

The Argus

Since 1954

No. 526 May 16, 2022

Why is Korean Age Different?

Why Do Koreans Have Three
Different Systems of Counting Age?

Why Does Korean Age Matter?



What Is the "Born-Early-in-the-Year"?

Are You One of Them? Then Call Me "Hyung!"

The Gap Between the Legal Age and the Real Age Should Be Bridged!

The Argus

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Editorial

Getting on the Flow of Change

In recent days, Korea has been undergoing many changes. The Moon Jae-in government, which was launched on May 10, 2017, will finish its term on May 9, 2022, and will now pass the baton on to Yoon Suk-yeol from May 10, 2022. This historic baton passing is expected to have a big impact. Among the big ripples are changes in the Korean age calculation method. Born on December 24, 2000, I am one year older than those born in 2001 even though there is just a little, thin boundary of one week to 2001. This is due to the unique Korean age counting system. However, Yoon Suk-yeol has made a pledge to come up with a plan to transform Korea's age-counting method to international standards. Definitely, this will certainly make quite a difference in social and cultural sectors, and even personal relationships; yesterday's friend can be tomorrow's senior. If you, my fellow reader of The Argus, are curious about such issues, I recommend reading The Argus's intersectional collaboration article, "How Old Are You?" by staff reporter Kim Jin-seo of the social section and staff reporter Cho Eun of the culture section. Aside from the change in age counting system, Yoon Suk-yeol has made many very innovative pledges: security money of 500,000 won per month for youth to take a leap forward, and abolition of more than 80 regulations for the growth of private companies. No one knows yet whether these changes will be growing pains or the beginning of a catastrophe. However, I respect and support the blood, sweat, and tears of those who promote innovation and strive for change, taking a huge risk. The Argus of HUFS, which contains the deepest history among the English newspapers of Korean universities, should also pay attention to the new era and the consequences of new changes and play the role of the university students' eyes and lips.

Meanwhile, COVID-19, which had been on the rise for a long time, is now familiar within the social perception as a lighter daily subject in Korea. Even if the person around you is confirmed to have a cold, it is not a big deal. As a result of social perception, the cultural market in 2022 is becoming more active than in 2019 and 2021. Not only the singer's stage, but also energetic festivals gradually began to display fireworks. Pay attention to the "Palace Culture Festival," which will be held from May 10 to 22, and to reporter Cho's Culture Trip column, "Blooming with History and Story: Visiting the Korean Palaces." The clash between the old of tradition and the new of modernity is expected to create a discontented spectacle in most cases, but it doesn't have to. In this May issue, The Argus leads reader to recognize and start a conversation about tomorrow's changes. 

By Park Kun-ha
Editor-in-Chief

박건하



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Cover Story

>> “How old are you?” It is a very common question that Korean people ask each other at the very first time they meet. Koreans can give three different answers to this question. Well, how come a person could have three different ages? Korea is known for its unique system of counting age, known as “Korean age.” Moreover, Koreans are socially, culturally, and linguistically sensitive to people’s age: for example, every Korean utterance should end with a proper ending, which the speakers won’t be able to decide without positioning themselves in the seniority / juniority relationship with their counterpart. The Argus investigates the Korean age counting system and other distinctive characteristics regarding age to understand the background of the unique age culture of Korea.

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HUFS Holds Russian Debate Competition Targeting Domestic University Students

The Institute of Russian Studies at HUFS announced on April 7 that it will hold the “12th Russian Debate Competition” for domestic university students. Sponsored by the Russian Embassy in Korea and the National Research Foundation of Korea, the competition will be held to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Arsenyev, a Russian soldier and geographer who explored the Russian Far East. Students who have resided in Russia or CIS countries for less than two years and those who attend domestic universities or graduate schools can participate. Students who want to participate can send discussion videos and applications online from April 25 to May 6. The final will be held offline on May 20. Winners will receive round-trip tickets from Seoul to Moscow and scholarships. The debate competition has been held since 2011 to raise interest in the Russian language and to find talented students in Russian. The Institute of Russian Studies said, “Debate is a very effective way to develop language management skills, as you must immediately understand what the other person is saying in competitive situations and logically organize and utter your own responses. The Russian debate competition is held to provide opportunities for college students to develop their language management skills in actual communication situations.”



©HUFS Institute of Russian Studies

▲ The Institute of Russian Studies of HUFS holds the “12th Russian Debate Competition.” The registration is due on May 6.

By Kim Ye-ji

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HUFS Hosts 2022 Smart Campus Idea Festival

The HUFS AI Education Center hosts the “2022 Smart Campus Idea Festival” contest in collaboration with the Office of Information Support Systems. The application period is from March 28th to April 30th. Participants should submit a letter of application, a written plan of implementation and utilization, personal information agreement, and PowerPoint slides for the presentation within 10 pages.

On May 4, at 6:00 p.m., teams that made the cut will be announced via AI Education Center website. Finals will be held on May 6th. At the finals, each team will give a seven-minute presentation and have three minutes of Q&A time. Results will be announced on the AI Education Center website at 18:00 on May 10. Multiple entries are possible by one team. Each team consists of up to five people.

The theme of the contest is “information technology ideas that make academic and campus life vibrant and convenient.” In detail, there are five sub themes. They are a. “Ideas using various information technologies,” b. “Smart services related to school website and web information system,” c. “Information services to effectively assist with academic activities, career exploration, and job-starting activities,” d. “Services for convenient use of on-campus facilities,” e. “Other information technology ideas that increase the vitality of the community.” A total of 11 teams will be awarded in the contest and the grand prize will be a President's award with one million won (US\$815.4) of prize money.



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▲ Instructions of how to participate HUFS Smart Campus Idea Festival.

By Kim Jin-seo

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Seminar for New Government's Foreign Policy Held

On March 29, the seminar “New Government's Foreign Policy: Korea-Japan Relations and Indo-Pacific Strategy” was held by Hwang Jae-ho, a professor of the Division of International Studies at HUFS and director of the Korea Institute for Global Strategy and Cooperation, in collaboration with Keio University's Center for Contemporary Korean Studies in Japan. This was about how the Yoon Suk-yeol administration should lead Korea-Japan relations and how the two countries should lead the Indo-Pacific Strategy.

The first meeting began with the topic of Korea-Japan relations. Lee Won-deok, a professor at Kookmin University, said, “The Yoon Suk-yeol administration has made a promise to establish a future-oriented cooperative relationship with Japan without getting caught up in history issues, but domestic anti-Japanese public opinion will be a constraint,” pointing out that current Korea-Japan relations are at their worst. In response, Nishino Junya, director of the Center for Contemporary Korean Studies at Keio University, said, “Prime Minister Kishida showed a positive attitude, and it is a golden time for improvement of Korea-Japan relations.” As such, many experts agreed that the two countries should make continuous efforts to improve relations.

At the meeting, for the Indo-Pacific Strategy, Tak Seong-Han of Korea Institute for Defense Analyses said, “Cooperation in defense and security fields between Korea and Japan is not an option but a necessity, in light of North Korea's nuclear threat.” Given the importance of improving Korea-Japan relations, The Argus hopes that the Yoon administration will solve this wisely.”



©Yang Yu-min / The Argus

▲ The seminar “New Government's Foreign Policy: Korea-Japan Relations and Indo-Pacific Strategy” was held at Hotel KOREANA on March 28.

By Yang Yu-min

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HUFS Holds Event on Examining Core Competency & University Life Adaptation

HUFSAbility will be holding an event for students to participate in both the “Core Competency Test” and the “University Life Adaptation Test” in May. One hundred and fifty students out of those who complete both tests by May 31 will get a gifticon randomly.

The Core Competency Test examines the students' achievement level on HUFS' six-core competency. This test provides students with their achievement standards compared to other students and lets them know what strengths and weaknesses they have. The University Life Adaptation Test examines learning, students' personal relationships, emotions, college life, and career. It also provides counseling for those who need it.

Students can participate through the HUFSAbility website and will get an individual report. Each test takes about five minutes. The event is automatically applied when students complete both examinations. Prize winners will get one of the following gifts: a chicken meal, a Starbucks dessert set, a Big Mac set, or a coffee coupon. The prize winners will be announced on June 3. Kim Hyeong-ju, of the Dept. of Linguistics and Cognitive Science '20, said, “I think these tests will give valuable opportunities to check one's strengths and weaknesses, so I want to participate.”



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▲ HUFSAbility holds events for students to participate in both tests.

By Cho Eun

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HULT PRIZE HUFS Branch Held Second On Campus Competition

On March 12, 2022, the second HUFS HULT PRIZE On Campus Competition was held. It is a global start-up competition hosted by Hult International Business School and sponsored by the UN. It started at 11 a.m. and was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The HULT PRIZE is the world's largest social innovation accelerator, which discovers preliminary start-up teams made up of university students who can solve the global social issues in a business manner. It provides opportunities for university students all over the world to resolve the challenges and grow together. The theme of this year's competition was "Getting the World Back to Work." A total of five teams participated, and one team was absent due to the COVID-19 infection. Park Chan-hak, president of "the table setter," and Chung Ho-yun, president of "SIO," served as judges.

The competition started with greetings, and proceeded with introducing the judges, introducing the participating teams, a Q&A session for the judges, and the closing ceremony with the final announcement. The champion of this year's competition was INCOMERS, who made a communication platform for foreign job seekers. Ideas corresponding to the theme of the competition such as a community for information exchange, mentor-mentee system, a board for foreign workers were remarkable. Additionally, team IT-DA showed an educational platform which encourages the communication between all generations, team Vege-inside came up with a coaching and teaching platform for a vegan lifestyle, and team Entente indicated a start-up idea that could supply desserts from hiring foreign workers.

The champion team of "On Campus" would clinch qualification for the "Regional," where each representative team from all universities competes. Furthermore, the winning team of "Accelerator" and the "UN Final," competitions that will be held afterwards, will receive 1.2 billion won (US\$978,505.50) as a seed money to realize their ideas. 📺

By Kim Jin-seo
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©Hult International Business School

▲ The Hult Prize is an annual competition that crowdsources ideas from university-level students after challenging them to solve a pressing social issue.



©Hult International Business School

▲ The second HUFS HULT PRIZE was held online on March 12, 2022.

News Briefing

By Park Kun-ha
Editor-in-Chief

Spring Comes to Korea's Commercial District

Quarantine rules, which have put restrictions on the free lives of people for the past two years, ended on April 17, 2022. People now are preparing to get back to their daily lives just as before COVID-19. Since April 18, the social distancing scheme, including restrictions on private gatherings and business hours, was completely lifted. It is expected that commercial districts in various places, which have shrunk due to COVID-19, are gradually being revitalized.



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Russia Suspended from Human Rights Council, U.N.



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The United Nation General Assembly held a special meeting at the U.N. headquarters in New York on the morning of April 7, 2022 and voted on a resolution calling for Russia's suspension of its membership on the Human Rights Council. If Russia, a permanent member of the Security Council and a key player in the creation of the United Nations, is removed from its affiliated organizations such as the Human Rights Council, it will be unprecedented and will leave a big stain on Russia's position in the international community.

The vote was led by the U.S. based on evidence of the genocide of civilians committed by the Russian military in Bucha, Ukraine. The United Nations has never expelled a major country such as Russia until now. Russia has threatened to expand economic sanctions to weak countries suffering from food shortages by restricting exports of grains and fertilizers. In a counter-offensive operation, most of the European Union is drawing the sword of Russian energy sanctions.

Ketanji Brown Jackson, the First Black Woman Supreme Court Justice in the U.S.

For the first time in the 233-year history of the U.S. Supreme Court, a black female Supreme Court judge has been appointed. On April 7, the U.S. Senate approved the nomination of Supreme Court Justice nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson, nominated by U.S. President Joe Biden, with a 53-47 vote in favor. She is the sixth woman, the third African American, and the first “black woman” justice of the Supreme Court in history.



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Signs of Stronger Austerity in the Global Markets



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The Federal Reserve (Fed)’s intensive monetary tightening guidelines to curb U.S. prices, at the highest level in 40 years, have emerged. According to the minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) in March, most participants agreed to proceed with quantitative tightening within the \$95 billion limit. Quantitative tightening is a policy that absorbs floating money by selling or not reinvesting the Fed’s national-centered bond assets when they mature.

Apart from quantitative austerity, the Fed is highly likely to take the so-called “Big Step” in May 2022 by raising the rate by 0.5 percentage points, twice the usual interest rate change. When quantitative austerity and the Fed’s measures work together, monetary tightening at an unprecedented speed is achieved. Remaining idle on the liquidity, caused by the loosening of money to defend the economy from COVID-19, will come to an end. As the Fed’s minutes imply the new measures will be taken as early as May, regarding the timing of the start of quantitative tightening, the market is accepting the start of May as an established fact. This is because suppressing inflation has become an urgent task, as the U.S. inflation rate reached 7.9 percent in February 2022, the highest in 40 years. In addition, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange’s “FedWatch Tool,” which analyzes the probability of FOMC rate moves for upcoming meetings, predicted a 78.8 percent probability of a “Big Step” in progress in May at the FOMC.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Allen said in the House of Representatives that “Russia’s invasion disrupted the flow of food for millions of people around the world and caused prices to spike.”



