

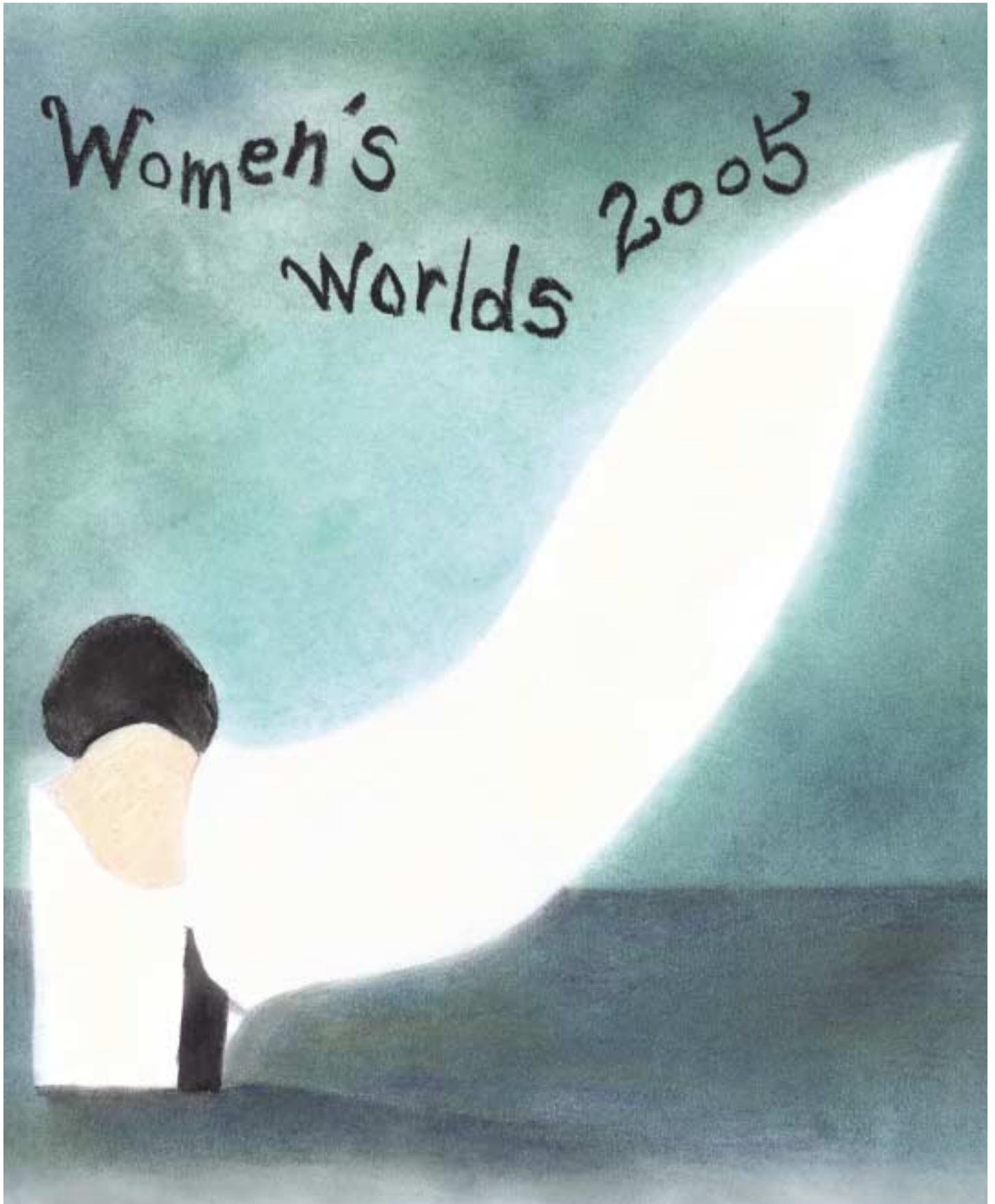
Women's Worlds 2005

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Let the Intellectual Olympics Begin!

Every three years, the intellectual strength of the international women's movement is measured at an interdisciplinary congress. This year, from June 19 to 24, the 9th International Congress on Women will be hosted by Ewha Womans University in Seoul, Korea. It may prove to be the most ambitious congress ever.

This event will be one of the many global events in 2005 celebrating the diversity and unity of the international women's movement ten years after the UN conference held in Beijing. The hosting of the conference in Korea has its significance in that it is the first international conference on women's studies held in Asia - giving its participants the chance to lay light on the issues predominantly afflicting Asian women.

"Embracing the Earth: East-West, North-South" sums up the gist of Women's Worlds 2005. It is a gathering that brings people from all parts of the world to discuss issues that go beyond geographic, racist, scholastic, economic differences. Over 2058 participants from 75 countries will engage in scholarly debate and cultural festivity.

Plenary sessions will begin each day, showcasing internationally renowned scholars. The presenters will address issues such as violence, intolerance and the culture of peace, economic values and poverty, health and environment. Women's leadership will be the focus of the last day as the women arrive at conclusions about the way forward.

Twenty sub-themes span nearly every issue dear to the hearts of

women. NGOs and activism, globalization, race and ethnicity, gender and information, communications technologies, religion, environment and agriculture, peace, war and conflict, health and sports, culture and creativity, law and human rights, gender and science, and sexuality are among the topics covered. The participants are encouraged to cross boundaries between disciplines, social and political identities, as well as national and ethnic divides. In addition, cultural events will dress up formal occasions.

