

# The Argus

No. 531 DECEMBER 5, 2022

Since 1954

**Cultural Heritage Has Degenerated as an Eyesore**

**What Is Designated Cultural Heritage?  
What Is Unregistered Cultural Heritage?**



**Unregistered Cultural Heritages Are Neither Legally Protected nor Preserved  
To Preserve Cultural Heritage Is To Keep Our Spirits Alive**

# The Argus

ESTABLISHED 1954

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

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

## Editorial

# My Challenge to the World

Everyone lives with their own precious memories. It will often include memories of your first achievement of something, like the first time you won an award or the first time you heard the word “Mom” or “Dad” from your child. For me, when I was a Staff Reporter in The Argus, the article I wrote for the first time is the most memorable. I first joined The Argus as a Staff Reporter of the Social Section when preparing for the September issue of 2021. I wanted to write various articles with the spirit of a newcomer, but none of my articles are in this issue. It was the time when I realized that my writing skill really needed improving, and my English, which I thought I was the best at, was not as good as I thought. For a while, I felt depressed and so sorry for my fellow reporters, and I thought of myself as a problematic reporter. At that time, I was ashamed to say that there was no article written by me. However, now I am more confident than before because the memory of failure at that time gave me the foundation to write my first article in the October issue of 2021. And I, who used to be anxious about my writing skills, now became the Editor-in-Chief after a year.

At first, I declined the role of Editor-in-Chief. I thought that The Argus, whom I loved, would be ruined if I served in this role. To lead other reporters, I had a lot of anxiety, a strong avoidance tendency, and no confidence. But I thought it was an opportunity that would never come again, and decided to serve. To be honest, it would be a lie to say that it was not hard. I got lost, annoyed with myself, cried, and had endless doubts about myself. But now I realized that all these experiences were a process to make me a better person and to learn how to face the world. The Argus occupies more than half of my last two years and gives me valuable advice which cannot be exchanged for money.

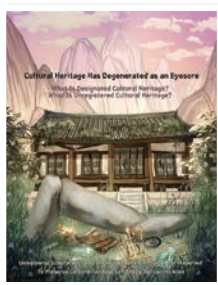
I am very grateful to the editing team and copyreader professors who always refine articles with affection; I also thank the Editorial Consultants who helped me lead this organization; four reporters, thank you for your hard work to write articles for this semester. As Editor-in-Chief, I was happy to be able to publish your articles one by one as the Cover Story of a magazine. As an inexperienced and lacking Editor-in-Chief, I am sorry and thankful to all of you. Every moment is a precious memory, so I really do not want to step down from this post. Much to my regret, this is my last moment as I will be taking the next semester off due to health problems. Thank you all so far, and thank you The Argus, one of my beloved things. 📧

By Yang Yu-min  
Editor-in-Chief

양유민



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>> Cultural heritages must be preserved carefully as they keep the historical and cultural values of a country. However, many of the cultural heritages in South Korea are currently vulnerable to the risks of being ruined, destroyed, or stolen by thieves. Specifically, the cultural heritages that are not registered formally are exposed to greater risks as they are excluded from the preservation of the government. What would be the best way to protect the unregistered cultural heritages? To preserve these heritages, our society needs to understand their current situations and to care to preserve them better. The Argus will clearly diagnose the current situations of the specific types of unregistered cultural heritages, consisting of general movable cultural heritage, buried cultural heritage, cultural heritage of local folklore, and make suggestions for them, hoping that more readers will care to preserve Korean traditional heritage better.

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The Center for Critical Foreign Languages Education of HUFs (HUFs CFLE) is carrying out the program on the promotion of education of Critical Foreign Languages (CFL) with activities for elementary, middle, and high schools. This program is supported by the National Institute for International Education of the Ministry of Education, aiming to train foreign language experts globally. Meanwhile, this program was made because of the international exchanges through cultural contents and the increasing number of multicultural families.

**By Lee Ju-won**  
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The HUFS Institute of Latin American Studies HK+ (HUFS ILAS) will invite former U.N. Climate Ambassador Chung Rae-kwon to hold a seminar on climate policy on December 19, 2022. It will be held at the HUFS Seoul Campus, and opportunities for participation are open to all HUFS students without prior application. Former U.N. Climate Ambassador Chung Rae-kwon, a lecturer for this seminar, is conducting steady research on climate, serving as a working-level representative at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, director of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and Deputy Director-General for the Foreign Ministry's Environment Council.

Latin America must overcome disasters caused by climate change through the development of climate-related policies. A seminar on climate policy by former U.N. Ambassador Chung Rae-kwon could serve as a stepping stone for Latin American Studies to conduct research in a new direction. In addition, it is expected that HUFS students who study Latin American languages or regional studies will have a great influence on setting up detailed major fields and focus their attention on climate change emerging worldwide. 

**By Park Gyeong-jin**  
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## HUFS IRS, Russia To Hold Think-Tank Networking Seminar

The HUFS Institute of Russian Studies (HUFS IRS) will hold a total of three academic conferences with Russia in December 2022 to promote exchanges and discussion between major think-tanks of the two countries. Following last year, HUFS IRS was finally selected as the “2022 Korea-Russia Think Tank Network Construction Project” organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). A think-tank is a group of experts who are gathered together by an organization in order to conduct research on various problems and work out ways to solve them.

Through academic conferences, experts of Korea and Russia from various fields will discuss detailed agendas such as diplomacy, international security, and global economy, seeking ways to promote cooperation between the two countries. In detail, HUFS IRS plans to hold a round table with the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), a representative think-tank of Russia. In addition, HUFS IRS will hold an academic seminar with the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) and the Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IMEMO). HUFS IRS Director Pyo Sang-yong said in an interview with HUFS NEWS, “HUFS IRS plans to establish a close cooperative relationship with local institutions to smoothly carry out the 2022 Korea-Russia Think Tank Network Project commissioned by the MOFA.”

Following last year’s seminar where experts discussed the digital economy and green energy technology, there is a keen interest in what matters will be managed in this seminar. Jeon Hye-yoon (Department of Vietnamese ‘21) said, “I recently found out about our university’s international project. I hope that cooperative projects with Russian institutions will bring about meaningful results in each sector, enhancing HUFS’s status at the same time.”

By Kim Su-yeon  
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## No Smoking Booth in HUFS Seoul Campus

As there is no separate smoking booth at HUFS Seoul Campus, smokers smoke in the pavilion next to the library or the back gate. In contrast, at the Global Campus, smoking booths are installed throughout the campus, clearly separating spaces for smokers and non-smokers. The smoking area formed in the pavilion next to the library has a passageway to the back of the school right next to it, and the area is next to the Social Science Building, affecting passers-by and classes inside the building.

The government does not require the installation of smoking booths on campus. However, the danger and inconvenience of second-hand smoke are already well known. Non-smokers who want to have a seat or avoid bad weather have difficulty using the pavilion. Also, the current smoking areas are located right near the passageway, which causes non-smokers to suffer from unwanted second-hand smoke. Smokers are aware of this situation, but it is inevitable because there is no separate smoking area.

Eom On-se (Department of English for International Conferences and Communication ‘21), replied “I didn’t even know there was no smoking booth. Everyone smoked between the library and the Social Science Building, so I thought it was a designated smoking area. It was uncomfortable because it smelled every time I passed by.” The cigarette is clearly like food, in that preference differs from person to person, so a thorough separation between smokers and non-smokers is needed in order to share the same place without inconvenience.

By Lee Jue-hyun  
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▲ A smoking booth is currently installed on Global Campus. Since Seoul Campus is already a dense campus, it is difficult to find a space for an outdoor-smoking area.

## HUFS Kongzi Academy Opens Chinese Language Course


HUFS Kongzi Academy will open a Chinese language course for the winter semester of 2022. The course period is from December 26, 2022, to February 21, 2023. All are conducted offline, but taking courses online is possible depending on the COVID-19 situation. Students who want to take the courses should download an application form from the official HUFS Kongzi Academy website, and then send it by e-mail to HUFS Kongzi Academy (kongzi@hufs.ac.kr) by 5 p.m., December 22, 2022 or students can apply for it in person by visiting the academy.



한국외국어대학교 공자아카데미

©HUFS Kongzi Academy

The course subjects vary from conversation to Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) preparation courses. In addition, the levels are divided into the highest, intermediate, and advanced classes in one subject, so students can study Chinese based on their level. The tuition fee is 20 percent off for HUFS students, so online courses can be taken at 96,000 won (US\$72.78) for eight weeks and offline courses at 192,000 won (US\$145.56). In addition, students who take offline classes can get a scholarship and one elective credit.

Choi Eun-a, (Department of Statistics '22), said, "I have wanted to learn Chinese before, so I am interested in this program. Also, I am really happy to reduce the cost burden of learning Chinese thanks to the discount on tuition fees for HUFS students. I think this is a great chance that HUFS students should not miss during this winter vacation." This program is a good chance to improve Chinese language skills for non-Chinese major students and to get high HSK scores for Chinese major students. 


**By Ryu Hyo-rin**

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## HUFS Student Counseling Center Recruits Participants for Peer Counseling

The Student Counseling Center of HUFS Seoul Campus is recruiting participants for peer counseling. Counseling is open to all HUFS students who are in need. Students of HUFS who have completed 10 hours of counseling education participate as counselors. Through empathizing with their peer's worries and concerns, both the counselors and counselees are likely to eventually develop the power to overcome challenges on their own. Applications can be made through the link on the homepage of the Student Counseling Center or the QR code provided in the poster. It is available by the end of this semester.

Counselees are matched one on one with the counselor who is deemed most suitable for the applicant. Matching is done based on the content contained in a written application, which includes the preferred gender, major, grade, and age of the counselor. All kinds of subjects, from career to having a relationship, are welcome. Of course, confidentiality is guaranteed. Even though peer counselors are not professionals and may not provide a direct solution, they will give comfort to the counselees by just listening to their stories.

Park Su-min (Department of English for International Conferences and Communication '21) said, "I think it will be more comfortable to reveal my worries to my peers. Since students are very similar in age and situation, they will more likely to understand my concerns and provide a better solution. These days I have concerns regarding personal relations. If there is a chance, I would feel so delighted to confess my tangled relationships and ask for advice on how to treat others with ease." Peer counseling would be a great chance to cheer up students with difficulties or concerns, especially at this point when the semester is almost over. 

**By Kim Jun-hong**

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# Exploring Cheong Wa Dae: A Cultural and Historical Spot



By Lee Ju-won

*Staff Reporter of Culture Section*

Children holding their parents' hands, tourists on tour buses, and foreign travelers of many different nationalities are now gathering at Cheong Wa Dae, the Blue House. Cheong Wa Dae was used as the presidential residence and office of 12 presidents, conducting state affairs, since the establishment of the Republic of Korea government. Therefore, it has been regarded as an unknown space because access was not available to the general public. However, on May 10, 2022, Yoon Suk-yeol was inaugurated as the 20th President, and Cheong Wa Dae became open to the public because he moved to the presidential office. It opened for the first time in 74 years, and it has received the most amazing attention, causing about 1.58 million people to visit there in 100 days. In addition, Cheong Wa Dae will be operated as a car-free street on weekends and holidays until December 31, 2022, so visitors can enjoy Cheong Wa Dae more conveniently and safely until the end of this year. The Argus aims to explore the major facilities and history of Cheong Wa Dae, and to provide readers with an opportunity to experience a new historical and cultural space in South Korea based on a deeper understanding when they visit Cheong Wa Dae in person.

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## Before Reading

***Make a Reservation in advance.***

**Location:** Cheong Wa Dae (1, Cheongwadae-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul, 03048, Republic of Korea). It takes 15 minutes by walking from Exit No. 4 at Gyeongbokgung Station of Line 3.

**Visiting Hours:** 09:00-18:00 (Closed on Tuesdays), 09:00-17:30 (2022.12.1-2023.02.28)

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### The Presidential Office, Main Building

Entering the main gate of Cheong Wa Dae, Bugaksan Mountain and a grand garden filled with green grass spreads before you. The Main Building covered with Korean-style blue roof tiles shines with reflected light. These Korean-style blue roof tiles consist of 150,000 glazed tiles like baked pottery, so they last for more than 100 years. As the Main Building was a place where the president worked and met foreign guests, it follows the traditional palace style to represent the Korean government and the country. In particular, the hipped-and-gabled roof, which is most commonly used in Hanok, which is a traditional Korean house, was applied to the Main Building. When viewed from the front, the hipped-and-gabled roof has a shape in which both ends of the roof flow down like the Chinese character for the number eight (八) giving the sides a triangular shape. Lee Hyung-jae, an advisor who designed the Main Building of Cheong Wa Dae, said in an interview with the Seoul Economic Daily, “If the roof line goes wrong, it can look like a Japanese or Chinese building. When building a Hanok with wood, we looked at a rafter angle from a distance, lifted it up, lowered it, and set the line, but the Main Building was made of steel and assembled on the spot, so we tried very hard to find a proportion from drawings.” He then said, “I hope that visitors can feel the aesthetic of the roof line.” After feeling a sense of nobility of the Hanok in perfect proportion and then turning to the eaves, 11 Jabsang\* having various animal features sit in a row on a hipped area. Usually oddly placed on the roof, which has been believed to show the dignity of the royal family and protect from fire and evil, as well as protecting the country. The Jabsang is considered as a mascot of palaces of the Joseon Dynasty\* period and can also be seen in Gyeongbokgung Palace and Changgyeonggung Palace.



▲ The Jabsang is on the roof of the Main Building.



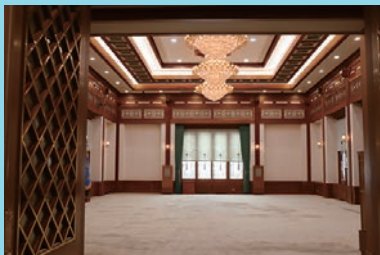
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▲ The portraits of former presidents are displayed in a row on the wall of Sejong Hall.



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▲ Fourteen consonants and 10 vowels of Hangeul are written on the carpet of Sejong Hall.



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▲ On July 15, 2021, in Chungmu Hall, K-pop sensation BTS was officially appointed as a special diplomatic envoy of South Korea.

Moving to the inside of the Main Building, the interior incorporates modern elements as opposed to the exterior, which follows traditional architecture. The luxurious mood that is created by the light emitted from the golden chandelier and the red carpet caught the eyes of visitors. Kim Hee-sung, a 12-year-old from the city of Suwon, Gyeonggi Province, 40 kilometers from Seoul, said after touring the Main Building, “I visited Cheong Wa Dae with my family for the weekend. The Main Building where the president worked is the most memorable, and I am so proud of our country because this area reflects Korean culture well.”

### Detached Reception Spaces, Sejong Hall and Chungmu Hall

The Main Building consists of living quarters called Bonchae and two detached reception spaces called Byeolchae. In the hallway leading to Sejong Hall, visitors can see a wall lamp reminiscent of a turtle. When visitors arrive at the Sejong Hall, which is on the west side of the Main Building, the venue of the state council, visitors can see portraits of former presidents. Sejong Hall is named after King Sejong, the fourth king of the Joseon Dynasty, who created Hangeul\* and developed a spirit of affection. To emulate his spirit, a carpet with the consonants and vowels of Hangeul is on the floor. This means that it is a place to reflect on love for the people as it is where the state council was held. Chungmu Hall on the east side of the Main Building borrowed the name of Admiral Yi Sun-shin\* posthumously to honor his patriotic spirit. Chungmu Hall has a high ceiling, so visitors have to look up; this high ceiling seems to express the grand spirit of Admiral Yi Sun-shin. Having a high

ceiling and a large space, it was used for Korean traditional cultural performances for visiting foreign guests and for award ceremonies involving large numbers of people.

