are rarely preserved for a long time because they are worn out faster than iron and stone and are prone to catching fire. Therefore, wooden buildings built during the Goryeo Dynasty from 918 to 1392 are currently the oldest wooden buildings

in Korea. Among them, Muryangsujeon Hall of Buseoksa Temple in Yeongju, a city just over 200km south of Seoul, is considered one of the representative wooden structures with Goryeo style. Muryangsujeon Hall of Buseoksa Temple, designated as National Treasure No.18, looks simple at first glance, but on a closer view, it reflects scientific techniques. Now let us consider Goryeo's outstanding wooden construction technologies through Muryangsujeon Hall.

The Second Oldest Wooden Structure in Korea

According to “*Samguk yusa*,” written by Buddhist monk Iryeon, Muryangsujeon Hall of Buseoksa Temple, located on the hillside of Bonghwangsan Mountain, was built by Buddhist monk Uisang by royal order in 676 (the 16th year of the reign of King Munmu of the Silla Dynasty). Afterward, in the early Goryeo Dynasty, National Preceptor Wonyung conducted a large rebuilding project. Unfortunately, the hall was burnt down during the war in 1358 (the 7th year of King Gongmin's reign) but was reconstructed in 1376 (the 2nd year of King U's reign). Muryangsujeon Hall was built at this time.

In Muryangsujeon Hall of Buseoksa Temple, Zelkova trees were used as building materials. Zelkova trees grow thickly in almost all parts of Korea and were also shade trees located at the entrance of towns in the past. Therefore, these trees have long been loved by Koreans, as they have been regarded as friendly trees along with pine trees.



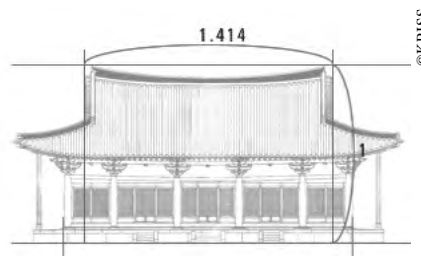
▲ Buseoksa is a home to five National Treasures of South Korea which include a stone lantern (No. 17), the Muryangsujeon Hall (No. 18), the Josadang Hall (No. 19), a seated clay statue of Amitabha Buddha (No. 45), and the wall painting in Josadang Hall (No. 46).

Among 60 old-growth and giant trees over 1,000 years old in Korea, 25 are zelkova trees, so their lifespan is longer than other trees. In addition, zelkova woods with fine and glossy texture are solid and have a property that keeps them from rotting easily. At the same time, they are resistant to pests and have a beautiful pattern thanks to their unique arrangements that clearly distinguish the size of vessels inside them. In short, they are the “emperor of trees” which have all the advantages that trees must have. Therefore, zelkova trees made for very useful wood considering the characteristic of the pillars that inevitably became wet on the lower part due to rain and wind throughout the rainy season.

The Beautiful Ratio of the Orient: Geumgang Ratio

The golden ratio in the West of 1:1.618 is widely known as the most beautiful ratio in morphological design and has been largely applied in the fields of Western arts and architecture. However, the golden ratio is not only used in the West. There is also a ratio that was considered ideal in the East, including Korea and China. It is $1:\sqrt{2}$; that is, 1:1.414, the “Geumgang ratio.” The value of the Geumgang ratio is the length of a diagonal across a square with sides of one unit of length. In other words, when the horizontal and vertical length of the square is one, respectively, the length of the diagonal line is $\sqrt{2}$, and from this principle, the Geumgang ratio was born.

Many structures in Korea also used



▲ Muryangsujeon Hall of Buseoksa Temple forms the Geumgang ratio of 1:1.414 with a horizontal and vertical ratio to the height of the ridge * based on the floor surface.

this ratio, and Muryangsujeon Hall of Buseoksa Temple is a typical example. Muryangsujeon Hall of Buseoksa Temple forms the Geumgang ratio of 1:1.414 with a horizontal and vertical ratio to the height of the ridge* based on the floor surface. Joo Soo-wan, an assistant professor at Woosuk University's Department of Global Marketing and Trade, who works as an expert member of the Cultural Heritage Administration, explained that as a space optimized for humans was created, surprisingly, the structure was built close to the Geumgang ratio. “At the time when Muryangsujeon Hall of Buseoksa Temple was built, the theory of adjusting the horizontal and vertical ratios to the Geumgang ratio had not previously been applied to architectural design.” In this way, our ancestors actively utilized the beauty of the Geumgang ratio in structures. Is it any wonder that the Geumgang ratio, the most balanced and ideal ratio for humans to recognize, can be found in Goryeo's structure built 1400 years ago?

*The height of the ridge: It means the maximum vertical distance between the natural ground level and the finished roof height directly above.



The Masterpiece Created by Sunlight and Geometry, the Taj Mahal

The Indian poet Rabindranāth Tagore called the Taj Mahal a “teardrop on the cheek of time.” It remains a testament to the grief of an emperor. The Taj Mahal was built between 1631 and 1648 by the Mughal* emperor Shah Jahan to immortalize his wife Mumtaz Mahal, who died in childbirth in 1631, having been the emperor's inseparable

Caduceus

companion since their marriage in 1612. Now it remains one of the world's most celebrated structures and a stunning symbol of India's rich history.

*Mughal: It is a Muslim empire that was founded in 1526 and ruled for over two centuries, controlling much of India and at times extending into parts of what are now Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh.

A Marble Structure

An English poet, Sir Edwin Arnold describes the Taj Mahal as *“Not a piece of architecture, as other buildings are, but the proud passions of an emperor’s love wrought in living stones.”* Reflecting on this, the reason why the Taj Mahal is in the spotlight as one of the world's best buildings is thanks to the mysterious Makrana marble surrounding the building. Makrana marble reflects light according to the angle of the Sun and emits various colors in different hours, creating visual marvels for viewers.

Makrana marble was mined in the town of Makrana in Rajasthan, India from the 7th century B.C. This marble is characterized not only as being the best quality in the world due to its amazing strength but also for having a very low water absorption rate because it contains 98 percent calcium carbonate. By the

way, what is the relationship between calcium carbonate and water absorption? Calcium carbonate is a compound that combines carbonate ions which are insoluble in water and calcium ions. The force of attraction between carbonate and calcium ions is greater than the force acting between these ions and water molecules. In other words, since carbonate and calcium ions are very tightly bonded, calcium carbonate does not dissolve well in water and is not easily corroded even in rain.

The Beauty of Symmetry Based on Geometry

The Taj Mahal is perfectly symmetrical from any direction. In particular, the Bageecha garden, which was designed in the classical char bagh* style of the Mughal Empire, is based on geometry. Geometry is a study with strong mathematical elements of shapes and spaces, and thus the garden began to properly distribute water flow through the land after the flooding of the Nile River in ancient Egypt. Reflecting the concepts of geometry being used to measure the terrain, the garden has the characteristic of using elements of lines and faces.