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What Is the Greenest Experience You Have Ever Had?

By Sung Hee-jin
Cub Reporters

Do you know when International Day for Biological Diversity is? Many people don't know, but it is on May 22. It was established to raise global awareness about the importance of protecting biological resources and the global biodiversity that shapes our environment. Additionally, Environment Day is on June 5. Environmental protection is something we know about of course, but we are not practicing well. How are our HUFSans practicing? Funny thing is that they all have the same life habits! Why don't we listen to their habits and practice them one by one and make small changes on the planet?





Kim Na-gyeong (Dept. of French-EU '19)

I like coffee and I like to study at a cafe, so I go to a cafe more than five times a week. But one day, after watching an environmental documentary on Netflix, I found that I was using plastic cups too often and throwing them away easily. After that, I try to carry around a cold cup and stainless-steel straw that I had at home. The advantage of an eco-cup is that it can be put in bags when using public transportation. In addition, some cafes offer discounts on drinks if you bring an eco-cup. Even though I have to wash it every day, I'm proud that I'm making a small effort for the environment.



Kwon Doo-eon (Dept. of Dutch '19)

While going to school, I have a habit of drinking coffee all the time before going to the classroom, after eating, and until I go to the library. I felt that there were so many disposable cups that were thrown away while carrying a cup of coffee every day. Especially when I'm trying to bring coffee to a library where disposable cups are not allowed! So I started carrying tumblers to reduce disposable cups! I also found the advantage of being able to drink the beverage I want for a long time while carrying a tumbler.



Park Seon-ju (Dept. of EICC '19)

I'm practicing holding a tumbler to protect the environment. As a frequent coffee drinker, it seemed that reducing disposable plastic cups and straws could reduce a lot of waste. In fact, as you use tumblers, you can reduce the waste of takeout cups accumulated at home, and furthermore, you can get a few hundred won discount by using tumblers at cafes. Protecting the environment and protecting my wallet is killing two birds with one stone.



Lee Da-bin (Dept. of Dutch '20)

The most representative effort is to remove the label or price tag carefully and wash it once and then discard it! I make the most efforts to reduce waste, but for example, I try not to receive plastic shopping bags or paper bags as much as possible! When I go to a cafe, the staff often asks me to choose between a disposable cup and a multi-use cup. Whenever that happens, I always ask for a multi-use cup. And in order not to make food waste, I make as much food as I want and eat everything without leaving anything behind.



Blooming with History and Story, Visiting the Korean Palaces

By Cho Eun

Staff Reporter of Culture Section

“Yesterday seemed like a distant past, today felt unfamiliar, and tomorrow was terrifying. It was a time of turbulence. All of us, each in our own way, were living through the rapidly changing Joseon.” This line is from the Netflix show “Mr. Sunshine,” set in 19th century Joseon. It was not only the era and the people who changed through the 500-year history of Joseon. Joseon’s palace, which was destroyed and rebuilt with its pedigree, contains Joseon tradition and history through today. The interest in ancient Korean palaces is rising with the Korean wave. The Royal Culture Festival responds to this interest by introducing Korean palaces and integrating today’s culture. It will be held this year in five ancient palaces, Jongmyo Shrine,* and Sajikdan* in Seoul, from May 14 to 22. The Argus wants to introduce the history and tradition inherent in Korean ancient palaces by visiting Gyeongbokgung, Deoksugung, Changgyeonggung, and Changdeokgung palaces before the Royal Culture Festival.

*Jongmyo Shrine: This is a place where memorial services for Joseon’s kings and queens of many generations were held.

*Sajikdan: This is a ritual place celebrating the foundation of Joseon.

Before Reading

“Joseon,” the ancestor country of present-day Korea, ruled the Korean peninsula from 1392 to 1910. Joseon’s Palace was more than the royal family’s house; national affairs and events were also conducted there.

- Jeongjeon: A place where big national events like the King’s coronation ceremony, gwageo,* and celebrations for ambassadors were performed
- Pyeonjeon: The main council where national affairs were conducted by the king and officials
- Chamber area: A place where the royal family lived
Gyeongbokgung, Deoksugung, Changgyeonggung, and Changdeokgung palaces at present are reconstructions of those burned or damaged through the Japanese Invasion in 1592 and the Japanese colonial era from 1910. People who are wearing a hanbok are free to enter.

*Gwageo: A test to hire officials in the Joseon Dynasty period.



The Start of the New Era, Gyeongbokgung Palace

©Cho Eun/The Argus



▲ Gwanghwamun Gate is the main entrance of Gyeongbokgung Palace.

“Brilliance and fortune of the new dynasty,” the meaning of Gyeongbokgung palace, shows that it served the dynasty from the beginning, as it was established in 1395, right after the

foundation of the Joseon Dynasty in 1392. However, the palace standing today was newly constructed in 1867. By entering the Gwanghwamun Gate, the main entrance of Gyeongbokgung palace, there is a broad open road and a huge gate over the bridge. Geunjeongjeon Hall, located deeper inside, is the Jeongjeon of Gyeongbokgung palace. The palace has a straight line through the Geunjeongjeon, Pyeonjeon, chamber, and the back garden. There is Gyeonghoeru Pavilion on the left and the place for the crown prince on the right.

One of the most gorgeous places in Gyeongbokgung is the Gyeonghoeru on the pond, next to the King and Queen’s living quarters. Gyeonghoeru was used as a venue for various national celebrations and receptions of foreign envoys, surrounded by diverse flowers and trees near the big pond. The reflection of the scenery on the pond is also a grandeur. Sitting on the bench in front of Gyeonghoeru, viewing the Gyeonghoeru on the pond, and the Mount Bugak in the distance makes one feel the beautiful nature and splendid history of Joseon. A wide lawn and back garden are lying behind the Gyeonghoeru. There is another pond and a small palace in the middle of the pond: the Hyangwonjeong Pavilion. Hyangwonjeong has a silent and peaceful beauty, different from Gyeonghoeru, which has a grand and majestic

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▲ Many visitors take photographs in front of Gyeonghoeru.

beauty. Geoncheongung palace behind the Hyangwonjeong looks different from other ones, without the Korean traditional pattern, “Dancheong.” It is a small place that Emperor Gojong* and his wife built to avoid the interference of Prince Regent Heungseon,* and it is where Empress Myeongseong* was murdered by the Japanese assassins, on October 8, 1895.

©Cho Eun/The Argus



▲ Hyangwonjeong is located in front of Geoncheongung.

Gyeongbokgung palace in May is full of green everywhere. As one proceeds inside Gyeongbokgung, the Mount Bugak gets closer, and it also evokes admiration. Looking around, tourists are easily found wearing hanbok. At the last Royal Culture Festival, several exhibitions related to Korean palaces, including “Palace, The Archives” about palace documents, were provided both on and offline. The game “Palace in Minecraft,” which shows the Minecraft version of Gyeongbokgung, and “Gyeongbokgung Time Travel, Hanyang Time Machine,” a virtual reality program showing the figure of Gyeongbokgung in the Joseon Dynasty period, were opened. Videos about parkour* and bicycle stunts performed at Gyeongbokgung and a video named “ASMR, The Scenery Queen Listened” also introduced Gyeongbokgung effectively during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Emperor Gojong: The 26th King of Joseon and the first emperor of the Korean Empire. He was a king in a turbulent era before the Japanese colonial rule.

*Prince Regent Heungseon: Emperor Gojong’s father who governed Joseon on behalf of young Gojong when he was too young to govern the nation.

*Empress Myeongseong: Emperor Gojong’s wife, who is set as a protagonist in many dramas and in literature because of her tragic death and her identity as the last queen of Joseon.

*Parkour: A kind of activity running and jumping on obstacles like walls and bridges without tools and only with skillful movements.

©Royalpalace



◀ Gyeongbokgung is closed on Tuesdays and the operating hours are from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

©Cho Eun/The Argus



▲ Heungnyemun Gate (top, L), Geunjeongmun Gate (top, R), Geunjeongjeon (bottom, L) are placed in a row. There is a king's chair inside the Geunjeongjeon (bottom, R).



The Twin Palace: Changdeokgung and Changgyeonggung Palaces

Changdeokgung, the most traditional Korean palace harmonized with nature, was established in 1405 as the second palace. After all the palaces were burned by the Japanese Invasion in 1592, Changdeokgung was rebuilt rapidly and served as the most important palace of Joseon for 270-years. Changgyeonggung palace in front of Changdeokgung was made to serve the elders of the royal family, and Changdeokgung and Changgyeonggung were used together and called the “East palace.” Changdeokgung and Changgyeonggung are famous for their beautiful rear garden. To visit the gardens, one needs an internet or on-site ticket reservation. The Changdeokgung garden is so popular that the internet reservations sell out immediately after the tickets open at 10 a.m., and people line up an hour earlier to buy on-site tickets. Changdeokgung is acclaimed as the most traditional Korean palace for its harmony with the mountainous topology of Korea, rather than having the classic north-south axis that can be found in most East Asian palaces.

©Cho Eun/The Argus



▲ Injeongjeon is the Jeongjeon of Changdeokgung which shows the modernization of Joseon.

Inside the main gate of Changdeokgung, there is Injeongjeon, the Jeongjeon of Changdeokgung, on the left. Different from Gyeongbokgung which is designed in a straight line, Changdeokgung's inner buildings are horizontally connected. Injeongjeon has the throne and splendid ceiling decorated with western objects such as curtains and lights, which were adopted for modernization. Passing the broad road after Injeongjeon, Huijeongdang, which served as a Pyeonjeon and a bedchamber, is connected horizontally. A fan-shaped road in front of Huijeongdang was made after the modernization as a driveway for automobiles. Passing through the Huijeongdang, there is a forked road. The left side is a way to the garden and the right side leads to Changgyeonggung. Ysée and Raphaëll, from France, were taking pictures while wearing hanbok in front of Changgyeonggung Tongmyeongjeon, the venue famous for being where Jang Hui-bin* cursed Queen Inhyeon.* They said, “We came to Korea as exchange students, interested in K-POP and Korean culture. We visited Changgyeonggung and Changdeokgung because we heard about the pavilion on the pond beautifully harmonized with cherry blossoms around it.” Here is located the first western greenhouse in Korea and the oldest Jeongjeon: Myeongjeongjeon in Changgyeonggung, which makes travelers feel they are in the Joseon Dynasty era by looking around the antique palace and at nature.

The garden of Changdeokgung, which is the largest and most beautiful among the palace gardens, was also called “Biwon,” which means the King's secret garden. Only the royal family and officials invited by the king were able to visit the garden. The garden is a conservation area of nature and a cultural properties protection zone, allowing visitors only at reserved times accompanied by expert commentators. The garden is a light hiking course that takes an hour and a half. As visitors

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▲ Changdeokgung has many beautiful Korean traditional buildings and harmonizes with nature.

walk into the garden, they can find the Buyongji Pond and Gyujanggak Library. There are pavilions and Gyujanggak around the pond. Gyujanggak, a big palace in front of the pond, is a place where King Jeongjo* studied with his vassals. The beautiful place, in which Gyujanggak is located, shows the love of King Jeongjo for Gyujanggak and for studying. Passing the Buyongji, visitors can see Uiduhap in front of a small pond. Uiduhap, which looks modest without dancheong, is where Prince Hyomyeong,* who was famously played by Park Bo-gum in the drama “Love in the Moonlight,” studied. The secret garden also has many other ponds and pavilions for the royal family to relax and enjoy nature. It also had rice paddies and a place to raise silkworms for Kings and Queens to understand the life of commoners and their difficulties.



▲ There are many ponds and beautiful pavilions in Biwon, including, Buyongji (top,L), Gyujanggak (top,R).

Changdeokkung was used as a set for many historical dramas such as the famous Netflix drama “Kingdom” and “The Red Sleeve,” which was broadcasted on MBC. In particular, “The Red Sleeve,” a story about King Jeongjo, shows Injeongjeon and the garden including Gyujanggak beautifully. The last Royal Culture Festival held “Cure in the Palace, Changdeokkung Pharmacy,” a program for making desirable scents with various traditional medicinal herbs while inducing self-introspection through the making of antique books and writing with a traditional calligraphy brush in the place, where King Jeongjo read. Videos featuring diverse traditional music and dance were provided online.

*Jang Hui-bin: The wife of King Sukjong, Joseon's 19th king, once was a concubine but became a queen. There are many works that set her as a beautiful and evil woman of Joseon.

*Queen Inhyeon: The Queen of King Sukjong, who was once expelled but restored.

*King Jeongjo: Joseon's 22nd king who led the innovation and unification of Joseon and is held as one of the greatest kings of Joseon.

*Prince Hyomyeong: Son of King Soonjo, Joseon's 23rd king. He died young before becoming a king.

©Royalpalace



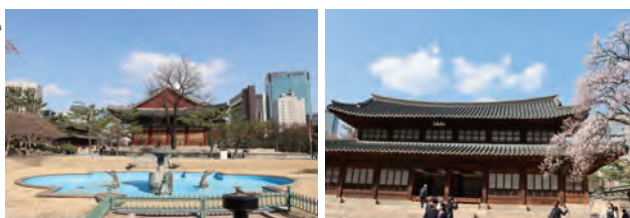
▲ Changdeokkung(L) and Changgyeonggung(R) are closed on Mondays. Changdeokkung's operating hours is from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., Changgyeonggung's operating hours is from 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.