### The Presidential Office

Going up the red-carpeted central stairs to move to the second floor of the Main Building, the Geumsugangsando, which embodies the Korean Peninsula by painter Kim Shik, is on the wall. The magnificent size of more than 11 meters wide and 5 meters tall overwhelms visitors viewing it. The painting with green-colored mountain ranges and beautiful places, including Dokdo,\* represents peace on the Korean Peninsula. Arriving at the presidential office, many visitors are taking pictures behind the desk where the president worked against the backdrop of the presidential symbol, the Bonghwang\* and Mugunghwa (the rose of Sharon), the Korean national flower. How about looking for elements that harmonize with the East and West, after taking a photo? Unlike the Western-style chandelier in the lobby of the Main Building, the president's office has traditional golden crown wall lamps. Also, the windows were finished with Hanji\* on the wooden window frames, a traditional Korean style. The combination of twinkling lights and wood materials seems to warm up the large space.

### Stepping Outside the Main Building

Stepping outside the Main Building, and turning visitors' eyes toward the main gate, the Taegeukgi (Korean national flag) is raised alone. Before relocating the presidential office, the blue flag with two Bonghwang and Mugunghwa was hoisted when the president was present or attended meetings at Cheong Wa Dae. If the president goes on an official trip or is away, the blue flag will go down. And when the heads of state from each country visited Cheong Wa Dae, the flags of the other countries were raised. However, now that President Yoon Suk-yeol has relocated the presidential office to Yongsan Ward in Seoul, the blue flag can be seen there.

\*Jabsang: The ornamental animals-looking on the four corners of the roof of a palace or pavilion.

\*Joseon Dynasty: The Joseon Dynasty lasted 518 years with 27 Kings ruling based on confucian ideas.

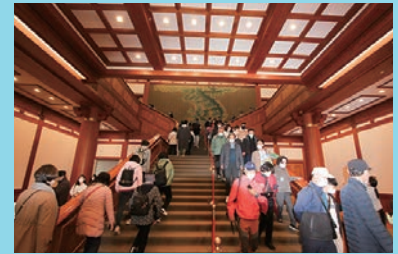
\*Hanguel: Hanguel is the Korean alphabet, the only characters in the world with the name of the creator and time of dissemination known, including the principles on which the making of characters is based.

\*Yi Sun-shin: Admiral Yi Sun-shin was active during the Japanese Invasion of Korea in 1592 in the Joseon Dynasty period.

\*Dokdo: Dokdo is a Korean territory and was designated as a natural monument in 1982.

\*Bonghwang: It is a mythological bird that brings good luck.

\*Hanji: It is a Korean traditional paper made of mulberry bark.



▲ Visitors are moving to the next spot through the central stairs in the Main Building.



▲ Kim Shik's painting of the Geumsugangsando is put on the wall of the Main Building.



▲ Korean traditional patterns are engraved on the wall, the curtain, the carpet and other things in the Presidential Office.

### Welcoming Guests of State, Yeongbingwan Hall

The Yeongbingwan Hall, nicknamed "Welcome-Guest House," was used as an official event hall or accommodation when state guests visited. If the Main Building depicts a traditional Korean house, Yeongbingwan Hall is carved out of granite, making it splendid and majestic. The four stone pillars supporting the hall are said to have been carved out of granite quarried in Hwangdeung township, in the city of Iksan, North Jeolla Province, 190 kilometers from Seoul, which is the highest quality among Korean granite sources. This solid stone pillar, which extends to and is connected to the second floor, expresses the grandeur of Yeongbingwan Hall.



▲ Currently, the blue flag with Bonghwang and Mugunghwa is not hoisted in front of the Main Building.



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▲ The Yeongbingwan, the Western-style building with Korean traditional roof tiles, is a two-story building but only its first floor is open to visitors.



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▲ The main pillar of Sangchunjae used 200-year-old red pine tree.



©The Argus

▲ On October 7, 2022, the Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA) designated the Bansong as a natural monument together with the hackberry tree, which appeared in the Korean Drama "Extraordinary Attorney Woo."



©Yonhap News

▲ South Korean President Kim Young-sam (R) and U.S. President Bill Clinton (L) went jogging around the Nokjiwon garden.

The first floor of Yeongbingwan Hall is a reception room, with Mugunghwa, laurel, and Taegeuk patterns symbolizing Korea on the wall. In the reception room, the dining table served to Bolivian President Evo Morales, who visited Korea as a state guest on August 26, 2010, is recreated. Tableware is set on a clean round table with a white tablecloth, which is surrounded by a green band engraved with a Bonghwang pattern and the Sipjangsaeng, which means 10 traditional symbols of longevity, on a white background. The chairs, which are upholstered with a flower pattern and a gold band, were used only for state dinners. It is elegant but understated. Red, yellow, and green flower decorations are placed in the center of the table, which refers to the color of the Bolivian flag. Through this, visitors can get a glimpse of the delicacy of Korea when greeting state guests. Kim Sung-soo, a 70-year-old from Gwangju, 296 kilometers from Seoul, said, "This place is the most memorable. I didn't know I would visit Cheong Wa Dae during my life; it is exciting and meaningful."



### Sangchunjae Hall

Before Sangchunjae Hall was built, there were no traditional Hanok-style buildings in the Cheong Wa Dae precincts, so for foreign guests, a traditional Hanok-style building with Ondol\* rooms and Daecheongmaru\* was built to introduce traditional culture. Meaning a house where spring continues, Sangchunjae Hall always makes people feel warm. The heads of state who visited Sangchunjae Hall praised the neat and beautiful appearance there. If visitors walk in the yard in front of Sangchunjae Hall, it is possible to see camellia and Pinus bungeana, which are trees to commemorate tree-planting day. In addition to those in the Sangchunjae yard, there are 24 commemoration plantings in the Cheong Wa Dae precincts, so it will be fun to find the commemoration planting of previous presidents.

\*Ondol: An underfloor heating system used in Korea by laying a hypocaust that transfers direct heat from firewood on the floor.

\*Daecheongmaru: The old version of the living room, the outer wall is easy to open and close, making it the coolest in summer.



### Nokjiwon Garden

Nokjiwon Garden is considered the most beautiful place in the Cheong Wa Dae precincts. The vast lawn garden measures 3,305.78512㎡ with 120 kinds of trees and some commemoration plantings of former presidents. Among them, pine trees located in the center of Nokjiwon Garden are representative. This pine tree is called Bansong because its branches look like a small round dining table, called Soban. Bansong, which is 16 meters tall and 177-year-old, goes well with Sangchunjae, a wooden building behind it. This place is peaceful and spacious with various trees, and it is also the place well known for where the 14th President Kim Young-sam and the 42nd President Bill Clinton of the United States (U.S.) jogged together. When the heads of South Korea and the U.S. served as president at the same time in 1993, President Bill Clinton visited South Korea and conducted a new type of diplomacy after the summit meeting. It is said that this jog, which both presidents' aides and security staffs thought would be over in one or two laps, ended only after 12 laps. Nokjiwon Garden, which was also in the middle of diplomacy, had actually been a place

where scholars of the Joseon Dynasty took Gwageo,\* in the backyard of Gyeongbokgung Palace. It is large enough to hold Gwageo, so former presidents invited the people here every year on Children's Day, Parents' Day, and Disabled Day to enjoy cultural events. Nokjiwon Garden played a role as a diplomatic location, also providing new experiences to the public.

\*Gwageo: A state examination to hire officials in Joseon Dynasty period.



## Presidential Residence and Cultural Heritage

On the signboard at the entrance of the presidential residence, it says "Insumun (仁壽門)." It means the people passing through this gate will live a long life, being blessed with friendly people. Like the Main Building, the presidential residence is decorated with blue tiles on the hipped-and-gabled roof. Meanwhile, visitors are not allowed to enter inside the residence, but can look all around the living room, bedroom, restaurant, beauty salon and other areas through the open windows. Passing the hiking trail next to the residence, Ounjeong Pavilion appears. Ounjeong Pavilion was designated as Tangible Cultural Heritage No. 102 and was built for rest in the backyard of Gyeongbokgung Palace. Looking down on the city of Seoul from Ounjeong Pavilion, visitors can feel like they are floating on clouds, as if the scenery of nature is like an immortal world. Going up from the Pavilion, another cultural heritage site, The Stone Buddha Seated on a Square Pedestal from Gyeongju come into sight. The Buddha has a benevolent face, a confident and balanced body, and an abundant sense of volume, and so has the nickname "Minambul (美男佛)," meaning handsome Buddha. Looking down from it, the Gwanghwamun square\* and N Seoul Tower,\* a landmark of Seoul, spread out below. As such, Cheong Wa Dae has modern and contemporary history along with old cultural heritage. It is a place where visitors can experience Korea in the middle of Seoul, hoping to finish their visit to Cheong Wa Dae while looking down from Ounjeong Pavilion.

\*Gwanghwamun Square: A central place of South Korea for bringing people together, and also holding festivals or events.

\*N Seoul Tower: The first integrated transmission tower in South Korea located in the center of Seoul, and has used complex cultural space because the night view looking down at N Seoul Tower is so beautiful.

Cheong Wa Dae penetrates the past, present, and future of the Republic of Korea. This is because it is where all the affairs of the state had been conducted. In other words, Cheong Wa Dae was a place of discourse where the stories of a lot of people protecting the country and the people unfold. And today, Cheong Wa Dae has fully opened to the public. This opening stands for the will to return the presidential office to the public, the real owner. A new narrative is written at Cheong Wa Dae, bringing together the laughter, animated conversations, and memories of visitors. Why do not readers also visit Cheong Wa Dae, which was once called an unknown space, to see the scene of becoming a new historical and cultural space? The Argus hopes that readers will be able to experience Cheong Wa Dae, a symbolic space that combines the modern and political history of Korea. 🇰🇷

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▲ Visitors were exploring the Presidential Residence.



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▲ The signboard of Ounjeong Pavilion was reportedly written by the first President Rhee Syng-man of South Korea. The Stone Buddha Seated on a Square Pedestal from Gyeongju was there, which had been originally located in the City of Gyeongju, North Gyeongsang Province, 355 kilometers from Seoul in the 9th century.



©The Argus

▲ The N Seoul Tower can be seen from the place where The Stone Buddha Seated on a Square Pedestal from Gyeongju is. Meanwhile, the visitors of the N Seoul Tower have an access to scenic views of Seoul with telescopes except for the Cheong Wa Dae area for security reasons.

# NO COUNTRY FOR LABORERS

By Cho Eun

*Associate Editor of Culture Section*

October 15, 2022. One woman in her twenties died trapped in a machine at a bread factory of Samlip and Shany, Paris Croissant, Companies (SPC), in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi Province. As the accident occurred because of not following the safety rules, many citizens are still boycotting SPC as an expression of anger.

Through this accident, the poor working conditions of the company such as work shifting time and stability are being revealed, and the terrible truth of Korea's labor rights is emerging. There were also other incidents in 2022 that showed the tragic reality of Korean laborers; a Korean railroad company, KORAIL worker was hit by a train while working and died; mine workers in Bonghwa, North Gyeongsang Province, were trapped in a mine, but their rescue was delayed by the late discovery. There is a necessity to reconsider the current state of labor rights in Korea and the right way to walk. As the 10th of December is Human Rights Day, The Argus wants to compare and analyze two movies, "Two Days, One Night" and "Cart," the story about labor rights and discrimination, awaiting the day when every laborer is guaranteed safety without any discrimination.

## Summary

### “Two Days, One Night”



▲ The movie “Two Days, One Night” is directed by Jean-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne, from Belgium.

Sandra, who is in despair because she is not confident in persuading others, decides to persuade them thanks to her husband’s support by meeting her colleagues one by one. Unfortunately, her co-worker who is having a hard time just as Sandra is, refuses to vote for her return. Because of the repeated decline and criticism from her colleagues, Sandra gets hurt and even eats a whole tin of sedatives at once. Luckily, some colleagues say that they will leave their bonuses behind and help her, despite their difficult economic conditions. Although she tries her best while dealing with depression, Sandra loses by a single vote, pushed behind the bonus. At this moment, the boss calls her and suggests reinstatement instead of hiring one of the contract workers. Sandra rejects the proposal, saying that she does not want any other person to lose their job for her reinstatement. The movie ends with her walking and saying to her husband, “We put up a good fight. I am happy,” with a smile on her face.

### “Cart”

“The customer is always right. Give good customer service! When the company lives, then I live!” Starting every morning with this slogan, Sun-hee, a single mom with two kids who

works overtime every day at the mart, is glad to hear the promise that the company will change her to a permanent worker after three months. However, a few days later, the contract workers, including the cashier and cleaner, receive a sudden dismissal notice via text message. The women create a union and resist the unfair dismissal by striking. The company executives ignore the negotiation demands and even hire part-time workers during the strike. Furious union members kick the part-time workers out and occupy the mart, and the company sends police and forces the powerless women to leave. However, permanent workers who were not interested in the strike found out that the company tried to sell the mart and to sell them together as annual income contract workers, so they join the labor union. Despite the fierce protest of the union, the company only cares about its reputation and tries to collapse the labor union by rehiring some of them and by using force. Through this incident, the union gets in trouble because some members break away from the union and return to the company, and the chairman of the labor union gets imprisoned. Sun-hee finds union members to persuade them to fight for their rights and continues to protest, even though the police are shooting water cannons.



▲ The movie “Cart” is directed by Boo Ji-young, South Korea.

## Commonality

### The Grief of a Laborer: Unfair Dismissal

Sandra and Sun-hee, the protagonists of the movies “Two Days, One Night” and “Cart,” lose their job in a second with a single phone call and a single text message. In the movie “Two Days, One Night,” Sandra had time off from work because of depression but has to work again for her livelihood. However, she loses her job while waiting for her reinstatement because her colleagues voted for their bonuses rather than Sandra’s return. Sandra falls deeper into depression because of the

fact that she cannot earn money due to her dismissal. The circumstance of Sun-hee in “Cart” is similar. Sun-hee, who works so hard like a fool - even working overtime every day without additional pay - gets a promise from the company to change her to a permanent worker, but she loses her job at the mart. Sun-hee, raising two kids with the money earned from the mart, cannot believe such circumstances.



▲ Sandra received a phone call, and lost her job immediately.

▲ The workers at the mart were fired all of a sudden, and were shocked.

Why did the two protagonists of these movies receive dismissal notices so suddenly? It is because both of them were contract laborers who are scared of the contract expiring. The two movies dealing with the unfair dismissal of a laborer are based on a true story. The movie “Cart” is based on a real story from 2006 when the “nonregular employment protection legislation,” the law that requires companies to change contract workers who worked more than two years to permanent workers was passed. Major Korean company ELAND dismissed 700 laborers before the law went into effect. The stories such as mart occupying, armed repression by public power, and gangsters’ attack to labor unions are all real struggles that the workers of Homever, the mart brand of ELAND, and Newcore, the outlet brand of ELAND, went through. The movie “Two Days, One Night” is also based on a true story from the book “The Weight of the World” by Pierre Bourdieu. In the real story, the protagonist committed suicide, unlike Sandra in the movie. The irony between bonus and reinstatement has given the laborer extreme pain. However, this kind of one-way notifying dismissal is still prevalent in today’s reality. Duwon, a manufacturing company of fuel injection devices for diesel engines, fired 35 union members who had been working for a long time in May 2021, citing the 2021 management crisis. However, in the trial, the court decided in the dismissed laborer’s favor because the criteria for selecting candidates to dismiss did not meet the objective standards and social legitimacy, and they were not conducted fairly. Lawyer Park Un-byeong, who defended this case, said in the Daily Labor News that the dismissal of Duwon was a

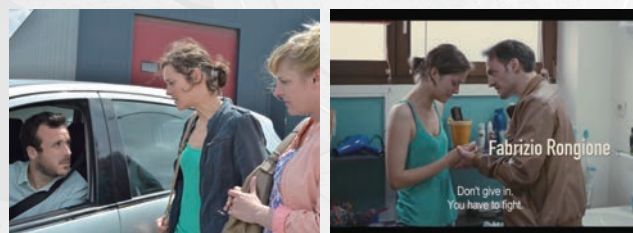
vengeful mass dismissal against the labor union members who raised problems of the company. Thankfully, the laborers won at this trial, but the case shows that unfair dismissal is still prevalent in Korea today.