The huge square-shaped Bageecha in the char bagh style has a pond at the intersection of the center of the garden and is largely divided into four parts along the waterway and road. Here, each space of the garden is divided into four parts again. Thus 16 square gardens are in this large square. The reason why the entire and detailed spaces are all squares is to maximize the visual effect by making them perfectly symmetrical based on geometry. The Taj Mahal, where the architectural styles and technologies of Islamic civilizations such as India, Persia, and Turkey are in harmony, was designated as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site in 1983. Also, UNESCO describes the site as *“the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world’s heritage.”* As it is said that the beauty of cultural heritage comes from people who see and enjoy it, when readers understand the principles of the Taj Mahal and enjoy it, this cultural heritage will truly shine, just like Makrana marble.

*Char bagh: It means the four gardens, indicating the garden of heaven.



▲ Makrana marble is a type of white marble, popular for use in sculpture and building decoration.



▲ Number three shows the Bageecha garden. The entire garden is divided into four parts, with two marble canals studded with fountains crossing in the center. In each quarter portion, there are 16 flowerbeds that have been divided by stone-paved raised pathways.

When everyday life seems to lack excitement, how about looking at buildings that can always be seen on the road while passing by from a slightly different perspective? Like the legend of the Tower of Babel, which was built for the purpose of ascending to the sky, it has been a long-standing dream of humans to build tall and colorful structures. For this, humans have utilized the best knowledge of the time to overcome various natural laws and to construct buildings of a desired shape. As a result, there are now various buildings around us developed by numerous engineers and scientists from the past to the present. Through this, it can be confirmed that architecture is the result of intellectual exploration that goes beyond simply *building*. The Argus hopes that readers will have time to think about the hidden principles of science and mathematics in buildings and about spaces that have been inadvertently overlooked, and also hopes that they will feel the power of architecture and impression of spaces. 📖

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R-Rated Election



만 18세 이상
투표권
하향 조정

By Shin Jun-seo

Associate Editor of Social Section

An election is the most important event in a democratic country, especially in a representative democratic country which elects a representative to form an administration or national assembly. Elections are a way for citizens to express their political intentions, by selecting their representatives by themselves and allowing these representatives to work for them during their tenures.

Recently, however, a number of interesting news stories concerning South Korea's upcoming presidential election have emerged. Through the revision of the Public Official Election Act, the voting age was lowered from 19 to 18 on Jan. 14, 2020, and the age limit for those running in general and local elections was drastically lowered from 25 to 18. The Argus reviews the Public Official Election Act, the significance and limitations of the recent revision which lowered the voting age and the candidacy age.



About the Public Official Election Act

The title of the “Act on the Election of Public Officials and the Prevention of Election Malpractices” was revised to the “Public Official Election Act” on August 4, 2005. Since then, the Public Official Election Act has aimed to ensure that elections taking place under the Constitution and the Local Government Act are carried out fairly through the free will of the people and democratic procedures.

It was from the Constitution enacted in 1948 that Korea began to limit the age of voting rights and the right to be elected through the Public Official Election Act. In the case of the candidacy age, it was limited to 25 years old, but was raised to 35 and 30 in 1958 and 1960 by the House of Councilors* and remained 25 until now after it was lowered in 1965.

In the case of voting rights, citizens aged 21 or older were granted the right to vote under the “Presidential and Vice-Presidential Election Act” and the “National Assembly Election Act” from the first constitution of Korea to the second amendment in 1952. Since then to the third constitutional amendment in 1960, the voting age has been lowered to 20. According to Professor Lee Jae-mook of the Department of Political Science and Diplomacy at HUFs, “The social background that led to the revision was the fact that in addition to college students, various other groups of young people played a huge role in the democratic revolution such as the April 19 Revolution against the March 15 electoral fraud.”

In 2005, Article 15 of the Public Official Election Act was amended to “A national of 19 years of age or older shall have the right to vote in elections of the President and members of the National Assembly,” lowering the voting age to 19 after 45 years. Professor Lee explained the cause of the amendment, saying, “About 2004, the adult standard under civil law was adjusted to 19, so it was natural for adults aged 19 or older to be given political rights.” On July 25, 2013, the Constitutional Court, which reviewed the legitimacy of the Public Official Election Act, which limits the age of voting rights to 19 or older, decided the law is legitimate saying, “As educational opportunities expand and the overall

level of consciousness of the people has improved, citizens who reach the age of 19 who graduated from high school also have the ability to bear the rights and obligations as adults and have the ability to make political judgments on their own.” Since then, further lowering the voting age has been discussed, but it has not been done for a while as debates on whether minors can make political judgments continued.

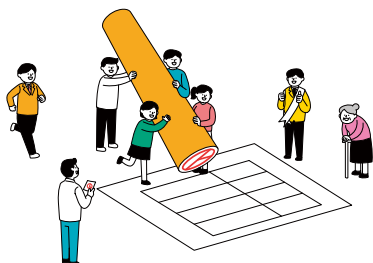
*House of Councilors: The Senate Congress that formed the bicameral system under the First and Second Republics.



The Background of Lowering Voting Age and Age of Candidacy

On December 27, 2019, the National Assembly passed an amendment to the Public Official Election Act, which lowered the voting age from 19 to 18, allowing senior high school students to vote. The lowering of the voting age was adjusted 15 years after the revision of the Public Official Election Act in 2005. Supporters and opponents of the revision have been sharply opposed in their opinions regarding the granting to minors of the right to vote; and those in favor of lowering the voting age have stressed that doing so can follow the global trend, expand basic rights of democracy, and overcome the problems of representative democracy. On the other hand, opponents have argued against it based on the Constitutional Court’s precedent on July 25, 2013, saying, “It is difficult to say that 18-year-old voters have mental and physical autonomy to make independent political judgments, and the voting age under the Public Official Election Act should be considered with various unusual circumstances.”

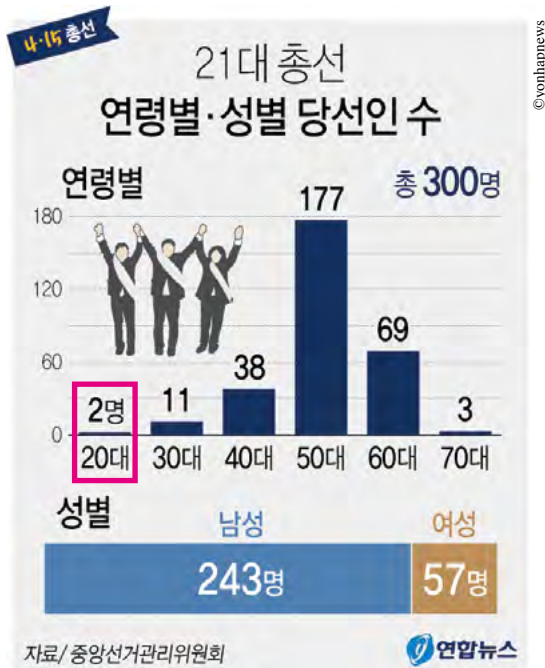
Despite the intense debate, the 20th National Assembly addressed the revision of the Public Official Election Act, which lowered the voting age to 18. However, unlike the voting age, the candidacy age was not lowered, so young people aged 18 to 24 could only vote in the 21st National Assembly election and had no chance to run for office, having only half of suffrage rights. Finally, on December 28, 2021, the National Assembly’s Special Committee on Political Reform decided to amend the Public Official Election Act, lowering the candidacy age for participation in the election of the National Assembly, local councils, and local government heads from 25 to 18. As the voting age was granted from the age of 18, the revision was made to guarantee basic political rights and expand suffrage.