The Palace of the Korean Empire, Deoksugung Palace

In 1896, King Gojong escaped to the Russian Legation to avoid Japan after the murder of Queen Myeongseong. A year later, King Gojong came back to Deoksugung not as a king but as Emperor of the Korean Empire. Deoksugung was the place for the Korean Empire's first steps, so there are several examples of western-style architecture showing the modernization of that time. Deoksugung also has a trace of King Seonjo* who stayed at Deoksugung when it was a mansion for royal descendants after he came back from evacuation by the Japanese Invasion. Visitors can see diverse trees and plants by walking inside the main gate of Deoksugung. Deoksugung is largely composed of three horizontal rows in view from the gate. Junghwajeon, the Jeongjeon of Deoksugung, is in the middle row. Behind Junghwajeon there are Jeukjodang and Seogeodang where King Seonjo stayed. Unlike Jeukjodang, which was used as a Pyeonjeon for the Korean Empire, Seogeodang is a two-storied building without vivid dancheong which gives a different mood from the other buildings.

©Cho Eun/The Argus



▲ Deoksugung has both Korean and western-style architecture. Seogeodang(R) also adds a diverse mood without dancheong.

Seokjojeon is a western palace that should not be missed in Deoksugung. Seokjojeon is one of the western-style buildings made with the modern innovation of the Korean Empire. It

©Cho Eun/The Argus



▲ Many visitors take pictures in front of Seokjojeon.

was used as the royal family's living place, as a work area, and as a meeting room. There is a big fountain in front of Seokjojeon that gives the feeling of visiting a European museum. Various splendid flowers are around Seokjojeon and the fountain, serving as a great place to take photographs. The building on the west of Seokjojeon is now Deoksugung Art Museum, and Seokjojeon is now home to the Korean Empire History Museum. Olivia Wahlberg from the United States was taking a picture at Junghwajeon and said that she is interested in Korean culture and visited Deoksugung on a recommendation. She also mentioned, "Korean palaces are so beautiful including the roof, and it is nice to enjoy them with flowers," and she was surprised about the western-type buildings in Deoksugung.

Although the size is smaller than other palaces, Deoksugung has diverse buildings with different styles and moods, as it was used in a rapidly changing era. The fact that there is no place for the Queen is a distinct characteristic, and it is because King Gojong did not have another queen after he lost Queen Myeongsung. At the 2021 spring Royal Cultural Festival, beanbags were provided for sitting in front of the Seokjojeon fountain and drinking coffee to relax, and a video of the Korean Empire's foreign minister greeting ceremony set at Deoksugung was shown. In the fall, the performance video of "This is the moment" by a musical actor Nam Kyung-joo was added.

*King Seonjo: Joseon's 14th king who took refuge in the Japanese invasion.

©Cho Eun/The Argus



©Royalpalace

▲ Deoksugung is closed on Mondays and the operating hours are from 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Visitors can also visit the Stonewall Walkway of Deoksugung.

Conclusion

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Visiting the Korean palaces in the middle of Seoul, full of skyscrapers, feels like time has stopped. However, the palaces have been communicating with people and building their history one by one since antiquity. By knowing the story and uniqueness of each palace's rich history, it will multiply the beauty and the atmosphere of the ancient palaces. The Royal Cultural Festival introduces palaces in different ways and leads visitors to enjoy the ancient palaces in today's culture. When celebrating Family Month, how about visiting Korean palaces in May, with various flowers and clear skies, to enjoy the Royal Cultural Festival on ancient palace grounds full of tradition and history? 📷

Do Not Get Lost in the Seoul Nightlife: Love in the Big City

By Kim Ye-ji

Staff Reporter of Culture Section

The city of Seoul, which shows off its flashy and colorful landscape, creates an illusion that even the people living in it are enjoying a glamorous life. However, after the night full of colorful lights, a gloomy morning also comes after, before the sun rises. There is a work that illustrates the flip of the splendid metropolitan city - a sequence novel written by Park Sang-young, which was nominated for this year's Booker Prize, "Love in the Big City." It is a novel covering the love stories of LGBT people living in Seoul, and the Booker Foundation evaluated it as "an energetic, joyful and touching novel depicting both the flashy Seoul nightlife and the gloomy mornings coming after it." The Argus is going to introduce a novel that tells the stories of people in confusion among the huge lights of Seoul and provides readers an opportunity to reestablish their values for love, realizing that there are various kinds of relationships and love in the world.



▲ Novelist Park Sang-young's "Love in the Big City" was nominated for this year's Booker Prize, getting a lot of attention of the public.

"Love in the Big City":

It is a full-length novel by Park Sang-young and is written from the perspective of "Young," who is the narrator of the work and also an LGBT. It is a series of four linked short stories, followed by "Jae-hee," "Taste of the Universe," "Love in the Big City," and "Vacation in the Late Rainy Season." On March 11, 2022, it was nominated for the Booker Prize, one of the world's top three literary awards, and the final winner will be announced on May 26.



The First Story, “Jae-hee”: Conscientious Objector to Abortion

The story unfolds from the perspective of “I,” a male homosexual, and the first story is an episode between “I” and “Jae-hee,” a straight woman. “I” is a freshman in college and his friend Jae-hee is hardly a fish out of water at spending a night with men. As time passes, they eventually make it as best friends at school. However, Jae-hee, who was living a dissipated life, one day becomes pregnant with a child and doesn’t even know who his father is. She was unable to raise a child and decides to get an abortion, but fights with the doctor who preaches about the importance of life and the woman’s body. “The baby is already growing. Why don’t you know that the woman’s body is such a sublime temple?” The doctor, who Jae-hee visited for the first time, enthusiastically speaks about the sublimity of life and refuses to perform the surgery. It not only features the story of the person undergoing the abortion procedure, but also draws readers’ attention to the medical personnel performing the abortion.

From Jan. 1, 2021, the criminality of abortion has lost its effect in South Korea. It was legally permitted to guarantee the right of women to decide the life in the body on their own. However, the debate over the conscience of medical personnel and institutions and the

right to refuse abortion procedures according to religion has not yet ended. In August 2021, the Korean Medical Association (KMA) raised an opinion in Medical News that it is necessary to enact legislation for refusing abortion procedures according to the conscience of medical personnel and delete the policy for punishment of said personnel. The institute pointed out that several bills were proposed by the National Assembly along with the government’s legislative motion as a follow-up measure following the Constitutional Court’s decision, but discussions on doctors’ right to refuse abortion procedures have not been carried out. The KMA said “The U.S., 21 out of 28 EU member states, Switzerland and Norway already allow conscientious objection to abortion.” The institute also argued that the scope of abortion rejection should be specified. They say that it is necessary to set the scope of the denial of treatment as to whether to include only direct procedures like surgeries, or indirect procedures such as abortion-related counseling, and information provision. In addition, the institute said, “It is necessary to consider enacting a special law as it is necessary to discuss whether to set up a separate procedure for refusal of treatment in advance or to express only medical personnels’ expression of their intention to refuse to perform an abortion.” Until now, the public has only paid attention to the fetus and the mother who carries it. However, as the subjects who directly execute the abortion process are medical personnel, the public should pay more attention to medical personnel and specific legislation is needed.

“Go to the hospital in front of Sungshin Women’s University. It performs the surgery, and the service is much better, too.” The nurse working in the hospital which Jae-hee visited for the first time said to her, after she was rejected as an abortion patient and offended. The novel not only reveals the story of a woman at bay, but also covers the reality that medical professionals confront, showing the hidden aspect of abortion that the public is not familiar with.



©catholictimes

▲ Along with the legalization of abortion, the right of medical personnel to refuse abortion must be discussed seriously.



The Second Story, “Taste of the Universe”: Society Treating LGBTs as Patients

“I” becomes a senior in college and takes care of his mother who suffers from cancer. His mother is a center-right and devout Christian who is in her 50s and considers sexual minorities abnormal. When “I” was a middle school student, his mother caught him kissing a man and was forcibly committed to a mental hospital. “I had various tests every morning including blood tests, and I took more than eight pills for each meal.” Society is changing, but there are still parents who want to deny their children’s sexual orientation in extreme ways, such as using conversion therapy* or “homosexual treatment camps” conducted by Christian organizations.

In 2016, the shocking story of A, a sexual minority in his 20s, was revealed at a press conference held by the Conversion Therapy Network in Korea. The families of transgender A continued to force A to undergo conversion therapy, saying he needed treatment. Eventually, A, who received conversion treatment, suffered verbal and physical abuse several times by family members and religious officials in the process, and barely escaped the scene and asked human rights organizations for help. Over this incident, the Conversion Therapy Network found in a survey that 2.6% of 1,072 sexual minorities experienced conversion therapy forced by their families or religious people. As readers can see from the case, the idea that sexual minorities can be transformed into “normal” through treatment remains, and even some decline in LGBT human rights is noticeable. In April

2022, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson struck down “conversion therapy ban” legislation. Conversion Therapy Ban is a bill that makes conversion treatment illegal for LGBTs under the age of 18 and those who lack decision-making ability and allows those who enforce it to be sentenced to up to three years in prison. Several organizations, including the United Nations, the World Medical Association, and the American Medical Association, publicly issued a statement to prohibit conversion therapy in 2021, and countries such as Germany, Brazil, Taiwan, the U.S., and Canada are also implementing conversion therapy ban. Amid numerous efforts by various organizations and countries to ban non-scientific and unethical conversion therapy, the British government’s decision has been seen as a regression of LGBT human rights, intensifying opposition. However, it should be remembered that no bill has yet been enacted in Korea to ban conversion therapy, either. Lee Hye-min, master’s program student of the graduate school of public health said in Kyunghyang Shinmun, “It is time to raise awareness in Korea not to permit conversion therapy in the name of “help” for LGBT people, and collective efforts and legal policy changes are urgently needed.”

“Don’t tell anyone. It’s a shame.” That’s what Sang-young’s mother said to “I” who was discharged from the mental hospital. Her words reveal the grief of LGBT people, showing parents and society treating LGBT people as patients with certain diseases.

* Conversion therapy: Conversion therapy is a treatment that claims to change individual’s sexual orientation from homosexual or bisexual to heterosexual.



▲ In New Zealand, there have been protests to demand prohibition of conversion therapy since 2021.



▲ British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was criticized for the decision to reject the bill that prohibits conversion therapy.



The Third Story, “Love in the Big City”: The Hardships HIV Patients Go Through



▲ Patients who suffer HIV not only undergo physical pain, but also face psychological and social difficulties.

During his military service, “I” soothed his loneliness by dating a male civil servant named “K.” However, K, who was living a promiscuous life while carrying the AIDS (acquired immune deficiency

syndrome) virus. What should be noted is the attitude of “I” to the AIDS virus. AIDS is a disease known to be impossible to cure once one is infected, and AIDS patients go through psychological and social difficulties as well as physical pain. However, “I” tries to reduce the severity of the problem by nicknaming the virus in his body “Kylie” and also seems to accept AIDS as part of his daily routine, like “I only need to take one pill every day.” But as the story progresses, some sentences like “Kylie caught up with me again,” and “I felt like Kylie, who was usually a daily blur broke into my life” reveal the speaker’s depression and helplessness as he realizes the reality. By seeing these features of “I,” readers can think about the pain of HIV patients in society and their social adaptation.

“Unlike other disease names, AIDS and HIV have a mixture of people’s fears and unpleasant perceptions of disease and homosexuality,” said Kang Ji-hee, a literary critic who wrote the commentary on “Love in the Big City.” “Therefore, naming can be an effective strategy that prevents people from being easily sucked into society’s negative perceptions.” As Kang said, it is not only physical discomfort that HIV patients have to face. The psychological pain and prejudices that they must endure in the contemptuous gaze of society hinder their social adaptation. According to a study on “Stress, Behavior and Psychosocial Adaptation of HIV/AIDS Patients” at Hanyang University’s Graduate School of Public Policy, many HIV patients need a considerable

amount of time to get out of shock when they find out about their disease, and they often didn’t accept any information or advice.

Also, just like “I,” who was deprived of the opportunity to go on business trip to China due to HIV, people with HIV experience many personal and social losses, including loss of employment, loss of health, loss of economic ability, loss of social support, loss of family and friends, loss of self-esteem and loss of physical ability. Most HIV patients suffer from severe stress due to loss of physical ability and lack of social support. In fact, the average depression score in the HIV-positive patient group was 10.33 ± 3.01 , which was found to be significantly higher than that of 5.40 ± 2.18 in the healthy control group. As readers can notice from the figures, HIV-infected people are more stressed than usual and are not adapting well to society. In addition, family support was also significantly lower than that of the * hematopoietic stem cell transplant patients, a disease that is not socially criticized, or the normal control group. They are not even supported by their family due to social prejudice and hatred against HIV and the patient’s own avoidance behavior. The lower the family support, the worse the course and prognosis of the disease, the worse the self-esteem, and the worse the depression, and the vicious cycle is repeated.