WW05 is the outcome of coalesced efforts. Preparations for the congress began over two years ago. As the convener, Chang PilWha of Ewha Womans University put it, "Wide participation was an important goal in organizing the congress. We mobilized throughout Korea to prepare for this event." As enthusiasm for the congress grew, other universities like Yonsei, Sogang and Sookmyung pitched in. A 200-person organizing committee mobilized their brain power to review more than 2020 abstracts, manage cultural and NGO events. Sponsors like the Ministry of Gender Equality and Seoul Metropolitan city joined in partnership with the private sector to help ensure a successful meeting.

If knowledge empowers, the participants from North/South, East and West, could prove to be an unbeatable collective force.

by Soon-young Yoon

International Coordinator of WW05

How It All Began: History of the IICW

The 9th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women (IICW) holds particular significance in being the first congress to ever be held in an Asian country. A short background of the Women's Worlds Congress explains the significance of the IICW.

The first Women's World Congress was held in Israel in 1981. The theme was "The New Scholarship," as women's studies had only just been introduced as an academic discipline. The first epoch-making launch of the congress was held in Israel for the specific purpose of introducing women's studies to universities in Israel. The Congress was unique because it allowed both feminist scholars and grass roots activists to participate alike in a non-elitist conference. Despite difficulties in communication, the success of the first congress was followed by a series of congresses.

The Women's World congress gained momentum in its 6th congress, which was held in Australia in 1996 - the year that the Worldwide Organization for Women's Studies (WOWS) was formed. WOWS supports feminist research and forms an international network for its furtherment. From the 7th Women's World Congress on, WOWS formed a site-selection committee, choosing the venue for the next conference.



Women unite at the sixth International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women in Australia.

In 2002, the 8th congress held in Kampala, Uganda, was a big success. It was the first congress to be held in an African country. The theme was "Gendered Worlds: Gains and Challenges," and there were 18 sub-themes about topics such as Africa's food shortage, injustice against African children and women, and Uganda's poverty in agriculture. The 2002 congress mainly focused on the African situation in relation to women.

If the last meeting in Uganda looked into women's situations from an African perspective, along with economic disparity between the north and south, the 9th congress will focus more on women and women's studies from an Asian perspective. The theme of WW05, "Embracing the Earth: East-

West/North-South," was inspired by the fight for the promotion of Korean women's status and their quality of life, against entrenched patriarchal values and the continuing tragedy of Korea as a divided nation.

This Congress is also called "Beijing Plus 10," to mark the ten years that have passed since the "Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace Beijing." will reflect on what has been accomplished over the past ten years. The WW05 will mark a new phase in the history of Asian women's studies, promoting nations to exchange ideas and create a larger global network - especially among Asian countries - to champion the universal rights of women.

by Hye-won Song

Rendez-vous with Congress Convenor Pil-wha Chang

Professor Pil-wha Chang is the Congress Convenor for the 9th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women and is currently the Dean of the Graduate School at Ewha Womans University. In 1984, Professor Chang was appointed as the first full-time professor for Women's Studies (graduate master's degree course) in Korea.

"Feminism goes beyond just being my field of research. It is my life. It is a field of study where theory cannot be separate from practice."

-Pil-wha Chang-

The theme of the 9th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, "Embracing the Earth: North/South, East/West" is symbolic of achieving the embracing and overcoming of ideological differences between East and West, as well as the economic disparity between North and South.

Chang sees the selection of Korea as the host of the congress as a paradox. Korea has maintained one of the most solid patriarchal societies in the world throughout its 5000 year history. Yet it is this Confucian society which has assumed a leading role in the development of women's studies in Asia. The presence of Ewha Womans University was essential for this development to occur. It is a school established for women, and its 119 years of history is in itself a practice of women's studies. "People's critical view of the patriarchal society was able to be backed by an institutional framework," notes Chang.



Pil-wha Chang

Feminism has developed greatly over the years. In the first stages of its development, women were primarily concerned with identifying inequalities in societies. Now feminists have reached another stage where they

are able to actively seek to change the system of inequality. The public and critics expect the feminists who point out the wrongs of the society to provide an alternative to the present system. This sense of responsibility of having to show a successful alternative, a non-competitive, non-hierarchical, non-militaristic system, has been embedded in all the stages of preparation for this congress. For example, "When making decisions at the organizing committee, we held debates where everyone held equal voices," states Chang as an example of this effort.

Chang directs the attention to the need to put a special emphasis on the word 'interdisciplinary' in the phrase 'interdisciplinary congress on women.' Women's studies have to work in cooperation with women's movements and policymaking, connecting academics with activism. The interdisciplinarity of women's studies is in the van of societal transformation.

Chang goes further into inviting everyone to the feminist movement. "Everyone's participation creates a synergy effect. The more people there are that dream the same dream, the more likely it is to become a reality."

by Seo-my Kang

Gertrude Mongella, A Visionary Leader

To have the President of the Pan-African Parliament, Gertrude Mongella, as the keynote speaker for the Congress, is to ensure that the five-day event will begin in an atmosphere of empowerment.

Tanzanian born Gertrude Mongella is a feminist, a mother, a teacher and a politician. After earning a degree in Education at the University College of Dar-es-Salaam,



Gertrude Mongella

Mongella took her first steps into leadership in 1975 when she became a member of the East African Legislative Assembly at the age 25. From this point on, she was appointed to a number of ministerial positions.

Her role in international politics began when she was appointed Trustee of UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in 1990. She was then appointed Secretary General of the UN Women's Conference (1993-1995) where she earned the nickname "Mama Beijing." Her more recent positions involve being elected President of the Pan-African Parliament on its Inaugural Session on March 18, 2004.

