

INFOKOREA

AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS





Spring at Tongdo-sa temple

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AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

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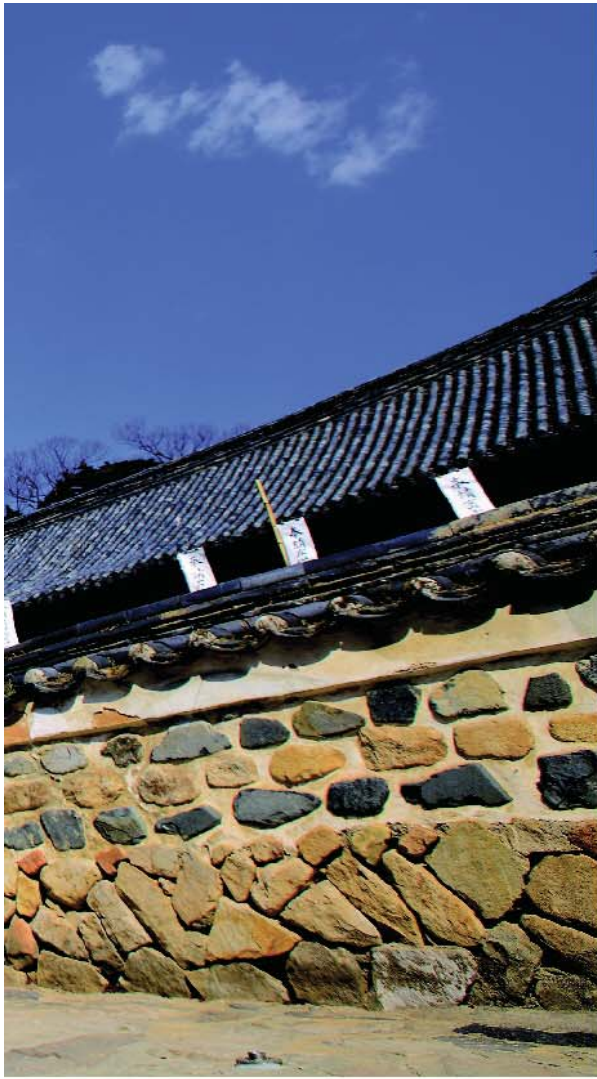


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1/ Land and Climate

The country is geographically located in the mid-latitudinal, temperate climate zones and thus the climate has clear-cut temperature changes between the four seasons, with summer and winter longer than spring and fall.

Location

The territory of the Republic of Korea is comprised of a peninsula, about 1,000 km long vertically and about 300 km long horizontally, that extends southwesterly from the Northeastern part of the Eurasian Continent; there are about 3,167 nearby islands (in 2004).

The territory is located between 33° 06'43" to 43°00'42"N and 124° 11'04" to 131°52'21"E, extending about 10 degrees latitudinally and about 8 degrees longitudinally. The Amnok (Yalu) and the Duman (Tumen) Rivers form the country's northern borders with China and Russia, respectively; whilst the East Sea lies between the country and Japan.

The name East Sea, which refers to the sea lying to the east of the Korean Peninsula, has been used by the Korean nation for about 2,000 years. *Samguksagi* (Historical Record of the Three Kingdoms), the country's oldest historical text, indicates that the name was used from 38 BC onwards. King Gwanggaeto Stele, which was built in 414, clearly states this fact.

Land Size

The land size of the Korean Peninsula comes to about 220,000km², while that of South Korea comes to 99,900km² accounting for 45% of the entire peninsula. The size of the entire peninsula is similar to that of the UK and Romania. The size of South Korea is similar to that of Hungary, Portugal or Iceland. South Korea accounts for 0.08% of global land mass and 0.32% of the Asian Continent. The land size of Japan, China and Russia amounts to 3.7 times, 93 times and 164 times the land size of South Korea.

Table 1.1 Comparison with Land Size of Neighboring Countries (2009) (1,000 km², %)

	The entire world	Asia				Europe	
		Korea	Japan	China		Russia	
Land size	134,035	31,936	99.9	365	9,327	22,073	16,377
Ratio	100.0	23.8	0.08	0.28	7.17	16.97	12.59

Source: <http://www.fao.org>



Korea and its neighboring countries, China, Japan, and Russia

Administrative Districts and Major Cities

As for the country's current administrative districts, South and North Korea have nine provinces, respectively. The nine provinces of South Korea are: Gyeonggi, Gangwon, South Chungcheong, North Chungcheong, South Jeolla, North Jeolla, South Gyeongsang, North Gyeongsang and Jeju (a special self-governing province). The South/North Chungcheong provinces are located in the middle of South Korea, with Gyeonggi and Gangwon to their north and South/North Gyeongsang, South/North Jeolla and Jeju to their south. The borderlines between administrative districts were drawn chiefly along mountains and rivers.