▲ The movie “Cart” is based on the real story of workers at Homever and Newcore of ELAND.

### ⚙️ The Spur of Human Life: The Fellowship

The person who tells Sandra about the unfair dismissal and brings her to the boss and protests the injustice of the vote is Sandra’s colleague and friend, Juliette, in the movie “Two Days, One Night.” Sandra’s husband also takes care of her every time when she despairs and cheers her up when she tries to give up persuading her colleagues. The support and encouragement of the people surrounding Sandra help her remain strong. Likewise, the movie “Cart” also shows the fellowship between the labor union members, which makes them endure times of hopelessness and agony. The scene where union members wear pink group T-shirts and sing and dance together, and when they eat and laugh together in the extreme situation of occupying the mart, show that they are giving power to each other. “You gather, you live. You scatter, you die.” Just like the demo slogan says, the union members of



▲ Sandra’s colleague and husband are supporting her by fighting together and cheering her up.



▲ The labor union members wearing the same clothes stand together and fight together.

“Cart” deeply rely on each other and face unjustness together. When others sacrifice, it is not only comforting but also provides the power to stand up again in a hard situation.

Why are both movies dealing with fellowship and unity with others? It is because man is a social animal, as Aristotle, the ancient Greek philosopher, said. Indeed, at the 125th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association held in the United States in 2017, a psychiatrist at Brigham Young University, said, “Being connected to others socially is widely considered a fundamental human need.” As humans are social animals, it is essential for us to communicate and interact, and it is our nature to talk to others about our struggles and to be consoled and sympathized with. The movies “Two Days, One Night” and “Cart” depict such human features through communication and solidarity. On the other hand, someone who does not give encouragement and comfort can also give motivation to human will. Kim So-young, a research professor at HUFS, explained, “Others who selected the bonus, not Sandra’s return, and the manager who suppressed colleagues to vote for the bonus all gave Sandra, the protagonist of ‘Two Days, One Night,’ motivation to protest and the will to get reinstated.” She added that the fact that Sandra resists and sacrifices, in the end, would have all been impossible without those surrounding her. Kim also said, “Every act itself cannot exist without the relation with others.” This means that humans are being united rather than being separated, even in moments of conflict.

## Difference

### The Reason for Dismissal: Why Is “Cart” Focusing on Women?

The two movies have in common that they deal with unfair dismissal, but the reason for the dismissal can be analyzed differently. “Two Days, One Night” faults capitalism, which pursues maximum efficiency with minimum costs and workers. In the scene where Sandra’s colleague says, “Since we could do the work with 16, why would they resume?” and when the boss says to Sandra that he can rehire her when the contract worker’s contract expires, both show that the reason of the dismissal is carried out because of capitalism. The movie “Cart” adds the discussion of discrimination against

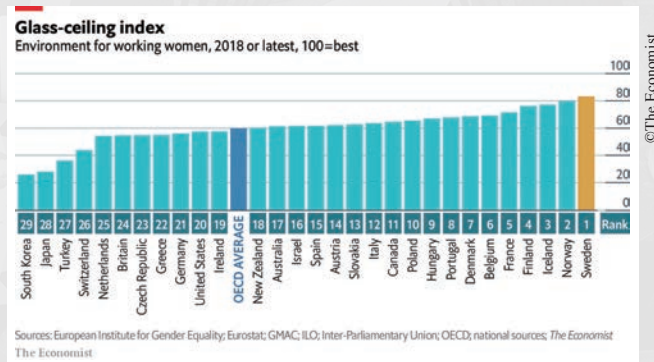
women laborers, pointing out gender discriminative reasons for unfair dismissal. The lines “What can aunties do,” and “No matter how well you work, the pregnant female

employee gets a poor evaluation. If you get one after another, you get fired,” highlight the difficulties of women laborers.

Discrimination against female workers, depicted in the movie “Cart,” still remains in our society today. The SPC’s labor site, which revealed the recent incident on October 15, 2022, in which a woman laborer was caught in a machine and died at the SPC bread factory, shows the dire reality of women’s labor conditions in Korea. Although female workers account for more than half of the workers, the company was giving discriminative treatment to women laborers in terms of conditions and payment. The safety shields and machines were set for adult men’s size, and women workers struggled to adapt to such an environment. This was even affecting their health, as statistics show that more than half of the bakers working at the SPC bakery franchise Paris Baguette, where 80 percent of its workers are women, suffered from a musculoskeletal disorder.\* The annual salary of male workers was 64.21 million won, while that of women was 40.87 million won, showing a gap of 36.6 percent, and the average working years for men was more than three years longer than the average for women. This discrimination does not occur only at SPC. Korea has ranked last among 29 countries for 10 years in the glass-ceiling index, which indicates the level of discrimination



▲ A female worker is saying that she was fired last time because she got pregnant.



▲ Korea has marked the lowest in the glass-ceiling index among the OECD countries.

against women in the workplace by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The discrimination in Korea against women is at a serious level.

\*Musculoskeletal disorder: According to the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency, it collectively refers to "health disorders that occurred in the body due to damage of tissues such as muscles, nerves, tendons, ligaments, and joints by excessive use of force, repetitive movement, inappropriate working posture, physical contact with sharp surfaces, vibration, and temperature, etc."

### The Focusing Point: How Does "Two Days, One Night" Look to the Laborer?


The movies "Cart" and "Two Nights, One Day" both depict the main character, the laborer, as influenced by others around them, but the two movies show differences in the way they depict and arrange others. "Cart" draws a typical vertical structure of conflicts between employees and executives, which can be seen in other films about labor. The scene at the beginning, when a high-ranking manager shouts on the podium in front of a row of workers, also shows the vertical and confrontational structure of a typical labor film. In contrast, the movie "Two Days, One Night" pits the main character Sandra against other workers in the same position, which is different from other movies. However, it is even difficult to say that those who opposed Sandra's reinstatement

are in a conflict composition because they are not disapproving of Sandra's return but want the bonus, although they look like they are in conflict with Sandra. The movie "Two Days, One Night" reveals that the conflict in the movie is about a story between horizontally equal workers.

The movie "Two Days, One Night," which depicts the ironic clash between workers in equal positions, not the typical combativeness between labor and management relations, uses unique methods in terms of expression. Professor Kim said, "The movie 'Two Days, One Night' does not frown upon those who did not vote for Sandra; rather, it objectifies them as an independent individual." She explained, "Giving a similar running time to each worker, less than 10 minutes, the attention is distributed equally to those who support Sandra and those who do not," adding, "The frame of the film is also medium-short, which cuts characters in the chest not like in close-ups, putting Sandra and others in the same frame." This is because the movie "Two Days, One Night" intends to keep the public from being assimilated to the protagonist and being hostile to other workers by focusing on the fact that the colleagues are just laborers like Sandra. The repetitive content composition, in which Sandra visits each of her colleagues and hears why they had no choice but to choose the bonus, also conveys the difficulties of each worker to the public.



▲ The movie "Two Days, One Night" draws Sandra and other workers together in a single frame with a similar size, whether they support Sandra or not.

The films "Two Days, One Night" and "Cart" give comfort and sympathy to the viewers and other workers outside of the film, by capturing the worker's desperate life without exaggeration. However, it should not stop with empathy and comfort. We should realize that the disastrous scenes in movies are still happening in modern society and should do our best to protect everyone's safety and rights. It is necessary to pay more attention to every laborer's working environment, to protect all workers' rights and lives in a capitalistic society. "We are not asking for the moon. We are asking you to just listen to us." As the main character, Sun-hee said in "Cart," the most important first step is to not ignore the workers who cry desperately for a living. The Argus hopes that citizens view laborers as neighbors not just as "others" and coexist together. 

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# Born To Be Noble, Only To Be Ruined: Unregistered Cultural Heritage



By Lee Ju-won  
Staff Reporter of Culture Section

“History is an unending dialogue between the present and the past,” a British historian, Edward Hallett Carr, said in his book “What is History.” As he said, cultural heritage assets, which are products of the past, consist of history and culture. Only when cultural heritage is protected and preserved can it make a foundation for the culture of future generations. However, in South Korea, cultural heritage has degenerated as the city has neglected these unregistered sites that have become overgrown with weeds. Unlike the designated cultural heritage, being applied strict regulations regarding the preservation of the original state, unregistered cultural heritage sites have been neglected. This is because the prevention system has not been specifically established. In addition, management with the benefit of hindsight, which is followed only when cultural heritage is damaged, has dominated. However, since unregistered cultural heritage sites have the potential to be selected as designated cultural heritage sites in the future, active preventive protection by the government is essential, and it is also important to raise social awareness of cultural heritage to protect them. Accordingly, The Argus aims to awaken the awareness of the preservation of cultural heritage to readers who will lead the culture of South Korea, by exploring the problems surrounding unregistered cultural heritage and suggesting solutions.

### Before Reading

**Designated Cultural Heritage:** Designated cultural heritage refers to “the State-designated Cultural Heritage” and “City/Province-designated Cultural Heritage” after deliberation by the Cultural Heritage Committee under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act. Designated as a state-designated cultural heritage asset, facilities and buildings that may affect the preservation of cultural heritage within 500 meters of the outer boundary designated as a cultural heritage asset must be approved by the Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA) in advance. National Treasures, Treasures, Historic Sites, Scenic Sites, Natural Monuments, Intangible Cultural Heritage, and Folklore Materials are included.

**Unregistered Cultural Heritage:** Unregistered cultural heritage refers to relics of worth that are not among designated cultural heritage under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act or ordinance of cities and provinces. Unregistered cultural heritage includes “General Movable Cultural Heritage,” which is prohibited from being taken out of the country, and “Buried Cultural Heritage,” which is highly geologically valuable, such as natural caves, fossils, and dolmens. It also includes the “Cultural Heritage of Local Folklore,” which has been recognized for its historical, artistic, and academic values. If someone damages an unregistered relic of cultural heritage, they cannot be punished due to lack of legal restriction. However, since unregistered cultural heritage assets are sometimes registered as designated cultural heritage, it is important to manage and preserve unregistered cultural heritage.

### • Phenomenon •

#### Local Government Ignorant of Buried Cultural Heritage



©Gimhae City

In July 2022, a complaint was received that the world’s largest dolmen’s occupation layer\* was being damaged, while carrying out a maintenance project to apply for a designated cultural heritage in the neighborhood of Gusan, the city of Gimhae, South Gyeongsang Province, 375 kilometers from Seoul. As the city of Gimhae excavated the ground with heavy equipment, the occupation layer was damaged about 20 cm deep, and the arch-stone indicating the boundary of the dolmen was washed with a sponge, while the area where the arch-stone was buried was stepped on. To make matters worse, the public works company

in charge of the maintenance project and the manager of the city of Gimhae were not even aware that they were damaging cultural heritage because they were not experts on cultural heritage. What was more problematic was that the city of Gimhae received permission to alter its original form in South Gyeongsang Province, but failed to consult with the CHA.

According to Article 8 of the Act on Protection and Inspection of Buried Cultural Heritage, “Any person who intends to conduct a development project prescribed by presidential decree in an area of buried cultural heritage as the result of a ground surface inspection shall consult in advance with the Administrator of the Cultural Heritage Administration.” It is stated that the city of Gimhae should have received permission from the CHA. However, the city of Gimhae did not know of the existence of the Buried Cultural Heritage Protection Act, so it carried out a dolmen maintenance project without permission from CHA.

Heo Seong-gon, the former mayor of Gimhae when the dolmen maintenance project was started, said in a parliamentary audit held on October 11, 2022, “We know that more than a dozen local governments have washed and abandoned cultural heritage sites over the past three years. This was approved by the Cultural Properties Committee members belonging to the CHA.” However, Choi Eung-

cheon, head of the CHA, replied, “There are no cases where relics were removed from the ground.” In addition, some cultural heritage committee members of the CHA who advised Gimhae City, and those of South Gyeongsang Province who approved the restoration testified to the media that they had never advised them to remove the gourds and wash them.

\*Occupation layer: A geological stratum that informs of the cultural aspects of the times, and where relics or remains are found.

### Theft of General Movable Cultural Heritage

Relics of local folklore and buried cultural heritage are not vulnerable to theft. However, general movable cultural heritages such as books, paintings, sculptures, and crafts are easier to transport, resulting in more frequent items being smuggled out of the country or smuggled into the country. According to the “Cultural Heritage in Statistics” of the CHA, a total of 2,454 designated cultural heritages were stolen and 1,023 were recovered from 1985 to December 31, 2021, while a total of 28,431 items of unregistered cultural heritage were stolen, and only 5,721 of those were recovered. The theft of unregistered cultural relics is much larger. Even the number of unregistered cultural items stolen may be higher as a complete enumeration has not been conducted yet.

In August 2021, Baegunsa Temple in Busan, 396 kilometers from Seoul, and Daewonsa Temple in the city of Geoje, South Gyeongsang Province, 399 kilometers from Seoul, applied for registration of two 19th century Buddhist paintings, Doksungdo and Sinjungdo, as city/provincial designated cultural heritage. However, in the

process of investigating the registration by the CHA, these paintings were found to be stolen items. As of 2021, the two Buddhist paintings were Doksungdo of Yongyeonsa Temple in Daegu, 289 kilometers from Seoul, which was stolen 35 years ago, and Sinjungdo of Cheongeunsa Temple in Gurye County, South Jeolla Province, 296 kilometers from Seoul, which was stolen 22 years ago. When the chief monks of Baegunsa Temple and Daewonsa Temple found out about this, they returned them to the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, and the paintings will return to the temple that originally owned the Buddhist paintings. In this case, the original owners got back the relics of cultural heritage, but plenty of other items of unregistered cultural heritage have not been returned to their rightful owners.

Kim Mi-kyung, a member of the Cultural Heritage Appraisal Board, said in an interview with BTN News, “With the recent end of the statute of limitations,\* stolen cultural relics seem to come to the surface by way of sale or donation.” In light of this, unregistered cultural relics are in the blind spot of management, and this is further revealed in the situation of theft. It is necessary to recognize the value of these unregistered treasures and establish a management system as soon as possible to track the exact status of the relics.

\*Statute of limitations: The statute of limitations refers to a system in which a prosecutor cannot file an indictment for a crime after a certain period of time after committing the crime. According to the Cultural Heritage Protection Act, cultural heritage offenders cannot be punished 10 years after theft. Therefore, there are frequent cases where items of cultural heritage are stolen and auctioned or taken out of the country after 10 years.

### Cultural Heritage of Local Folklore Used to Satisfy Personal Interest

Cultural heritage of local folklore, a type of unregistered cultural heritage, is managed by cities and provinces in recognition of their cultural values. However, this cultural heritage of local folklore is being damaged by personal greed. A Jeongryeo is a red-painted door in front of the entrance to the village where filial piety or loyalists lived in order to commend and encourage beautiful and fine customs. However, the 400-year-old Jeongryeo, located in Yeondong township, Sejong, 144 kilometers from Seoul, was damaged several times during the year by an individual. Feeling strange about the continued damage,



▲ About 90 pieces of unregistered cultural heritages stolen abroad were recovered from 2018 to 2020.

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villagers installed a surveillance camera and were surprised to see the recording. One person pulled out a temporary fence to protect Jeongryeo and threw a tile into pieces to make it unusable again. As it turned out, he was a person who had previously requested the damage repair work, and he wanted to make money by directly damaging the cultural heritage asset and repairing it. A cultural heritage site containing a long history was abused for individual interests.



