Newsletter for Servas Korea
The Pioneer of Servas Korea is Fallen

Mr. Eum, Jaeryang, one of the founding pioneers of Servas Korea along with his late father, Mr. Eum, Hyunsup, died at 07:30 a.m. on November 21st, 2017 at the age of 81 after a long battle with cancer.

He was a devoted Servas person, and Servas activity was his greatest joy and pleasure of his life. He contributed to the growth and proliferation of Servas Korea so much that today’s Servas Korea wouldn’t exist without his dedication.

Many members of Servas Korea went to the funeral home of Baek Hospital to pay respect to him and express condolences to his family. He was survived by his four daughters. He was buried at his family grave site by his father’s side in Yechon City, his hometown.

Servas Japan, many members of which are his close friends, sent incense money to the family as well as many phone calls and emails expressing their condolences. In eastern Asia, it is a custom to burn incense in front of the portrait of the deceased in the wake.

Mr. Song, Donghwan, one of Mr. Eum’s longtime friends followed through all the procedures of the wake, funeral, cremation and burial with the bereaved family.

Servas Korea posted an obituary on Facebook and the following are the responses from Servas people all over the world.

Modou Lamin Krubally May his soul rest in peace
Shiva Shrestha Oh it is very sad…I met him in Nepal 20 years ago. Condolences to the bereaved family…Rest in Peace
Amin Sudarto My deepest condolences…RIP brother Eum
Muhammad Naseem Dear members of Servas Korea.
I am truly sorry to hear the loss of my good friend & father of Servas Korea Mr. Eum, may almighty Allah rest the departed soul in peace, Aameen.
May fond memories of Mr. Eum bring you comfort during this difficult time.
Mary Ellen Chatwin Shiva i am sorry. We will write our Korean friends
Laura Ragucci So sorry to hear that! My deep condolences!
Shiva Shrestha He was a great Servas personality
Mourad Elkaddiri All my condolences.

Letters of Condolences from Neighbouring Servas Countries

The following are emails from overseas Servas members sent to Byungwan Choi, the national secretary of Servas Korea.

<CHINA>

Dear Servas Korea, 
Overseas members from Servas China first noticed and then noticed us the shocking news. We all were very shocked and upset to hear that you have lost Mr. Eum, Jaeryang.

I know he was ill, but I didn’t realize he had so little time left. He was such a brilliant and wonderful man and we’ll truly miss our times together in China. I know the years you all and he together were the best ones of his life. He was very lucky to have you – vice versa.

Love knows no boundaries. While Mr. Eum, Jaeryang is no longer physically with us, his spirit is always around us. Please know that you’re in our thoughts and prayers. I hope and pray that Servas Korea and Mr. Eums’ family will have strength during this time of loss.

Yours Cordially,
Jack R. Huang
National Secretary of Servas China (maninland)

<INDONESIA>

I am Indrotomo, a member of Servas Indonesia. I express the deepest condolences for the passing away of Mr. Eum, the Servas Korea member. May he be in peace and God bless the whole family.

Warmest greeting from Indonesia 
Best regards, 
Indrotomo

<JAPAN>

To Korean Servas National Secretary Mr. Choi and Korean Servas friends,
We are so sorry to hear about Eum-san’s passing last morning. He was a true cosmopolitan and visited Japan lots of times with other members of Servas Korea. He visited not only Kyushu but many other places in Japan, and wherever he went, he was welcome for his open-hearted character. Mr. Eum welcomed many members of our country when we stepped into Korea. He was always so kind and friendly. Many of us remember how he welcomed us with other Korean members. He took us to many places of interest like, temples, parks, and museums.

We know that the East Asia Meetings could be born, thanks to his dedication. As a result, so many members of Korea, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mongolia, and Japan became very friendly with each other. It will be our precious legacy forever.

Mr. Eum, Jaeryang, father of Servas Korea, will be missed by all of us, and his memory will remain in our hearts forever. Please accept our sincere sympathy.

Sincerely Yours,
OGATA Tomoko
National Secretary of Servas Japan

A Memorial Address by Mr. Nishiyama

Mr. Nishiyama paid a tribute to Mr. Eum on his article in Servas Kyushu Yearly Book. The following is his article translated into English:

〈Mr. Eum, My Lifetime Friend and I〉

Since Mr. Eum and I met at the First Japan-Korea Exchange Association Meeting, we have been friends for more than 30 years. His Japanese was very fluent because he had been educated until his 3rd grade of school in Japanese language during the colonial days. As he and I were the same age, we had so many common topics to talk about in life and share with each other.