The South's major administrative districts are: a special city (Seoul) and six metropolises, i.e. Busan, Daegu, Incheon, Gwangju, Daejeon and Ulsan, in addition to nine provinces. Daejeon is surrounded by South Chungcheong; Daegu by North Gyeongsang; Busan and Ulsan by South Gyeongsang; Gwangju by South Jeolla; and Seoul and Incheon by Gyeonggi.

Seoul, the capital of South Korea, is located in the middle of the Korean Peninsula. The Han River flows through the heart of the city, dividing it into two sections. Designated as the capital in 1394, during the Joseon Dynasty, Seoul has become the center for political, economic, industrial, social and cultural activities as well

as the center for the country's transportation network. An internationally renowned city, Seoul hosted the Asian Games in 1986 and the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

Topography

Mountainous areas and inland waters account for three-quarters of the country's entire land mass. Most of the high mountains are located near the East Coast. Thus, the entire topography shows that the eastern section is higher than the western section, with the Taebaek Mountains in the South and the Nangrim Mountains in the North forming the backbone of the peninsula.

The total length of the coastline of the Korean Peninsula is about 17,000 km (including islands). Each of the East, West and South Coasts has its own unique characteristics.

The steep slopes of the Hamgyeong Mountains and Taebaek Mountains extend into the sea. Thus, the sea along the East Coast is deep. Most of the eastern coastline is relatively straight. There are well-developed lines of sand dunes, lagoons and half-moon-shaped sandy beaches along the East Coast. Ulleungdo and Dokdo, both volcanic islands, are located in the East Sea 130 km and 217 km, respectively, from the coast.

The South Coast forms an archipelago comprised of 2,000-plus islands (mostly in the western section). Jeju Island, the largest of the South Korean islands, is located about 165 km from the South Coast. The West Coast is comprised of relatively flat terrain. Wide reclaimed land has been formed along the coast by utilizing the big difference between the rise and fall of the tide.

Climate

The country is geographically located in the mid-latitudinal, temperate climate zones and thus the climate has clear-cut temperature changes between the four seasons, with summer and winter longer than spring and fall. In winter, it is cold and dry under the influence of continental high pressure. In summer, the climate is influenced by a hot and humid North Pacific high pressure. In spring and fall, the weather is mostly fair and clear under the influence of migratory high pressure.

With the exception of the mountainous areas in the central section of the country, the annual average temperature comes to 10~16°C; while it goes up to 23~27°C in August, the hottest



Spring in Korea



Fall in Korea

month in the year. Monthly average temperature is 16~19°C in May, 11~19°C in October and 6~7°C below zero in January, the coldest month in the year.

Annual precipitation stands at 1,000~1,800mm for southern areas and 1,100~1,400mm for central areas. 50~60% of annual precipitation occurs in summer. Humidity is particularly high in July and August when it stands at around 80%, nationwide. This figure falls to about 70% in September and October, resulting in pleasant weather. Towards the end of June, a long spell of rainy weather starts in southern areas, including Jeju Island, and spreads northward. It lasts for about a month. Out of about 28 typhoons that develop in the western section of the North Pacific every year, two or three have an impact, either directly or indirectly, on the Korean Peninsula.

2/ Population

Based on the most recent data in spite of differences in the timing of data production, the life expectancy of Korean males stands at 77.0 in 2009, which is up 0.5 year compared to the average of OECD countries (76.5), while that of their female counterparts stands at 84.1, which is up 2 years compared to the average of OECD countries (82.1).

The 25th Largest Population in the World

In 2011, the population of South Korea stood at 49,779,000, a 0.75% year-on-year increase from 49,410,000 (in 2010), and ranked 25th in the world, accounting for 0.7% of the global population of 6,974,040,000. The population of North Korea stood at 24,308,000 or 49.0% of that of the South. Thus, the combined population of the two Koreas stood at 74,087,000, ranking 19th in the world after Iran, whose population came to 74,799,000.