Significance of Lowering the Age of Voting and Candidacy Age

Resolving the Shortage of Representatives of the Rising Generation



▲ Korea lacks members representing the young generation.

The 21st National Assembly lacks members representing the young generation. According to data released by the Ministry of Public Administration and Security in April 2020, 113,662 voters (2.62 percent) were aged 18-19 and 6,796,623 voters (15.46 percent) were in their 20s. However, among the 21st National Assembly, there were only two members, Jeon Yong-gi of the Democratic Party born in 1991 and Ryu Ho-jung of the Justice Party born in 1992. In 2022, they are now all in their 30s. As such, Korea is one of the countries with extremely weak youth representation in Congress. The number of lawmakers under the age of 45 is 6.3 percent (based on the 21st National Assembly), ranking 143 out of 150 countries belonging to the International-Parliament Union (IPU). As such, due to the lack of representatives to represent the younger generation, there is a vicious cycle in which youth issues such as jobs, residence, and childbirth are not properly addressed in the National Assembly.

Byun Hyeon-jun, chairman of the Youth Justice Party's student council said, "It is very difficult for young

people to participate in politics due to institutional issues," expressing the difficulty of young people getting elected. Song Sung-min, a professor of the Social Education Department at Kangwon National University, said, "According to the IPU, it was confirmed that the number of young lawmakers increased as the candidacy age decreased," predicting that the number of young lawmakers would increase when the candidacy age is lowered to 18. The lowering of the voting and candidacy age will be the starting point for revitalizing youth politics.

Settling Discordance with the Social Adult Age

The age of enlistment, marriage, and application for civil service jobs under grade 8 are all 18 years old, but the discordance with the voting age which was 19 has continued. In Korea, 18 is an age when one is legally and socially treated as an adult and becomes eligible to participate in decisions affecting the future of society. Professor Lee said, "In 1971, when the Vietnam War was in full swing in the United States, the voting age was lowered from 21 to 18 under the 26th Amendment. The biggest reason was the contradiction that citizens obligated for national defense were excluded from those who have the right to vote," adding that it was an inevitable phenomenon to lower the voting age in South Korea.

It is an outdated way of thinking to exclude 18-year-olds from elections just because they are high school students. Cha Yoon-suh, an 18-year-olds student at GyeonggiBuk Science High School, welcomed the right to vote and to be elected, saying, "Voting will help us develop a sense of responsibility and mature citizenship."



▲ The revision settles discordance with the social adult age.

Changes in Line with Global Trends

As a result, the revision of the Public Official Election Act is of great significance in that it recognized adolescents as citizens and furthermore as citizens with political judgment to exercise their rights as voters by acquiring the right to vote. The revision is appropriate in that the need to change the voting age has been recognized in accordance with the global trend of



lowering the voting age, various social changes, and requests to expand the guarantee of basic political rights.

According to the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, among the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member countries, Korea was the only country which kept the 19-year-old standard in voting age after Japan lowered the 20-year-old voting age to 18 in 2015. And 21 out of 38 countries (55.3 percent) which have already joined the OECD as of November 2021, are setting their voting age to 18.

As such, it can be said that Korea has also granted suffrage to the young generation in line with the global trend. Professor Lee agreed, “Giving suffrage to the rising generation is consistent with the flow of the times by providing space and opportunities for students to establish their political views and values in a balanced manner during socialization.” Chairman Byun also said, “It was an appropriate change and there is no reason not to be able to lower the voting and candidacy age to 18.”



▲ Korea follows the global trends.



▲ Korean Federation of Teachers' Association protests against the revision of Public Official Election Act.

has been argued that doing so could conflict with the current system which emphasizes the political neutrality of schools, such as the Rules for the Public Educational Personnel and Staff Act. Some point out contradictions with other laws restricting youth political activities.

Professor Lee acknowledged such concerns, saying, “It is true that classrooms can be politicized and exposed to the political influence of teachers of certain ideological tendencies.” However, Professor Song said, “There were many concerns three years ago when the voting age was lowered, but there was not much confusion at the school level, thanks to efforts like distributing guidelines to the schools.” However, it should be noted that the controversy could repeat since there were certain events in 2019 when a progressive superintendent of education pushed for political activities such as mock elections in schools, but failed due to concerns that it could undermine the school’s political neutrality. Cha said, “When there is a student with a strong voice on campus, that student’s political views could affect other students, but I think this problem is not because of the revision.”

Young People Who Have a Hard Time Starting Political Activities

The Political Parties Act, which deals with political party membership and was very helpful for youth starting in politics, made 18 the age for political party membership. This made it difficult for teenagers who turned 18 on the actual election day to be nominated by a political party. To solve this problem, the National Assembly’s Special Committee on Political Reform passed a revision to the Political Parties Act on Jan. 5, 2022, lowering the age of political party membership from 18 to 16. The move was a follow-up to criticism that the age of political party membership should also be lowered as the revision to the Public Official Election Act was passed. This applies to the re-election and



Limitations

Possibility of Undermining the Political Neutrality of the Educational Environment

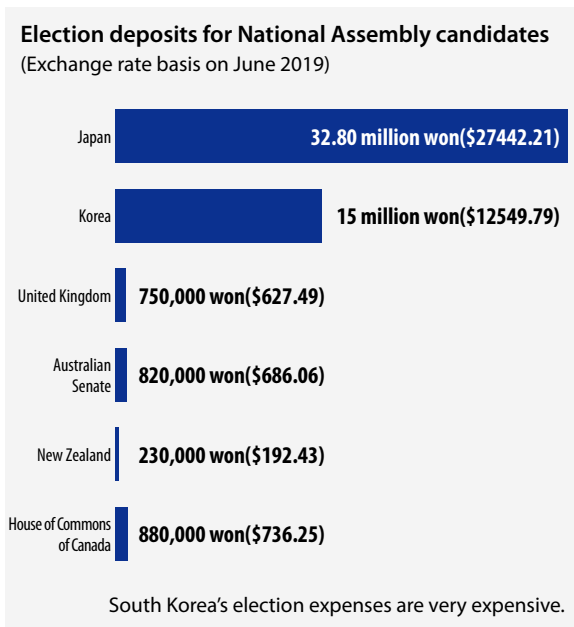
The expansion of youth suffrage is an agenda that has been steadily demanded by civic groups such as youth organizations. In 2019, the voting age was lowered from 19 to 18, but critical voices pointed out leaving the candidacy age to 19. As the amendment passed, restrictions on youth suffrage were lifted, but the education community is concerned that lowering the candidacy age could confuse the education field. It

by-election of the National Assembly held with the presidential election on March 9, as the revised laws are required to take effect immediately after promulgation.

