

# Newsletter for Servas Korea



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# Servas East Asia 8th Conference

Servas East Asia 8th Conference was held in Seoul and Buyeo during September 30th through October 2nd. Total 132 members participated in this event, including 27 overseas members, among whom are 16 Japanese, 5 Indonesians, 3 Taiwanese, 1 Singaporean, 1 Malaysian, and 1 Chinese.

## Pre-meeting in Seoul

The first activity of this function was the pre-meeting held in Seoul. Around 43 people attended the social evening where they introduced and mingled with each other.



At the pre-meeting

On the morning of September 30th, Servas Koreans from all over Korea and Servas members from overseas who had stayed with Servas Koreans the other night began to arrive at the meeting venue. Everybody was excited to find old faces and was busy shaking hands, starting conversations, and taking photos together.



Gathering near Seoul Railway Station

## Jongmyo Shrine

The first destination was Jongmyo Shrine, one of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Jongmyo is the oldest and most authentic of the Confucian royal shrines to have been preserved. It houses the spirit tablets of the former kings and queens of the Joseon Dynasty(1392-1910), and is a symbolic structure that conveys the legitimacy of the royal family.



Listening to the guide in Jongmyo Shrine



Parts of the buildings in Jongmyo Shrine

## Rib-bone Soup for Lunch

After walking in the Shrine, we had a strong appetite and were ready to enjoy the rib-bone soup.



Trying new taste

## Samsung Innovation Museum

After having a hearty meal, we headed for our next destination, Samsung Innovation Museum in Suwon where the headquarters of South Korea's multinational electronics company is located. We were divided into two language groups, English and Japanese. The docents led us around the museum, helping us learn about the history of the electronic industry and discover the meaning of innovation.

The purpose of this exhibition is not only to show the history of electronics industry but also the achievements that Samsung Electronics has made in the IT industry with its leading semi-conductors, display and mobile technologies.

That was a very informative and insightful journey of IT industry.



After the short tour of SIM



In the executive briefing center



Servas people absorbed in the explanation



# Suwon Hwaseong Fortress

Our last destination of the day was Hwasung Fortress in Suwon city, which is a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Hwaseong Fortress is an impressive structure from the latter part of the Jeseon Dynasty(1392-1910). It was constructed from 1794 to 1796 as a display of the king’s filial piety towards his father Jangheonseja.

It is believed to have been constructed very scientifically under the guidance of Jeong, Yak-Yong(1762-1836), then distinguished scholar of utilitarianism.



Servas people in the Hwaseong Fortress

The fortress wall stretches for a total of 5.52km and has a great variety of military facilities that are hard to find anywhere else. Four gates face each of the cardinal directions.



## National secretaries of Korea and Japan

After a long and cultural day, we headed south to the last destination of the day, Buyeo, 3 hours away from Suwon city. The dinner at a restaurant near our hostel was fabulous. The dinner time was a perfect opportunity for everyone to know each other, introducing themselves, asking questions, exchanging name cards or email addresses. Ms. Sumiko Saito had prepared a hand-made gift for everyone, which was so impressive.

## Buyeo City

Buyeo , once the capital city of Baekje Kingdom(18 B.C. – A.D.660) is replete with ancient legends that continue to live beyond their time. It is one of Korea’s major historic and cultural travel destinations and is on UNESCO’s World Cultural Heritage list. You can trace 1,500 years of Baekje Kingdom in this austere and modest town.



Buyeo City

## Jeongnimsaji Temple

The next day of October 1st, we took a walk to the five-story stone pagoda on the ground of Jeongnimsaji Temple Site.

The reason why we call this a temple site is that most parts of once the principal temple of Baekje Kingdom, Jeongnimsa Temple are gone and only the site remains with faint traces of the temple.

However, thanks to its historic and cultural value, it is part of the World Cultural Heritage Site.

The five-story pagoda from the late Baekje period is a precious artifact and very important in establishing the lineage of Korean

stone pagoda patterns.

With its refined and creative features, it exemplifies the beauty and elegance that were imitated in pagodas built in later periods.