“If you feel burdened, it’s actually natural to give me up. So, you can just go.” “I” confesses his illness to his new lover and says if he feels burdened, he can leave whenever he wants. Giving up love due to illness can confirm the psychological deprivation and alienation experienced by HIV patients.

* Hematopoietic stem cells: They are the mother cells that help produce blood cells.



▲ Red ribbon is the symbol of HIV, which was created by American actor Paul Jabara. There have been several events including flash mobs using this symbol in Korea.



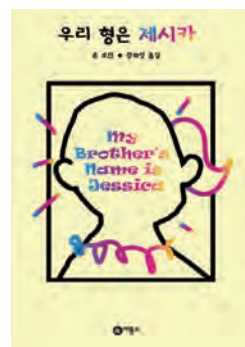
The Fourth Story, "Vacation in the Late Rainy Season": The Development of LGBT Contents

"I," who feels depressed by HIV, meets a foreigner named "Habibie" on an application looking for friends and leaves for Thailand with him. In the last story, the writer's unique black humor attracts the readers. Especially the main characters' self-mocking jokes stand out, including a scene where Chinese tourists point out "I" and say, "A fat Korean," and a scene where "I" write his ex, Kyu-ho's name as "Q Ho" and says it is an abbreviation of "Queer Homo." In an interview with the magazine Hankyung, writer Park Sang-young said, "The heavier and more serious the subject is, the more comedy should be added," adding that he used the tool of humor to capture the lives of minorities in detail. Critic Kang Ji-hee also said, "I think it can be a method to overcome a complex and heavy reality."

Contents that cover minorities' lives with black humor are further stimulating modern sensitivities. Originally, "queer" was an English word meaning "strange" and "suspicious" and was once used as an expression of insults and contempt for LGBTs. According to The Korea Contents Association's "Cultural Content Recognition Effect: Focusing on Changes in Perception of Sexual Minorities," sexual minorities in dramas have previously appeared as characters with abnormal and unusual sexual tastes or as caricatured characters with male but showing


feminine tendencies. It was found that the domestic media tends to link sexual minorities to AIDS and reproduce them in a sexually promiscuous manner. However, modern sexual minority cultural content does not only look at LGBTs with prejudice or sympathy. John Boyne, an Irish writer, published a novel called "My Brother's Name is Jessica" in 2020 that is written from the perspective of a young boy having an older brother named Jessica. The story begins as Jessica confesses his gender identity to his family. "What if my one and only friend and brother were a girl?" In response to the novel, which begins with an innocent and delightful sentence, the author commented, "It was important to me that the reader could relate to both Sam and Jessica. To do that, it was a good idea to mix humor to the work. Humor plays an important role in bringing up the work. Even if it's the darkest work I've ever written, there are always pleasant moments." Viewing the minorities through the lens of pity has also been withdrawn from the art world.

"Kylie needs a vacation, too." "I" says humorously, skipping the daily HIV treatments. Covering serious things with a light joke is rather changing the view against the socially disadvantaged.



©bryongso

▲ "My Brother's Name is Jessica" is a novel written by John Boyne and covers a story of brothers who try to reveal and accept gender identity.

Usually, the world tries to pay attention to the majority. The stories of minorities are not only hard to notice, but even if they are written, they are consumed as sad and pitiful beings rather than accepted as themselves. "Love in the Big City" is special in this sense. While showing the lives of sexual minorities, it humorously deals with various social issues, and provides readers with a fresh indirect experience. Also, as the title of the novel suggests, the story unfolds in a "big city," a space where many people gather. This means that it is a good space for minorities to meet each other, and it is also difficult to brush aside sexual minorities. However, many sexual minorities are still in a precarious position. "I think sexual minorities still hold the most disturbing positions among social minorities," said Kang Ji-hee, a literary critic. At the peak of conflicts between gender, generation, and countries, individuals and communities should make the institutional and cognitive efforts to prevent those in the most unstable positions from being targets of hatred. In that sense, Park Sang-young's novel, which introduces the socially vulnerable with a fresh perspective, is the most suitable work in the era of hatred. For readers who are looking for this fresh perspective, The Argus recommends "Love in the Big City." 

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“How Old Are You?”



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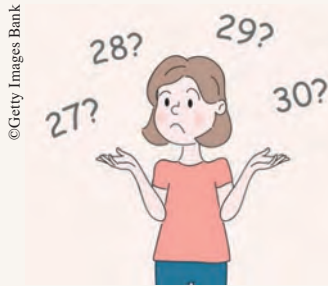
By Kim Jin-seo and Cho Eun

Staff Reporters of Social Section and Culture Section

“How old are you?” Koreans can give three different answers to this simple question. How could it be possible to say three answers? Do Koreans have three ages? Yes, it is true. There are three different ways of calculating one’s age in Korea. First, “Korean age,” a unique way of counting a newborn as being 1 year old from birth, is used in everyday life in Korea. It is calculated by adding one year to the year of birth on Jan. 1 of each year. Second, in some administrative and legal documents, another age counting method of simply subtracting one’s year of birth from the current year is employed. Third, the “international age,” an international standard of age calculation which measures how many years and months that a person has lived since his or her birthday, is used in official government uses, documents, and legal procedures. In addition, the “Born-early-in-the-year” system, which allows children to go to school early if their birthday is at the beginning of the year, and the fact that the real age is different from the legal age in family register certificate have also created a complex and unique age culture of Korea. Meanwhile, as newly elected President Yoon Suk-yeol made a pledge to abolish the Korean age counting system and make the use of the international age counting system mandatory for all administrative matters, Korea’s unique and mysterious age culture might disappear into history. The Argus seeks to find out the characteristics of Korea’s unique age culture and to predict what kind of socio-cultural change will occur when the Korean age counting system is replaced by the international age counting system.

?? Phenomenon

The One and Only System of Counting Age, the Korean Age Counting System



▲ The unique age calculation in South Korea had resulted in confusion.

Unlike other countries, Korea has a unique way of counting a newborn as being 1 year old from birth. This exclusive age counting system is known as “Korean age.” Koreans consider a year in the womb as counting towards their age. From this perspective, an infant is one year old at birth. Regardless of their actual birthdays, Koreans become a year older every New Year’s Day. Currently in Korea, an international age counting system is used as a legal standard of age. However, the Korean age counting system is customarily and frequently used in everyday life.

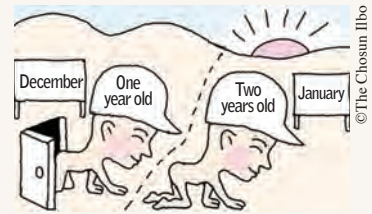
According to the Korean age counting system, there is an age difference of one year between a person who was born on Dec. 31 and the other who

was born on Jan. 1 of the following year. This is because in the Korean age counting system, people born in the same year are considered the same age.

For example, a baby born on Dec. 31 would be considered “1 day old” on Jan. 1 based on international standards. However, in Korean age, the baby would become two years old, since he or she is one year old at birth and gets one year added on New Year’s Day.

The Korean age triggers unnecessary confusion over communication. Tomiris Caesar, a student from Kazakhstan at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies Division of International Studies, said, “At first, when people talked about age in Korea, I was confused since I did not know the concept of Korean age.”

In the domain of administration, it is pointed out that unnecessary expenses are consumed because of the Korean age system. For example, when an identification card is issued, students of the same grade and the same Korean age will receive a notice on a different date according to their birthday. In addition, in administrative tasks such as handling civil complaints at community centers, date of birth is directly asked to prevent problems that may arise when tasks are handled based on Korean age. For these reasons, the Korean age counting system has been criticized for requiring unnecessary confusion and additional social costs.



▲ Korean age system applies even to an infant born on, say, Dec. 31, who would be considered 2 years old the very next day.



▲ Lee Yong-ho, the chief of the president-elect's transition committee, said the unique age calculations had resulted in “persistent confusion” and “unnecessary social and economic costs.”

Never Ending Story, the “Born-early-in-the-year”

It is easy to hear someone complaining that he or she cannot drink alcohol because one’s birthday is in January or February, among the college freshmen group. This is due to the unique age counting system of Korea: the “Born-early-in-the-year” (BETY, henceforth). The term refers to people who were born in January or February, who entered the school a year faster



▲ 18-year-old BETYs may have hard time hanging out with their friends because it is illegal for them to drink.

than others of the same grade. For example, student A who was born in January 2001 enters elementary school in 2007 with others born a year earlier in 2000, rather than entering in 2008 with others born in the same year. They live as a classmate in the same grade, although they are a year younger, and because of the contradiction between legal age and grade age, they meet diverse circumstances.

© wikipedia



▲ 18-year-old BETY are minors by legal sense, although every other aspect of their life is just like other adults.

Lee Yoon-young, a junior in the Department of Beauty and Arts Management at Kookmin University, expressed her complaints saying, “Being a BETY, I had advantages to start my social life earlier, but I met difficulties with relationships and honorifics more frequently.” She also mentioned stories from the time she was out of high school but yet a minor - her friends, who were legal adults, could not go for a drink with her because she was not yet allowed to drink. This is because the Juvenile Protection Act, which prohibits minors from drinking, is based on Korean age and treats BETY individuals as minors. In addition, 18-year-old BETY individuals, who just graduated high school, live their everyday life the same as other adults, but struggle with legal limitations including age-restricted

products, bank accounts, part-time jobs, and many more, because they are legally minors. They are also blamed for perplexing seniority hierarchy between people. This problem comes when a BETY becomes friends with a person of the same grade and at the same time, another of the same age who is not of the same class year. This would make the two people from different classes of year become “friends,” which would usually indicate people of the same age in Korea, and complicate the hierarchy that is deeply invoked in Korean culture. This problem is usually called “Jokbo* destruction” in Korea. To abolish these complications, the revision of the 2007 Education Law prohibited early admissions. However, the law was first applied to those born in 2003, who became adults most recently, and there are still many generations accustomed to the culture of BETY and confront the problems derived from it.

* Jokbo: This Korean expression refers to the family tree in a narrow sense and hierarchy in a relationship in a broad sense.

The Gap between the Legal Age and the Real Age



©National Archives of Korea



▲ In Korea, the boomers are the post-Korean War generation who spent their childhoods in the aftermath of the war.

Born after July 27, 1953, the Korean War armistice, the baby boomer* generation often have three birthdays. The three birthdays are the lunar date of birth, the solar date of birth, and the date of birth based on the official certificate of family register. Age can also be varied in some cases. It seems reasonable to unify the age based on the international age counting system, but it is not always the case. This is because there are a lot of people who have a difference between their real age and the age on the official certificate of family register. Since the age on the certificate of family register works as

the only legal age in administrative field, there is some confusion resulting from this age gap.

In fact, in Korea, there were many cases where the age on the family register and the actual age were different, especially in areas with age restrictions such as attending school, getting a job, or entering a public office. In a related case, singer Lee Seon-hee, born in 1964, corrected her legal age from 24 to 27 to qualify for the municipal election held on June 20, 1991. In the case of singer Lee Eun-ha, born in 1961, she raised her age three years from her legal age in 1974 for her broadcast appearance, and then applied for a correction back to her original age in 2007.

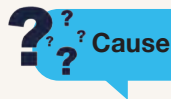


▲ Senior citizens in Korea often have difference between the legal age and the real age.

Celebrities and public figures are not the only ones who suffer from the gap between the real age and the age on the family register. The gap between the age on the family register and the actual age had a significant impact on ordinary office workers and citizens. For example, in the case of retirement, the legal age, which is the age on the family register, functions as a standard. So, if the age on the family register is older than the real age, he or she should retire earlier than their real age. Social welfare systems, including pensions, are also based on the legal age on the family register, so more and more people go to court to change the legal age as their real age.

However, there are many limitations to correct the legal age under the current law because the procedure is complicated and takes a long time. In this way, the baby boomer generation and the generation born earlier than baby boomers cannot change the discordance between the legal age and the real age. In addition, in past, the infant mortality rate was high and birth registration was not done in a timely manner, so it is common to see cases where the real age is used in everyday life, but the age recorded in the family register is different from the real age.

* Baby boomers: About 17 million people born between 1955 and 1974, a period when the birth rate soared after the Korean War.



The Special Use of Honorific Developed Solely in Korea



Asking someone their age when they first meet especially in the West is considered inappropriate. However, in Korea, one of the first things that people ask each other is their age. Korea is relatively sensitive to age and considers age as an important factor since honorifics in Korean are widely used in everyday life. In any language, words and grammatical elements with formal and respectful meanings such as “please” are universally used. However, Korean honorifics have appeared in various ways, beyond the distinction between formal and informal words which appear in other languages.