▲ The rafters of Yeongmojae are about to collapse because of the decay.

In addition, cultural heritage relics are often neglected and not designated as cultural heritage of local folklore. Yeongmojae, in Ulsan, 367 kilometers from Seoul, is a four-room Jaesil\* of Song Tae-gwan, the secretary of Emperor Gojong,\* built more than 100 years ago. The signboard is written by Yun Yong-gu, a civil official of the late Joseon Dynasty,\* and it is significant in that it is a ritual house of Song Seok-ha, leading folklore in South Korea. Even though it is a cultural heritage site that has not yet been designated, it has high cultural value, but it is not well preserved, so the eaves are falling off and the rafters are rotting and are about to collapse. Moreover, the yard is used as a neighborhood garden, planting various crops. In an interview with MBC, a villager who manages Yeongmojae said, “The owner tells me to leave it alone so that it can’t be touched. If it is registered as a designated cultural heritage, it is not possible to manage the heritage,” he said. This is because when registered as a designated cultural heritage, management is required continuously, so it requires high maintenance, and it is impossible to pursue profits as private land.

\*Jaesil: A house built to perform ancestral rites next to a tomb or shrine.

\*Emperor Gojong: The first emperor of the Korean Empire (a despotic monarchy and the last monarchy on the Korean Peninsula).

\*Joseon Dynasty: The Joseon Dynasty lasted 518 years with 27 Kings ruling based on confucian ideas.

## • Cause •

### Absence of Cultural Heritage Professionals in Field

The Restoration of Gaya’s\* History Division, which belongs to the Gimhae Cultural Tourism Office, was in charge of the maintenance project, and the Restoration of Gaya’s History Division is divided into five teams: the Gaya Policy Team, the Gaya History Restoration Team, the Cultural Heritage Management Team, and the Historic Site Management Team. However, the directors of the five teams are from civil engineering, architecture, and administration backgrounds, and all five directors are non-experts when it comes to preserving cultural heritage. In other words, since there were no related experts, they did not know well about the Buried Cultural Heritage Protection Act and did not even recognize that arch-stones were being damaged at the site. In an interview with YTN, Professor Emeritus Lee Chung-kyu of Yeungnam University said, “In the case of such maintenance and restoration projects, CHA or related art and science researchers\* or archaeologists are usually required to participate in excavation research institutes. But I don’t think there was much participation from those people. With their participation, this kind of mishap would not have happened.”

Given this situation, some are voicing opinions that point out that the damage to the dolmen is not the sole responsibility of Gimhae City but the responsibility of South Gyeongsang Province. This is because South Gyeongsang Province approved a plan to dismantle 30 percent of the arch-stone. Based on this, Gimhae City claims that it has received permission from South Gyeongsang Province, although it has not received permission from CHA. On the contrary, South Gyeongsang Province claims that it has never allowed the alteration of the arch-stone. At a time when South Gyeongsang Province and Gimhae City are shifting responsibility to each other, Heo Yoon-ok, a member of Gimhae City Council, criticized the handling of the situation in a speech on September 14, 2022. “The dolmen maintenance project fiasco is a symptom of the overall cultural heritage system, such as missing administrative procedures due to the lack of understanding of laws.” In addition to the absence of experts to manage and supervise cultural heritage sites,

it is necessary to determine the cause and come up with solutions to prevent a recurrence, not to determine who is ultimately responsible.

\*Gaya Federation: A country located in the Nakdong River Basin around the 1st century.

\*Art and science researcher: An art and science researcher is in charge of purchasing, collecting, and managing works or relics in museums or art galleries. It is divided into archaeology, art, folk art, and conservation. On the other hand, archaeologists can discover and study cultural heritage assets, and for them, the dolmen of Gimhae City is considered an important relic for studying about the Gaya federation.

### Unable to Check Theft Status Due to the Lack of Professional Officers

The Special Judicial Police of CHA is an administrative official who has been granted the right to investigate specific areas of expertise. There are a total of 14 special judicial police officers of CHA, but only four special judicial police officers investigate the circumstances of unregistered cultural heritage relics stolen and scattered across the country and recover stolen cultural heritage in cooperation with the prosecution and police. The number of special judicial police officers in 2019 was two but increased to four in 2022. Still, it was the smallest among the 25 major institutions that operate special judicial police, including metropolitan cities and ministries across the country. In other words, compared to the current number of unregistered cultural heritage relics stolen, there is a lack of professional manpower to manage and protect stolen cultural heritage. Due to this small manpower, the number of stolen Korean cultural heritage assets increased from 15,822 in 2006 to 30,885 in 2021, but their recovery rate was only 21.8 percent, less than half.

The special judicial police officers belonging to the CHA were all art and science researchers unrelated to the investigation, except for the four in charge of stolen cultural heritages. They are people who manage relics but do not have professional knowledge of stolen or excavated cultural heritage assets. In addition, they did not receive professional training on how to respond to theft, theft sites, or how to investigate stolen cultural heritage assets taken abroad, or only completed online education. Kim Chang-gyoo, CEO of the Future & Culture Law Policy Institute, said, "Art and science researchers include not only archaeology but also arts. How do they know about theft and excavation?"

Cultural heritage relics are still being stolen at this moment, but there is a huge shortage of manpower to manage them. Appropriate protection should be taken by increasing the number of people who will protect cultural heritage as soon as possible.

### No Statutory Punishment

In 2008, Sungnyemun, No. 1 national treasure, was burned to ashes by a man who committed arson. In 2017, three drunken university students climbed to Cheomseongdae, national treasure No. 31, and took a selfie. There are considerable cases of graffiti on cultural heritage sites or damage by touching them recklessly. According to Article 92 of the Cultural Heritage Protection Act, "A person who causes damage to, steals, or conceals State-designated cultural heritage (excluding national intangible cultural heritage) or impairs the utility thereof by any other means shall be punished by imprisonment with labor for a limited term of not less than three years." Therefore, since Sungnyemun and Cheomseongdae were designated as cultural heritage sites, those who damaged them were sentenced to 10 years in prison or indicted without detention, respectively. However, what if they damaged Jeongryeo and Youngmojae?

Unfortunately, they are not subject to any legal punishment. This is because there is no legal basis to punish those who damaged unregistered cultural heritage. It is difficult to immediately grasp because the complete enumeration is not perfect, even if someone damages them badly. To solve this problem, CHA plans to do the complete enumeration of about 60,000 unregistered historical and cultural resources nationwide and establish a database by 2024. In addition, a system that manages unregistered heritage assets with listings will be introduced and systematically managed through the integrated management

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▲ Cultural heritages have suffered from people's unethical acts of vandalism.

system from 2025. However, there is no national measure to deal with the damage to unregistered heritage assets until 2025. No legal basis has been established to punish those who damage them and there is nothing South Korea can do except only watch the occurrence of damage.

### • Solution •

#### Establishing a Legal System to Deploy Professionals in Field

According to the Act on Protection and Inspection of Buried Cultural Heritage, maintenance and development projects must be discussed in advance with CHA. However, Gimhae City did not go through prior consultation with CHA for the dolmen maintenance project. Also, the manager who controls the field was not an expert on cultural heritage, so his perception of the Buried Cultural Heritage Act was poor, and eventually it led to worsening the situation.

In response, in August 2022, Gimhae City announced that it plans to implement the “Assistant Supervision System” as a countermeasure to block a recurrence after the problematic dolmen maintenance project. The deputy supervision system prevents damage to a cultural heritage site by deploying curators or arts and science researchers with expertise whenever they have problems. In an interview with the Kyongnamdomin Ilbo, an official at the restoration of Gaya’s History Division said, “It is difficult to answer accurately because it is still under consideration,” but added, “We plan to implement the assistant supervision system for cultural heritage and investigation twice a year.” Kim Young-jae, an Associate Professor of Cultural Heritage Repair Technology at the Graduate School of Korea National University of Cultural Heritage, said, “Increasing the number of supervisors can only be realized if there is a provision that requires on-site monitoring by external companies other than the CHA and local governments.” Plus, Associate Professor Kim added, “It is important for a professional who handles cultural heritage in the field to have an ethical consciousness that follows principles.” If professionals with ethical awareness are dispensed to the cultural research site, which will be more active in the

future, it is believed that a second Gimhae city dolmen case will not occur.

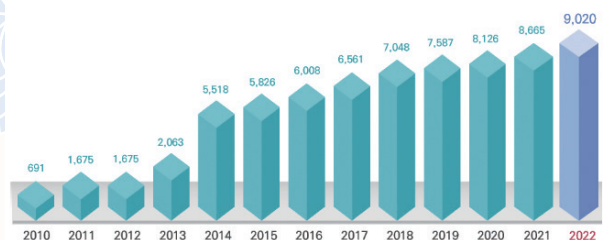
#### Expansion of the Heritage Care Program

What are some ways to protect unregistered cultural heritage relics that are more vulnerable to theft than designated cultural heritages? Cultural Heritage Care Programs can be a solution. The Cultural Heritage Care Program, which began in 2010, helps to prevent the possibility of theft by installing surveillance cameras for designated and unregistered cultural heritage assets distributed nationwide. In addition, repairs are conducted for minor damage in advance. The Center for Heritage Care Program, belonging to CHA, supports comprehensive and systematic management of cultural heritage care and efficient implementation, adding to the efforts of 17 local centers. In fact, the Cultural Heritage Care Program has been evaluated to have been effective in preventing the degree of damage from becoming more serious by detecting minor damage to cultural heritage sites in advance and helping to prevent the cost of more massive repairs.

However, the continuity of the subject of managing cultural heritage in this program should be strengthened in order to completely prevent problems such as theft. Currently, the Cultural Heritage Care Program group in each region periodically selects companies to take charge of activities through open recruitment. Therefore, since the same company is not always in charge of it, it is difficult to maintain manpower in the long run and to secure expertise. Associate Professor Kim stressed the importance of continuous monitoring of companies and personnel who are well aware of certain cultural heritage assets, saying, “It is

관리대상문화재

(단위: 건)



▲ The number of cultural heritages managed by the Center for Heritage Care Program increased from 691 cases in 2010 to 9,020 cases in 2022.

©Center for Heritage Care Program

positive that the Cultural Heritage Care Program frequently manages heritage sites, but certain cultural artifacts expand in summer and shrink in winter.” If the company in charge of preserving cultural heritage assets maintains consistency and continues to manage treasures of cultural heritage, it will be effective in preventing theft as well as deterring damage to cultural heritage.

### A Shortcut: Promoting Civic Awareness

France is strict about the altitude limitation\* of local buildings around cultural heritage sites and active in protecting relics of cultural heritage by banning the construction of buildings covering the Eiffel Tower and the Palace of Versailles, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site. However, South Korea is on the verge of easing the altitude limitation. On November 11, 2022, Jung-gu District Office of Seoul, asked the city of Seoul to ease the altitude limitation on surrounding buildings in areas of Namsan and Bukhansan Mountain, on the grounds that they will reorganize the cityscape. In response, Associate Professor Kim said, “Asking citizens to preserve and protect cultural heritage sites is also important.”

Because of the citizens’ interest and awareness, unregistered cultural heritage sites have been designated as state-designated cultural heritage sites. The popular drama “Extraordinary Attorney Woo” which aired in 2022, featured a 500-year-old hackberry as an episode. Due to the drama’s popularity, viewers were interested in hackberry, located in the city of Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province, 368 kilometers from Seoul, and voiced the need for protection by the nation. In response to the public’s interest, the CHA

conducted a designated survey to determine the value of the hackberry and ultimately recognized its value and announced its designation as a natural monument. This is an example where citizens’ interest in unregistered cultural heritage had the power to get such a relic promoted to designated cultural heritage status.

From now on, people living in this era, beyond the relevant national organizations, should also pay attention to the protection of unregistered cultural heritage assets, which are in a defenseless state. In order to properly preserve cultural heritage with historical value, mature citizenship of the people is necessary. We should not treat relics like Yeongmojae, which degenerated into a vegetable garden, and should not pummel relics with heavy equipment in the interest of erecting modern buildings. Rather, the public should have the cognizance to protect Korea’s cultural heritage.

\*Altitude limitation: The reason for the need for altitude limitation is to preserve historical and cultural values contained on cultural heritage sites. Typically, Jongno District in Seoul, South Korea, has an altitude limit of 90 meters inside the four main gates of old Seoul. This is to preserve the traditional feeling as if the neighborhood was surrounded by four gates.



▲ Only two hackberry trees have been designated as natural monuments in Korea.

©Cultural Heritage Administration

In 2022, South Korea decided to change the official name of cultural assets to “Cultural Heritage.” It has been 60 years since the Cultural Heritage Protection Act was enacted in 1962. This revision of the name prioritizes history and spirit, who, how, and why made it, not the meaning of property. However, not only designated cultural heritage but also unregistered cultural heritage assets are undeniable cultural heritage with history and spirit in South Korea. Therefore, the people must strive to cherish and preserve unregistered cultural heritage. We should raise awareness of protecting cultural heritage and implement practical solutions such as revision and reinforcement of the law or research. Cultural heritage goes with Korea’s past, present, and future. The Argus hopes that readers will grow into cultured individuals who take the lead in protecting and preserving cultural heritage by taking a closer look at cultural heritage assets that readers can just pass by. <sup>A</sup>

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▲ Ahn Chang Wook is a professor at Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST) AI Graduate School and CEO of Creative Mind Inc.

## A Wind of Change Blows in the Music Field: Father of AI Songwriter “EvoM,” Ahn Chang Wook

By Kim Jun-hong  
Cub Reporter

“ENTER THE GENRE AND LENGTH OF THE SONG: BEEP- SONG COMPLETE.” AI composers complete music in seconds by just clicking the mouse twice. Christmas carols resonate all over the streets in December; interestingly, some are actually composed by AI. In December 2020, the carol “Luna Christmas” created by AI composer “Aimy,” was released on various music sites, and received positive responses on social media. Also, in October 2022, Genie Music, a Korean music production company, presented Christmas carols created by AI, which shows that AI creations began to permeate our daily lives.

Korea’s very first AI composer, “EvoM,” is at the center of AI taking an active role in the music industry. *EvoM* blew a wind of change into the music field in that six of its songs were the first in Korea to earn royalties as of July 2022. Ahn Chang Wook, the developer of *EvoM*, also received a positive response from the academic world, saying that *EvoM*’s outstanding performance opened up new horizons in the field of music. The Argus met with professor Ahn Chang Wook to learn more about *EvoM* and discuss the present state and the future of AI creations.



Please introduce yourself and *EvoM* to The Argus readers. Also, what led to the development of *EvoM*? Why did you begin researching AI in the music field?

**Ahn Chang Wook (Ahn):** Hello, I am Ahn Chang Wook, currently working as a professor at GIST AI Graduate School, and simultaneously a representative of Creative Mind Inc. *EvoM* is Korea's very first AI composer developed by GIST. It was developed autonomously along with students based on evolutionary computing,\* which differentiates it from following the big trend of AI development that uses deep learning.\*

I have always loved music. I played the guitar since I was young and was in the classical guitar club while in college, always developing an interest in music. Then in the early 2000s, when I was a Ph.D. student, I saw a professor at a conference playing the saxophone, taking turns with a small laptop. It seems that the professor practiced the entire repertory and played it based on simple algorithms,\* not AI technology, at that time. It was innovative and shocking to see that doing music was possible in my field of study, and I thought I should give it a try someday. Later, as I became a professor and met students who were interested in music, we decided to start research on AI composers together.



▲ AI composer *EvoM*'s figure is attached on its server rack.



Let's move on to *EvoM*'s production process. How long did it take to complete developing? Were there any difficulties you faced along the way?