Five-story stone pagoda



Three Taiwanese ladies and one Chinese lady bonded very quickly



Jeongnimsaji temple site



# 8th Servas East Asia Regional Conference

Representatives of Servas East Asian countries and all the other participants gathered at the conference room and started the meeting. Each national secretary presented their activities and future perspectives.

Mrs. Ogata from Japan said that the average age of Servas people in Japan was 66 years old and she was worrying about the future of Servas Japan. On the contrary, Servas Taiwan was attracting many younger members.

Mongolia was chosen to be the venue for the next East Asia conference in 2019. Servas Japan promised that it would do its best to help Mongolia host the conference successfully.



**Representatives of Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and Indonesia**



**Everybody is listening carefully**



**For our lasting memory**

# Cooperating with the Local government and other NGO

We also sought cooperation from the local government and other NGO, The Senior Public Diplomacy Group.

The mayor of Buyeo city visited the conference hall and expressed his gratitude for visiting Buyeo.

The president of the Senior Public Diplomacy Group also gave a speech, wishing more teamwork between Servas Korea and the Senior Public Diplomacy Group in the future.

This time they pitched in with this event, providing part of the fund and participating in the conference.

# Buyeo National Museum

After lunch, we all walked to the Buyeo National Museum and looked around the exhibitions from the Baekje times.



**In front of the Buyeo National Museum**



**Stone Basin**



**Buyeo National Museum**



**Prehistoric Gallery**



**Mayor of Buyeo city giving a congratulatory speech**



**The president of the Senior Public Diplomacy Group hopes closer cooperation with**



# Cultural Night Fever

The first part of the night was led by Hungtaryung Big band, which is an amateur music group of which the leader is Mr. Lee Jongwon, the deputy national secretary of Servas Korea. The band performed a variety of repertoire including Korean traditional songs, dances, popular songs and comedy as a welcoming event.



**Performance by Hungtaryung Big Band**



**Korean traditional dance**



**Singing a Korean folk song**



**Performance of Korean classic comedy**

The band entertained the audience with their passionate performance, working up great enthusiasm into them. The second part of the event was presentations by participants from other countries.



**Taiwanese presented a children's play**



**Indonesians sang their traditional folk song**



**Japanese ladies singing**



**Dancing sixteen Japanese members**



**The participant from Singapore, Wang Yee was joined by the Chinese member, Linda**



**Ms.Kazuko Ohashi from Japan flew us to the moon with her song 'Fly Me to the Moon'**

# The Party Never Stops

When we came back to the hostel after the cultural night, we were thrilled to find the beautiful and exquisite display of desserts-all kinds of Korean traditional tea, rice cake, fruit cups, steamed pork with kimchi, steamed squid with assorted vegetables, wine, beer and soju(Korean popular alcohol) prepared by members of the Servas Chungcheong region. Here another party began with more excitement with Servas people chatting, laughing, enjoying the dainty food and taking pictures with each other. The night was wearing on, but the heat of the party didn't cool off until the manager of the hostel asked us to return to our rooms.



**Korean rice cakes**



**Members of Servas Chungcheong region serving varieties of traditional tea**



# Buso Mountain Fortress

The last day of the East Asia Servas meeting began with us hiking the Buso Mountain Fortress, which is a mud fortress located on top of Buso Mountain in the northern part of Buyeo and is estimated to have been built during 6th century A.D. to protect Sabi-then capital city of Baekje Kingdom from enemies.

Buso Mountain was once regar-



Hiking the Buso Mountain

Among them, Nakhwaam-Flower Falling Rock- is the most famous and is familiar with every Korean as we learn about the legend at school that says 3,000 court ladies of the Baekje Kingdom threw themselves into the river from the cliff after the collapse of the dynasty to protect their purity from the invading army.



Taking a rest on the rock



Japanese members taking a photo with the



In front of the Goransa Temple

Then we visited our last destination of this event, Gudrae Sculpture Park where dozens of sculptures by famous sculptors were displayed

Finally, we went to a ginseng chicken soup restaurant after the sightseeing activities. Ginseng chicken soup is one of Korea's must-eat delicacies. It is cooked with ginseng, chicken, jujube, chestnut and other herbs and is loved by everybody.