However, there is a limitation in that minors must obtain consent from their legal representatives in the case of political expenditures necessary for election campaigns and when they join a political party. Chairman Byun said, “It is a shame that though all youth movements presuppose liberation from parental authority, minors still need to obtain consent from legal representatives,” expressing the concern that the government thinks politics is more harmful than computer games, which do not require consent from legal representatives.

Laws and Institutions that Cannot Support Youth Political Activities

Youths now have the opportunity to enter politics through the lowered candidacy age, but it is not easy to actually engage in political activities. Chairman Byun emphasized that it is very difficult for young people who do not have the money saved to run for office, saying, “South Korea is very difficult environment in which to raise political funds due to the strict Political Funds Act.” South Korea’s election expenses for the ward council elections are at least four million won (\$3333.90) and up to 20 million won (\$16669.51). Compensating election costs only when elected under the public financed electoral management or when the voting rate is more than 10 percent also makes young people hesitant to run. Although youths have opportunities to run for



office through the revision of the Political Parties Act, it may not mean much in the absence of practical financial support.

There are still many tasks left to accomplish to guarantee youth suffrage, such as youth campaigns under the age of 18, which are regulated by the Public Official Election Act, different from other democratic countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany which do not regulate youth election campaigns.

For the youth, suffrage does not just mean the right to enter the polling place. Suffrage refers to the power to participate in the formation of opinions and influence decisions of the political community to which they belong. So, being guaranteed political rights means being recognized as a real sovereign by the country and an equal fellow citizen by the society. On the contrary, the lack of suffrage means that it belongs to a group that does not have the right to enter, to be represented, or to speak out as a member of a society. From the perspective of politicians, youths who do not even have the right to vote are only social “ghosts” that are not even subject to consideration. Therefore, it can be said that the lowering of the voting and candidacy ages will have a significant impact on the development of youth suffrage. 🇰🇷



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Is Fair Trade Really FAIR?



By **Kim Jin-seo**

Staff Reporter of Social Section

How delicious are chocolates that cost 20,500 won (US\$17.08)? They might be considered luxurious chocolates, but it is the price of a package of fair trade chocolates. While the price for a pack of M&M's chocolates is 3,500 won (US\$2.93), the price for chocolates from Beautiful Coffee, a well-known Korean corporation that conducts fair trade, is 20,500 won (US\$17.08). The price of fair trade chocolate is so high that it cannot be easily compared to the price of chocolate sold in the general market. Until now, fair trade was considered as a just and desirable consumption that paid fair compensation to farmers from underdeveloped countries. However, farmers who produce fair trade products point out that benefits made from fair trade are not always returned to them, but only help companies pursue profits. In other words, fair trade does not fulfill its purpose. Rather, it is only functioning as a means of low-cost marketing strategy for multinational corporations. Besides, there is criticism that fair trade disrupts market prices and undermines the local industrial base. The Argus seeks to uncover the reality of fair trade, which has only been described positively, and to help readers think more critically about this issue.



▲ A coffee farmer in Uganda is harvesting crop.

Before Reading

Fair trade: Fair trade is the practice of buying goods directly from producers in developing countries at a fair price. It is an arrangement designed to help producers in growing countries achieve sustainable and equitable trade relationships. Members of the fair trade movement add the payment of higher prices to exporters, as well as improved social and environmental standards. The movement focuses on commodities, or products that are typically exported from developing countries to developed countries.

PROBLEM

Problem 1 Overproduction and Destruction of Domestic Market–Fair Trade Shea Butter



©flickr Eitang / AFP news agency

▲ Women farmers hope to spread shea butter wealth.

Fair trade arbitrarily raises the price of raw materials and causes overproduction, which destroys a country's domestic market. A typical example of this problem is the purchase of shea butter from the British cosmetic brand The Body Shop. The term "fair trade" was coined in 1991 when The Body Shop advertised a campaign called "trade not aid," which insisted that consumers pay fair prices for raw materials imported from underdeveloped countries. The Body Shop has contracted with producers in northern Ghana to purchase African shea butter at about 150 percent of the market price. However, contrary to the campaign's pure intention, raising the price of raw materials caused several side effects.

First, as soon as rumors spread that The Body Shop was buying shea butter at a high price, a "shea craze" blew in the area, causing overproduction. Farmers put aside the cultivation of other crops and concentrated on shea butter production, resulting in a nearly tenfold increase in shea butter production, from two tons to 20 tons a year. This was four times the amount The Body Shop was trying to buy, so the overproduced shea butter was thrown away. Unfortunately, producers who were offered a price higher than the market price misunderstood this as a message that "the world wants more shea butter." The world did not need that much shea butter. As a result, due to the increased raw material price, as much time and effort as the additionally produced shea butter was wasted.

Problem 2 Subordination to Large Corporations and Advanced Countries–Fair Trade Coffee

Fair trade coffee has a long history, but it was the 2001 coffee crisis that made it known to the public. At that time, the economic growth of Vietnam and Brazil caused an excessive supply of coffee to the world market, causing the wholesale price of coffee to drop to less than 50 cents per pound (0.454 kg). The sale of fair trade coffee was proposed as a solution to this crisis. Oxfam, a British charity founded in Oxford in 1942, said that the increase of coffee production from developing countries and the decline of coffee demand from developed nations were the main causes of the drop in coffee prices. Oxfam has recommended that "governments and corporations" should buy five million coffee beans and discard them. This case clearly shows that fair trade highly depends on large corporations and advanced countries.

In addition, fair trade coffee is mainly sold by large corporations such as Starbucks and Coffee Bean, and it has no choice but to rely on some ethical consumers in developed countries. Although the fair trade movement initially aimed to enter the mainstream market through cooperation with large corporations, it is difficult to properly protect the rights of producers in the current situation, where farmers highly depend on corporations. This is because it is hard for producers to speak out and have their voices heard in the relationship between producers and large corporations, which have been reduced to a relationship between power and no power, rather than a relationship as equals. Producers might have more profit than before the advent of fair trade. However, these circumstances are undesirable in that they further subordinate producers to large corporations and consumers in developed countries. In fact, most fair trade products are items of personal preference such as coffee, chocolate, and tea, which are consumed in developed countries. Fair trade hinders the diversification of industrial structures in developing countries and deepens dependency on developed countries. Those are chronic problems that poor countries have been experiencing since the colonial days.



©Kim Myung-jin / The Hankyoreh

▲ Workers sort coffee beans by grade at the GMF cooperative in Yirgacheffe, Ethiopia.

Problem 3 Slavery Still Exists–Fair Trade Bananas



▲ A fair trade banana farmer in Dominican Republic is processing bananas.