**Ahn:** I guess I started doing full-scale research around 2014. During the process, I faced more difficulties regarding the surroundings rather than encountering problems that were difficult to solve technically. First of all, students were worried that if they studied the music field, it would be difficult for them to get a job in the future. In addition, as it is a field that is a little far from the usual research conducted at the College of Engineering, it was not easy to win financial support for the project. I also received lots of concerns from professors around me. However, I advised students to first do research on what they like. This is because researchers tend to get the best results when they study what they want. I even said that if the project on *EvoM* does not help in getting a job, I would be responsible for their employment. This became a trigger for them to currently work as colleagues at a startup.



How does *EvoM* create songs? It is said that a song is completed in a few seconds, just by entering the genre and length of the song. Could you explain the process?

**Ahn:** In general, a technique called deep learning is often used in AI composers. In this case, music is converted into data. This data goes through deep learning and is put into an artificial neural network,\* which will then produce music. However, we judged that regarding composition based on deep learning as genuine composition would be problematic. A little kid who has listened to lots of children's songs may hum a children's song-like melody since songs he heard of have been engraved in his mind. However, it's just humming to a familiar melody because of being conditioned by a lot of songs, so nobody counts it as composition. Composition using deep learning can be seen as something just like this. We thought it

\*Evolutionary computing: It is an AI calculation method based on genetic algorithms that are inspired by the evolution of nature and solve problems through imitation of actual biological evolution. Based on the law of survival of the fittest, it is a method of eliminating poor answers among various solutions and evolving excellent solutions to produce optimized results.

\*Deep learning: It is a machine learning technique in which a computer learns by combining and analyzing external data by itself. Computers are taught to perform human learning methods in which they learn through examples.

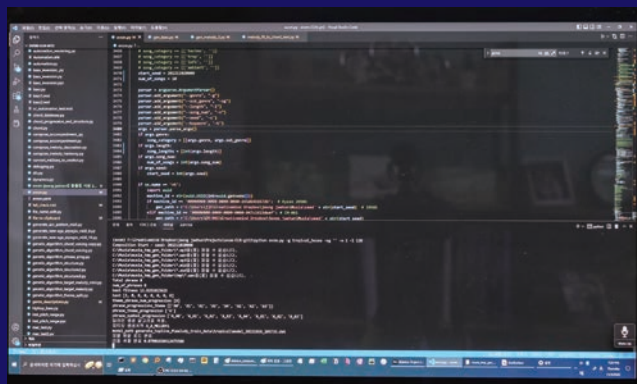
\*Algorithm: It is a set of rules that derive a desired output based on the input data to solve a problem.

\*Artificial neural network: It is a computer system inspired by the neural network of the human brain. It is implemented by imitating the information processing procedure that humans go through.

was unreasonable to view it as a composition, since the neural network creates melodies based on the repetition of patterns in the content.

We decided it would be great to replicate how human composers create songs and made *EvoM* follow their process. When people write songs, they choose the genre, design a structure that best fits it, set the appropriate chords, and write a melody that matches each chord based on music theory. *EvoM* is designed to follow this common songwriting process using AI technology.

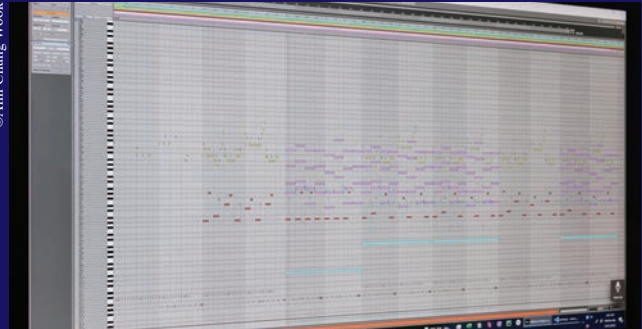
It is not about creating a melody based on the songs learned previously. AI learns the components that make up a well-organized song, that is, the structure of the song and the flow of the chords. Then it writes the melody that matches the notes with reference to music theory. Evolutionary computing is used in this process. If we write a melody that matches the chords right from the beginning, it may lead to an obvious piece of music. The chords are generated at first, and then various melodies are created randomly. After that, the AI evaluates how well the melodies fit the chords based on music theory. After evaluation, a melody that better suits the notes is determined, and then is randomly modified to be evaluated again and again. After this process is repeated several times, the final melody is completed. This allows the melody to evolve in order to best fit the chords in accord with music theory. In other words, we can notice the use of evolutionary computing in that the melody evolves through continuous modification and supplementation. After all this, *EvoM* completes a three-minute song in less than 10 seconds.



▲ *EvoM* is creating a song based on its distinctive composition program.



How did *EvoM* learn the composition process? How can it understand music theory? Also, the issue of plagiarism is a hot topic nowadays. Is there any chance of *EvoM* committing plagiarism?



▲ Music made by *EvoM* is being played through a specialized music tool.

**Ahn:** Many of you may question how AI understands music theory. After all, music is an elaborate system, so it is possible to express all elements mathematically. In other words, all theories of music can be modified as numbers. After converting them into figures and algorithms, we enter them into a computer through programming.

For example, suppose there is a theory stating that the sense of stability at the end of a song is made by ending it with the notes “mi re do.” The notes go through mapping\* while being programmed. Imagine that AI corresponds to the note “do” as 60, “do#” as 61, “re” as 62, “re#” as 63, “mi” as 64, “mi#” as “65,” “fa” as 66, and so on. If one song, which *EvoM* created randomly, ends with 66, 63, and 60, it stands for “fa re# do.” In this case, *EvoM* will not regard it as a good melody so it will be discarded. On the other hand, if another song ends with 64, 62, and 60, it is considered to follow the guideline that result in stability with the notes “mi re do.” *EvoM* will consider it a good melody and continue developing it. After all, music theory can be converted into figures, so AI can understand music and load the music theory as a piece of knowledge.

Compared to deep learning, *EvoM*’s technology, which follows the actual composition procedure of humans, benefits in that there is less chance of plagiarism. If AI randomly deep learn a melody and output music based on it, plagiarism is bound to occur. However, in the case of *EvoM*, the possibility

\*Mapping: It refers to the process of corresponding one value to another to express a specific relationship between data.

of plagiarism is relatively low since it does not learn the melody itself, but rather the musical elements; songs are written in the same way humans write them. It is hard to say that the possibility is zero, but the distinct technology of *EvoM* reduces the chances a lot.



**Is there no difference between the output of AI composers and songs made by humans? Is there anything special about AI composers' songs?**

**Ahn:** At the beginning of the study, AI songs have been rated as using uncommon melodies, although it sounded harmonious in general. At first, I thought if we develop the characteristics of these AI songs, we would create a unique genre of AI music. I thought that would free AI from the issue of plagiarism. However, when we tried to apply this theory, we found that people do not consume AI's unique songs. We imposed constraints on the algorithm, so that such a unique pattern would not be included in the melody. Ultimately, we are restraining the creativity of AI to offer services to people.

The songs written by AI are distinctive from those of humans. Human composers create an emotional song just by using a few simple notes. AI, however, creates a lot of complex melodies as an attempt to acquire such emotions. In terms of completeness, AI still has a long way to go. In this sense, I think the creativity of AI is far behind human creativity. This is especially true in industries that require inherent human creativity. There is no need to worry that AI will one day replace humans. Most importantly, we should regard AI as an assistant, not a substitute. With great speed and productivity, AI will provide great help to humans. Therefore, it is important to consider how we can take advantage of it.

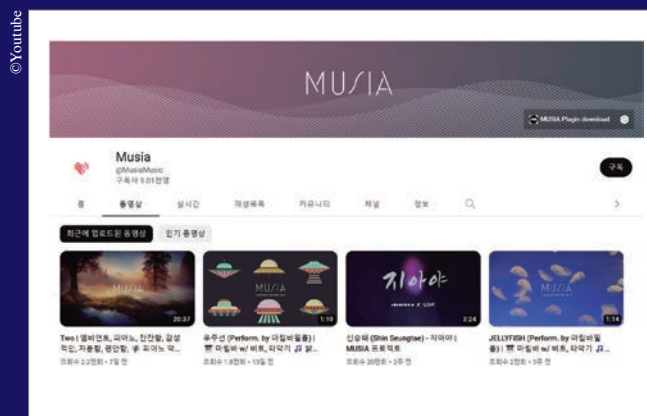


**How are the songs written by *EvoM* being used? Also, are there any ongoing studies for *EvoM*'s improvement?**

**Ahn:** Since AI music is not familiar to the public, we make various promotion efforts. We consistently upload albums through our YouTube channel so that many people can access *EvoM*'s music. We also collaborate actively with singers and various artists. In January 2022, we collaborated with the Jinju City Traditional Music Orchestra. We created music that mimics the style of famous composers who have passed away. In October 2020, we worked on the song "Eyes on You," the

debut song of singer Hayeon. Aside from these, *EvoM*'s music is actually used in various other ways.

Currently, we are focusing on individualization as a direction for future research. If AI songwriting services are activated, the general public will use AI composers to create songs they like. We are developing programs that allow non-professionals to produce songs that are similar to the existing songs they like. We are working on a technique that allows users to input two or three of their favorite songs into *EvoM* and create a song with a similar mood, but without plagiarizing the originals.



▲ *EvoM*'s music is constantly being uploaded on its Youtube channel "Musia."



▲ *EvoM* collaborated with a singer Hayeon on her debut song "Eyes on you."



▲ *EvoM* collaborated with Jinju City Traditional Music Orchestra and performed a song in a concert.



**In July 2022, *EvoM*'s royalties were discontinued. Is it appropriate to view AI as a subject of creation? Also, how is the future of the AI music market? What are the prospects of AI in the music field?**

**Ahn:** Until now, I have answered that the one who presses the "Enter" key to create a song should be regarded as the



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creator of AI songs. This is due to current copyright laws. Following with Paragraph 1 of Article 2 of the Copyright Act, “The term ‘work’ means a creative production that expresses human thoughts and emotions;” a copyright can only be given to humans. Recently though, I changed my mind. According to the Copyright Act, a copyright is given to a person who expresses an idea or emotion with the intention of creating. Although it is humans that order AI to create a song, it is just a simple command. No specific, creative intention has been reflected in the process. In this context, I believe AI deserves to be recognized as a creator.

At the beginning of AI composers’ emergence, everyone doubted AI music when requested for collaboration. However, after a few years, the music industry began to see potential in AI, as it opened up new opportunities beyond human limits. Rather, interest and requests for collaboration increased. In this regard, I strongly believe the future of AI in the music

field is very bright. I also think the AI music market is broad. Music is an essential factor in everyone’s lives, but the barrier to entry is quite high. In this situation, if AI composers help anyone create music easily, music will be created actively among the general public, and as a result, music content will become abundant. That way, people in the music industry will have more work to do, and ordinary citizens will be able to make extra income, which will eventually benefit many people.



**Please give one last comment to the readers of The Argus, or to the youth living in this era.**

**Ahn:** Many people ask me, “Why do you study music at the College of Engineering?” Nowadays, it is difficult for students to get a job, and since the world is changing so dynamically, it seems that a lot of people have doubts about the identity of their majors. However, I want students to know that opportunities are widely open in order to do anything regardless of their major. Also, remember that technology can make more opportunities possible. Since the time has arrived for technology to help people, I believe there will definitely be opportunities to create new values that others have never thought of before. If students keep on thinking about what they truly like and want to do, and also how technology can help them with that, I truly believe that everyone will have a bright future.

## Conclusion

With the spreading influence of AI, the concept of “mankind only” is now becoming blurred. As technology advances, it is necessary to tear down the boundaries between humans and technology and alter the way we look at AI. The same is true when looking at the subject of creation. As the world turns, so do definitions. It is necessary to contemplate whether art can be defined in the same way as before.

How about considering AI as an assistant rather than a substitute for humans, just as Professor Ahn emphasized? Let go of the vague fear and hostility that AI will one day replace humans, and simply regard it as our strongest supporter. In line with the rapid change in trends, we will be able to create infinite possibilities by joining hands with technologies. 📧

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# *Long Live Korean Independence*

By Lee Jue-hyun

*Staff Reporter of Theory & Critique Section*

**T**he liquidation of Korea and Japan's past colonial rule is still not complete. The Treaty on Basic Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea, which took effect on December 12, 1965, is a treaty for normalizing diplomatic relations between Korea and Japan and liquidating the past. This is considered to have provided an excuse for Japan to justify its illegal rule in the past. It ended up leaving a gap between Korea, which claims the null of Japanese colonial rule, and Japan, which claims it was legitimate at the time. The two countries have been narrowing the gap between their historical perceptions little by little, but deeper conversation and cooperation must continue to have genuine reconciliation.

The situation in Northeast Asia is unstable, as North Korea fired a series of ballistic missiles on November 2-3, 2022. Japan, which felt threatened as the missile passed over Japan, wants to increase its solidarity with South Korea to respond to North Korea. Compared to the previous Korea-Japan summit, Japan is taking a friendly attitude this time, and a second Korea-Japan summit is expected to be held soon. If the second Korea-Japan summit is held after the inauguration of the Yoon Suk-yeol government, the two countries will discuss compensation for victims of the war, which has been the biggest obstacle in normalizing relations. Citizens should prioritize remembering history carefully to see if future discussions with Japan are carried out properly unlike in the past. This December, The Argus will visit the traces of the Japanese colonial era that can be found in Seoul and review the common history that people should remember.

## Before Reading

**Japanese colonial era:** This refers to the period during which the Japanese Empire colonized Joseon for about 35 years from August 19, 1910, to August 15, 1945. During the Japanese colonial period, the Japanese Government-General of Korea, which was a direct organization of colonial rule and exploitation, ruled under the order of the Japanese emperor, and Japan had overall political and diplomatic authority.

**Treaty on Basic Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea:** It was signed in 1965 to normalize diplomatic relations between Korea and Japan and resolve postwar compensation issues. At that time, the Park Jeong-hee administration (1963-1979) contributed to economic development by receiving \$500 million from Japan to promote economic cooperation, but it is regarded as an incomplete treaty, leaving differences over liquidation and compensation for victims of forced labor. If the agreement of the Japanese colony is invalid as Korea claims, the treaty has been illegal since its conclusion, and it will be possible to legally raise the issue of colonial rule.



## Site of Japanese Invasion of Daehan Empire's Diplomatic Rights, Jungmyeongjeon Hall

### History of Jungmyeongjeon Hall

Jungmyeongjeon Hall of Deoksugung Palace was built in 1899 under the name of "Suokheon Hall" to store royal books and treasures. Later, in 1904, a large fire broke out in Deoksugung Palace, and Emperor Gojong moved to Jungmyeongjeon, making it at the center of the historical site. Jungmyeong can literally translate as "The sun and the moon are in the sky together, so light keeps shining," which means "the hall where the king and his servants meet and the light continues." Contrary to this meaning, Jungmyeongjeon is the place where the Japanese colonial era began, showing the horrible side of modern Korean history.

On November 17, 1905, the Daehan Empire\* forcibly signed Eulsaneukyak in Jungmyeongjeon Hall under Japanese pressure. In the 20th century, East Asia was rife with fierce competition among Japan, China, and Russia, all of which wanted to take over the Korean Peninsula. As a result of the power politics of the neighboring countries, Japan, accompanied by armed soldiers, forced the Korean ministers to sign the Eulsaneukyak without the approval of the country's ruler Emperor Gojong. Eulsaneukyak is sometimes called a treaty or a convention, which indicates the formal agreement between parties, but it should be called Neukyak, which expresses that the agreement was by force. The document of Eulsaneukyak outlines that Japan deprived the Daehan Empire of its diplomatic sovereignty, and that the Resident General\* would be established as its supervisory agency. However, Eulsaneukyak, which lacked even the minimum procedures and formalities under Japan's pressure, was essentially invalid under international law.