Mongella's past and present positions in leadership makes her a paragon for both men and women. Mongella emphasized her views on principles and leadership during the first African Women's Forum (1997), where by she stated, "If you want to be a leader, you have to be clear what you want and what you stand for. You have to be able to choose what are the principles worth dying for. And you have to add on a little sacrifice. Leadership needs a lot of sacrifice - personal and public sacrifice."

Ms. Mongella will be awarded an honorary doctorate degree in Women's Studies on Monday 19th, 2005.

by Eun-a Lee

Notice Board

- WOWS I: Do We Have a Future?
Tuesday, June 21 at 10:30-12:00 a.m., P23 (POSCO Building rm. 543)
Presenter: Claire Moses, Marilyn Safir "The First Congress"
- WOWS II: The Perspectives of World Congress
Wednesday, June 22 at 12:00-2:30 p.m., P22 (POSCO Building rm. 542)
Presenter: Oakla Cho, Teresa Iangle Paz "Proposal for 10th IICW"
- Closing Ceremony Participants
Please complete application forms and submit to the Information Desk at the Ewha-POSCO Hall as soon as possible.
- Flea Market
If you would like to introduce an organization or sell or give out national products, feel free to use the Flea Market Booths in front of the Alumnae Building.

A Glimpse Into Korea's 5,000 Year-History

How Well Do You Know about Korea? - Test Your Knowledge!

- Q1. What does the Korean national flag look like?
- Q2. What is the name of Korea's national flower?
- Q3. Who invented the Korean language, Han-geul?
- Q4. What was the worldwide event held in Korea in 1988?
- Q5. What was the event that was co-hosted by Korea and Japan in 2002?

A1. Taegukgi: in the middle of the flag, there is a circle colored half red and half blue, on the four corners of the flag, there are black stripes. A2. The rose of Sharon (Mugunghwa) A3. King Sejong A4. The Summer Olympic Games A5. FIFA World Cup

How many questions did you get right?
 Below 1: Korea is an unfamiliar place to you.
 2~3: You know one or two facts about Korea.
 4: You know quite a bit about Korea but could learn more.
 5: Congratulations, You know all the facts!

Once known to the outside world as the hermit kingdom, Korea now ranks as the 12th largest economy in the world.

Korea's history dates back 5,000 years to the Dangun era. Dangun is the legendary founder of Korea's oldest kingdom, Gojoseon, which encompassed the total land mass of the Korean Peninsula. Since the Gojoseon era, the Korean peninsula has been subject to multiple attacks from neighboring countries such as China and Japan as well as countries further afield such as Mongolia, France, and England. Korea was able to retain its independence through the unification of many small and separate kingdoms which later formed the basis of the Joseon (1393-1910) era's territory.

Around the turn of the twentieth century, Korea was threatened by its increasingly powerful neighbor Japan, who began gaining economic, military, and international political power through its exchanges with imperialist states. In comparison, Joseon had maintained an isolationist policy and was relatively weak. Japan forced Joseon to sign an annexation treaty which allowed Japan sovereignty to colonize Joseon - a colonization which continued until 1945, when Korea was given its independence.

On Aug. 15, 1948, Korea established a new government under the name of the Republic of Korea, and elected Rhee Syng-man as its first president. At the same time, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), also known as North Korea, was established by Kim Il-sung on September 9, 1948. In 1950, the Korean War began as a civil war, and transpired into an ideological war between Capitalism and Communism when China and the US entered. After heavy casualties and damages, an armistice agreement at the 38 degrees latitude ended the war in 1953. From then on, South and North Korea have remained separate countries.

After the Korean War, South Korea was economically weak, with a GDP per capita which was comparable with levels in poorer countries of Africa and Asia. During the 1960s, a dictatorship government put great emphasis on economic growth and implemented a series of five-year-plans. In 1996, Korea became the 29th member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Korea became better known to the rest of the world by hosting the '86 Asian Games, the '88 Olympic Games, and the 2002 FIFA World Cup.
 by Ji-young Kim

Areas in Seoul Foreigners Never Forget to Visit

Insa-dong

Insa-dong, also known as the "Korean culture street," (Subway line 3, Anguk Station) is made up of galleries, craft shops, Korean food restaurants, and traditional Korean tea houses. Along the sidewalks of the street, are portrait artists and calligraphy artists who paint people's names in Korean. The galleries display local artists' works such as drawings, paintings, pottery, and sculpture. Visitors are free to enter galleries and most of the craftworks on display are for sale. Craft shops sell traditional Korean products such as traditional shoes, string bags, fans, calligraphy brushes, Korean pottery, and souvenirs such as key chains.

Gyeongbokgung (Palace)

Gyeongbokgung (Subway line 3, Gyeongbokgung Station) is one of the five great palaces of the Joseon Dynasty. It is the place where kings lived for generations, over a period of 500 years. Within the grounds of Gyeongbokgung is Gyeonghoeru - a magnificent building in the middle of a pond - where banquets were frequently held for national celebrations or for foreign envoys. Gyeonghoeru is the building printed on the back of 10,000 won bank notes. The National Folk Museum located right next to Gyeongbokgung exhibits models of old



From top left clockwise: Insa-dong, Gyeongbokgung Palace, Namdaemun Market, and Itaewon

Korean villages, ceramic artifacts used in the past, traditional costumes and as well as range of items of historical and cultural interest.