His business was selling parts of automobiles, however, he cared more about Servas activities than about his business. He was lucky to have such honest and faithful employees to take care of his business instead of him during his absence. His greatest pleasure and joy were hosting Servas travelers from different countries and traveling to other countries. He often participated in international Servas meetings as a representative of Servas Korea and was well known to the Servas people around the world for his dedication to Servas.

He often invited me to visit Korea and each time took me everywhere, including old temples, traditional markets, attractive places and Servas events. I came to understand so much about Korean culture through these visits and constant conversations with him. He also often visited my house, usually with other Servas members of Korea. His idea was to give them the opportunity to experience Servas family. My small house got full of people whenever he showed up with friends and I had to be very inventive to host all of them at my home.

He liked to sing Japanese ENKA-Japanese sentimental popular songs and war songs. I sent him a few CDs of military songs to hear that he was longing to listen to them in the hospital bed. I was told that he was very pleased to listen to the war songs and even tried to sing along.

When I look back on our time spent together, I just get overwhelmed by so many fond memories of us. I am sure that he has met his dear father in the heaven and is having a wonderful time talking with him. I hope he will bless Servas Korea and support them to host Servas International Conference in 2018 successfully from above.
The First Servas Board Meeting of 2018

The first Servas board meeting of 2018 was held in Daejon on January 13th. 18 key people from all over Korea gathered and discussed important issues like following:

1. One minute of a silent tribute to the two late members of Servas Korea
   - Mr. Eum, Jaeyang
   - Mr. Gil, Hongyong
2. Presenting letters of thanks to the resigning regional coordinators of Seoul and Jeonbuk area
3. Reporting on the Servas hosting and traveling of 2017 and planning of 2018 by each regional coordinator
4. Short presentations by secretary general, peace secretary, website manager and newsletter writer on their activities
5. Audit report by auditors
6. Examination of the content of the scheduled publication of “The 50-year history of Servas Korea”
7. Appointing lifetime Servas members and awarding membership
8. Yearly settlement of income and expenses for 2017
9. Project planning for 2018 and budget compilation
10. Amendment of articles of association regarding a host list

Action Point: the regional coordinators should encourage their members to register in SOL as soon as possible.

11. Confirming the allotment of roles in 2018 SICOGA preparation

We divided all the participants into 10 teams according to their wishes and each team started brainstorming and discussion ardently.

The agenda were:

1. Opening and closing ceremony
2. Presentation of Servas Korea
3. How to make the best use of seminar halls
4. Full day excursion and half day trip
5. Hosting before & after the conference
6. Servas International Peace Riding
7. Reception
8. Facility check-internet and electronic devices
9. Meal, beverage and snacks
10. Registration, room assignment and help desk

We need concerted effort and cooperation from all members of Servas Korea to make this historic event of 2018 SICOGA successful and fruitful, Mr. Choi, the national secretary of Servas Korea emphasized.

2017 National Assembly & Pre-SICOGA in Seoul

The 2017 national assembly of Servas Korea was held at the International Youth Center Youth Hostel where the 2018 SICOGA will take place soon. The goal of this event was to check the facility and find any possible problems for SICOGA by sleeping and eating at the venue, and collecting ideas in order to host the important international conference.

Before the workshop, all the participants went hiking on the Gaehwa Mountain right behind the Youth Hostel, guided by Mr. Kim, a member of Seoul region.

The conference continued after dinner with Mr. Yi, Byunghun’s report on the progress of writing “the 50-year history of Servas Korea”, demonstration of how to log in and register in SOL by Mr. Park, Jaegwang, and reports by regional coordinators on their Servas activities. Lastly, socializing began and everybody got relaxed finally. We went to our bedrooms and studied them before falling asleep.
The next morning we tried two types of breakfast, Wester and Korean style at the restaurant. Many members expressed there were many things to improve regarding breakfast and Ms. Kim, Namhee wrote down all the complaints because she is in charge of the meal. The leader of each tasking team presented a summary of their discussion from the previous day. There were so many problems and issues we had to handle. Everybody understood this big international event needed lots of devotion, hard working and preparation to become successful.