Korean is a language in which the usage of honorifics is subdivided. The addressee honorification in Korean is elaborately stratified so that it is systematically uttered in different ways depending on the social status and intimacy of the speaker and listener. It is required to use an appropriate form of honorific suffix, which is dependent on whom one is talking to. In Korean, honorifics are used as a tool to set up hierarchical relationships, which are appropriately determined only after figuring out where the speaker is located in the social hierarchy in relation to the addressee. As a simple example, if a person is one year older than another,

PERSON	HONORIFIC (Female)	HONORIFIC (Male)
Older brother	Oppa (오빠)	Hyung (형)
Older sister	Unnie (언니)	Noona (누나)
Mother	Eomma or Eomoni (엄마 or 어머니)	
Father	Appa or Abeoji (아빠 or 아버지)	
Grandmother	Halmeoni (할머니)	
Grandfather	Harabeoji (할아버지)	
Middle-aged man	Ahjussi (아저씨)	
Middle-aged woman	Ahjumma (아줌마)	
Teacher	Seonsaengnim (선생님)	
Senior	Seonbaenim (선배님)	
Junior	Hoobae (후배)	
Generic	ssi (씨)	

©Sam's Funny Bunnies

▲ Honorifics are important in Korean culture for proper conversation and relationship-building.

the junior person should give respect to the senior person. Because of this linguistic constraint, the Korean age counting system has not been a trivial matter in Korea.

There is criticism that the Korean counting age system deepens the age hierarchy culture. In many countries using the international age, it is common for people to be friends without considering age. However, the Korean age counting system along with the remaining Confucian culture creates hierarchical order within relationships and is still causing social conflict. Seol Dong-hoon, a professor of Sociology at Chonbuk National University, said, “Among the traditional and Confucian principles of hierarchical structure, the age hierarchy of ‘Elders first’ is still persistent in Korean society. Efforts are needed to change the legal system and overcome the age hierarchy in Korea.”



▲ In the Confucian tradition, Koreans have lived by an ethic based on five hierarchical relationships: father-son, king-subject, husband-wife, elder-younger and friend-friend.

The Start of BETY and Strict Hierarchy

Why and when did the concept BETY begin? It was since 1950 when they started to enter school faster. In Korea the new semester of school started in October until 1949, the same as many other countries. So, children born from October to December, who became 6-years-old before the entrance year, and children born from January to August, who became 6-years-old at the entrance year entered elementary school together. However, the Education Law reform in December 1950 allowed students who turned six before March to enter school, but also allowed students born in January and February to enter school earlier with those who were born in the previous year. Consequently, the term “Born-early-in-the-year,” and the related culture arose. This bill did not cause confusion at first. In 1950, when the bill started, many people entered school a few years late because of poverty and incorrect birth registration so age difference in a class was common. However, as time passed, the cases of late entrance became less frequent, creating the “BETY” problem in Korean education. Moon Chan-ki, a lecturer in Psychology at Leeds Beckett University, said, “Korea, which has the strictest hierarchy all over the world, shows a big difference from other countries that it has a permanent dominance order based on age which is decided from birth. Particularly in Korea, as age affects the hierarchy system most greatly, it is obvious to respond sensitively to a one-year gap. Choi Bong-young, a former professor in the Department of Korea at Korean Aerospace University, explained, “Structural honorification of Korean intensifies Korea’s ranking culture, and deepens desire for power and competition, resulting the division on BETY.” The strictly hierarchical culture of Korea based on age functioned to make a unique BETY culture.



▲ Korea has strict age hierarchy, which makes one feel that one year difference is huge.

Why Real Age and Legal Age Are Different?

In the early 20th century and right after the Korean War, Korea was a poor country where the infant mortality rate from measles and tuberculosis was very high. Under these circumstances, it was common to register a child in the family register a year later, only after the infant had survived. In some cases, parents waited for 6 months to 3 years without registering the birth of child. In general, it was common to register the birth of infant on the date exactly one year after birth. Even if there was a difference in the year, the date of birth was the same to

celebrate the birthday. At times, the difference between the real date of birth and the registered date of birth was more than two years. There were many cases of reporting and registering the birth of child later than the actual date of birth to avoid fines. Due to the common practice of the 1950s and 1960s, when there was little awareness of accurate birth registration, there are still many people whose legal age, which is the age in the family register, and real age are different.

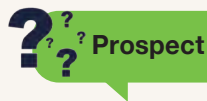


©National Archives of Korea

▲ South Korea was one of the poorest countries in the world in early 1960's after the Korean war.

The complicated process of correcting the legal age on the family register is also one of the reasons why people are reluctant to revise their legal age. To correct the legal age on the family register under the current law, documents such as a basic certificate, a copy of resident registration, a criminal inquiry record, and a family relationship certificate must be issued. In addition, materials for further explanation must be prepared, such as a birth certificate issued by a medical institution, a hospital birth record, a dated 100-day or first-birthday party photo, a student record, a letter of guarantee written by family or acquaintances, and an age determination from a doctor.

It takes approximately 1 to 3 months to complete an application for permission to revise the legal age. To issue a revision, one should submit these documents to the family court and wait for permission. One can finally correct the legal date of birth by submitting the verified judgment made by the court to the community service center within one month after permission is granted. Of course, it is true that caution is necessary to prevent the abuse of correction. However, the current procedure is too complicated and often causes inconvenience to many people. Moreover, difficulties to obtain explanatory materials also make it difficult for people to correct their legal age.



Abolition of the “Korean Age” and Standardization of the Age Counting System



The unified standard for the system of counting age has been continuously discussed in Korea. In June 2021, 13 members of parliament, including Democratic Party lawmaker Lee Jang-sup, proposed the “Age Computation Act” at the National Assembly Public Administration and Security Committee. The content of this bill is to abolish the Korean age counting system and promote the use of the standard international age counting system at all government and public institutions. Moreover, it aims to make use of the standardized international age counting system in everyday life through publicity. According to Lee Jang-sup’s office, he said “Japan also used the same age counting system as Korea, but in 1950, Japan adopted the international age counting system in

everyday life. The ‘Age Computation Act’ is proposed in response to the public’s desire that the Korean age counting system is inconvenient, and the unified standard of age is needed.”



©The JoongAng Ilbo

▲ The Democratic Party lawmaker Lee Jang-sup, proposed the “Age Computation Act” at the National Assembly in June 2021.

The bill is currently in the review stage by the National Assembly Public Administration and Security Committee, but it seems that social consensus needs to be developed until it is passed. The Chief Committee staff of the National Assembly Public Administration and Security Committee issued a review opinion on this bill in November 2021. The staff acknowledged that there is a difference in age indication in the law and everyday life, but he

said that social consensus needs to be given priority. In addition, Professor Han Se-eok from Dong-a University Department of Public Administration said, “With the government publicity, the newly implemented road name address system in Korea has been successfully settled down and replaced the old address system. Active publicity and campaigns are needed to promote the use of an international age counting system.”

The newly elected President Yoon Suk-yeol pledged to make the use of the international age counting system mandatory for all administrative matters through a 59-second video clip on his YouTube channel on January 17, 2022. During the election campaign period, Yoon promised to abolish the Korean age counting system and implement the international age counting system, thus unifying the legal and customary standards of age. Earlier, People Power Party (PPP) policy headquarters once said, “Age is a meaningful criterion for people's life, such as taxes, medical care, and welfare.” If the standard of age is unified, it is expected to meet international standards and avoid unnecessary confusion to explain the Korean age counting system to foreigners multiple times.



©The Kyungyang Shinmun

▲ Korean age method may soon change as the country's new President Yoon Suk-yeol is pushing for this centuries-old method of counting to be abolished.

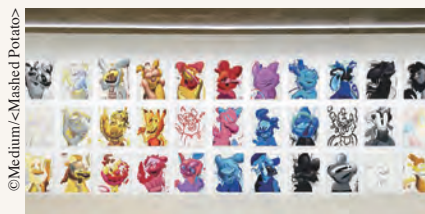
The Complicator and the Connector: The BETY

Although the concept of BETY may go with the education law revision, its effect in everyday lives remains unique in Korean culture. The term “jokbo breaker,” which means that BETY destroy the age hierarchy, is commonly used in everyday life. Also, jokbo breaking, complex seniority of BETY are still a hot potato on social media and TV programs. There are many videos telling how to solve the complex dominance order, resulting from BETY, with the title “Mopping-up BETY” on social media and YouTube.



©YouTube/@Oking(ohm1025)

▲ There are many contents about the BETY culture on the social media.



©Medium/<Mashed Potato>
▲ Artist Lee Hae-Kang expressed the complication of BETY through his artwork.

Meanwhile, resolving the BETY

issue can be a key to solve the confusion from the standardization of counting age. As the age system is to be unified to international age, where age is counted by birthdays, everyone will gain their age on each one's birthday. This means that ages will vary throughout the same academic class. Moon Chan-ki, a lecturer in Psychology at Leeds Beckett University said that this might bring disarray in age hierarchy arrangement and claimed that Korean hierarchy

culture will still be hard to ease off. In this circumstance, BETY, lying between the two ages, can work as a connecting link. Artist Lee Hae-Kang held his exhibition “Mashed Potato,” about BETY, describing them as a protagonist and connection, in 2019. He drew 12 animals representing ages in eastern society and applied an animation technique slowly changing one to another. He expressed that BETY is like a “man on a boundary” or a “middleman” in Korean hierarchical society and that they have the power to blur the boundary and at the same time to unite the two elements. In this vein, to shed some light on the BETY issue can be a way to relieve the unnecessary strictness of the hierarchical culture.

People Correcting Their Legal Age as Their Real Age




With the improvement of medical care in Korea, the infant mortality rate is now extremely low, birth certificates through obstetrics and gynecology are common, and the birth registration is made within one month of the infant's birth. In accordance with the provision of Articles 3, 21, 44, and 45 of "Family Relations Register Act," it is compulsory for parents to register the birth date within a month after the birth of an infant. Therefore, there is no longer any gap between the legal age registered in the family relation certificate and the real age. However, the baby boomer generation and the older generation are still experiencing discomfort due to the difference between the legal age on the family register and the real age. According to Statistics Korea, the number of baby boomers born between 1955 and 1973, after the Korean War, is estimated to be about 17 million. The proportion of the population over age 50, including the number of people born before the baby boomer generation, accounts for more than 40% of the total population. To prevent inconvenience and confusion for many people who are suffering from the difference between the legal age and the real age, it is necessary to correct and bridge the gap between the legal age and the real age.



▲ The process of getting permission for the correction of legal age is complicated due to problems such as illegal receipt of pension.

If the gap between the legal age and the real age becomes an important obstacle in an individual's life, it is right to correct it. Lee Hae-yong, a lawyer specializing in family litigation, said, "In the past, it was easy to get permission for the correction of legal age, but recently, it is hard to get it due to problems such as illegal receipt of pension." If it is confirmed that the evidence materials prove true through the factual confirmation, a simplified procedure to permit the correction of legal age is needed, considering the long wait endurance from the current Family Court. Since the legal age is the standard for social welfare system including pension receipt for the elderly, it is necessary to revise the difference between the

legal age and the real age to prevent unnecessary wasting of administrative costs and provide accurate support to those in need. The time has come when everyone must step in to solve the confusion and inconvenience made by the "age gap."

The status quo of Korea that one person has three ages is a special phenomenon that only appears in Korea. The Korean age counting system, and the gap between the legal age and the real age, are expected to be unified and standardized into the international age counting system, in response to the criticism that the current age counting system in Korea does not meet international standards and causes legal and administrative inconvenience. Some argue that the Korean age counting system should be maintained to preserve the unique culture of Korea. Ultimately, discussions regarding the age counting system led to the conclusion that no one should be disadvantaged by an age counting system. The new government is trying to unify the system of counting age by following the international age counting system. The change in the system of counting age should not make any additional confusion regarding the age computation. Moreover, social consensus must be reached before the unification of the age counting system. 

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Bee Savior: Apiculturist Choi Yong-soo



©Choi Yong-soo

By **Lim Se-jin**

Associate Editor of Theory & Critique Section

“If honeybees disappear from the surface of the Earth, man would have no more than four years left to live.” It is a warning from Albert Einstein, who emphasized the importance of honeybees. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), more than 70 percent of the world’s top 100 crops pollinate and bear fruit through honeybees. In other words, honeybees carry pollen from plants and produce fruit, which increases crop yields and has a great influence on the human food supply.

However, this spring, ahead of the honey harvest season, the number of beekeepers who are discouraged after opening beehives to wake up the bees from hibernation is rapidly increasing. According to a survey conducted by the Rural Development Administration and Korea Beekeeping Association on bee farms nationwide from early January to the end of February, about seven billion bees in wintering are believed to have disappeared, and the damage is estimated to have already exceeded 100 billion won (US\$ 81.76 million). Choi Yong-soo, an apiculturist at the Rural Development Administration’s Department of Agricultural Biology Apiculture Division, is the first person in Korea to develop and distribute honeybees for the high yield of honey and disease-resistant native bees to solve this situation. For World Bee Day on May 20, The Argus aims to explore the coexistence of honeybees and humans considering research conducted by Choi Yong-soo and to look at his beliefs about his findings.

[Before Reading]

Pollination: The act of transferring pollen grains from the male anther of a flower to the female stigma. Pollination is needed for plants to reproduce, and so many plants depend on bees or other insects as pollinators. Bees are excellent pollinators because most of their life is spent collecting pollen, a source of protein that they feed to their developing offspring.

Sacbrood: A viral disease in honey bees which affects the larvae, causing them to shrivel up and become scalelike.