### History of the Restored Jungmyeongjeon Hall

Jungmyeongjeon Hall was restored in 2010; however, a problem arose because the restored Jungmyeongjeon Hall is different from the past. The Cultural Heritage Administration dismantled the wall of the building based on the historical materials



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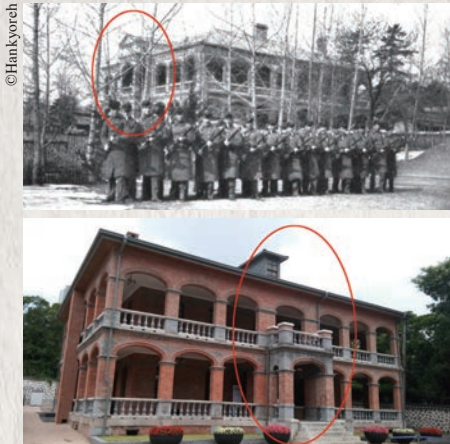


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▲ Ito Hirobumi (L) is regarded as a leading figure of modernization in Japan, but he invaded the Daehan Empire and forcefully colonized it under Japanese Imperialism. Yi Wan-yong (R) volunteered to hand over the sovereignty by signing Eulsaneukyak. He is the most well-known person as adopting and leading a pro-Japanese stance.

\*Daehan Empire: It was an empire after Joseon was declared to be an empire and the last monarchy on the Korean Peninsula.

\*Resident General: It is a government office established by Japan to supervise the Daehan Empire and prepare for invasion.



▲ The photo from the past shows that the restored Jungmyeongjeon Hall is different from the original.

of the late period of the Daehan Empire. It restored its old appearance, but it was continuously pointed out that the second floor and the wall area were unclear. Lee Sun-u, a researcher at The Center for Historical Truth and Justice, revealed the appearance of Jungmyeongjeon in 1905 from a photo book of the Russo-Japanese War\* published in the United States. The photo is assumed to have been taken in 1905 or earlier. It shows that Jungmyeongjeon at the time had porch-style\* structures that protruded from the front of the building to the front porch on the first floor and to the terrace on the second floor. Currently, the restored Jungmyeongjeon is different from the original because only the first-floor entrance protrudes, and the second-floor part does not protrude like the terrace on the other side. Architectural officials said that there were no photos taken close to the front of the building, and there was not much data on it, so they estimated the original form and carried out restoration work. As a result, it will be discussed in the future whether to restore Jungmyeongjeon Hall.



## Site of Brutality of Japan and Fierceness Toward Independence, Seodaemun Prison History Hall

### History of Seodaemun Prison



▲ Seodaemun Prison shows the history of people's desire for independence in Korea.

Seodaemun Park, located in Hyenjeon-dong, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul, is a place beloved by the citizens and a peaceful space where children used to play. A five-minute walk inside the park leads visitors to a red brick building, the Seodaemun Prison History Hall, which has a different atmosphere from the bright park. In 1905, the signing of the compulsory, unequal agreement, Eulsaneukyak, brought about a nationwide independence movement. Thus, Japan needed a prison to trap the resisting people and built a prison in the south of Inwang Mountain.\* As the place was always crowded, Japanese Imperialism believed that people passing by could see their power overwhelm any will of Korean people to pursue independence every day. Japan used this prison as a means to showcase their power and to obtain absolute obedience. As a result, Gyeongseong Prison, which is now the Seodaemun Prison was built. If the symbol of brutality is the Japanese Government-General of Korea, the symbol of resistance of the people who endured Japanese oppression for nearly 40 years can be seen as Seodaemun Prison. Seodaemun Prison turned into a history tour course linked to Seodaemun park in 1992 and was opened to the public in 1998. This is because it could have been regarded as a light spectacle when linked to the park, as the prison has a tragic history.

### Inside Seodaemun Prison



At Seodaemun Prison, there was a voice shouting for Korean independence. This is also the place where Baekbeom Kim Gu and Yu Gwan-sun, leading independence activists in the Japanese colonial era, were imprisoned. Yu Gwan-sun tried to continue the independence movement even in prison, saying that the only thing she could do for the nation in prison was to shout, "Long live Korean Independence."

\*Russo-Japanese War: It is a war between Russia and Japan over control of the Korean Peninsula and the Dongbei region of China in 1904.

\*Porch-style: This refers to a structure that protrudes to avoid the rain.

\*Inwang Mountain: It spans Jongno-gu and Seodaemun-gu.

## Footsteps

On the first anniversary of the 3.1 Movement,\* the shout initiated by Yoo Gwan-sun led to the shout of 3,000 other compatriots in prison. The first basement floor of the prison is the Patriot's temporary detention room and torture room. The site re-enacts many of the torture scenes with mannequins and torture tools, such as hanging the body upside down, pouring hot water and red pepper powder down the nostrils, and forcing wood under the fingernails. There was even a saying among Japanese guards, "Koreans and pollack should be beaten," which shows the brutality of Japan at that time.

Outside of the prison, the composition of the Central Prison Building looks unusual. The building looks like a fan spread in three directions, and there is a guard at the interface. It allowed the entire prison to be monitored in one place. There is the Execution Building not far from the prison building, designated as Historic Landmark No. 324. It is a wooden building built by Japan in 1923 and is a place where independence activists imprisoned across the country were executed. The rope used for hanging is lowered on the hinged wooden board. Beside the Execution Building, is the Corpse Removal Exit which was discovered in 1992 and shows the brutality of Japanese guards secretly dumping bodies to hide the fact that they tortured prisoners. After seeing all of Seodaemun Prison, which highlights the history of resistance, the scenery of Seoul on the way back seems more precious than before.



▲ A cell for solitary confinement in which a person was put in between narrow walls so that they could not sit down or stand up properly. (From Seodaemun Prison History Hall)



▲ An iron chain was held to the prisoner to prevent from escaping when doing forced labor.



▲ A box torture by putting an individual inside a box stubbed with sharp nails and shaking the box to torture him or her. (From Seodaemun Prison History Hall)

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## Site of Names Should Not Be Forgotten, Three Martyrs' Graveyard

### History of Three Martyrs' Graveyard

Independence activists and patriots gathered in Hyochang Park in Yongsan, Seoul. Here, Baekbeom Kim Gu, the spiritual pillar of independence activists, An Jung-geun, the national independence activist, and three other people who fiercely and sacrificially participated in the independence movement are buried. They are Yi Bong-chang, who threw a bomb at the Japanese king in Tokyo, Yun Bong-gil, who threw a bucket-shaped bomb at the leaders of the Japanese military, and Baek Jeong-gi, who attempted to blow up the Japanese Consulate.

Hyochang Park is in the middle of Seoul, where high-rise buildings are densely located, but it was a quiet countryside back in the Joseon Dynasty.\* King Jeongjo, the 22nd king of the Joseon Dynasty, buried his eldest son, Prince Munhyo, who died from measles at the age of 5 in Changdeokgung.\* Jeongjo named his son's tomb Hyochangwon after Munhyo's hyo and Changdeokgung's chang. Hyochangwon, which boasted beautiful scenery with thick pine and chestnut forests, got damaged in 1894 when Japanese troops were illegally stationed nearby during the Sino-Japanese War.\* Soon after, Japan, who took away the national sovereignty of the Daehan Empire, dug up the forest of Hyochangwon to create a golf course. Japan also filled Hyochangwon, which was the graveyard for the royal family, with



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▲ Yi Bong-chang (top, L), Yun Bong-gil (top, R), Baek Jeong-gi (bottom, L), and An Jung-geun (bottom, R) are buried in Hyochang Park.

\*3.1 Movement: A nationwide non-violent independence movement that declared the independence of the Republic of Korea against Japan started on March 1, 1919.

\*Joseon Dynasty: It is a country that ruled the Korean Peninsula for 518 years based on Confucian ideas.

\*Changdeokgung: A Joseon Dynasty palace located in Jongno-gu, Seoul.

\*Sino-Japanese War: A war between July 25, 1894, and April 1895 started by the Japanese Empire against the Qing Dynasty (China), in which Japan unilaterally claimed domination of Joseon.

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monuments for the Japanese military's presence during the Sino-Japanese War. Eventually, Japan relocated all the royal tombs in Hyochangwon to another place and changed its name to Hyochang Park. After the liberation in 1945, Hyochang Park was returned to Korea. Kim Gu enshrined the remains of independence activists there, and it now contains the history of hardships and trials.

## An Unfulfilled Space

©Social Focus



▲ Unlike other graves, Three Martyrs' Graveyard is equipped with an extra ramp for people with movement issues, so anyone can easily access right in front of the cemetery.

Inside Hyochang Park, the tombs of the Three Martyrs are located. However, there are not three but four tombstones in the tombs of the Three Martyrs. From the left are An Jung-geun, Yi Bong-chang, Yun Bong-gil, and Baek Jeong-gi. Below the tomb, the four Chinese characters “流芳百世” are engraved. It means that the scent flows over 100 generations, or “a flower-like name remains in future generations.” An Jung-geun's grave is a fake tomb that is currently empty. He was imprisoned in Lushun Russo-Japanese prison,\* where Japan buried him behind the prison without a marker after executing him. After 110 years since he was buried, many efforts have been made to find his remains, including excavations, but he has not been found. It is said that apartments might have been built where he is assumed to be buried, and unfortunately, the possibility of unearthing his remains is now even slimmer. Independence activists can no longer return, but their spirit will remain forever and will be the spiritual force for future generations to protect the country. Keeping their spirit will be the reason for Hyochang Park's existence.

\*Lushun Russo-Japanese Prison: It is a prison founded by the Japanese Empire, which was located in what is now Lushunkou District, China from 1898 to 1945, where many Korean independence activists were executed or imprisoned.



The Treaty on Basic Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea showed that the common interests were prioritized without properly treating the wounds experienced by individuals. The past, which has not been properly addressed, is still an obstacle for individuals and countries when trying to move forward even 40 years later. The history of Seoul is the past, present, and future of Korea. The Japanese colonial era in the past was a time of tragedy and pain, and individual wounds have not yet healed in the present. A nation that forgets its past has no future. Descendants presently living in Korea should remember its history and prepare for the future by fulfilling their responsibilities as the protagonists of history. The Argus hopes that this winter will be an opportunity to visit a place containing traces of history to honor the painful but memorable past and think about the future direction of Korea. 🇰🇷

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# Lowering of Criminal Minor Age: Rehabilitation and Punishment

By Shin Jun-seo  
*Editor of Social Section*

The Korean drama “Juvenile Justice” ranked first in Netflix’s non-English-speaking category in weekly viewing hours between February 28 and March 13, 2022. It is a drama that points out the complex issue of juvenile offenders, with a judge of the juvenile court as the main character; it is said to have captured success by reflecting the social ambience of being angry about juvenile crimes and juvenile offenders, advocating stricter punishments for them. President Yoon Suk-yeol pledged to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 14 to 12 (international age), reflecting the public’s interest when he was a presidential candidate. To lower the age of criminal minors, the Ministry of Justice initiated the “Actualization of the age standard for criminal minors” Task Force (TF) from June to October 2022, and based on the results of the TF, the Ministry of Justice announced a Preparation of Comprehensive Measures for Juvenile Crimes and moved to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility from the current age of 14 to 13. The Argus wants to look at the Juvenile Act and Criminal Act provisions that stipulate criminal minors, and the background of the government’s movement to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility and its limitations.

## Before Reading

**Protective Detention:** A measure aimed at inducing social return through education rather than punishment for juvenile offenders with a high potential for improvement. It leaves no criminal record. There are measures that can specify juvenile offender sentences from number 1 to 10. The higher the number, the higher the level of punishment. Protective detention number 1 reads, “To consign a juvenile concerned of the care and custody of his/her guardian or any person who can provide protection for the juvenile in substitution for the guardian;” and Protective detention number 3 is “To issue a community service order.” Starting from number 8, the juvenile goes to the Juvenile Reformatory and 10 is “To transfer a juvenile to the Juvenile Reformatory for a long-term.”



### Juvenile Act, Criminal Act, and Criminal Minors

The purpose of the Juvenile Act is stated in Article One as follows: “The purpose of this Act is to ensure sound fostering of juveniles by carrying out necessary measures, such as protective dispositions, etc. for the environmental adjustment and character correction of juveniles demonstrating anti-social behavior, and by providing special measures regarding criminal dispositions.” Basically, the purpose is to help the juvenile to grow into a healthy person through correction. Park Sun-young, a professor in the Department of Police Administration at Hansei University, explained, “The purpose of the Juvenile Act and juvenile justice around the world is correctional education.”

The Juvenile Act is a law for those aged 0 to 19 in accordance with Article 2 “The term ‘juveniles’ as used in this Act means persons under 19 years of age.” The Juvenile Act categorizes juveniles into three classes. Those under the age of 10 are not subject to the disposal of protection and criminal punishment in any case. Juveniles between the ages of 10 to 13 are not subject to criminal punishment, and only protective detention is possible. They are called “criminal minors.” Juveniles aged 14 to 18 are subject to protective detention and criminal punishment if they have committed serious crimes. Therefore, juveniles under the age of 14 are not subject to criminal punishment, which means they have no criminal responsibility; so the minimum age for criminal responsibility is 14. Article 9 of the Criminal Act also states that “The act of a person under fourteen years of age shall not be punished.” Even if the juvenile is over the minimum age of criminal

responsibility, the maximum statutory sentence is stipulated in the Juvenile Act as not to exceed 10 years.



### A Background of Lowering the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility

#### Increase in Juvenile Crime, Recidivism Rate, and High Accomplice Rate

According to the 2020 National Assembly Research Service’s “Status and Implications of Juvenile Crimes,” the number of juvenile violent crimes increased from 3,182 in 2009 to 3,509 in 2018. In addition, according to the Statistical Research Institute’s “Korea’s Social Trends 2019,” the recidivism rate among juvenile criminals increased from 33.3 percent in 2008 to 37.4 percent in 2017. However, the juvenile recidivism rate of convicts, who committed at least previous four crimes, increased from 7.9 percent in 2008 to 14.7 percent in 2017. As the accomplice rate reflects the characteristics of juvenile crimes that several juveniles tend to commit together, the accomplice rate of juvenile criminal offenders in 2017 was 49.8 percent, three times higher than that of all criminal offender’s, which was 16.9 percent. As such, in juvenile crimes, not only the number of violent crimes, but also the recidivism rate has increased, and the accomplice rate is also high compared to adult criminals, causing increased public concern.

We can see a similar trend in the age range from 10 to under 14 years old. According to the Supreme Prosecutors’ Office’s Criminal Case Processing Status (Violent Crime Offenders) data, adult violent crimes decreased from 313,999 in 2017 to 139,643 in 2021, but the number of violent crimes committed by criminal minors increased from 1,766 in 2017 to 2,550 in 2021. Unlike adults, which decreased in sexual violence crimes from 32,234 in 2017 to 21,662 in 2021, the number of rape and harassment crimes by criminal minors fluctuated to 383 in 2017, 410 in 2018, and 390 in 2021. Park Kwang-hyun, a professor in the Department of Police, Law Sector at Gwangju Women’s University said, “According to the 2022 Judicial Yearbook published annually by the Supreme Court National Court Administration, there were variables of COVID-19 in 2020, but the crime rate of criminal minors is on the rise.” Oh Yoon-sung, a professor of the Department of Police Administration at Soonchunhyang University, also warned of the increase in juvenile crimes, saying, “It is clear that the crime rate of criminal minors is increasing.”

## Juveniles Mature as Times Change



▲ Some of the juveniles post their pictures taken at the district office on social media.