In general, it is thought that slavery is over. However, if we dig into the reality, the exploitation of labor is hidden by “fair trade.” In fact, there is no improvement of the working environment through fair trade. It even deepens the inequality and hinders farmers from getting proper wages. The Guardian, a British daily newspaper, criticized fair trade for not improving the situation of developing countries. According to The Guardian, the UK’s leading retailers, such as Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury’s, designated 60 percent of banana farms in the Dominican Republic as fair trade farms. The Dominican bananas imported by these farms account for 50 percent of the total bananas imported to the UK, but the fair trade transaction price that those companies pay farmers is absurdly low, about 10 percent of the sale price.

Workers at banana farms suffer 11 hours of strenuous physical labor a day, but they receive only 7,300 won (US\$6.1) per day. In the Dominican Republic, it is difficult to eat three meals a day with this money. It is true that there are lots of different factors to consider for the wage they get. However, the amount of money that they receive per day clearly shows that the so-called fair trade does not dramatically improve the labor environment and the situation of poor countries.

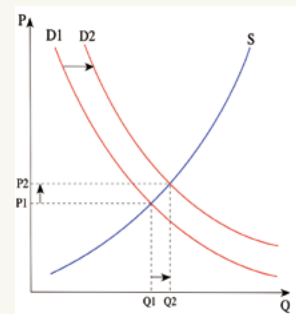
In addition, profits from fair trade are not evenly distributed among all workers. Nathan Nunn, a professor of economics at Harvard University, said in his paper, “The Effects of Fair Trade Certification: Evidence from Coffee Producers in Costa Rica,” that most of the revenue from fair trade coffee produced in Costa Rica is concentrated only on so-called “skilled producers.” The study found that fair trade revenues had little impact on unskilled workers, which are the vast majority, and their working conditions in general. Contrary to the purpose of the introduction of fair trade, this study shows that fair trade cannot solve the problems of labor and poverty in developing countries. This study also concluded that in the report published by Fair Trade USA, which promotes the fair trade movement, there were only optimistic prospects and no specific cases or practical help that fair trade brought.

CAUSE

Cause 1 Arbitrary Manipulation of Price

Fair trade manipulates prices, causing overproduction and market destruction. In a market, when supply and demand coincide at a certain level, market price and volume are determined. However, fair trade has a problem since corporations set prices arbitrarily instead of following the market prices within the framework of free trade.

When the fair trade price is applied to certain crops such as shea butter, cacao, and coffee, farmers start to intensively cultivate only those crops to earn more profits. Some farms under fair trade contracts might earn higher profits than before. However, as many people start to grow the crops for higher profits, there will be overproduction. When such an oversupply occurs, the price of a fair trade crop falls. Moreover, since the quantity of crops purchased through fair trade is limited, the demand cannot keep up with the supply. As a result, a lot of surplus products grown because of fair trade are discarded or sold at a low price. For local workers, this results in a vicious cycle of hard work and inflation due to a vacuum in other industries caused by growing excessive surpluses of fair trade crops. In the end, the poor local industrial bases of developing countries are destroyed due to the short-sighted thinking caused by fair trade.



▲ The price (P) of a product is determined by a balance between production at each price (supply S) and the desires of those with purchasing power at each price (demand D).

Cause 2 Trade Imbalance

Fair trade is a form of trade that relies on advanced countries and large companies. Therefore, fair trade cannot solve the contradiction of the unfair trade structure and uneven development caused by free trade, an international trade system that minimizes interference from governments or international organizations. Fair trade relies too heavily on ethical consumers in developed countries and their goodwill. This dependency could allow consumers and companies in developed countries to subjugate poor workers from developing countries.

Criticism that fair trade has been reduced to a means of marketing for companies is constantly being raised. Companies use fair trade as a marketing tool to overcharge so-called “ethical consumers” in developed countries. Corporations advertise that those fair trade products help poor workers and solve difficulties that they have.

However, the reality is that most of the money earned from fair trade products results in the company’s profit, and much less money is returned to the worker. Although fair trade products pay a bit more in wages to workers in developing countries, the actual money paid to them is not a large amount. In other words, a significant portion of the profits from fair trade goes to the expansion of fair trade companies and their wages. Companies can earn significantly higher profits by selling fair trade products. In addition, companies create a positive image at a low cost and obtain a stable and dependent source of raw materials. According to an annual report from Fairtrade International, the best-selling fair trade products in 2018 were plants, flowers, bananas, cocoa, coffee, sugar, noodles, and tea. In the long run, underdeveloped countries are subordinated as suppliers of crops for consumers in developed nations.



▲ An artwork criticizes the fact that little of the extra money paid for fair trade products by consumers actually reaches the farmers.

©Daniel Pudles

Cause 3 Irrational Distribution Structure

©Nick Turner / Alamy



▲ The path taken by Fairtrade is much too narrow for poor countries to tread.

Consumers pay a higher price to use fair trade products than for regular products, but producers do not fully enjoy the benefits. Tim Harford, an English economist and a chief Financial Times columnist, commented that “Consumers believe that the money they pay will go to producers in poor countries when they buy fair trade products at a higher price. However, more than 90 percent of benefits disappear in the distribution process.” The reality is that most of the money paid by consumers goes to the marketing channel, such as an intermediary or wholesaler. Cheon Kyu-seok, director of Daegu Hansalim Consumer Life Cooperative Association, also said that fair trade cannot be the solution to the deep-rooted poverty for poor farmers. Director Cheon described this reality as “another form of exploitation” and argued that fair trade products alone cannot protect producers’ rights without fundamental reform of the distribution structure.

Fair trade certification is also causing problems. Fair trade certification is for fair trade transactions. However, this requires paying commissions, initial certification fees, membership dues, and annual audit fees. Due to the high cost of certification, a lot of small, poor, and independent farms do not get certified even if they meet or exceed the standards of fair trade. Furthermore, it is hard for producers in poor countries to meet the strict standards of fair trade certification. As a result, producers in relatively wealthy countries take all the profits of fair trade into their pockets. According to an annual report published by Fairtrade International, less than 10 percent of fair trade coffee is exported from Africa’s poorest countries, such as Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania. On the other hand, the proportion of fair trade coffee exported from Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia, which are relatively wealthy countries, is several times higher than those of African countries. This research clearly shows that fair trade does not function as well as it is supposed to for the workers in underdeveloped countries who need help the most.

SOLUTION

Solution 1 Diversification of Fair Trade Products



▲ Experts claim that diversification and structural changes are needed in fair trade to increase long-term development.

One of the causes of this fair trade tragedy is that it destroyed the industrial structure of underdeveloped countries due to the overproduction of certain crops such as shea butter, coffee, and cacao beans. Most of the fair trade products sold on the market today are concentrated on primary products produced in underdeveloped countries. Therefore, it is necessary to diversify fair trade products to prevent the economic damage. If various commodities are traded through fair trade, it will be possible to prevent market destruction due to the overproduction of certain crops.