Shop at Korea's cheapest price: Namdaemun

The Namdaemun Market (Subway line 4, Hoehyeon Station) is Korea's oldest market. With a history of 600 years, and as one of the largest markets in Korea, Namdaemun Market is incomparable with any other markets in Korea. The advantage in shopping here is that there are varieties of goods at cheap prices. It is the number one shopping place that

foreigners wish to visit. Not only can you experience interesting bargaining, you can try delicious Korean snacks from street vendors as well.

Feeling Homesick?: Itaewon

Itaewon (Subway line 6, Itaewon Station) is the place to enjoy a "foreign," or "western" atmosphere in Seoul. It is shopping district with lots of bars, clubs and restaurants which serve Western food. Embassies and consulates of around 40 foreign countries are located here. There are also a lot of international hotels such as Hamilton Hotel, Holiday Inn Hotel and Capital hotel.

by Keum-jo Shim

Customs, a Window to Understanding Korea

For those who are visiting an Asian country for the first time, people bowing to each other as a form of greeting will seem rather strange. Here are two other customs that one should be acquainted with: sharing food and acting respectfully toward elders.



Photo by Ji-son Kim
 Koreans have a food culture of sharing side dishes and hot stew.

One custom that foreigners find unique in Korea is the food culture where everyone shares the food in the pots and side dishes on the table. Korean food is usually served with lots of side dishes and hot "jjj-gae" (stew) that everyone shares. If you feel uncomfortable with this food culture, you can always ask for an extra plate!

Another important Korean cultural practice that should be kept in mind is showing respect towards elders. Such culture is reflected through the use of honorific language, handing items to elders with two hands, and yielding seats to the elderly in public transportations like subways and buses.

The above are customs which are still relevant today. The following are traditional Korean customs and practices of the past.

Throwing salt at children?

When children wet their sheets, their

mothers would tell them to collect salt from their neighbors. Children were sent to their neighbors wearing a "ki" (a tool used to separate grains from small rocks and empty heads of grain) on their head. When a child went to the neighbors' homes for salt, the neighbor would throw salt at the child (shielded with "ki") would run away. Throwing salt at children comes from the superstition that salt can drive away bad spirits that obstruct the healthy growth of a child.

Buy "hahm" (box)

This is one of Korea's wedding customs. Before the day of the actual wedding ceremony, the groom's family gives "hahm" (a box of gifts) to the bride's family. Wedding presents such as rings, necklaces and a rice bag that signifies productivity and blue and

red threads that signify harmony are put in the box. Normally, the friends of the groom carry this "hahm" to the bride's house and as they near the bride's house, they shout out loud "buy hahm." This would let the people in the neighborhood know of the couple nearby who are about to get married. Then, the bride's family would come out of their house and try to get the "hahm" while the friends of the groom would hold the "hahm" making it difficult for the bride's family to get it. Jokingly, they would play around asking for money for each step to reach the bride's house.



"Ki" is worn on the head of the child when going to neighbors to collect salt.

Customs and cultures of a country can reveal a great deal. Korean customs and practices provide a glimpse at the lifestyles, virtues and values of the Koreans.

by Keum-jo Shim

Try Something Different While You Are in Korea

Try Kimchi and Bibimbap

Kimchi has been Korea's most favorite side dish for over 1,300 years. It is made by preserving vegetables such as Korean cabbage, radish and cucumber seasoned with salt, garlic, green onions, ginger, red pepper and salted seafood. Due to these ingredients, Kimchi is well-known for its health benefits. It is richer in vitamins than apples and has more lactic acid than yogurt. It also contains anti cancer substances. The types of Kimchi vary depending upon the main ingredients: there are approximately 200 different kinds.

When pop star Michael Jackson came to Korea, he was so fascinated with the taste of Bibimbap that he asked for the recipe to cook it for himself. Bibimbap is a mixture of cooked rice and a variety of side ingredients. According to Asiana Airlines, 75 percent of European passengers order Bibimbap for the meals during their trips. The ingredients vary since there are about 20 different ways to combine them. Bibimbap is not only delicious, but also contains fiber and vitamins.

Look at Korea's traditional costume Hanbok

Hanbok is not as fancy or as exuberant as Chipao, the traditional Chinese dress, nor as beautiful in simplicity like the Kimono, the traditional Japanese dress. However, the harmony of straight and round lines makes Hanbok beautiful. Women's Hanbok are composed of "chima" (a skirt), and "jeogori" (a blouse). Men's costumes are composed of jeogori, "jokki" (a vest), and "baji" (baggy trousers). Both genders wear "beoseon" (thick padded socks). "Durumagi," a long overcoat worn in winter, suits both genders as well. Hanbok has recently been

modified to a more modern style, so that it is more comfortable to move in. The Hanbok Museum, which is located in Jongno-gu, displays varieties of Hanbok for tourists.

Hold up your masks and join the Talchum

Talchum is a dance or play performance in which people wear dramatic and sometimes grotesque masks. Through dancing, dancers portrayed people's repressed frustrations in daily life while concealing their identities behind masks.

By dressing up as a nobleman, shaman, servant, butcher, wife or concubine, common people found amusement since there were no restrictions of social status in the play. Talchum is performed in open empty spaces, so spectators can participate in the performances by doing "chuiimsae" (showing reaction by making noise).