High Population Density Compared to Other Countries

As of 2010, the population density of South Korea stood at 494 people/km². With small countries, such as Monaco, Singapore, Malta, Bahrain and the Maldives excluded South Korea ranks 3rd in the world—after only Bangladesh and Taiwan—in terms of population density. That of North Korea stands at 196 people/km², 2.5 times lower than that of the South.

Table 2.1 Size and Structure of Population

	Estimated population (1,000)	Population growth rate ¹⁾ (%)	Population density (persons/km ²)	Population distribution ratio(%)			Median age
				0~14 year	15~64 year	65 and over	
1990	42,869	0.99	432	25.6	69.3	5.1	27.0
1995	45,093	1.01	454	23.4	70.7	5.9	29.3
2000	47,008	0.84	473	21.1	71.7	7.2	31.8
2005	48,138	0.21	483	19.2	71.7	9.1	34.8
2008	48,607	0.31	487	17.4	72.3	10.3	36.7
2009	48,767	0.29	488	16.8	72.6	10.7	37.3
2010	49,410	0.5	494	16.1	72.8	11.0	37.9
2011	49,779	0.8	-	15.6	73.0	11.4	38.5

Note: 1) Population growth rate represents year-on-year rate.

Source: KOSTAT, Population Projections (December 2011), Korea Statistical Yearbook.

Table 2.2 Population Density (2010)

(Persons/km²)

Rank ¹⁾	Country	Population density ²⁾	Rank ¹⁾	Country	Population density ²⁾
1	Macao	18,153	7	Guernsey	800
2	Singapore	7,130	8	Palestine	672
3	Hong Kong	6,402	9	Mauritius	651
4	Malta	1,316	10	Barbados	643
5	Bermuda	1,218	13	South Korea	494
6	Maldives	1,066	34	North Korea ³⁾	196

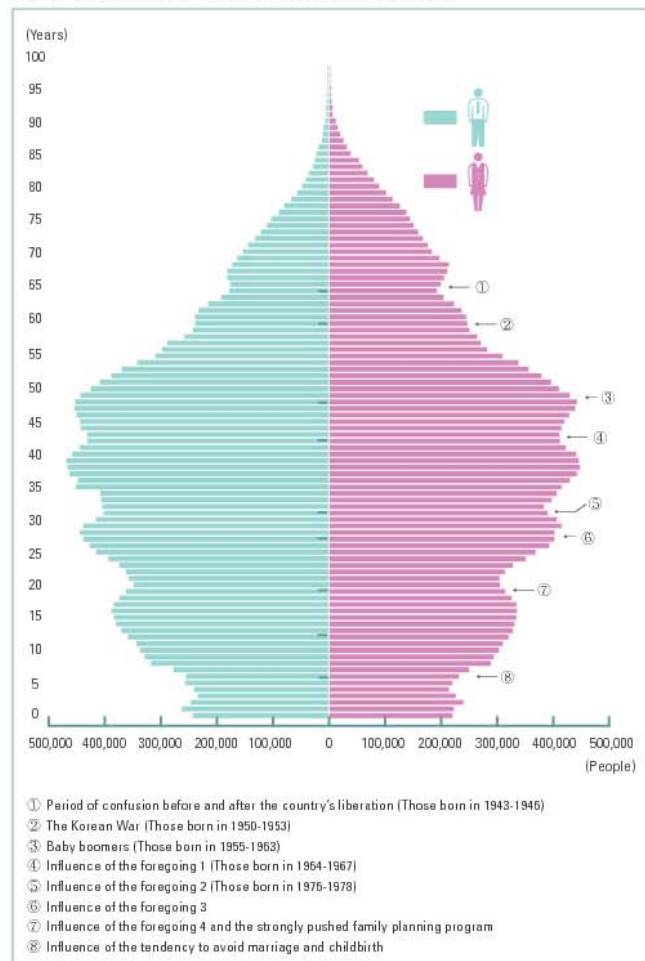
Note: 1) In the order of population density

2) Estimated figure

3) Same as old data for North Korea (rank not available).

Source: KOSTAT, UN Demographic Yearbook Statistics.

Fig 2.1 Population Pyramids (as of November 1, 2010)



Aging Population

Concerning the composition of age groups comprising the country's population in 2010, those under 15 accounted for 16.1%, while those aged 15~64, i.e. the working-age population, accounted for 72.8%, and those aged 65 or over made up 11.0%.