The reason for the existence of minimum age of criminal responsibility is that juveniles under the age of 14 do not have criminal responsibility. However, 64 years after the enactment of the Juvenile Act in 1958, there is a big difference between the juveniles at that time and the juveniles at the present. Accordingly, it is pertinent to consider whether they still do not have criminal responsibility, and the government seems to have answered in the affirmative. In the 2022 Korea Policy Briefing, the average height and weight change and social environment change

were cited. This briefing describes changes in the maturity of juveniles as the background of the downward push for the age of criminal minors. While the average height and weight of a 13-year-old juvenile in Seoul was 150.8cm and 39.3kg in 1975, it increased to 167.4cm and 60.9kg in 2019, showing remarkable physical development. In addition, the fact that the adult age was lowered from 20 to 19 through the revision of the Civil Act in 2011, and that the candidacy age was lowered from 25 to 18 and the voting age was lowered from 20 to 18 through the revision of the Public Official Election Act, also shows that juveniles' social maturity is higher than in the past. The government is saying that it can be seen that juveniles have matured through physical changes and through the revision of the Civil Act and Public Official Election Act.

Professor Oh said, "There are some juveniles who use the law to commit crimes before the age of the criminal minors passes. Some of them even went on top of a patrol car telling the police to punish them if they could or posted their pictures on social media in the district office. And the police can't punish them for their acts because of the law." He said, "If they have the ability to use the law, they may now have the criminal responsibility." Professor Park Kwang-hyun also said, "A recent poll in Korea shows that about 80 percent of the public is positive about lowering the age of criminal minors, suggesting that there is some social consensus that juveniles more than the age of 13 are mature enough to have criminal responsibility, a responsibility for their actions."

## Why It Has To Be 13

According to statistics from the National Police Agency, the number of criminal minors sent to juvenile court for violent crimes such as murder, robbery, and rape from 2017 to 2021 gradually increased from 6,282 in 2017 to 7,081 in 2019, 7,535 in 2020, and 8,474 last year. In addition, according to the 2022 Korea policy briefing Preparation of Comprehensive Measures for Juvenile Crimes, it was analyzed that the proportion of violent crimes among 13-year-olds is high. 62.7 percent of the criminal minors who committed violent crimes over the past five years were 13 years old. Professor Oh also said, "70 percent of the crimes committed by criminal minors are concentrated at the age of 13." In addition, the ratios of 12-year-olds and 13-year-olds among all juvenile offenders under protective detention are 749 and 2,995 respectively; and 14-year-olds account for 3,344 cases which means that the gap between 13 and 14 is significantly minor compared to the gap between 12 and 13.

According to the statistics of Korea Policy Briefing, "Juvenile offenders with protective detention number 9 and 10,"\* the number of 12-year-olds in Juvenile Reformatory was 3, but increased to 22 at the age of 13. This is a significant rise because it indicates that juveniles under 12 years old who went to a Juvenile Reformatory are rare, but tend to increase significantly starting from the age of 13. In addition, the fact that the Korean school system is divided into elementary and middle schools based on the age of 13, was also the background factor in lowering the age of criminal minors to age 13 through the revision of the Juvenile Act.



### Limitations

## Recommendations from the UN

### United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

It can be considered through international standards whether lowering the proposed age from 14 to 13 for criminal minors is appropriate. Korea ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1991, and accordingly, the UNCRC shall have the same effect as domestic law under Article 6 (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Korea, which states that "Treaties duly concluded and promulgated

\*Protective detention (number) 9, 10: According to Article 32 of the Juvenile Act, protective detention number 9 is to "transfer a juvenile to the Juvenile Reformatory for a short-term." Number 10 is to "transfer a juvenile to the Juvenile Reformatory for a long-term."

under the Constitution and the generally recognized rules of international law shall have the same effect as the domestic laws of the Republic of Korea.” Article 40 (3) of the UNCRC stipulates “The establishment of a minimum age below which children shall be presumed not to have the capacity to infringe the penal law;” stating that nations should be cautious when setting up a minimum age of criminal responsibility.

#### United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child

About this minimum age of criminal responsibility, the United Nations (UN) recommended that the age of criminal responsibility be no longer lowered if the age of criminal responsibility is 12 years or older in consideration of juvenile immaturity. Article 33 of the Children’s rights in juvenile justice by the UNCRC (General Comment\* No. 10) states, “The Committee urges States parties not to lower their MACR (Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility) to the age of 12.” In addition, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended our government to maintain the minimum age of criminal responsibility at 14 in 2019. The reason for the recommendation was that there is a high possibility that juveniles will not understand the impact of their actions, because juveniles are in the process of growth. Professor Park Sun-young said, “In the 5/6th final opinion of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (October 2019), Korea received 14 recommendations in the field of juvenile justice. Maintaining the minimum age of criminal responsibility at the age of 14, prohibiting detention under 14, monitoring detention facilities, strengthening non-detention measures, and education in detention facilities were pointed out.”

Also, in 2019, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child said in General Comment on Juvenile Rights in the Juvenile Justice System that “the world’s most common minimum age for criminal responsibility is 14 years old. We express concern about the practice of allowing exceptions to set a lower minimum age for criminal responsibility if a child is a serious suspect,” the committee said. They also said, “It is generally intended to respond to public pressure and is not based on a reasonable basis for child development.” While insisting on punishment for juvenile offenders, thinking about why international standards express concern about lowering the minimum age for criminal responsibility is also necessary.

#### The Problem with the Press

‘괴물’이 된 아이들- “강력한 처벌” 주장 봇물  
여중 2년생의 끔찍한 폭행- ‘소년법’ 뜯어고쳐야 한다  
**31km 쫓아가 부수고 때리고...**  
**겁없는 10대들 막장 보복운전**  
또래 37시간 감금폭행- 노숙인 짓밟은 ‘잔혹 10대’  
끔찍한 10대범죄, 아이들 병든 영혼 어떻게 치유하나  
서울서도 여중생 집단폭행- 브레이크 없는 10대 잔혹 범죄

©The Seoul Shinmun Daily

▲ The number of Korean newspaper headlines about crimes of criminal minors has increased since the 2010s. They contain subjective evaluations such as “Reckless Driving of Fearless Teens” (the fourth one from the top).

According to the Korea Policy Briefing on October 26, the government is reasoning the public opinion in favor of lowering the age of criminal minors as background by showing opinion polls that 80 percent of subjects want the lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility. However, media exaggeration was also a factor in the formation of this public opinion. The Seoulshinmun Daily conducted a media survey and research on 1,008 people from August 28 to September 1, 2020, along with a research team led by Professor Lee Eun-joo of the Department of Journalism and Information at Seoul National University. According to this, as a result of analyzing 11,864 articles related to juvenile crimes over the 30 years from the 1990s to 2020, the use of words containing subjective evaluations of crimes such as cruelty, brutality, and demonization has increased since the 2010s. As the distribution of online articles has become active, the frequency of use of provocative expressions has also increased, and it is a conclusion of the Seoulshinmun Daily research that it is an attempt to increase the number of clicks on the news by creating more sensational articles. In addition, once an event that draws public attention occurs, there are also attempts to continue to use the name of the former cases to relate it. For example, after the “Busan middle school girl assault incident” in 2017, a similar crime was reported as “Gangneung version of Busan middle school girl incident,” which has a purpose of using the name of the area to get viewers’ attention.

Professor Park Sun-young said, “Korea and Taiwan are the only countries that punish juvenile delinquents, who said they would not punish them in the Criminal Act, by putting them in the Juvenile Act. South Korea is one of the world’s strictest countries against juvenile offenders, but it is a serious problem that the media conveys misinformation,” signaling that Korea is not lightly punishing juvenile offenders.

According to the media research conducted by The Seoulshinmun Daily, people exposed to the media over-predicted the number of juvenile crimes, regardless

\*General comment: The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child’s interpretation to promote understanding and implementation of certain provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

of whether the reported case was a misdemeanor or a violent crime. Of course, juveniles who commit crimes cannot be viewed only as sympathetic and rehabilitation possibilities. It is clear that strict and just punishment should be imposed. However, if public opinion and press excessively inflates the current status and facts of juvenile crimes, it will be difficult to prevent the occurrence of juvenile offenders and recidivism. It is necessary to objectively examine juvenile crimes and promote policies to prevent recidivism through legitimate punishment and rehabilitation.

### Rehabilitation Must Not Be Missed.

#### A Rehabilitation to Prevent Recidivism

In December 2018, the National Human Rights Commission of Korea expressed concerns about the downward movement of the age of criminal minors. The National Human Rights Commission of Korea focused on their high recidivism rate, which is stated in the opinion at the time that, “It is important to lower the recidivism rate to prevent juvenile crimes, as the 40 percent of juvenile offenders has a past record.” They say that measures centered on preventing recidivism are needed, such as improving the environment in which teenagers are exposed to crime again. According to Amendment to the Constitutional Court’s Juvenile Act (2008.6.22), “The recidivism rate of juvenile offenders remains high despite the decreasing number of juvenile crime cases, so the juvenile justice system is to be improved from punishment to rehabilitation and leadership.” Professor Park Kwang-hyun emphasized, “All members of the state, local governments, and society should pay attention and play a role in preventing recidivism through rehabilitation.”

#### Realistic Institutional Improvement and Support of Victims

At a Korea Association for Restorative Justice meeting on August 31, 2022, under the theme of “Is the Policy

of Lowering the Criminal Minors Age Okay?” Park Ki-young, a Women & Juvenile Affairs Division officer at the Southern Police Station in Namyangju, Gyeonggi Province, 22 km from Seoul, also pointed out system improvement. She said, “Without the capability to investigate juvenile crime and the control tower of juvenile cases, lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility will only make things worse.” She also added that probation officers in charge of follow-up management are lacking, and reformatories and juvenile protection facilities are already saturated. Only when the problem of manpower shortage and the saturated facilities are resolved can appropriate juvenile punishment and rehabilitation be achieved. Professor Park Kwang-hyun said, “It is necessary to systematically categorize crime types into misdemeanors and felonies and respond to crimes under the Juvenile Act with two-tracks. In the case of misdemeanors, approach juvenile protection measures that do not leave criminal records; and in the case of serious crimes, make them take responsibility for their actions through punishment.”


Also, what should not be forgotten is a window to listen to what the victims and their families really want. In the National Human Rights Commission of Korea’s December 2018 opinion, they pointed out that efforts are needed to protect victims who are not receiving social attention because people are only focused on punishing criminals. The National Human Rights Commission of Korea said, “We need to ensure that victims or their legal representatives can participate in the private juvenile protection case hearing\* and provide support measures such as psychotherapy support to prevent secondary damage to the victims during the investigation.” It is of course very important to punish juvenile offenders. However, if we miss the rehabilitation policy that prevents these juvenile offenders from committing crimes again when they return to society, or if we miss the support and interest of the victims, we cannot say that we have found a real solution to the juvenile crime problem.

\*Case hearing: It refers to a series of procedures to punish criminals by confirming the criminal facts after hearing the reason for filing a lawsuit from the parties to resolve a dispute.



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It is known that there are three purposes of the Criminal Act: retribution, general prevention, and special prevention. General prevention is important since its purpose is to ensure that juvenile offenders who commit crimes are given reasonable punishment through proper retribution and to deter juveniles who are likely to commit crimes by seeing the rightful punishment. However, the importance of special prevention should not be forgotten, which makes juvenile offenders, who have many days to live and do not know the responsibility for what they have done, feel responsibility and reflect on their acts through

rehabilitation. In the end, if a juvenile offender who did not get rehabilitation commits another crime after becoming an adult, it will lead to social costs for punishment and rehabilitation, and cause unnecessary pain of victims and society. Readers should think about what the proper answer is to solve the problems of juvenile offenders. 

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# WILL THEATERS REGAIN THEIR PRESTIGE: AVATAR REMASTERED?

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By Nam Gyeong-eun  
Editorial Consultant

Tracing back to 2009, “Avatar (2009),” a legendary movie that started the era of the 3D movie industry as the first and the best by James Cameron, was ruling movie theaters around the globe. “Avatar” was the world’s, and also Cameron’s, second movie that grossed over two billion dollars worldwide, following “Titanic (1997).” It is still ranked first at the worldwide box office that earned over 2.9 billion dollars. Ahead of the release of its sequel, “Avatar: The Way of Water,” a 4K HDR remastered version was re-released starting from South Korea on Sept. 21, 2022, two days before its release in North America. This is due to the current trend of the global movie industry that takes into consideration South Korea’s cinema market where a relatively high percentage of the population are moviegoers. This high proportion of moviegoers is significant in that it serves as a testbed to predict the movie’s success. The movie was exclusively offered in 3D and IMAX3D theaters, with 9-minutes-long extra footage. The movie included a teaser trailer at the end for the next series, “Avatar: The Way of Water,” which is to be released only in theaters on Dec. 16, 2022. The remastered version still attracts its fans, raising its box office record once more. What about the original movie that the world found so interesting?

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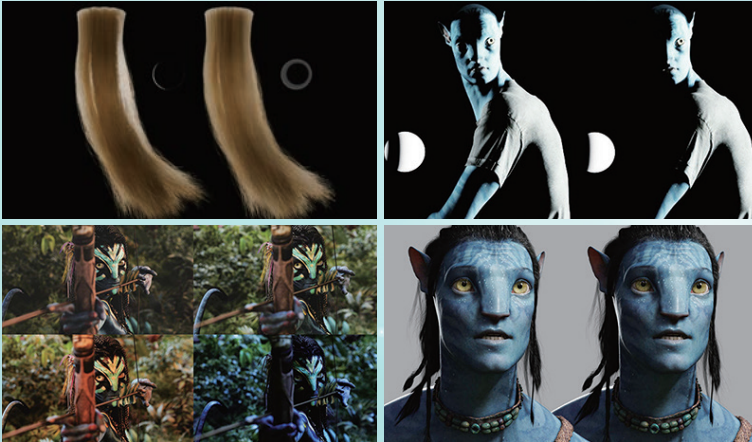


▲ Jake is linked to his avatar, which is fabricated based on his DNA in order to fit in Pandora as a shape of a Na'vi's.

The largest percentage of comments on both the original and remastered versions was “overwhelmingly splendid and delicate graphic technology that feels like it absorbs the viewers to Pandora, where the movie takes place in the story, in the theater.” James Cameron, the director of the movie, came up with a scenario

## Review

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▲ Wētā\_FX use their spherical harmonics technology to express light and shadow in the movie exactly the same as physics works. The advanced technology of CG can even express subtly different amounts of daylight as time goes.

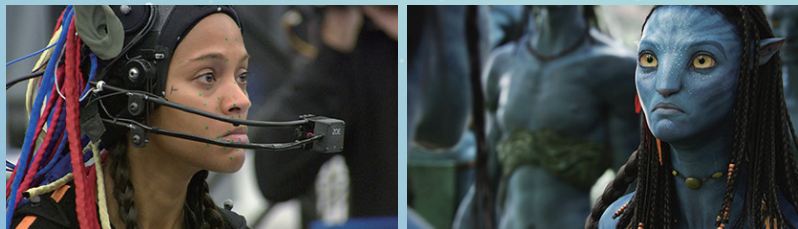
that takes most of its story with “CGIed characters,” who were created by VFX supervisors, Joe Letteri, Wayne Stables, Chris White, Dan Lemmon, and Erik Winqvist from Wētā\_FX, formerly Weta Digital.

How could such made-up factors look so realistic that they overwhelm the viewers? They embodied the principles of visual physics of the real world with technology. According to Wētā\_FX, it “uses spherical harmonics to store information about the effects of each light (including directional occlusion and light contribution.)

Originally developed to enable the incredible level of light complexity required for *Avatar*,... it is vital for the creation of realistic hair and eyes.” They also calculated the physics of light and shadow. According to Wētā\_FX, “this is incredibly complex, especially for things like hair or skin – where the light is partially shining through the surface...The shading models for different surfaces are based on the actual physical properties of those surfaces.” Their in-house renderers, Manuka and Gazebo, “use real-world physics to calculate how light interacts with each surface – down to the level of calculating wavelengths of light separately.”

