



Welcome

H E Lee Yung Dug, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea and H E Madame Lee

Special
Supplement

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His Excellency H E Lee, Yung Dug
Prime Minister, Republic of Korea



Her Excellency Chung, Hwak Sil
(Madame Lee)

CURRICULUM VITAE

H E Lee, Yung Dug

Date of birth: March 6, 1926

Education:

1952 Graduated from the College of Education, Seoul National University (B A)

1959 Graduated from the Department of Education, Graduate School of the Ohio State University (M A & Ph. D)

1965-1966 Post-Doctoral Study at University of Chicago

Career:

1959-1991 Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor of Education, Seoul National University

1971-1980 President, The Korean Educational Development Institute

1976-1979 Board Member, Seoul Metropolitan Board of Education

1980-1982 President, The Korean Society for the Study of Education

1984-1991 Vice-President, The Republic of Korea National Red Cross

1984-1993 Chief Delegate of the South-North Red Cross Talks

1989-1991 Chairman, Korean Broadcasting Institute

1992-1993 President, Myongji University

1992-1993 President, The Korean Federation of Teachers' Associations

1993 Chairman, Public Official Ethics Committee in the Government

1993-1994 Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister for National Unification

April 1994 Prime Minister

Decorations:

1980 Order of Civil Merit, Moran Medal

1980 Red Cross Order of Voluntary Service Merit in Gold

Writings (Books):

"Principle and Practices of Guidance", "Process of Education", "Curriculum", "An Introduction of Education", "Inquiries Toward Better Education", etc.

H E Chung, Hwak Sil

Date of birth: March 29, 1930

Education:

1950 Graduated from Ewha Women's University (B A in English literature)

1956 Graduated from the Department of Education, Graduate School of Kent State University (MA)

1956-58 Studied at the Graduate School of Ohio State University, USA

1985 Graduate from the Department of Education, Graduate School of Yon Sei University (Ph D)

Career:

1963 Full-time Lecturer, Ewha Women's University

1965 Assistant Professor, Ewha Women's University

1967 Associate Professor, Ewha Women's University

1978-81 Principal, Ewha Elementary School

1980 Professor, Ewha Women's University

1994 Head, Research Institute for Human Development, Ewha Women's University

KOREA IN FOCUS

A People and a History in Harmony

In the past two decades, Korea has been one of the fastest developing nations in the world — both in economic and social terms. Rapid industrial and economic growth has seen the Republic nearly reach developed nation status in a remarkably short time. The Korean people also find themselves in the midst of a new era of democratic development following the birth of the civilian Administration of President Kim Young Sam on February 25, 1993. This wiped out the negative legacy of decades of military-backed authoritarian rule. The country has since been implementing bold political and economic reforms to eradicate corruption and revitalise and restructure the economy with the goal of building a New Korea — a mature and vibrant industrial democracy.

This rapid economic and social development has brought Korea increased international exposure and recognition, as the Republic begins to expand its role on the international stage. Testifying to this was the successful hosting of the 1988 Seoul Olympics, the largest held in history up to that time. This was followed by the 1993 hosting of an international exposition, often referred to as the "Olympics of science and technology," at the city of Taejeon. The Taejeon Expo '93, in which 106 nations and 33 international organisations participated, marked an effort to seek increased global cooperation in finding solutions to the problems of industrialisation and development in an environmentally safe and effective manner. Both the Seoul Olympics and the Taejeon Expo

played an important role in deepening ties between Korea and countries all over the world and gave an impetus to the Korean economy.

The Koreans of today, while enormously proud of their country's past, look at Korea's role and reputation from a more recent historical perspective; but, in order to understand today's Korea — its land, people, culture, history, and recent economic and political transitions — it is necessary to look at both the past and the present. "Korea In Focus" aims to give you a brief overview to help in your general awareness of Korea today. More detailed information can be obtained from individual organisations or government offices.

History

A look back at the 5,000 years of Korean history reveals triumphs and tragedies, successes and struggles which have been instrumental in shaping the Korea and Koreans of today. One remarkable fact that emerges from such a historical examination is that Korea has largely been ruled by long-term, stable governments. Korea's kingdoms and dynasties generally lasted about 500 years or more.

Although Korea's traceable history began considerably earlier than the seventh century, it was in 668 that Korea, as a unified country, came to occupy most of the Peninsula as it exists today. Indeed, the people of the earlier Ancient Choson Kingdom also settled and lived in Manchuria, located in Eastern China, north of the Yangtze River.

Korea as a historical entity with a cohesive culture and so-

cety can be traced back to what is called the Shilla Unification. Prior to the Unified Shilla period (668-935) was the Three Kingdoms period, which ended when Shilla conquered the Paekche Kingdom (18 BC-AD 660) and the Koguryo Kingdom (37 BC-AD 668).

The Koryo Kingdom (918-1392) that immediately followed witnessed flourishing of Buddhism, which had arrived in Korea during the Three Kingdoms era. The period is best known internationally for its famous blue-green inlaid celadon pottery, as well as for the invention of the world's first movable metal type.

General Yi Song-gye's establishment of the new Choson Kingdom (1392-1910) saw Confucianism dominate national and family life until Japan imposed colonial rule.

Korea was finally liberated from Japanese rule at the end of World War II — but only to become entangled in the fierce ideological conflict that led to the formation of two separate states in the North and the South, divided along the 38th parallel. In 1950, North Korea launched an all-out attack on the Republic of Korea, triggering the Korean War, which raged until 1953. The devastating conflict was ended by an armistice agreement which established the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) that now divides the Peninsula.