It was not easy to say good-bye to each other, though, when it was time to part. We promised to meet again at another Servas meeting some other day. Some went to Seoul by the chartered bus and others went on their own to explore more of Korea by staying with Servas Koreans.

- The end of East Asia meeting -

# Boat Tour on Baekma River

After hiking we went to the Baekma river to have a boat tour. The boat was beautifully built with a traditional tile-roof.



Traditional Korean sailboat



Looking at another boat from our boat

Looking at the crystal clear water of the river, the open field, and the mountains and cliffs, especially Nakhwaam-the Flower Falling Cliff from the boat was very pleasing and soothing.



# Servas Travelers in Korea

Most of the guests we hosted this year were participants in East Asia Servas meeting. They stayed with us sharing their cultures and life before and after the event.



**Ms. Yamaguchi from Japan helped a lot with the farming during her stay**



**Djoki & Henny from Indonesia visited Cheongju Foreign Language High School**



**Amin & Eni from Indonesia enjoying Korean food**



**Gil, Yonju, staying with her host Mamen, Barcelona  
Gil, Yonji, the sister of Gil, Yonju participated in SYLE held in Italy during summer.**



**At the rice paddy, Yosi, Nirit, Guy from Israel with Mr.Gil, the regional coordinator of**



**Norma & Keith from Australia with Seoul members**



**Mr. Nishiyama & Shizuko staying in Busan**



**Seo, Soonok staying in Spain**



**Kahari, Djoko & Henny hosted by Chungcheong-Daejeon**

# Participating in Servas South East Asia Regional Meeting

Servas South East Asia Regional Meeting was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia during July 29 through 31. All 10 Servas Koreans joined in this meeting and learned a lot about Indonesian culture and also became friends with participants from other countries.



**80 Servas people from 10 countries got together in South East Asian meeting**

# 20 years of friendship and commitment Between Two Servas People

Mr. Nishiyama from Japan and Mr.Eum from Korea had met at a Servas meeting more than twenty years ago and have become friends ever since.

They are of the same age and feel like they are brothers. They have exchanged numerous visits, international calls, and New Year's cards.



**A Letter of Appreciation is being read on behalf of the national secretary**



Their friendship stood out in times of ordeal, for example, when there were disasters like earthquakes or typhoons or when either of them was in personal trouble.

Mr. Nishiyama is, to Koreans, an honorary citizen of Korea and a national uncle for us. He has been devoting himself to promoting Servas activities between Korea and Japan and connecting the two neighboring nations closely, especially in times of rough political circumstances between the two countries.

Servas Korea wanted to express our gratitude for his contribution to bridging Korea and Japan, so the national secretary Mr. Choi prepared a letter of appreciation. Mr. Eum, a lifetime friend of Mr. Nishiyama, also prepared two Korean traditional sets of brass rice bowls and soup bowls, a pair of brass spoons and chopsticks for Mr. Nishiyama as a token of friendship and thanks. The letter was presented to him at Busan regional meeting.



**Mr. Nishiyama and Mr. Eum at a local market in Korea**

## Servas Peace Riding in Taiwan

13 Servas Korean Riders went to Taiwan on January 3 for cycling and started biking from Taibei, ran 400 kms counterclockwise and returned to Taibei. Ms. Wang Mei, the national secretary of Servas Taiwan, welcomed Korean Peace Riders ardently with other Servas Taiwanese members, leaving unforgettable impression on the Korean riders' heart. Mr. Wang Yee also flew from Singapore and joined part of the biking trip.



**High spirited Korean Servas Riders**



**Enthusiastic welcoming from Servas Taiwan**

## Regional Meetings Here and There

Servas Korea has 11 regional branches and we have a regional meeting every quarter, but some regions bond more often to share and enjoy friendship.



**Members of Busan, the southern city**



**Members of Jeju island celebrates its 10th anniversary of organizing**



**Members of the most active region, Daegu**



**Thank You So Much...!**

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