What about the actors’ delicate emotional expressions? James Cameron used emotion capture, a developed version of motion capture, with actors on the blue screen with body suits and spots on each of their facial muscles. They also had cameras on their heads shooting their facial muscles, eye movements, and even eyelashes and pores in 360 degrees. So, how did James Cameron direct a movie that is 60 percent CGI imaginary? How did he infuse the acts and those animated environments at all? He used Fusion 3D Camera, invented by himself and Vince Pace, which broadcasts the live filmed motions into CGI in real-time. Through this innovative development, Cameron could capture the vision of his film.

While these revolutionary technologies captured people’s eyes, the well-organized storyline Cameron built into the film moved their hearts. “Avatar” is about the voyage of a marine named Jake Sully, from the earth, in 2154 where natural resources have run out. His voyage starts from



▲ Actors’ both facial and body movements are CGIed in real time when Cameron shooting the scene.

being part of Na’vi, blue-skinned humanoids living on a planet called Pandora. On the planet, whose atmosphere is poisonous to humankind, but contains plenty of “unobtainium,” which will solve the resource problem on earth and also is a reason why Jake was put in the tribe. With the help of Paul Frommer, a linguistic professor at the USC Marshall School of Business, Cameron started from inventing the language of Na’vi for a sophisticated plot. The fictional language has its own grammar and vocabulary, which adds extra quality to Na’vi’s presence in the film.

©Weta\_FX



▲ In the first place, Jake is to spy on Pandora, especially about the Na'vi's hometree, where plenty of unobtainium is grounded.

Also, the ultimate message in the film about accepting nature acted as a trigger for people to think of answers about the global community hidden in their unconsciousness. Cameron seemed to borrow Neytiri's words to express his own philosophy about nature. Neytiri is a daughter of Mo'at, a *Tsahik*, or spiritual leader of the Omaticaya clan who serves as a bridge between the Na'vi tribe and their god Eywa, the great nature. Neytiri falls in love with Jake and eventually helps him to understand the Na'vi and their beliefs in Eywa and to stand for them against humans. When Neytiri first met Jake, Jake was being chased by night creatures in Pandora and was trying to drive them away with fire, which he made with matches from the earth. He killed many of the creatures with his knife brandished at them wildly. Neytiri shot the creatures that were about to kill Jake with her arrow. And when Jake thanked her, she hurried to the creature which was moaning in pain and quickly killed him to help it out of its misery. Then she wailed to Jake, "You don't thank for this... it is sad only." These few words were strong enough to make Jake and the people in the theater to understand the way Na'vi treat nature surrounding them right away. Jake was then taken to her home tree where others of her tribe were living. Jake was taught how to think and act like Na'vi. Neytiri taught him to understand nature and how to live in it: being thankful for everything and communicating with those they meet and use for proper needs with respect, with the one principle, "Everything from nature roots from one another." Jake whispers "I see you brother and thank you. Your spirit goes with Eywa. Your body stays behind to become part of the people." One day when Jake kills a creature for a hunting lesson, Neytiri says that he is ready to make his own *ikran*, a dragon-like animal in Pandora which communes with only one Na'vi, means that he is ready to commune and be part of Eywa, the great nature.

Soon, Jake changed his mind about conquering or persuading Na'vi to take the "unobtainium" to the earth. As he stood for Na'vi, people whom Jake used to work with started to crash Na'vi's home tree obstinately. This storyline would easily remind people of the real human history of the war between indigenous people and colonists who tried to take advantage of their land's natural resources. Na'vi's victory through cooperation with other creatures in nature shows the glimpse of Cameron's thoughts that the more evolved ones are those who are being part of the whole, not the ones who rush themselves to conquer the whole and squeeze others to fit in their made-up community. He also shows the message that the law of nature, also in the law of logic, is to narrow down human greed and be grateful for being part of a community, the great nature, that embraces not only them but all other creatures.



▲ Neytiri shows Jake how Na'vi's survive in their surroundings. They only use the exact amount of resources as they need, just like herself drinking a sip of water from a leaf.

This era is full of conflicting thoughts about the future of the human species, especially about how we should treat the earth, our home tree. Looking forward to "Avatar: The Way of the Water" at the end of this year, The Argus hopes for those huge screens in theaters, which became bigger compared to 2009, to overwhelm the crowd once more, and encourage them to question their own dormant morality and empathy about nature. 📺

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▲ The movie "Avatar2" is scheduled to be released on 14, December this year. Disney also noted that there will be its sequel after "Avatar 2."

# Unspeakable Tragedy, the 1029 Itaewon Disaster

By Nam Gyeong-eun  
*Editorial Consultant*

On October 29th, 2022, Saturday approaching Halloween, I turned on my iPad to watch YouTube to call it a day, watching the news. When I was about to open the app, my sister started to cry out beside me while watching her phone, and no sooner than had I asked her why, both our phones started ringing with calls from our parents.

My mom asked, with her voice shaking, whether I was in Seoul, and also my dad asked my sister the same question. We both were in Daejeon, grumbling about an overwhelmed amount of work from school that prevented us from enjoying Halloween wearing costumes etc. But soon it turned out to be the most foolish grumbling. Then my uncle, grandma, and even my best friend in Italy on her exchange program gave me a call, all of them hurrying to check in on me. Soon I learned about the unspeakable tragedy on the very night in Itaewon, South Korea, October 29.

That was when it came to my mind that my younger sister was out with her friends in Seoul that night. I do not want to even recall the feeling when I tried to reach her: it was as if every single ring tone was choking me second by second until she finally answered. I tried to calm down not to scare her when I asked her location but there were thousands of scenarios in my head that pounded my heart and twisted my guts until I reached her. Thankfully she was at her friend's place, but tears ran down on my cheek with relief. I turned on live news on YouTube right away, and checked the real-time situation in Seoul, and my Instagram too, to check real-time feeds of the Halloween situation in Itaewon. The number of victims was increasing, and all I could do was watch and pray that there would be no more victims by the deadly crowd crush in that Itaewon alleyway.

According to the Itaewon response status report from the Ministry of the Interior and Safety on November 16 at 11:00, there are a total of 158 deaths; 102 are female; 106 of them are in their 20s; there are 12 teenagers; and a total of 196 injured; among them, 8 are still hospitalized. Among the victims, there are 25 who still have not been held in a funeral, and two of the 26 foreign victims are still in the morgue to be sent to their home country. The report briefly mentioned that the accident took place as the Halloween crowd rushed into the narrow alleyway near Hamilton Hotel in Itaewon. Nowadays I often imagine what if there were enough officers



watching over the passages of the crowds in the alley, what if I, or one of my loved ones, were there, or how it would feel to be the victims' family.

It was the most painful week after Sewol Ferry Disaster, even just thinking about the *if*'s. I sometimes question the appropriateness of the government's courses of action in public. Back then when another tragic accident Sewol Ferry Sinking took place, I was in middle school, and all our field trip plans were canceled for years. I felt bad, not because the field trip had been canceled that I had wanted to take, but because the cancellation was not the ultimate solution to prevent such tragedy in the future. It was only to suppress our desire for field trips making us madly gaze for the next one to pour out all the accumulated fervor only, which would never teach us about safety. And the action also made us cheer out when the field trip is back on, which would never teach us how to cherish someone deep in our hearts. What I needed was to learn the right way to sympathize with the past and to practice for a safe future properly, not to take it out on someone else. When the government declared the national mourning period for the Itaewon disaster, prohibiting any kind of festival during the time, I had similar feelings.

In South Korea, the Itaewon disaster is still under investigation of who was responsible and/or of how efficient the security system was. The whole country is still aching from the tragedy. Putting all political issues about the disaster aside, now, as a grown up different than the time of Sewol Ferry Disaster, I would like to truthfully sympathize with the lost ones from the Itaewon disaster and their families, and I promise them that I will make any efforts as a member of this society not to repeat such unspeakable disaster in the future. 🙏

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## “A Meeting”

On a sheer peak of joy we meet;  
Below us hums the abyss;  
Death either way allures our feet  
If we take one step amiss.  
One moment let us drink the blue  
Transcendent air together—  
Then down where the same old work's to do  
In the same dull daily weather.  
We may not wait... yet look below!  
How part? On this keen ridge  
But one may pass. They call you—go!  
My life shall be your bridge.

By Edith Wharton (1862-1937)

### “Bye, but Not Goodbye - In memory of the victims of the Itaewon tragedy, October 29”

Edith Wharton, an American novelist, wrote lots of poems in her poetry notebook. Written in 1909, this poem tells us that even after death the relationship between you and me does not end up. The speaker in this poem says that she goes on her life as the bridge of the dead. Death is a huge loss, irretrievable in any way, it is eternal absence and separation. But even after death, we, you the dead and me the living, may live on altogether in a promise to make a bridge. We call it mourning. Mourning is not a thing with an ending but a process filled in the words of remembrance and memory, in our promise of being a bridge. And so let's say to the 158 universes who passed away so tragically on October 29 at Itaewon, Seoul, South Korea, our most-loved daughters and sons, the shiny souls, “Bye, but not goodbye. My life shall be your bridge.”

(Chung Eun-Gwi, translator/ professor of Department of English Literature and Culture, HUFS) 



# Do Not Be Afraid To Be Afraid

**By Park Kun-ha**  
*Editorial Consultant*

The winter has already come. The weather has become chilly. When I was in my childhood, I did not put my scarf on even when the wind was blowing so hard. That was the reason why I caught a cold (or, maybe even lived with a cold) very often as an elementary school student. That immunity may be the reason why now I do not get a cold that often, but I believe there is also another reason: now, I put on a scarf if the temperature falls below only 10 degrees Celsius - not because I fear, but the act is considered a protection or even a means to confront the brutal coldness of Korean winter. Even in the eyes of a third party, protection does not mean weakness, but the preparedness of wisdom. Acknowledging self-weakness or improvements and figuring out the solutions are the clearest, most direct, and certain ways of self-development. Thus, facing one's own problems head on is the most important, crucial step to take first.

According to the Oxford Learner's Dictionary, "phobia" is a term meaning 'a strong unreasonable fear of or feeling of hate for a particular thing.' Generally, the most well-known phobia is *claustrophobia*, the fear of being in a small, closed space, or *xenophobia*, the strong dislike or fear of people from other countries. *Claustrophobia* may be an "unreasonable fear," but recently, I strongly feel like phobias that are artificially acquired are increasing. Typically, *xenophobia* can be a representative example of this. Within the same context, what I want to deal with is *nomophobia*, the fear of being away from a mobile phone.

*Nomophobia*, one of the newly appearing phobias, can be recognized as one's weakness, and I believe it could be treated after a series of one's efforts and willingness toward its eradication. Although I would not say I have nomophobia, I do not think I would feel delighted if my mobile phone is forcibly kept away from me. This is because I also spend a large amount of time using my phone. Here is a question: What kind of application do you use the most with your phone? In my case, I acknowledge that I use YouTube the most. With YouTube, I watch a lot of cathartic videos such as cooking, calm talk shows, Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response (ASMR), or *mukbang*, a video of a person eating food while talking to an audience. However, if someone were to ask me, "Are those video contents helpful to your life?" the answer would be "No." It just plays the role of healing and relaxing, comforting me into thinking that it is okay to waste time since life feels so harsh to me. Now I know that those kinds of comfort just take me back before I settle into reality, the position where I am at this present time. To overcome such lethargy and gain the power to get through hardships, I need to look back and try to get energy in a healthier way.

Acknowledging my weakness may make me feel ashamed, but now I understand it is the first step forward for me to take. It is normal to have fear when confronting one's weakness, but I believe that such fear can be a starting point to initiate a willful action. Even if the weather is becoming cold and the situation is getting harder, do not stay only in your sweet, warm place all day long; step outside with courage. 🍂

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# Looking Back at The Argus



## : Yang Yu-min

There were many funny things that happened while working on The Argus. We stayed up all night writing articles together, ate together almost always, and crammed exams together in the office of The Argus. We spent almost half of this semester together, and we felt like family. Even though the days are getting colder, our office is filled with the warmth of reporters. No matter how much I lost my way, the fact that I belonged somewhere was a comfort to me. Thanks to all of you who felt like another family, my life abroad was not lonely. I was happy thanks to all of you, and hope you were, too.

## : Shin Jun-seo

I have spent two years with The Argus, and every minute, every second was precious to me. I still do not know what made me come to this organization, but I have never regretted it. I am just thankful for my good choice. The Argus in 2022 was great. I got more and more experience as time passed, and with that experience, I strived to write better articles. Though I still feel inadequate, I believe I have become a better reporter and person with The Argus. I am going to serve my duty in the army next year, so this may or may not be my last article and epilogue. But just in case, I want to say goodbye to The Argus. It has been a wonderful journey with you, and I hope this organization and its reporters will have a bright future ahead. Thank you so much!

## : Cho Eun

My life in 2022 was busy with The Argus from start to end. It was not easy, but every second of being a member of The Argus was valuable. The Argus was my priority in 2022, and sometimes I neglected other things like sleep, personal relationships, and time to rest, but I do not regret it. The Argus gave me the feeling of accomplishment, the power of thinking and writing, the precious articles I wrote, and most of all my Argusians whom I love so much. I never thought something would take up such a big part of my life. Writing articles makes me feel that I am alive, and it gives me a sense of duty and responsibility. Living every month to write articles also makes me investigate and discover what is going on in the world. For me, The Argus is the thing that I cannot sacrifice.



### • Lee Jue-hyun

For me, the second half of 2022 was The Argus itself. It was my first attempt at a true newspaper with many challenges. Every month was a time to think about what articles to write and how to write good articles. When it did not go that well, I blamed myself or envied others, hoping for my personal growth more than ever. The Argus was a space where I learned the joy of writing good words with good people, and it was a time when I felt the passion of a lot of people.

### • Lee Ju-won

This year has been full of The Argus. I was together with The Argus at the beginning of this year, summer, autumn, and until winter. For each season, I wrote an article about a topic I wanted to inform others of and went out to cover issues as much as I could. In this process, I learned the role of a reporter at a university newspaper. But the most meaningful thing was the other reporters, always helping me with love. As they gave me feedback to write better in the six editorial meetings every month, I could improve. It was such a valuable time for me. I developed every year, and different factors made me grow. The Argus was the driving force behind my growth in 2022. I would like to say thank you to all the reporters of The Argus for making my year perfect.

### • Park Kun-ha

The Argus in 2022 was “warmth” to me. The first half of 2022 was the time that I became the Editor-in-Chief and it was a bittersweet experience for me as the head of the internal and external arena of an organization. However, in the second half of 2022, The Argus was a precious group that presented a time full of joy and pleasure in a difficult and harsh time for me. Watching all the reporters put their heads together to give birth to a creative article, I could not help but admire them. My time with them was very precious for me, too. Lastly, I would like to express my great gratitude to the Editor-in-Chief Yang Yu-min, for keeping this precious group warm and well with good results, overcoming many hardships with her tremendous efforts. You did a very good, applaudable job.

### • Nam Gyeong-eun

What I have figured out about myself up to this moment of time is that I feel alive when I empathize with others, create something through my thoughts, and nurture my inner thoughts in pursuit of maturity and growth. As an editorial consultant of The Argus 2022, it was my way of empathizing with others and archiving those feelings in my mind, and polishing those thoughts to move others with words, not just to have a delusion about something and forget it at once. By writing something in text and extending the thoughts to digest them by myself only, thanks to The Argus, I feel like it has been a great and satisfying year for me toward becoming my ideal version of a grown-up.





*The Argus*  
[www.theargus.org](http://www.theargus.org)