The Argus: Please Introduce Yourself to Argus Readers.

Hello, readers of The Argus. I am Choi Yong-soo, an apiculturist at the Rural Development Administration's Department of Agricultural Biology Apiculture Division. Originally, I studied the field of insect molecular biology while majoring in biotechnology in college. For the academic curriculum at school, I studied the gene expression mechanisms of various insects, and my main field of research was to study the properties of transgenic proteins* using insect cells. Just before I received my doctorate, while I was thinking about my career, I chose a public office that accords with my values that I want to show my talents in working for the nation and people. At that time, the field of honeybee research was not important in Korea, but I gradually expanded my research area while studying honeybee viruses. Also, there was a lot to learn from honeybees, which are social insects that live in colonies. Honeybees have many similarities to humans, such as being diligent and making daring sacrifices for the organization. As a result, I enjoyed studying honeybees so much, and my affection for research became deeper.

*Transgenic proteins: It is a protein that gives tumor cell traits to normal cells.

Researcher's Effort for Endangered Honeybees, Jangwon Bee

The Argus: What Kind of Breed Is the Jangwon Bee and What Made You Develop It?

The Jangwon bee is a Western honeybee, and it is the first developed breed in Korea and it is a high-yield variety, with at least 31 percent more production of honey than an ordinary honeybee. The Jangwon bee was developed due to the continuous request of bee farms. There have been constant requests to increase the production of honey, which accounts for 70 percent of the income of bee farms. For this reason, although I tried to increase productivity through the honeybee management technology, the technology alone was limited; so ultimately, honeybees with high honey productivity were needed. As a result, I succeeded in fostering honeybees that have 19 percent higher ability to collect honey per bee than existing honeybees. The Jangwon bee is more than twice as strong against diseases as conventional honeybees, and

their fertility is excellent, indicating that the number of working bees per beehive is 45 percent higher than that of other honeybees. Therefore, the Jangwon bee has an economic value that increases annual honey sales income by more than 70 billion won (US\$ 57.33 million) and is currently distributed to farms.

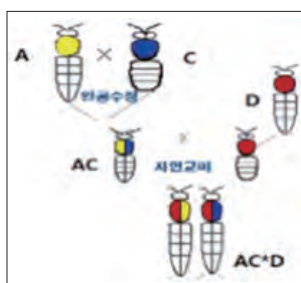


©Choi Yong-soo

▲ Apiculturist Choi Yong-soo developed Jangwon bee.

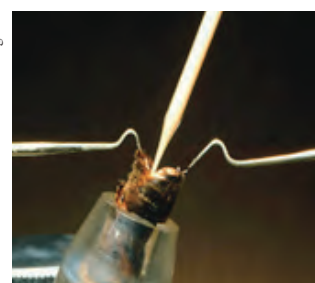
The Argus: What Was the Development Process of the Jangwon Bee?

To develop the Jangwon bee, I first collected six kinds of honeybees from 2003 to 2008. These six types of honeybees were basic species for breeding, had different external characteristics, and had excellent honey productivity and disease resistance. Based on this, from 2009 to 2010, 11 cross combinations were made. As a result, cross combinations were created: four two-way crossings,* six three-way crossings, and one four-way crossing. Among them, one of the three-way hybrid species was selected as the best breed in that it had an excellent ability to collect honey, wintering power and disease resistance. The Jangwon bee is the three-way hybrid species selected at that time. The Jangwon bee is a breed that was born when the queen bee produced in A breed and the male bee produced in C breed mated to become the maternal line, and the male bee produced in D breed becomes the paternal line. The Jangwon bee is relatively mild and has a yellow abdomen. Also, the tongue length is relatively long, the forewings are wide and long, and there are many worker bees per bee colony because the bee colony's power is strong.



©Choi Yong-soo

▲ Jangwon bee is the three-way hybrid species.



©Choi Yong-soo

▲ Jangwon bee is created through artificial insemination.

*Two-way crossing: It is a cross between two lines A and B.

Baekdubeol

The Argus: What Kind of Breed Is Baekdubeol and What Made You Develop It?

Baekdubeol is a native bee of a sacbrood resistant variety produced by interbreeding two lineages. When I saw that native bees had a 90 percent death rate due to the spread of sacbrood, a viral disease, I thought I should breed native bees of a disease-resistant variety to solve this problem. At that time, drug development, including the development of honeybee management technology, was an important part; but I thought it was most important to foster and distribute an excellent breed such as a disease-resistant variety to solve the fundamental problem. Therefore, as the most fundamental solution to this problem, I developed a disease-resistant variety.

©Rural Development Administration



▲ Apiculturist Choi Yong-soo succeeded in fostering a new native bee breed, Baekdubeol, for the first time in eight years by mating bees with excellent resistance and reproductive ability.

The Argus: What Is the Development Process of Baekdubeol and What Are the Effects on the Domestic Bee-farming Industry Through This?

In 2016 and 2017, R and H species of honeybees with disease resistance were selected. After that, using each as a maternal (R) and paternal (H), RH, the hybrid species with the best disease resistance, was developed as a supply species, and this supply species (RH) was Baekdubeol. The excellence of the Baekdubeol is as follows. As a result of comparing the Pin kill test* and the ability to remove dead pupae through artificial sacbrood infection to compare the cleaning behavior characteristic that can decide disease resistance, in the Pin kill test, the maternal line was 97.3 percent and paternal line was 98.9 percent, which was 8 percent and 9 percent better than ordinary native honeybees, and Baekdubeol (RH) was the best at 99.3 percent. The results showed that after artificially infecting larvae with the sacbrood virus, the maternal line had a survival rate of 46.6 percent, the paternal line 53.2 percent, and

the Baekdubeol 70 percent. In addition, it has been confirmed that the lifespan of the Baekdubeol has been extended by about 10 days compared to the existing worker bees and the growth and honey productivity of their bee colonies are more than twice as good. So, this is the most memorable study I've ever done. If the native bee of a sacbrood resistance species is expanded and distributed nationwide, honeybees will be less likely to get diseases, thus improving honey productivity and being used as a variety with excellent availability as a flowerpot production and medium.

*Pin kill test: It is an experiment to measure the rate of completely cleaning the pupa room for 24 hours after stabbing and killing 100 cell-capped pupa rooms with pins.

Researcher Choi's Opinion on the Honeybee Research

The Argus: What Kind of Values and Responsibilities Are You Carrying into Your Research?

In the course of studying honeybees, I found that my research contributes to enriching the lives of nearly 30,000 bee farms and, broadly, maintaining agriculture and natural ecosystems. So, I came to think that my role in researching the field is very important and I feel a sense of responsibility. For this reason, I think I worked almost nonstop on weekends for about 10 years to make Korea's beekeeping stand out in the world. As a result, I am proud of the resurgence of endangered native bees, and I am looking forward to what I will do in the future. Perhaps honeybees will be more difficult to protect in the future due to diversified climate change and the occurrence of various pests. Therefore, I will continue to study and move forward to solve these difficulties.



©Choi Yong-soo

▲ Apiculturist Choi Yong-soo was recognized for contributing to the increase in the income of beekeeping farmers and won the grand prize at the evaluation of the advanced technology demonstration business in 2018.

The Argus: What Are Your Future Research Directions and Goals?

Except during the honey production period, bee farms make profits by growing worker bees and queen bees and selling beehives or producing beekeeping products such as royal jelly,* propolis,* and beeswax in addition to honey. Therefore, to support the stabilization and sustainable growth of the bee-farming industry, I plan to breed varieties that can harvest a lot of royal jelly and propolis in addition to varieties with excellent honey collection ability such as the Jangwon bee.

Also, as the number of honeybee diseases is gradually increasing due to climate change, I will also try to breed more resistant honeybees to solve the decline in honey productivity. Besides, for active and efficient breeding research, it is necessary to collect and preserve honeybees' genetic resources, but it is difficult to introduce live honeybees in foreign countries under the current quarantine law. Therefore, by introducing honeybee semen with excellent blood and artificially inseminating it into a domestic queen bee, I will preserve resources for future generations.



▲ Apiculturist Choi Yong-soo believes that many studies are called for to protect honeybees.

*Royal jelly: It is a substance that bees make in order to feed young bees and queen bees.

*Propolis: It is a red and brown resinous substance collected by honeybees from tree buds, used by them to fill crevices and to fix and varnish honeycombs.



Last, but NOT Least!

The Argus: One Final Word to HUFs Students and Readers of The Argus, Please.

Recently, the mass disappearance of honeybees has raised interest in the preservation of honeybees within the country. However, since a few years ago, foreign countries have been paying attention to the decreases in honeybees. For example, the United States designated seven species of native Hawaiian bees as endangered species in 2016, and Australia is also trying to come up with measures to cope with the 70 percent decrease in honey production in the south in 2019. On May 3, 2019, the American Seed Company has already shown what the table will be like if honeybees go extinct in 2100. If honeybees become extinct, grapefruits, berries, cucumbers, and peas, which all require honeybee pollination, will disappear; and nuts and avocados that have recently gained popularity in the midst of the craze for vegetarian diets will also disappear. Also, with the elimination of other vegetables except root vegetables that grow underground, grass for herbivores will also disappear, reducing the production of meat and dairy products. Of course, sweet honey will disappear, too. Therefore, humans need to take measures to protect honeybees before things get worse, and this requires your attention.

Mass extinction is the rapid change in the Earth's environment and the disappearance of unadopted creatures at the same time. So far, there have been five mass extinction in Earth's history. And right now, a sixth mass extinction is approaching. The difference between this sixth mass extinction and other mass extinctions is that humans are the factors that rapidly change the Earth's environment, not asteroid impacts, or large-scale volcanic eruptions. It can be seen from the examples of mass extinctions that "the top predator must disappear." This is because predators located at the top of the food chain are greatly affected by the extinction of creatures in the lower stages of the food chain. As a representative example, all dinosaurs, which were the top predators, were extinct during the best-known fifth mass extinction. Therefore, the biggest damage of this sixth mass extinction will return to our top predators, humans.

Thus, before the impending crisis engulfs humanity at some point, humans should take the growing crisis seriously and deal with it while considering harmony with nature. The spring of this year, about seven billion honeybees that disappeared in Korea are by no means a small number. At a time when no one is paying much attention to honeybees that are slowly dying out, why don't we pay attention to protect ourselves from the chaos of mass extinction? 🐝

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Global Granary Broken by Bullets

By Yang Yu-min

Staff Reporter of Social Section

The farmer's footsteps are cut off from the Ukrainian farmlands, and tanks and armored vehicles are scurrying about. Many people have lost their lives, and farms have also lost their green vitality. However, there are concerns that this war will not end simply as a problem between the countries concerned, and may lead to a war for food security around the world. Ukraine, also known as the "breadbasket of Europe," is the world's fifth-largest exporter of grain, but war has put warning lights on crop production, and Ukraine has begun restricting grain exports. Not only has Ukraine, but also Russia, the world's third-largest grain exporter, has begun to impose export restrictions. As a result, international grain prices began to skyrocket. World Trade Organization (WTO) Director General Ngozi Okonzo Iweala said soaring global food prices caused by the war could spark riots in poor countries, and the United Nations warned this situation was the worst food disaster since World War II. The Argus seeks to increase readers' understanding of the pressing international food crisis and raise interest about this issue by examining the food crisis sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDGs are the greatest common goals of the United Nations and the international community, newly implemented from 2016 to 2030. SDGs aim to solve universal human problems, global environmental problems, and economic and social problems with 17 main goals and 169 specific goals by 2030.

The Invasion of Ukraine Triggered the Food Crisis, So What Is This War for?



▲ Ukraine has been devastated by the Russian invasion.

3153; that is the number of civilians killed in the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as announced by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on May 2. It is predicted that there will be more victims day by day, long after the start of the Russian invasion on February 24, 2022. Although this article deals with the food crisis that has affected the world beyond Ukraine as a result of this invasion, The Argus wants readers to remember that many innocent civilians were slaughtered prior to the food crisis. Only the cessation of war can stop this tragedy. The Argus is vehemently opposed to any war of aggression.

A Bullet to Ukraine Was a Signal of a Food Crisis

Reduced Crop Cultivation

Ukraine, which accounts for 12 percent of the world's wheat exports, has not been able to properly harvest not only winter wheat but also new crops due to the current war, and this is accelerating the food crisis. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Ukraine, the spring sowing season in Ukraine is from the first week of March to the third week of April. However, as of March 22, of the total 15 million hectares of farmland, only 150,000 hectares have



▲ The village of Yakovlevka on the outskirts of Kharkiv, Ukraine is devastated by Russian shelling.

been sown, as farmers enter the war as soldiers. As a result, there is not enough manpower to produce the same yield as in previous years.

In addition, a decline in Ukrainian grain production this year is inevitable. Coincidentally, the eastern and southern regions where fierce battles are taking place with Russia, such as Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, Mykolayu, and Kiiu on the outskirts of Ukraine's capital, are the representative granaries of Ukraine. As a result, the World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that 20-30 percent of Ukrainian arable land cannot be harvested due to the war. Not only this, but also the supply of fuel necessary for the operation of agricultural machinery is being disrupted. Ukraine has relied on Russia and Belarus for 70 percent of its oil imports to run its agricultural machinery, but only one in five of Ukraine's 1,300 agricultural companies have stockpiled enough fuel for spring cultivation as fuel supplies were cut off after the invasion. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of



▲ Farmers in Odessa province in southwestern Ukraine are armed for sowing season.