The Seoul Norimadang in Songpa-gu, Jamsil-dong, is a recommendable place to watch Songpa Sandae Nori, which was designated as the 49th national intangible cultural property.

by Ji-young Kim



From top left clockwise: Talchum, Hanbok, and Bibimbap

Guide Map of Ewha Campus



Illustration by You-jin Cho

Ewha Womans University: A History of 119 Years of Women's Education

It is difficult to believe that a world class university such as Ewha began with a single student in a private home in the Chong Dong district of Seoul. The history of Ewha Womans University began in 1886, with the ambitious vision of Methodist missionary Mary F. Scranton of enlightening Korean women, who, at that time, received no formal education of any kind. This vision led Mrs. Scranton to found Ewha Haktang, the first educational institute for young women.

During the Japanese colonization from 1910 to 1945, Ewha was restricted from becoming a university and was called "Ewha Professional School." However, Ewha's second president Lulu E. Frey's (1907-1921) insistent efforts to provide quality education for women transformed the school into an institution, which formed the foundations for its development into a university.

After Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule, Ewha was established as the first university in Korea in 1946. Within the space of 60 years, Ewha has grown into a university with more than 20,000 students in 15 colleges, with 67 departments and majors. From Ewha Haktang graduates to the class of 2005, a total of almost 150,000 women have received degrees from Ewha.

Graduates of Ewha have often pioneered into fields that have traditionally not been open to women. Esther Park, the first woman doctor in Korea and Helen Kim, the first woman in Korea to receive a doctorate degree, are two examples of those brave pioneers.



Former President Ms. Frey are seated with students of Ewha Haktang

Over the years, Ewha has endeavored to take the lead in developing women's educational status. As a case in point, Ewha is the only women's university in Korea with engineering and medical departments. The school holds sisterhood connections with 168 universities in 24 countries and sends 300 Ewha students to study abroad every year as exchange students. Last March, Ewha awarded honorary degrees to the first lady of Egypt and the president of Ireland.

Recently, Ewha held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Ewha- Samsung Campus Center (ESCC), an environmental-friendly underground multiplex within the campus. The ESCC is expected to be the architectural landmark in Seoul and will provide diverse educational, cultural, and recreational facilities for students. The ESCC is expected to be completed by 2007 and will symbolize the progress of 121 years of women's education.

by Kyu-rhee Lee

Introduction

Established in 1954, the campus of Ewha Womans University is located in Daehyun-dong, Seodaemun district in Seoul. The school covers an area of 584,645 square meters, with 65 buildings on the site. Since its establishment, Ewha has been known for its nature-friendly features. Every morning the campus is woken by songs of the birds.

The vicinity surrounding Ewha is renowned as a shopping area, as well as an area which hosts the city's trendiest restaurants and cafes. There are many famous restaurants of cuisines from Japan, China, Vietnam, Italy, and even Greece! It is a well known fact that many foreign food franchises open their first branch in the Ewha area to gauge whether their business in Korea will be a success. For example, the first Starbucks to be built in Seoul was located just outside Ewha campus and was so popular with students that they decided to expand their business in Korea.

The image above is a guide map of the Ewha campus, including photos of eight main buildings designated as venues for WW05. We wish you have a comfortable and pleasant time during your stay at Ewha. Welcome to Ewha!

Explore and Enjoy Diverse Food Cultures Around the School Campus

If you have any free time while you are at Ewha, you can taste a variety of food at popular places. Let us also introduce some cafes where you can sit down and talk to the new friends you have met at the WW05. Enjoy!

Are you missing breakfast in Korea? Then "Starlite" and "Subway" are just the places to grab a sandwich. At "BaB" and "Si-gol Bap-sang" you can try Korea's traditional stews with various side dishes. "Bo-tong Sa-ram" and "Ja-yeon Ma-eul" have menus such as flour dumpling soup. "Yul-chon" sells Korean cold noodle named "Nang-meon." There are also foreign restaurants such as the Chinese restaurant "Ewha Seong," the Greek restaurant "Gyros", the Vietnamese restaurant "Phobay."



entrance of "Ja-yeon Maul"

Cafe "Migo" and "Amelie" are famous for their coffee and cakes, while "Seizi" is known for its green tea, and "Red Mango" is one of the most popular frozen yogurt icecream shops in Korea.

Oh no! You forgot to bring something in your makeup bag? Don't worry! There is "Olive Young," a drug store that sells all kinds of cosmetics. Other places of interest are "Ministop," a convenience store, the bakery "Tous les Jours," and

bookstore "City Moon-go."

Aside from the places introduced, you will also find such familiar franchises as Starbucks, Baskin Robbins, and Burger King in the Ewha area.

Restaurants

1. Ja-yeon Ma-eul: 312-3800
2. Si-gol Bap-sang: 312-9709
3. Yul-Chon: 312-6785
4. Da Da (Japanese): 393-1444
5. Pizza Mall: 393-9994
6. Andong-jjim-dak: 313-0883
7. Sorrento (Italian): 365-3501
8. Starlite: 362-9408
9. Phobay (Vietnamese): 362-8500
10. BaB: 393-3964
11. Gyros: 312-2246
12. Ewha Seong: 393-8511
13. Bo-tong Sa-ram: 365-7889
14. Issac Toast: 393-0566
15. Subway: 364-7391

16. Burger King: 393-8322
17. Spaghettia: 363-8037
18. Econo Sushi: 364-8997

Cafes

19. Coffee Bean: 393-7333
20. Dunkin Donuts: 312-7768
21. Darak: 3147-0120
22. Paganini: 392-2908
23. Amelie: 363-9003
24. Red Mango: 362-4554
25. Seizi (Green tea): 365-7349
26. Migo: 362-6971
27. Starbucks :3015-1801
28. Baskin Robbins: 362-3010

Others

29. Ministop: 362-8917
30. Olive Young: 365-5090
31. Tous Les Jours : 325-0404
32. City Moon-go: 312-6969

by Kyu-rhee Lee



Illustration by You-jin Cho

Ewha Gives Birth to Korean Feminism

It is not an exaggeration to state that women's studies in 'Korea' began and developed in Ewha Womans University. In 1977, a small committee comprised of twenty professors, each majoring in literature, law, social studies, history, and even physiology, formed to discuss the possibility of introducing a school-based curriculum on its Studies. This was the beginning of a thirty-year-long feminism movement in Korea.