The fair trade certification system also needs to be improved to prevent the overproduction problem. First, the cost required for fair trade certification should be reduced with aid from the international community. In addition, it is necessary to secure demand for diverse products through consultation with various stakeholders such as farmers, producers, exporters, and final sellers of fair trade products. These efforts could prevent the phenomenon of focusing on specific items due to the cost of fair trade certification.

Moreover, efforts are needed to successfully meet the Sustainable Development Goals and Zero Hunger, which are being implemented by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) respectively, to solve the global poverty problem and realize sustainable development. Although fair trade currently accounts for only 0.1 percent of global trade, the volume and the purpose of fair trade products will be revived if items become more diversified and demands for fair trade products increase.

Solution 2 Securing Transparency in Fair Trade

Transparency in fair trade led by private companies continues to be an issue. “The Valkila and Nygren study on coffee production in Nicaragua (2010)” concluded that fair trade certification had a very limited impact on wages or working conditions. According to the study, wages for coffee laborers on fair trade-certified farms ranged from US\$1.5 to US\$2.1 per day on farms that also provided meals, and US\$1.8 to US\$2.5 on those that did not. This case shows the limited impact of fair trade on conditions and wages of workers in certified small producer organizations. Moreover, it is known that some amount of money per product is said to be used for economic development in developing countries, but the exact distribution of the money is not disclosed.

To solve this problem, it is necessary to maintain an appropriate price system and create a reasonable transaction structure through innovation of the product distribution structure. Through the efficiency and transparency of the distribution structure, costs can be reduced and the competitiveness of fair trade products can be enhanced.

As the international fair trade organizations take transparency and accountability as their principles, it is necessary to make efforts to transparently disclose the fair trade distribution process. Moreover, since the international organizations related to fair trade receive financial support from the U.N. and EU, it is necessary to manage and supervise those organizations to ensure that subsidies are being used properly.



▲ Cocoa producers of the Yakasse-Attobrou Agricultural Cooperative gather cocoa pods in a certified Fair Trade-label cocoa plantation in Adzope, Ivory Coast.

If transparency is assured, unnecessary costs in the trade process can be reduced and this will allow consumers to trust fair trade products. Credibility for the fair trade system led by assured transparency can increase the consumption of fair trade products. As the size and scale of the fair trade market increase, fair trade products can become more accessible to a variety of people, rather than relying solely on a smaller proportion of ethical consumers. As a result, the purpose of fair trade can be preserved and workers in developing countries can be properly compensated.

Solution 3 Raising Public Awareness about Fair Trade



▲ Ruling and opposition party lawmakers participate in a campaign ceremony to support fair trade.

Although there are many limitations and problems with fair trade, the most important thing is that consumers should properly recognize what fair trade is through various campaigns and activities. The problems of fair trade can be solved if the public can find accurate information on fair trade. Local governments should enhance education and campaigns to promote the concept of fair trade. As a representative example in Korea, the “Seoul Fair Trade Campaign” has been promoted. The fair trade movement in Seoul was launched on May 12, 2012, on World Fair Trade Day, when it was announced that Seoul would be promoted as the “Fair Trade Capital.” Many fair trade events including education and campaigns are held in Seoul. Moreover, Seoul opened the “Seoul Fair Trade Center,” which is one

of the most outstanding outcomes of their efforts. This was a turning point in advancing the fair trade movement up to now in that it is the only organization that could conduct fair trade research in Korea. If the local government promotes and develops relevant policies, problems of fair trade can be overcome.

More efforts are needed, but these activities should not bring unlimited trust in fair trade. Therefore, along with improving consumer awareness of fair trade, efforts to highlight the plight of underdeveloped countries should be continued. After all, the “fair wage” claimed by fair trade is not “fair” considering international standards. Without caring about the poverty and structural inequalities of developing countries, fair trade is just a “fool’s gold” for consumers with a sense of moral superiority in developed countries. With an accurate understanding of fair trade, consumers could empathize with the current situation of developing countries and their pain. In the long run, this would lead consumers to actively participate in tackling the issue of poverty in underdeveloped countries.

It is impossible to solve the current problems in underdeveloped countries without serious consideration of why farmers in developing countries cannot cultivate the crops they need because of producing coffee, chocolate, and tea that they do not consume. Fair trade emerged to overcome the problems of free trade, but it did not help improve the situation of workers in underdeveloped countries and the labor problem of women and children. Workers in developing countries are still unable to get out of the subordinate relationship with large corporations and advanced countries within the framework of free trade. In addition, fair trade hinders the development of a diversified industrial structure in underdeveloped countries and is used as a premium marketing strategy by companies. Without improvement and innovation of fair trade, the fundamental problems of developing countries cannot be resolved. Consumers must acknowledge that fair trade began with good intentions and love for humanity. The time has come for everyone to think and work together to prevent a tragedy that started with good intentions. 📧

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TAPER THE MASSIVE HOLE OF THE ECONOMY: TAPERING

By Yang Yu-min
Staff Reporter of Social Section

As the global economic crisis struck due to COVID-19, the global unemployment rate increased, which soon led to a situation where consumption decreased. As a result, the flow of money was blocked, and the U.S. also could not avoid this economic downturn. To increase the money supply, the U.S. central bank, The Federal Reserve System (Fed), supplied money directly to the market from March 2020. It is similar to when the mud of rice paddy is cracked due to drought and the rice cannot grow; the farmer then irrigates the rice paddy. However, if there is too much water, the roots of the rice will rot, and the cultivation cannot proceed properly. As such, if the money supply is excessive, inflation may occur. For this reason, the Fed started “tapering” in November 2021 to decrease the money supply, and hinted at ending this policy in March of this year. Since the termination of tapering in 2022 is expected to bring about changes not only in the U.S. but also in the global economy, financial institutions around the world are focusing on it. The Argus is going to explain what tapering is, why it is gaining global attention, and its projected impact on Korea.

Before Reading

Quantitative Easing (QE): It is a policy whereby the central bank purchases a variety of assets to increase the money supply when the base rate* level is already too low to expect an economic stimulus effect. The assets that the central bank buys are diverse, such as bonds (corporate bonds, government bonds, etc.) and mortgage-backed securities (MBS)*. Here, “bond” is a document including how much interest and the principal debtor will pay back by a specified date. The principle that the money supply in the market increases is as follows. If A borrows \$5 billion from B, B has a bond and simultaneously doesn’t have \$5 billion to spend. Here, if the central bank buys B’s bond and pays B \$5 billion in cash, B can use that in the market. As such, the central bank continuously buys bonds in society.



▲ QE can be described as “Helicopter Money,” meaning that the Fed increases the money supply just as money is sprinkled from a helicopter.

***Base rate:** It affects the interest rate and deposit rate. When the base rate rises, the interest and deposit rates also rise, and when the base rate falls, the interest and deposit rates fall accordingly.