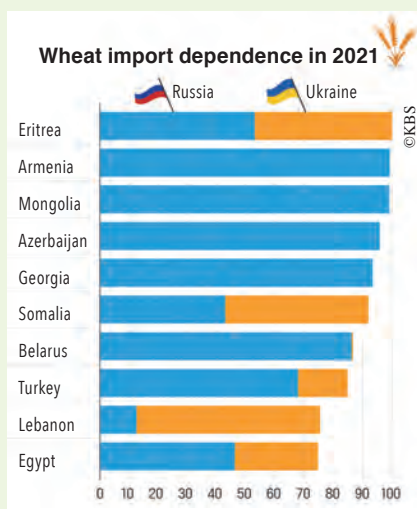
the United Nations (FAO), Ukraine has only 40 percent of the nitrogen fertilizers and 28 percent of the pesticides needed for crop production. If crop growth is sluggish in a situation where the granary is damaged and the labor force of farmers and agricultural machinery is insufficient, a decrease in crop yield will be unavoidable.

Soaring Prices of Grains Such as Wheat and Corn

Just by looking at international grain prices right now, the ripple effect of the food crisis can be seen. On March 11, 2022, wheat soared to \$1,425 per bushel in the international futures market, the highest level in the past decade. It nearly doubled from around \$740 in January 2022 before the invasion of Ukraine. The price of corn also stood at \$757 per bushel on March 23, 2022, up nearly 30 percent from \$587 per bushel in January 2022. According to the research data "Analysis of the Impact of the Invasion of Ukraine on the Grain Market" published by the Korea Rural Economic Institute (KREI) on March 31, 2022, this invasion is expected to increase international wheat and corn prices by about 10-20 percent in 2022 and 2023, and if the war continues for a long time, these high grain prices will be maintained for a considerable period of time.

The reason for the price increase is that Ukraine and Russia have enormous influence in the global grain market. Ukraine is the world's fifth largest wheat exporter as of 2021. In addition, Russia is the third largest exporter of grain, and Ukraine is the fourth largest exporter of grain. However, after Russia started the war, Ukraine began to restrict grain exports. This is because 80 percent of

grain exports went to the Black Sea through the ports of Odessa, Mykolayu, and Chornomorsk in southwestern Ukraine, which were blocked by Russia. Meanwhile, Russia has banned exports to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) until the end of June 2022 to stabilize the domestic supply of major grains such as wheat, barley, and corn. The war between those responsible for food in other countries means a stagnation of food distribution networks around the world.



▲ Many countries depend on wheat exports from Russia and Ukraine, and they are expected to suffer enormous losses due to war.

Export restrictions by warring parties and skyrocketing grain prices have also sparked food protectionism around the world. Food protectionism means that the country stops exporting food or expands food stockpiles. Egypt, Argentina and Hungary, Turkey and Indonesia, as well as Russia and Ukraine have recently announced export restrictions on their foods. Egypt and Hungary temporarily halted grain exports, Indonesia raised palm oil export taxes, and Argentina raised soybean oil and soy flour export taxes. As a result, several countries have attempted to reduce the amount of

food that is being exported from their countries by raising export barriers. In response, Kim Jong-jin, a research fellow at the KREI, said that this kind of food protectionism continues to affect prices.

Food Shortages Caused by Disruptions in Fertilizer Supply

The price of fertilizer, an essential factor in increasing crop production, has soared by nearly 40 percent since the invasion, which has contributed to another food crisis. This is because Russia, accounting for about 15 percent of the world's fertilizer supply, the world's number one exporter of nitrogen fertilizer, and the second largest supplier of potassic fertilizer, is at war. Also, Russia is a major exporter of raw material for fertilizer. Taking advantage of being the world's largest natural gas exporter, Russia exports huge amounts of ammonia generated during natural gas production. Ammonia is a nitrogen fertilizer material, and Russia is the world's second largest ammonia exporter. In addition, Russia, along with Belarus, accounts for 40 percent of global exports of potassium carbonate, another raw material for chemical fertilizers. However, as the West, including the United States, imposed sanctions on Russia, and Belarus was also sanctioned for being an ally of Russia. As a result, this led to a setback in the supply of fertilizers and raw materials, which led to a surge in fertilizer prices.

Natural gas, which is essential for fertilizer production, also rose in price, leading to a decline in European fertilizer production, which fueled a surge in fertilizer prices. As natural gas prices has soared, European fertilizer companies have cut production of ammonium used to make nitrogen fertilizers. For example, Borealis, a large

European fertilizer producer, has begun cutting production of ammonium used in fertilizers, and Hungary's Nitrogenmuvek has also temporarily stopped ammonium production. Due to these circumstances, Maximo Torero, chief researcher at the FAO, told Reuters that the fertilizer crisis is more worrisome than the food crisis



▲ Fertilizers are emerging as another contributing factor to the food crisis.

The Global Impact of the Food Crisis

The food crisis will be even more severe in the world's poorest countries. At the Doha Forum held in Doha, Qatar, on March 26, 2022, International Monetary Fund (IMF) President Georgieva said, "The world's poorest countries are struggling with the job losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and they have to cope with the skyrocketing food costs," pointing out that the poorest countries are being pushed into the worst crisis. In this regard, WFP, which aims to eradicate hunger, also raised concerns about the current situation, saying, "The impact of the war on the world food market alone could cause an additional 7.6 million to 13.1 million people to go hungry." Half of the grain WFP purchases comes from Ukraine, so this food crisis could be a challenge to realizing the second goal of the SDGs, "Zero Hunger." Marian Yun, Director of WFP's Korea Office, said, "At the start of 2022, global inflation had already pushed the price WFP paid for



©World Food Programme

▲ Hundreds of people in Ukraine receive food items from the WFP.

food up by \$42 million a month. Then the conflict in Ukraine broke out, driving up food and fuel prices, compounding global supply chain challenges, and adding another \$29 million to WFP's monthly costs," worrying that the current financial situation has reached a tipping point due to rising WFP operating costs. In addition to this, there is also a food shortage in Ukraine, which accounts for a significant portion of grain exports. Director Yun said, "Food and drinking water shortages are reported in pockets of the capital Kyiv and in Kharkiv, currently bearing the brunt of the ongoing conflict. In the capital, food supplies are running low, with grocery store shelves almost empty," pointing out that one-third of Ukraine's population is currently struggling with food. As such, many experts fear that the food crisis will have an impact with a greater global

context than anything seen since World War II.

If so, can Korea rest assured in this situation? Not at all. The food crisis and the resulting spread of food protectionism will inevitably have a negative impact on Korea, the world's 7th largest grain importer. According to the report of the National Assembly Budget Office's "Grain Supply and Demand Stabilization Project and Policy Analysis" report, the self-sufficiency rate of food crops from 2015 to 2019 in Korea, such as wheat, soybean and corn, excluding rice, was very low at 0.5 to 9.4 percent for each crop. To make matters worse, Korea's Global Food Security Index (GFSI)* is at the bottom among the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member countries. In the GFSI as of 2021, Ireland ranked first with 84 points, while Korea ranked 32nd with 71.6 points. In addition, in the evaluation of "Imported Agricultural Tariffs and Food Security Access Policies," which is an evaluation index for a food security strategy, Korea suffered in disgrace from receiving zero points for nine consecutive years from 2012 to 2020. As such, if the international supply chain is shaken by the war while food security as

well as the food self-sufficiency rate is not stabilized, it is impossible for Korea to avoid hardship. Accordingly, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs announced on March 15, 2022 that it would expand the domestic wheat stockpile purchase this year to 14,000 tons, 5,600 tons more than last year, to stabilize supply and food security. In addition, the Domestic Wheat Cultivation Quality Management Support Group appeared to seek solutions by providing technical support for the expansion and successful establishment of domestic wheat production complexes by 2025. However, researcher Kim said, "Even if Korea increases the stockpile purchase by 5,600 tons, it is not enough under the current situation." He also said that in the mid to long-term, Korea needs to increase stockpiling purchases and wheat plantation facilities. As can be seen, Korea will have to expand its self-sufficiency base for major grains, including wheat, and make food security stable, to proficiently respond to the current food security threats.

* Global Food Security Index (GFSI): This is an index of whether the country maintains adequate food so that people can always consume a certain level of food even in special situations such as population growth, natural disasters, and war.

Ukraine has an area of about 420,000 square kilometers of agricultural land, which is twice that of Korea, which has a total area of about 220,000 square kilometers. However, due to this invasion, the farmers picked up guns instead of shovels, and their faces were filled with tears as they looked at the ruined farmland and the city, instead of smiles wishing for a good harvest.

According to the FAO, the food security of more than 13 million people is at risk as a result of the invasion. The global food price index compiled by FAO already reached 159.3 in March 2022, an increase of 12.6 percent from 140.7 in the previous month, and at the same time, recorded an all-time high. Some people may complain that the high grain prices makes their living difficult. However, readers must not forget that the cause of this food crisis is the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and even at this time, many civilians are losing their livelihoods and lives in Ukraine. It only takes a few minutes to fire a chemical weapon, but the wounds and scars will not go away no matter how much time passes. The Argus hopes that Russia-Ukraine crisis, where the number of innocent victims are increasing, will end soon. 🇺🇦

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Fly Superboard!

By Shin Jun-seo

Associate Editor of Social Section



In the era of the fourth industrial revolution, stories about new mobility such as autonomous driving, hydrogen vehicles, and electric vehicles, are pouring out. Among them, the most familiar new mobility to people today is the electric scooter. Recently, it is easy to see many citizens moving fast on roads or sidewalks on electric scooters. They are a form of personal mobility operated by electricity. They can be a fresh breakthrough to deal with traffic jams and environmental pollution problems because they use electricity rather than fuel and can run at speeds of 20 to 30 kilometers per hour. In addition, it costs 1,000 to 1,500 won (\$0.79 to \$1.18) based on the basic five-minute service charge, so it will be one of the perfect means of transportation in the future.

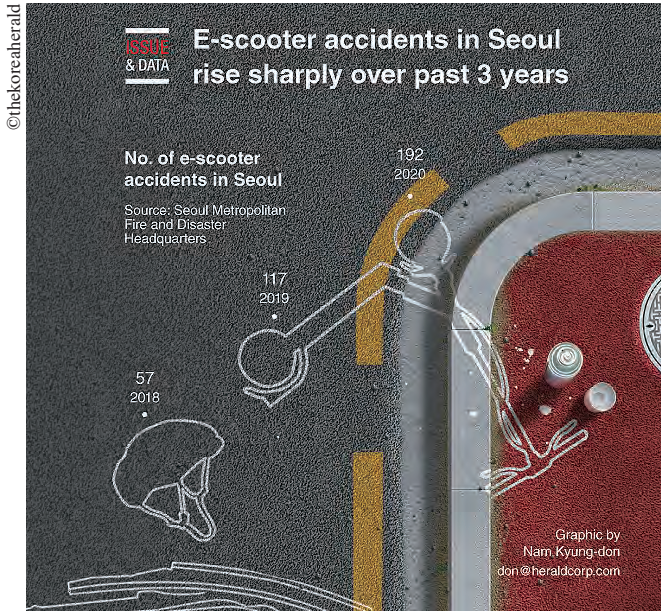
However, like all services in the early stages of commercialization, the use of electric scooters reveals some serious safety problems. Some people are showing antipathy toward electric scooter drivers who are constantly popping out and threatening cars and pedestrians. In the past year since various sanctions were imposed on the use of electric scooters, the Argus wants to find out about the safety problems and causes surrounding the use of electric scooters and gauge the direction of the electric scooter sharing system and legislation.

Before Reading

Personal Mobility (PM): Mainly refers to a form of single-person transportation powered by electricity. It is capable of low-power transportation, and is increasing its position as a means of transportation and as a leisure activity, because the vehicles do not take up much space. These include electric scooters, electric skateboards, electric bicycles, and electric motorcycles.

Background

Electric Scooters Running on the Streets



▲ Electric scooter accidents in Seoul rise sharply over past 3 years.

According to a survey conducted by Shinhan Card on the number of personal mobility uses, the demand for electric scooters increased from 250,000 in 2019 to 1.17 million in 2020. It was a statistic that could see the trend of increasing PM use, which is predicted to be a useful means of transportation in the future. Professor Kim Pil-soo, of the Department of Future Automotive at Daelim University, suggested the usefulness of PM, which is also called “First and Last mile mobility,” by saying, “In countries with advanced transportation sectors such as Singapore, PM already accounts for 1 to 2 percent of all transportation.” Professor Lee Ho-geun, of the Department of Automotive at Daedeok University, also predicted that demand for PM will continue to increase in the future, saying, “As the era of self-driving cars is created and residential areas are concentrated, cars will be managed in tower-type parking lots, used only in medium to long-distance transportation. And short distances will be covered by PM.”