Ewha was the first school to offer Women's Studies as an academic course. Within less than ten years, almost all universities followed suit and established more or less similar courses and majors under the name of 'Feminism' or 'Women's Studies.' Considering that the term 'Women's Studies' only came into existence only about twenty years ago, women's studies in Korea has come a long way since its first step in 1977.

In 1982, Ewha became the first school in Asia to establish a master's degree course on Women's Studies. In 1984, Professor Pil-hwa Chang was appointed as the first full-time professor. And finally in 1990, Ewha Women's Study division was completed with the establishment of a Doctor of Philosophy course. Since then, Ewha's Women's Studies has taken on a more mature form, rapidly expanding its curriculum and facilities.

The main goal of Women's Studies has evolved over time. During the 80's, studies were mostly focused on female workers versus capitalism. In the 90's, research shifted onto problems of 'sexuality,' covering sexual harassment and assault, and women in the sex industry. Recently, the area of Women's Studies has widened to include an even greater range of issues pertaining to women. The latest movement in the Korean women's studies have included the abolishment of the Ho-ju system - a paternalistic legal system which has been used to define the family for many years.

Now, Ewha is taking a more global focus on Women's Studies. 'Asian Center for Women's Studies,' a research center devoted to the topic of Asian women issues, is promoting various projects that links



Asian Center for Women's Studies stands on Ewha campus.

academic studies between Asian countries. The center plans to build an academic foundation of 'Asian Women's Studies' by comparing women's studies of different Asian countries, including Japan, China, and Philippines. On June 13, the center announced its first publication of a series of eight textbooks about women's issues in Asia, which will include texts about China, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Thailand.

With the co-hosting of the Women's Worlds 2005: 9th International Interdisciplinary, Ewha is yet again, leaping for new heights in Korean women's studies. Despite the rising criticism against the 'Elite feminism' in Ewha, Professor Pil-hwa Chang says that "We will continue to study and help out females of all statuses, ages, and nationalities and Ewha will continue to play an important role as the leading academic institute of women's studies in Korea."

by Mi-ri Kwon

Different Voices, Same Hope for Equality

Sogang University – Gender Studies and Equality

The Women's Studies program at Sogang University is characterized by the idea that male participants must also play an active role in achieving gender equality.

This stance is evident in looking at the Women's Studies faculty. Among the nine professors in the Women's Study department, all of them from different majors, four of them are male. This is rare, considering that most Women's Studies faculties are dominated by females. Professor Yoo-sung Chung (Social Education) says, "We try to study 'gender' in various academic lights, including education, social studies, and political science."

Sogang University established Women's Studies major in 1999.

Sookmyung Women's University – Scope into Asian Women

Sookmyung Women's University is famous for its Research Institute of Asian Women. It was the first institute to conduct research in the field of Asian women's studies. The institute was established in 1960, and is continuing various studies related to Asian women.

Sookmyung University established its first course on Women's Studies in 1981, as a liberal arts course. Encouraged by the fervent response of the students taking the course, the school expanded its

curriculum to other courses like "Women and Leadership," which eventually led to the establishment of a Women's Studies major.

"We are trying to expand our domain of researches from Asia to the world, to promote the understanding of diverse cultures and societies," says Professor Kyung-ock Chun (Political Science).

Yonsei University – Developing the Women's Network

Yonsei University's distinctive take on women's studies is best shown through its establishment of the Yonsei Womens Network Association - the first program in Korea to provide financial support to developing female careers.

Women's Studies is a new area of study in Yonsei. The first course was only introduced in 2001, as part of the graduate school's double major system. Since the establishment of the Women Network association in December 2002 however, Yonsei has been attempting to boost gender equality through active support of career women.

Eun-young Kim (Philosophy, 4) who took the course, 'Female Career and Leadership' said, "After taking this course, I've realized how important it is for women to be financially independent," and added that "the course has helped me to prepare for the future."

by Mi-ri Kwon

Hoju-system Abolished Menstruation Festival

Recently, there has been a great controversy over the "Hoju-system" with claims that it is an outdated family register system that discriminates women and fails to reflect the different forms of households in modern Korean society. The controversy led to a review of the it by the Constitutional Court which ruled in February 2005 that the hoju-system is "unconstitutional" and will be scrapped by 2008.

The hoju-system originates from a Confucian background. According to this system, the "hoju" (head of a family) is normally a man. So the "hoju" is either the father or husband; if not, next in line is the son and not the wife. By giving the right to be the head of a family to males first, this stirs up the sense of superiority of men in the Korean society and infringes upon the rights of women.

Cases of women and children being negatively affected by the hoju-system is well-illustrated in the event of a divorce. When a woman gets a divorce, her name is erased from the family register system where her ex-husband is the head. She either returns to the family register system where her father is the head or she can create a family register of her own. However, her children's names remain on her ex-husband's family register system. Even when the woman has full custody of her children and lives with her children, her children's names will remain under her ex-husband's family. This restricts the rights of the mother since she is not recognized by society as the one holding responsibility over her children. In addition, when she gets re-married, she cannot change the family name of her children to her new husband's. Thus, surname of the children and their current (new) father's surname may not match.