***Mortgage-backed securities (MBS):** When a borrower receives a loan from a financial institution such as a bank by providing a house as collateral, the financial institution establishes a mortgage on the borrower’s house and holds a housing bond, which is the right to recover the loan using the mortgage. A financial institution transfers these housing bonds to an intermediary (financial securities company), which uses it as an underlying asset to issue mortgage-backed securities and sell them in the capital market.

 What is Tapering?

Tapering comes from the English word “taper,” meaning the Fed’s gradual reduction in the size of its QE. When the money supply increases, the value of money decreases and inflation occurs at the same time. For this reason, the Fed cannot release money indefinitely. Conversely, if the base rate is suddenly raised to reduce the money supply, the expected impact on the economy is also considerable. Tapering was introduced to solve this problem. For example, let’s suppose the Fed bought \$15 billion of bonds last month, and this month, the Fed announced that it would taper the size of QE by \$5 billion. The money supply of the last month increased by \$15 billion, but this month the money supply will increase by \$5 billion less than the previous month because the Fed bought \$10 billion of bonds. As can be seen, tapering does not mean that the Fed will stop its QE.

The first country to use the term “tapering” was the U.S. In order to boost the economy which subsided during the 2008 Global Financial Crisis,* the Fed cut the base rate first. To put it simply, the base rate is the same as the interest rate. When the base rate is lowered, the interest rate is also lowered, so the profit that can be obtained through savings is lowered. Therefore, instead of saving money, people start to increase consumption or invest in stocks or real estate. When investment and consumption occur in this way, the economy is revived. For this reason, the first

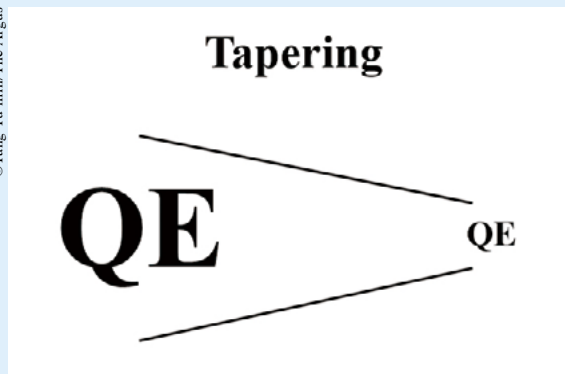
method the central bank takes as a measure to stimulate the economy is to cut the base rate. The U.S. base rate was 5.25 percent in August 2007, but after lowering the base rate ten times, the base rate eventually reached one percent in October 2008. Nevertheless, the economy had not fully recovered, so the Fed began to release money directly into the market. This means the Fed started QE. However, as explained above, the Fed could not always supply money to the market. Therefore, Ben Bernanke, who served as Chairman of the Fed, first mentioned tapering in May 2013, when the economy began to normalize after the 2008 crisis. After two and a half years with three periods of tapering, the Fed raised the base rate in December 2015. As shown by the phenomenon where the base rate rises after tapering is ended, tapering is sometimes taken as a signal of a coming increase of the base rate.



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▲ Ben Bernanke, who served as Chairman of the Fed, first mentioned tapering in May 2013.

©Yang Yu-min/The Argus



▲ Tapering means the Fed’s gradual reduction in the size of its QE, not meaning that the Fed will stop its QE.

 COVID-19, QE, and the Second Tapering

After the 2008 crisis, the world faced another economic crisis due to COVID-19. The Fed, which was trying to stimulate the collapsed economy, eventually cut the base rate to 0.00-0.25 percent on March 15, 2020, and started QE. Later, in November 2021, the Fed officially announced that it would begin tapering from this month, and has

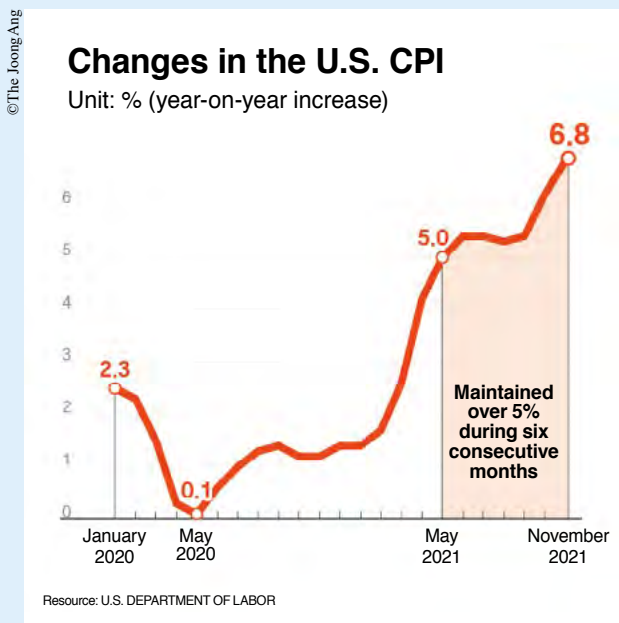
*2008 Global Financial Crisis: A large-scale financial crisis began in the U.S. financial market in the late 2000s and spread around the world. It caused global economic turmoil comparable to the Great Depression of 1929.

hinted at a base rate hike with the end of the tapering in March 2022.

Domestic financial institutions, such as KB Securities, have predicted that the Fed would end tapering in March 2022 and raise the base rate in June 2022. However, the Fed is currently considering an early base rate hike in March rather than in June. According to Cho Sung-bong, professor of the Department of Economics at Soongsil University, this early base rate hike is because of inflation. In December 2021, the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI)* surged 7.0 percent from the same month in 2020, reaching its highest level in 40 years. As can be seen, inflation in the U.S. is currently on an upward trend, and to dampen this, the Fed signaled an early base rate hike.

the interest rate in the U.S. is three percent. As the interest rate is proportional to the rate of return, Koreans start to invest in the U.S.. For this, Korean won (KRW) must be exchanged for U.S. dollars (USD), so the demand for USD increases. In other words, this increase means that the value of USD has risen compared to KRW. For this reason, the KRW-USD exchange rate increases. For example, suppose a person tries to exchange one USD for KRW at an exchange office. In the past, if a person received 1,100 won (US\$ 0.92) in the past and 1,200 won (US\$ 1) now, the KRW-USD exchange rate has risen because the value of KRW has decreased compared to USD. Conversely, if a person received 1,100 won (US\$ 0.92) and now receives 1,000 won (US\$ 0.83), the KRW-USD exchange rate has gone down.