The last part of this meeting was walking from the Youth Hostel to Suwon Hwasung Fortress before farewell.

Hosting Servas Travelers in Korea

Elaine & Mauny from U.S.A. hosted by Gyungboh in Jeju

Jos stayed with Junghee in Busan for 10 nights. He wasn’t in a hurry and just enjoyed being with a Servas family and exploring the Korean cuisine.

Kiran Shilpakar from Nepal hosted by Sungjoo in Seoul

Kiran is the president of the association of the differently abled people in Nepal. He came to Korea to attend a conference and wanted to meet a Servas member to be hosted by Mr. Ha, Sungjoo.

Sharwi from the Philippines visited Daegu and stayed with Ms. Choi, Yunja. The ladies had a great time talking about everything.

Jos from Luxembourg

Jos attended the national assembly during his stay and became friends with many members of Servas Korea.

Servas Traveling by Servas Koreans

The year 2017 was more outgoing than before to Servas Koreans. They traveled to Australia, Europe, Israel, Japan, South Africa and Reunion, a small French island in the Indian Ocean.
Seokkyu with Isabel in Lisbon, Portugal

Chulsoon with Nicolas in Manchester, England

Chulsoon with Bruna in Rome, Italy

Sungcheon with Mr. Tennock in Brisbane, Australia

Sungcheon with John & Judy in Sydney, Australia

Sungcheon with Izumi in Tokyo, Japan

Jungjoo with the Kawamuras in Shimosuwa, Japan

Sungcheon with Eileen in Brisbane, Australia

Jungjoo and his wife demonstrating Kimchi making to the Kawamuras. They took photos and wrote down all the processes of making Kimchi.

Orna welcoming participants with open arms in Tel Aviv, Israel

Attending the Servas International Meeting in Isreal

3 Servas Koreans, Mr. Ganglae Cho, Ms. Eulhyeon Seo, and Ms. Inja Lee participated in the Servas International Meeting in Israel from December 17 through 26. They experienced the diversity in a small country and the invincible hospitality of Israelis.
Everybody is all ears listening to the explanation in Negev Desert, Israel.

Staying with Anna in Maalat, Israel. Junghee & Sungsook cooked.

Korean pancakes for the guests while staying with Roger and Pauline in Cape Town, the Republic of South Africa.

Helene threw a new year’s party for Junghee and Sungsook. Many Servas members of Reunion and two Servas travelers from France also participated in the party and celebrated the new year together.

Rachida spent a day with Junghee & Sungsook in Saint Denis, Reunion.

Verene and Myriam took Junghee & Sungsook to the lava field in Reunion.

Christiane, who hosted Junghee & Sungsook played the clarinet base. She belongs to a local orchestra.

Lunch at a local restaurant with local Servas members in Reunion. The food and the drinks were very unique, really local and savory.

Myriam invited Junghee & Sungsook to a hiking club. There was a picnic lunch after the hiking. Everybody welcomed the two Koreans warm heartedly.

Monique invited us to her home to celebrate the Galette Pie Day.
Servas Riding to Celebrate the New Year

Servas members from all over the Korea gathered in Namhae, a coastal city in the southern part of Korea from January 19th to 23rd and rode 183 kms along the beautiful coast, stopping for the appetizing seafood fresh from the sea. They tasted raw oysters, sashimis of anchovies, mullets, and other fish, spicy soup of mullets, catfish and also oyster soup along with shellfish, roasted eels and the famous Namhae spinach seasoned with sesame oil and powder.

Riders preparing for the ride

Riders taking a rest on the way
Their spirits were too high to get subdued by the coldest weather and they enjoyed a party in the yard of Jasung’s second home in Namhae.

Enjoying dinner in the yard
When they were leaving Namhae, they didn’t forget to buy oysters, spinach and soles(fish) at the market to help boost the local economy.

Regional Meetings here and there
11 regions of Servas Korea have a regular meeting, usually 4 times a year to bond and share Servas activities.

Seoul regional meeting always have a special event, this time walking in the forest

Seoul region has another meaningful event- visiting Seoul City Fire Museum and learning about fire security

Thank you!!