Recognizing this increase in demand for PM, the National Assembly revised the Road Traffic Act* in May 2020 to allow the use of electric scooters on bicycle paths, but the revision included that anyone over the age of 13 could operate electric scooters without a license or wearing a safety helmet, and the number of electric scooter incidents and accidents soared. According to statistics from the Korea Transportation Safety

Authority, the number of electric scooter accidents increased from 117 in 2017 to 447 in 2019. Accordingly, the National Assembly revised the Road Traffic Act again in December 2020 to strengthen safety regulations such as license possession and mandatory wearing of safety helmets for electric scooters and this law has been in effect since May 13, 2021.

According to the Road Traffic Act, only those over the age of 16 who have obtained a prime mover* license can operate an electric scooter; and if a child under the age of 13 drives an electric scooter, a fine of 100,000 won (\$81.36) will be imposed on the guardian. In addition, wearing a safety helmet is mandatory, and only one passenger can board the vehicle. Under the Motor Vehicle Management Act, the term “electric scooter” applies to motorcycles as a motorized bicycle* under the Road Traffic Act, but they are stipulated to ride on bicycle paths, and where bicycle paths are not installed, they must travel along the right edge of the road. In addition, sidewalk traffic is prohibited in principle, subject to a 30,000 won (\$24.41) fine for violations; and getting off the electric scooter is required when using a crosswalk.

*Road Traffic Act: A law containing provisions relating to traffic enforcement procedures, explanations of road rules and other safety regulations.

*Prime Mover: Engine with motor less than 125cc.

*Motorized bicycle: A bicycle powered by an engine or motor with a small engine (less than 50cc) or an electric motor.

Phenomenon

Increasing Number of Electric Scooter Accidents

Due to the nature of the device, concerns about the safety of electric scooters are constantly being raised. According to Professor Kim Hyun-myung, of Transportation Engineering at Myongji University, “While riding electric scooters, it is easy to lose balance or have a crash caused by stones due to their small wheels; and it is difficult to predict the speed of rollover when overturning.” Electric scooter user, 21-year-old Jo Ji-yun, said, “I was riding an electric scooter on campus, but the brakes didn’t work well while going downhill, and I rolled to the ground and hurt my leg” warning of the danger of injuries that can occur.

The Road Traffic Authority’s traffic accident analysis system showed that the number of electric scooter accidents has risen at an annual average of 99.7 percent since 2018. As the rate of use of electric scooters increases day by day, the rate of accidents increases accordingly. If so, it is time to question whether there is a good system for coping with and preventing electric scooter accidents.

Cause

Increasing Number of Users and Accidents, and Difficulty in Regulation



▲ There are cases riding electric scooter without helmets.

The number of electric scooter users is increasing. According to a survey conducted by the city of Seoul and the Shared Personal Mobility Alliance (SPMA) on 12

major domestic shared electric scooter services such as Lime, KickGoing and Xing Xing, the cumulative number of uses of shared electric scooters in Seoul from March to August 2021 was 15.19 million, more than 4.3 times compared to 3.5 million from July to December of 2020. However, the government is struggling to crack down on violations of the electric scooter law, which are increasing in proportion to the amount of electric scooter use.

Since May 13, 2021, the National Police Agency has imposed a fine of 100,000 won (\$81.36) for riding a PM without a license under the revised Road Traffic Act. If you are caught using an electric scooter without wearing protective equipment such as a safety helmet, a fine of 20,000 won (\$16.27) will be imposed. Despite such measures, however, it is still difficult to control electric scooter accidents. Legal experts cited users' lack of compliance with safety rules as the reason why it is difficult to enforce the law related to electric scooters despite the existence of the Road Traffic Act. Park Shin-hyung, a transportation engineering professor at the University of Seoul, also said, "The problem is electric scooter users who use electric scooters, while not having sufficient knowledge of the laws."

According to an interview with the traffic safety department of the National Police Agency in the Internet newspaper SisaWeek, the reason why such violators of the Road Traffic Act are difficult to control is the lack of license plates and manpower. Even if violators who do not wear safety helmets or drive electric scooters without a license are witnessed, it is difficult for the police to crack down on them because there are no license plates on electric scooters, and there is a great shortage of manpower. "Police field workers are also aware of the need to control electric scooters, but the police must control in the field because there are no license plates," a police official said in an interview. "Only 1,000 people are being deployed at one time because 3,000 police personnel have other duties."

Lack of Space for Electric Scooters

Bicycle paths that electric scooters have to travel on are only available in some areas, such as walking trails, and many roads do not have bicycle paths. According to the Seoul Federation for Environmental Movement, the ratio of bicycle paths and roads in Seoul is 20 percent. Professor Kim Hyun-myung said, "In downtown Seoul, bicycle paths tend to be difficult to drive continuously, so safety problems have emerged when there were only bicycles on the path; now electric scooters have the same problem." However, it is impossible to build a road for just for electric scooters to solve this problem. Professor Park said, "The road space is limited, and it is virtually impossible to create space for every new means of transportation emerges," stressing that there is virtually no other way to share space. Regarding this issue, Professor Kim Hyun-myung said, "In the case of bicycle roads, bicycles, electric bicycles, and shared scooters all travel at different speeds, so a review of mixed traffic is essential," adding that further discussions on the way PM, including electric scooters, can travel are needed.

Accidents caused by parking problems are also continuing. It is pointed out that there is no parking infrastructure for electric scooters. Electric scooters are operated in a way that they can be returned anywhere, so there are no dedicated parking spaces or even dedicated stands. All you have to do is stop near your final destination. Professor Kim Hyun-myung said, "In the United States and the United Kingdom, there were cases of confusion caused by shared bicycles and legal bans or evictions before the launch of electric scooters. In Korea, electric scooters were distributed without prior preparation for problems such as parking, so the problem is standing out just now." In fact, there are continuous cases of randomly parked electric scooters harming the walking environment, and even inside and outside the college campus, it is common to see random electric scooters. As a result of this situation, an environment has been created in which related complaints are bound to increase naturally. According to the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, the number of complaints related to electric scooters surged from 511 in 2018 to 4297 in 2019. Of these, 71.5 percent are related to places of operation. In addition, in 2021, they said, "There have been more complaints about shared scooters neglected



▲ There are cases of randomly parked electric scooters harming the walking environment.

on the street,” adding, “unauthorized parking in places such as on braille blocks, bus stops, school roads, crosswalks, and entrances, is causing various inconveniences.”

Wishy-Washy PM Policy

The essential causes of all PM-related problems are the poor PM-related law provisions and the absence of the PM General Management Act. According to a report published by the Public Administration and Security Team of the National Assembly Research Service in January 2021, compensation for accidents caused by electric scooters is required by the perpetrator, the scooter driver. This is because there is no proper insurance for electric scooters by which victims can be insured in the event of an accident. Therefore, if the perpetrator does not have the ability to pay for damage compensation, it is difficult to compensate the victim. In an interview with SisaWeek, an official from the National Assembly Research Service pointed out that there is no way to be compensated if the victim or family is not covered by car insurance. Regarding such poor PM-related laws and regulations, Professor Kim Hyun-myung pointed out the necessity of the PM General Management Act, saying, “The management law on personal mobility is essential,

because discussions on follow-up systems such as insurance can begin only when specific laws to deal with PM are finalized.”

As such, the biggest cause of the current electric scooter problem is that there is no general management act created by a clear understanding of personal mobility such as electric scooters. As it is a new form of mobility, a new law is needed that is a perfect fit for electric scooters, such as the Personal Mobility General Management Act. Professor Kim Pil-soo said, “The government should make laws based on the system, not just focusing on regulations, but both revisions of the Road Traffic Act were wrong,” emphasizing the need for the PM General Management Act, which includes a 20km speed limit, an increase of wheel diameter, and electric scooter education.

As such, PM related laws should be created that can be put into a new large bowl even if other shapes of PM occur in the future. Professor Kim Hyun-myung urged discussions to enact related laws, saying, “For legislation, it is necessary to discuss whether it is better to combine new mobility means into one general method or to enact laws by grouping them into types with similar characteristics.” Now is the time for clear regulations and proper legislation through discussions led by experts, rather than constantly creating problems with electric scooters, adding discomfort and anxiety, and confusing users with continued revisions.

Conclusion

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▲ It is time to reduce confusion among PM users by establishing clear rules and laws.

Personal mobility is one of the keys to alleviating various problems such as traffic problems and environmental problems in the city. And it seen as a useful means of transportation for the future. However, the two revisions to the Road Traffic Act did not make personal mobility safe, but rather caused confusion among users due to frequent revisions, and just reduced the market for personal mobility, including electric scooters, by strengthening regulations while failing to take care of safety concerns. It is true that the safety of electric scooters and PM is in question, but rather than just focusing on regulations and reducing the market for personal mobility with regulatory policies, it is time to reduce confusion among PM users by establishing clear rules and laws, enabling the development of PM based on safe use, efficient movement, and positive awareness. 📄

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The Flower Of Hope

*For a precious moment
doubts and fears
were lifted
by a very small flower.*

- Etienne Charilaou





Enlightenment from Love

Lim Se-jin

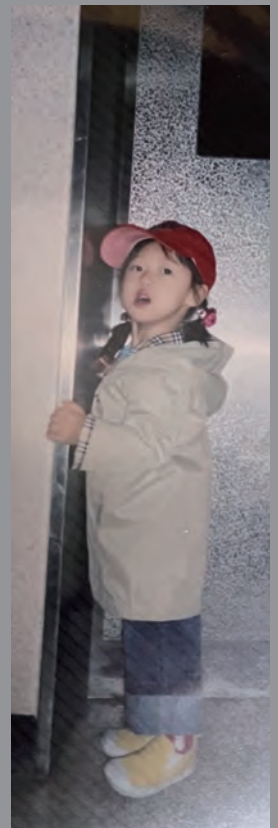
I think that those who love me the most are my family. If I am asked to think of the memory of being loved the most by someone, memories with my family will come to my mind. My family listens to my stories, sympathizes with me, and shares seemingly trivial things in our family chat room. My parents especially express that even small actions are pretty, so they raise my self-esteem and make me feel precious. If you feel lonely thinking that no one seems to be around at this moment, remember that you are not alone. You have never been alone. If you look around, you will have friends and family who will be there for you and share your feelings. If you open the door of your mind and approach first, you will be able to meet someone who will accept and understand you as you are.

Yang Yu-min

When I was in my third year of high school, I messed up my English test for the first time. For a week, my English grades did not leave my head, and I spent days not knowing whether I laughed or cried. Then one day, my friend's joke made me feel better, and he said, "I was worried because you looked bad recently, but I'm glad you laughed." I thought that there would be no one by my side in the bleak extension of my school life, so I was so grateful for that friend's heart. After that, even when I thought I was alone, I realized that I was never alone. You, too, will surely have people around you who are there for you.

Kim Ye-ji

Once I saw a saying that, "It must be because I love him to keep my eyes upon his sleeping face." I sincerely agreed to this saying as I came up with several memories when I saw this sentence. When I barely opened my eyes to go to school, I saw my mother staring at me, smiling, and touching my eyebrows softly. "You were sleeping like an angel!" At that moment, I couldn't understand her but as I get older, I got to realize that is one of the best expressions of love. Every time I meet someone I love, I endlessly stare at his sleeping face and think it looks so calm and lovely. And to readers of The Argus, you look wonderful even when you're sleeping. Don't get depressed at anything, and keep going!





Cho Eun

On my brother's wedding day, I did not cry but lots of memories emerged. Memories came to me like playing in the back yard of our house, watering the grass, and the hot chocolate he gave me after we were soaked to the bone came up. Having mixed feelings at my brother's wedding, who is nine-years older than me and taught me how to ride a bicycle, I felt the love he gave to me until today. We never said "I love you" to each other and always fight but we were always together, and we care about each other. I did not know the support and love he gave me every day, because his existence was so natural to me. It is hard to recognize but there are people who care about us and support us, like my brother to me. Look around! Feel the preciousness and the hidden love from the one always in your sight.

Shin Jun-seo

I think my parents and friends all love me and I love them back. As for my parents, every act they do for me is full of love so I couldn't just pick one. But since I was often very sick when I was little, my parents' caring for me when I was sick is probably the memory that made me feel that I was being loved. As for my friends, when we tell each other our deepest thoughts I feel that we love each other. I hope readers of the Argus could be loved, love back too, since love is probably one of the biggest reasons we are living in this world. I would like to end my epilogue by sharing this sentence from a poem "May," written by Pi Chun-deuk. "May has the face of a twenty-year-old, freshly sparkling with water drops from cold washing." How about starting a new love like the face of a twenty-year-old?

Kim Jin-seo

I am from Busan. Whenever I go to Busan to see my family, my father comes out to the airport or station to meet me. I think that is the moment when I felt I'm beloved the most. I always tell my father not to come out and stay at home, saying I could take a bus or a subway. But my father always asks me the time I arrive and comes out to pick me up no matter what. Whenever my father comes to meet me, I feel something hard to describe. I think that is because my father is a conservative Busan man who is stern and strict. I think my father is a person who is tough on the outside but soft on the inside. Why don't you call your parents and say "I love you" today?

Epilogue





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