Currently, as the Fed has hinted at the base rate hike coming with the end of tapering in March, the amount of USD in Korea is flowing into the U.S. market. According to the “Foreign Exchange Reserves for January 2022” announced by the Bank of Korea on Feb. 7, the amount of foreign exchange reserves as of the end of January 2022 was \$461.53 billion, down \$1.59 billion from December 2021. This decline has been occurring for three months since November 2021. As explained earlier, when USD in Korea becomes less, the value of KRW falls, and the KRW-USD exchange rate rises. Here, there is a problem caused by an increase in the KRW-USD exchange rate. That’s inflation. When the exchange rate rises, the price of imported goods rises. If the imported goods are raw materials such as parts, then production costs increase, which raises consumer prices. For example, suppose there is a company that imports semiconductors and makes robots. If the exchange rate rises from 1,100 won (US\$ 0.92) to one USD to 1,200 won (US\$ 1), the cost of purchasing semiconductors will increase, and the company will have no choice but to raise the price of robots. In addition, if imported goods are directly available on the market and purchased by consumers, this directly affects consumer prices without going through the producer price increase stage. Concerned about such inflation, the Bank of Korea,



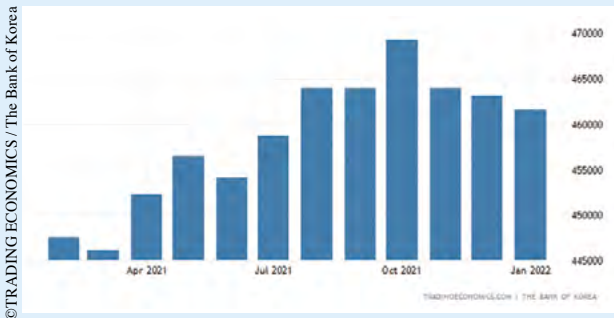
▲ The U.S. CPI maintained over 5 percent for the six consecutive months, eventually peaking in December 2021.

📄 Tapering and the U.S. Base Rate Hike Hit Korea: Korea's Base Rate Hike

Interest rate is related to exchange rates. For example, suppose that the interest rate in Korea is one percent and

*KRW-USD exchange rate: The KRW exchange rate per one USD.

*Consumer Price Index (CPI): An index indicating the price change of goods or services purchased by consumers.



▲ The amount of foreign exchange reserves has been declining for three consecutive months.

Korea’s central bank, has already raised the base rate three times last year, and on Jan. 14 of 2022, it also raised the base rate to 1.25 percent.



▲ An electronic board set up at the SEOUL headquarters of Hana Bank shows a drop in the nation’s stock markets.

percent this year, and the U.S. investment bank Goldman Sachs has hinted at the possibility of two additional base rate hike of Korea. In response, Professor Cho at Soongsil University emphasized that Korea’s economy is more likely to stagnate and deteriorate, saying “As Korea’s base rate rises, the burden on Korean citizens becomes greater.” In the case of companies, the increase in the base rate causes a deterioration in business conditions; and for individuals, the interest burden from loans increases, thereby reducing consumption. As a result, Korea’s base rate hike could possibly force our wallets to close.

But Korea also has a thread of hope. Cho Sung-hoon, professor of the Department of Economics at Yonsei University, said, “Keeping zero interest rates in the U.S. means that the economy is not doing well. However, the reason why the Fed considers raising the base rate is that the U.S. economy has recovered. Right now, the U.S. base rate hike is an economically unstable factor and may negatively affect countries around the world, including Korea. However, the U.S. is the center of the world economy. So, if the U.S. economy improves, that of other countries will naturally be affected and they will also recover.” As interest on loans currently increases, the burden on people’s shoulders may get heavy. However, how about taking this as a sign that the global economy, which has been walking through a dark period due to COVID-19, is preparing to take off again?

What will the world economy be like in the future?

In preparation for the Fed’s end of tapering and base rate hikes, the Bank of Korea has raised the base rate to 1.25

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has issued a warning to the world, saying, “The Fed’s base rate hike could shake up financial markets and the global financial situation.” Although the U.S. central bank, the Fed, implemented tapering and the base rate hike, it has a wide ripple effect, and the world is paying attention. As can be seen, the global economy does not operate independently but is organically related. The economy, which may seem difficult, is closely related to people’s daily lives. If there is a lifelong friend who will always be by people’s side, it is the economy. The Argus hopes readers will understand these economic principles and move forward as adaptive economic agents in a changing society.

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Fresh Year, Fresh Plan

Shin Jun-seo

In 2021, I had a rare chance to read a book. Since reading books is one of my favorite hobbies, in 2022, I intend to read as many books as possible. I learned more from books than from textbooks and by reading good and exciting books this year. I hope to get a broader perspective and deeper thoughts. Happy New year!

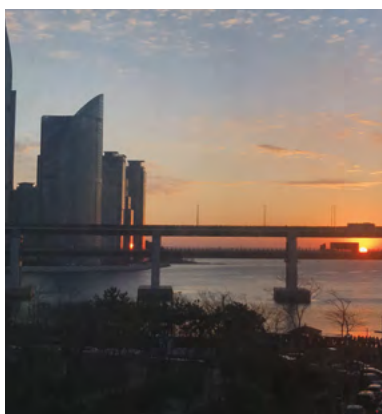
Lim Se-jin

In 2022, greeting the year of the black tiger, I will live an active and energetic life. Although there will still be restrictions on outdoor activities due to COVID-19 pandemic, I will attend to some face-to-face classes actively. Also, I will try to exercise twice a week. I'm going to try to take a steady walk, even if it is not a huge exercise. Finally, my goal is to keep up my own pace without getting exhausted until the end of this year.

Yang Yu-min

In 2022, I want to have a new hobby. For me, a hobby is something that makes me do things that I don't want, and something that energizes me to finish my tasks. However, since high school, my only hobby is pondering on a subject matter, and to add a little more, watching Youtube or Netflix. Actually, I have hobbies, but I don't really like them and none of them are enjoyable. For this reason, this is my significant goal to revitalize my life.





Kim Ye-ji

One of my favorite book quotes is from “Night Train to Lisbon” written by Pascal Mercier. “Some experiences that greatly influence our lives and give completely new light and melody often take place silently.” I’m sure that the experiences I’m going through in The Argus would be like that, but I will silently do my best!

Kim Jin-seo

As for my new year’s resolution, I want to be true to myself. I want to be a person who trusts intuition and follows the inner voice. Rather than being distracted by others, I want to believe in myself and move forward. This year, I want to practice playing the guitar more frequently. Besides, I want to travel around Korea and eat lots of delicious food.

Cho Eun


My ambition for this year is to progress in various fields and The Argus is at the center of this plan. I love new experiences and I believe writing articles will be a tremendous adventure for me. I am also taking on a new challenge, my second major, Language & AI, which both thrills and scares me. I am a greedy person, so I want to achieve all the goals I made for this year, and I hope to be proud of myself at the end of the year.

Park Kun-ha

For me, March has always been more like a fresh new start, rather than January since I still am in my undergraduate years. I made a promise to myself to live a busier, but healthier life. Being the editor already seems a tough challenge to complete, but it is also a newly discovered joy for me. Further, I will try to exercise regularly, which, to be honest, I cannot guarantee. Rather, I will eat a fresh, green salad every day to keep my health stabilized. I hope that this year of 2022 can be the year full of vitality!

The Argus

109기 수습기자 모집

 **지원 자격** 최소 3학기 이상 활동 가능한 재학생

 **전형 일정**

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- 지원서 작성 후 아거스 공식 이메일 (hufsargus@gmail.com)로 지원서 파일 송부

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