It was almost a decade after the end of the war before the Republic of Korea had recovered sufficiently to establish stability and start the momentum for its now remarkable recovery and development. The three decades since then have

been a time of spectacular progress which has seen the creation of a modern, industrialised nation.

People

Korea is a homogeneous society. Although there have been historic and prehistoric migrations of Chinese, Mongols and Japanese, Koreans are very conscious of the ethnic differences and cultural distinctions which give them their unique identity.

The population of the Republic of Korea was estimated at 43.7 million in 1992. Its population density is among the world's highest and Seoul, the capital, has more than 10 million inhabitants. The annual population growth in the Republic has dropped from an average of 2.7 per cent in the 1960-66 period to only 0.91 per cent in 1992. The slowdown is also partly the result of the increasing number of young working women who are now opting to marry later.

The annual number of births per 1,000 of population declined from 40 in the early 1960s to 15.37 by 1992, while the death rate fell from 11.12 to 5.79. The average lifespan for Koreans has increased from 51.1 years for men and 53.7 for women in 1960 to 66.9 for men and 75.0 for women in 1992.

The country's rapid industrialisation is responsible for today's concentration of population in urban centres. The proportion of Koreans living in cities has jumped from only 28 per cent in 1960 to 74.4 per cent as of 1990 — very similar to the 73 to 76 per cent levels in the United States, Japan and France.

Bangladesh-Korea Relations RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT

All of us may be aware, last year, Bangladesh and Korea celebrated the 20th anniversary of their diplomatic ties formally set up in the year 1973. Over the past two decades, both the countries have forged a strong, deep and meaningful bilateral relationship on the basis of common values and ideals.

Especially, both the countries have now democratically elected governments dedicated to the cause of democracy and human rights. As countries on the road to a full-fledged democracy and a viable economy, both Korea and Bangladesh have a common task of fulfilling their commitments to national wellbeing. In this sense, they are sailing together in the same boat towards a common destination.

Let's first review their current relationship and what both countries have so far achieved.

At the political level, both countries have been displaying an identity of views in various international fora. One good example of their mutual commitment to the cause of global peace and prosperity is both the countries' participation in peace-keeping operation under the flag of the United Nations. On the issue of nuclear non-proliferation, both the countries have also demonstrated a similarity of views.

Besides, Foreign Minister H E Mr A H M Mostafizur Rahman's visit to Korea in December, 1993 and recent

visit to Korea of Communication Minister H E Mr Oli Ahmed in April, 1994 symbolize the growing importance of bilateral relationship between the two countries.

In the economic field, the links between the two countries have received a considerable boost. On the basis of complementary nature of their economies, trade and commercial relations have substantially been expanded and deepened in the recent years. For example, according to Korean side's statistics, two-way trade volume reached about US\$360 million dollar in 1993 and is expected to hover around US\$400 million this year.

Korea's commitment to assist Bangladesh in her endeavours for the socio-economic uplift has been a major element in Bangladesh-Korea bilateral ties. For example, Korean investment in the Chittagong Export Processing Zone, as of May 1994, stands at an estimated US\$29 million dollar, employing almost 8,000 local workers. Similarly, in the newly established Dhaka EPZ, Korean companies have already invested and will invest a total amount of about US\$25 million dollar, creating 7,000 more job opportunities for local workers. In addition, Korea extended its first official development assistance (ODA) which is called EDCF (Eco Dev Cooperation Fund), to Bangladesh by signing the agreement last December to provide US\$15 million dollar soft loan for the completion of

a power distribution project in greater Khulna area.

The Korea-Bangladesh ties have expanded further in the social and cultural fields in the recent years. Under various exchange programmes, quite a good number of Bangladeshis have visited Korea. Last year, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), at the invitation of Bangladesh Government, sent a team of youth volunteers and experts, who are currently taking part in the socio-economic development activities in Bangladesh. KOICA also dispatched medical doctors to render medicare services.

The Korean Government is now planning to construct a 30-bed Bangladesh-Korea Friendship Hospital in order to provide better medical services to the public. Besides, the dispatch of Korean sports coaches, holding of annual Korean film Festivals, and continuing Korean participation in Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh, provide good evidences for ever growing ties in these fields.

In sum, Korea-Bangladesh relationship has been a history of close ties and deep mutual understanding.

Then, what lies ahead in the future of this excellent relationship? As mentioned earlier, the two economies are interdependent and complementary to each other and both the countries share common values of democracy and human rights. Certainly, therefore, nobody will disagree that a window of opportunity is

now wide open before them. The only task for them is to know how to avail themselves of this opportunity for the mutual benefit in the future.

Particularly, Korea has much interest in this part of the world as both trading and investment partner. In this context, a special attention should be given to the matter of further promoting and deepening economic cooperation between the two countries. The future relationship between Bangladesh and Korea will definitely evolve mainly on this aspect.

The inauguration of Kim Young-Sam as President of the Republic of Korea symbolises for the people of Korea a fresh new beginning in the initiation and advancement of political and economic goals. In similar fashion, the state of fledgling democracy in Bangladesh throws up a new opportunity for men and women here to do wonders with politics and all that comes with it. It is on these lines, and along these principles of politics, that the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of Bangladesh could plan on making their links substantive in the days and months ahead — to their mutual advantage.

Economic exchanges, coupled with cooperation in the cultural and political areas, have injected into the relations between Korea and Bangladesh a momentum that hopefully will be taken full advantage of by men of thrift and enterprise in both Seoul and Dhaka.

Hearty felicitations to H. E. Lee Yung Dug
Hon'ble Prime Minister, Republic
of Korea, on his first visit
to Bangladesh



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