For such complicated problems, the decision to scrap the system was welcomed by many. With the abolishment of the hoju-system which will be in effect possibly from 2008, policymakers are trying to come up with a new system to replace the hoju-system. This will be designed to eliminate the problems of the current family register system and seek to minimize the repercussions of the abolishment.

by Keum-jo Shim

Korean women will say, "It's the day" or "It's my magical day!" to euphemize their menstruation. They refrain from speaking the word "menstruation" out loud to others. This attitude has its roots in society's negative views towards women and women's bodies. Menstruation is viewed as something shameful and as something to be hidden – at best, a painful but functional process necessary for reproduction. The Menstruation Festival, an annual festival celebrating its 7th birthday this year, attempts to break down such negative social conventions about menstruation. The festival aims to speak out the forbidden word 'Wolgyeong,' or menstruation in Korean.

Last year's 6th Menstruation Festival was held in Sinchon, Seoul. There were booths where people could write down their feelings of menstruation on a large-sized model sanitary towel. Other booths held quizzes on common sense about menses, or had participants write down their thoughts about menstruation on a wall-poster. The alternative sanitary napkins booth, which advocated the use of environmentally friendly, re-usable cloth napkins, received the most attention from passer-bys.

The Menstruation festival was for everyone to enjoy and gave an opportunity to educate people on a topic which has long been a social taboo. To prevent the festival from becoming too serious, singers came and put on various performances. "This is not a festival for only women," the organizer emphasized, "menstruation is no longer just a women's thing."

The festival helped change people's feelings towards menstruation, but the organizer of the festival says it's still not enough. Although the festival did help people talk freely about the topic of menstruation, it is still an uncomfortable topic to discuss in public. Though a legal menstruation holiday continues to exist for women at work, many male superiors fail to recognize its importance. Therefore, organizers say that the "Menstruation Festival" will go on until the day when there is no remaining misunderstanding about menstruation.

by Hye-won Song

Marital Rape Punishment Stirs Controversy

Eight out of ten people in Korea believe that rape between husbands and wives, where the wives are victimized most of the time, should be considered a crime and punishment must follow.

According to a survey conducted by Hangyeorye 21, a weekly current affairs magazine in Korea, 700 adults took part in a survey on the issue of rape between spouses. 81.3 percent of respondents answered that people who force their spouse to have sex using violent means should be punished.

Considering the fact that the survey was not conducted on a large scale, the results cannot be seen as fully representing the opinions of the whole Korean public on the issue. However, it is bringing into light the issue of rape between married couples, which is not a trivial matter that policymakers should overlook. This has led policymakers to discuss



A growing number of people support punishment for marital rape.

the adoption of a law regarding rape between spouses. Talks are still underway as it faces trouble in deciding the scope of what is to be considered rape. Thus, policymakers believe that there should be more time and discussion on this issue.

In the past the Korean court did not acknowledge "rape" that exists between

husbands and wives. In 1970, a man who was alleged to have raped his wife was found not guilty by the Supreme Court on the grounds that the crime of rape does not apply to married couples whose relationship is normal and does not involve a divorce. However, there are signs that the court and policymakers are taking the issue of rape between married couples into careful consideration and re-examining it.

In 2002, a man was found guilty and was punished because he injured his wife while sexually harassing her because she demanded that they get divorced. Although this was not a case directly dealing with "rape between married couples" this was the first case that ruled that there could be punishment when one in wedlock violates the sexual rights of another.

by Keum-jo Shim

Attributes of WW05: Commitment and Passion

The anticipation, excitement, and honor of holding the Women's Worlds 2005: 9th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women (WW05) has been possible through three years of hard work of the Organizing Committee of WW05. The IICW Site Selection Committee selected the group of laudable organizers in February 2003.

The 12 divisions consist of the Steering Committee and Executive Committee – the two core organizing bodies of the committee; the Secretariat; Financial Committee, and the Solidarity Fund Committee that manages the financial issues of the project; the Planning Committee and Academic Program Committee, which tailors the various events and academic sessions during the congress; the Information Committee that covers the technical necessities of the congress, the Publicity Committee, which is responsible for publicity activities; and the International Committee, Culture Committee, KAWS Special Committee, International Advisory, and NGO Committee which manage socio-cultural and international issues.

Though we did not get a chance to interview all members of the Organizing Committee to discuss their contribution to, and hopes for WW05, it is without a doubt that each and every participant have given their best efforts into the project, "Unlike other organizations, each member of the Organizing Committee is doing her very best to make this congress better than any other." Hyun-kyung Kim of the Publicity Committee state.



Diagram of the Organizing Committee for IICW



Hea-joung Byun (Korea)

Manager for the Planning Committee, Hea-joung Byun stated, "Participating in the WW05 in a sense is a very natural thing, like breathing air." The Planning Committee plays the role of creating ideas for projects such as student volunteer service and globalization and gender related lectures. The committee also aims to ensure the smooth progress of all programs.

Increasing gender sensitivity throughout the congress is another goal of the committee.

"Coordinating the programs to promote a clear cut understanding of feminist studies and feminism was tough," expresses Byun. Nevertheless, she was full of hope that the 9th International Interdisciplinary Congress will resolve conflicts that arise from such misunderstandings. This congress is even more meaningful to her in that she believes it will establish and spread Asian feminist identity to the world.



Members of the Organizing Committee are fervently at work a few days before the opening of the congress.



Oakla Cho (Korea)

The Organizing Committee is comprised of scholars from other universities. Oakla Cho, from the Department of Sociology at Sogang University, is the chairperson of both the International Committee and the Solidarity Fund Committee. In addition to these two organizations, she is also taking part in the Financial Committee.

The International Committee takes over the role of inviting influential scholars from around the globe. In order to do so, the committee staff published and distributed brochures to foreign Culture and Education Ministers to encourage their participation in the congress. Interconnected with the International Committee, the Solidarity Fund Committee helps promote the financial aid of prosperous nations to 46 poor countries who wish to join in the WW05. President Cho and her staff were successful in gathering support from 130 of the 430 applicants. Similarly, the Financial Committee's aim is to receive funding from various connections. "Since March 2003, we have met every Monday at 7:30 a.m. for conferences and visited an uncountable number of companies and organizations for support. Thanks to the cooperation and hard work of the staff, we have been able to reach a satisfactory amount of financial aid," says Cho. Cho is devoted to all programs dealing with culture, education, finance, and publicity.

"The reason I'm taking part in WW05 is because despite the great improvement in terms of the quality of feminist study in Korea and growth in the number of feminist researchers, the reality is that internationally, Korean women's social and economic status is still very low. I believe the IICW is a good opportunity for Korean women to uplevel their status internationally," states Cho in hope that this gathering of feminists can act as a social and economic stimulus to the Korean and global society.

by Soo-hyun Kim

A Variety of Volunteers Cooperate to Boost Quality



From left to right: Su-youn Kim, Min-hwan Lee, Sang-tan Kwak, and Jia Tao.

Loud music flows out the fourth floor of the Hakkwan. Several volunteers of the 9th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women (IICW) are arranging the choreography to a song named "Festival" that they are to present during the second education session for volunteers.

Yes, these are the ones who worked behind the scenes to help prepare for IICW. With the help of the 280 volunteers from various universities and institutions in Korea, IICW is able to successfully proceed the upcoming sessions.

Even though most applicants are students from Ewha Womans University, Sogang University, and Yonsei University, people who are interested in women's studies and in conferences related to this issue were chosen along with their ability to speak one or two foreign languages.

These volunteers are here to serve the foreign participants and give them a convenient stay during the conferences.

Among the volunteers, Ewha Voice met with Su-youn Kim (Korea), Sang-tan Kwak (Korea), and Jia Tao (China) for an interview.



Su-youn Kim (Korea)

Q1: What motivated you to participate as a volunteer?

Kim: I have participated in many international activities in the past. However, this is the first time that I am volunteering in an academic conference that is also the first of its kind to be held in Asia.

Kwak: I was very curious about the topics that will be discussed related to women's studies. It's not right to make a

division between mainstream and non-mainstream, but in Korea, this field has been one of the non-mainstream fields of interest, and I am very fond of such issues.

Tao: As an exchange student at Ewha, I received an e-mail from the International Education Institute (IEI) to participate as a volunteer for IICW. I was very interested since there are no women's universities in China, and I found this opportunity to be a great experience.

Q2: In what ways will you help the conference?

Kim: Well, first, I prepared the choreography for the remake of the song "Festival" (Jung-hwa Um) that will be performed during the education session to boost up the atmosphere. The lyrics were changed to cheer up the volunteers; for example, "Early in the morning, even though you are sleepy and tired, skipping lunch, let's all cheer up and try to be the best volunteer we could be of IICW."

Second, I will be placed in the Welchryang Auditorium, where the Keynote sessions will be held each day during the conference. All volunteers will have a meeting every morning before the sessions.

Kwak: I am in charge of helping the differently-abled participants. There are about ten volunteers who will be placed to help move the wheelchairs, and escort the differently-abled participants safely to their conference rooms. I believe that women, who are handicapped, are discriminated twice; therefore, it's my duty to take care of them and to make them have a comfortable stay during the conference hours.



Sang-tan Kwak (Korea)

We were educated on how to carry the wheelchairs carefully and without difficulties. You can leave everything up to us!

Tao: Basically, I will translate Chinese into English and English into Chinese. Since all the lectures will be given in English, there will be people who raise questions or answer questions. I will be there for them to understand certain issues during the sessions.

I've been reading certain papers given by the professors recently because unlike other volunteer work, I should be aware of all professional terms and vocabularies in order to translate.

Q3: Could you say a few words to the participants?

Kim: As the theme of IICW is "Embracing the Earth: East-West, North-South," I really hope that this conference will harmonize globally common issues.

Kwak: As Kim mentioned, I believe that there should be embracement in the place

of separation. The world has been divided because of male-oriented approaches when dealing with issues such as East and West, North and South. The term "Embracing the World" is very refreshing and proposes an alternative plan to the issues.

Tao: Since the meeting is only the beginning, we need to act. The lectures will be great, but the point is that you have to act on them.

Q4: What are your last words?

Kim: Though conferences like the IICW require professional knowledge, I hope all people get involved and try to solve issues together.

Kwak: Even though it is a Women's Worlds 2005, I have wondered if there would be any men participating in the conference. I think it would be nice to have men, either for or against feminism, to express their feelings and discuss on the issues together. You know, it's always good to know what the other side of people is thinking.

Tao: As a foreigner, it was hard to communicate during the education session. However, with the help of other volunteers and the use of cyber space, I was able to deal with the given information.

It's always nice to learn about the fields that you don't know well; you can meet various scholars from all over the world.

by Eun-joo Lee