Recently, the compositional structure has been characterized by a decrease in the share of those under 15, a gradual increase of the working-age population, and a sharp increase in aged people. It is expected that such a trend will deepen with the passage of time, which suggests that a gradually increasing number of the economically active population will have to bear the burden of supporting a rapidly increasing number of elderly people. This has become the focus of attention of many people, including policy-makers, as it entails manifold economic and social problems.

Life Expectancy

As the average expected lifespan of a new-born child, life expectancy is a leading indicator of a society's level of health and development. Based on the most recent data in spite of differences in the timing of data production, the life expectancy of Korean males stands at 77.0 in 2009, which is up 0.5 year compared to the average of OECD countries (76.5), while that of their female counterparts stands at 84.1, which is up 2 years compared to the average of OECD countries (82.1). Compared to their Japanese counterparts, reputed as having one of the world's highest life expectancy rates, the life expectancy of Korean males and females are both 2.6 years lower, respectively, according to the data for 2009.

Stronger Trend toward Family Nuclearization

The number of ordinary households (with institutional households and foreigner households excluded) has continued to increase from 6,648,000 in 1975 to 14,312,000 in 2000 and to 17,339,000 in 2010. The increase in the number of households has outpaced the increase in the entire population as a result of the complex interaction of demographical factors, such as industrialization, deruralization, urbanization or expansion of nuclear

families, and socio-economic factors. The average number of household members has decreased from 5.0 in 1975 to 4.5 in 1980, 3.1 in 2000 and 2.7 in 2010, showing a clear trend toward small nuclear families.

Table 2.3 Life Expectancy in Major OECD Countries (Years)

	Year	Life expectancy		Difference
		Males	Females	
Korea	2010	77.2	84.1	6.9
	2009	77.0	83.8	6.8
	2008	76.5	83.3	6.8
	2005	75.1	81.9	6.8
Germany	2009	77.8	82.8	5.0
USA ¹⁾	2009	75.7	80.6	4.9
Sweden	2010	79.5	83.5	4.0
Spain	2009	78.6	84.9	6.3
UK	2009	78.3	82.5	4.2
Italy	2008	79.1	84.5	5.4
Japan	2009	79.6	86.4	6.8
OECD average ²⁾	the most recent data	76.5	82.1	5.6

Note: 1) Estimated figure

2) The average data from all 34 member countries in 2009 (including estimated figure).

Source: KOSTAT, OECD Health Data 2011(<http://www.oecd.org/home>)

Table 2.4 Generational Distribution Ratio of Ordinary Households (1,000 households, %, Persons)

	Total	One-generation	Two-generation	Three-generation	One-person households	Households of unrelated persons	Average number of household members
1975	6,648	6.7	68.9	19.2	4.2	-	5.0
1980	7,969	8.3	68.5	16.5	4.8	1.5	4.5
1985	9,571	9.6	67.0	14.9	6.9	1.7	4.1
1990	11,355	10.7	66.3	12.5	9.0	1.5	3.7
1995	12,958	12.7	63.3	10.0	12.7	1.4	3.3
2000	14,312	14.2	60.8	8.4	15.5	1.1	3.1
2005	15,887	16.2	55.4	6.9	19.9	1.4	2.9
2010	17,339	17.5	51.3	6.1	23.9	1.2	2.7

Source: KOSTAT



The number of elderly aged 65 or over is gradually increasing in South Korea



Family members enjoying a good time at a sled park

3/ Labor

The country's employment structure has changed, in the space of only 30~40 years, to become something similar to that of more industrialized countries.

Economically Active Population

Labor is important as it is a way of realizing one's potential, as well as a means of making a living. The Government regards it as an important policy objective to provide stable jobs to people as part of its efforts to guarantee the right of labor, which is one of the basic rights of people provided for in the Constitution. Employment and unemployment statistics are basic materials for the Government's establishment of labor policies.

An economically active population refers to individuals who either are employed or are actively seeking employment. The labor force participation rate, or LFPR, refers to the ratio of the economically active population to the working age population (those 15 years old or over in Korea). This rate measures the efficiency of the utilization of labor as a resource in any given society.

Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) produces statistics concerning the nation's economically active population, the employed, and the unemployed by carrying out surveys on the status of economic activities throughout the week, including the 15th of each month, across 32,000 sample households nationwide. These households are selected on the basis of the findings of the population and housing census in accordance with criteria set by the International Labor Organization (ILO).

In 2011, the country's economically active population stood at 25,099,000, i.e. 61.1% of those aged 15 or over. From this figure, 24,244,000 were employed and 855,000 were unemployed, leading to an unemployment rate of 3.4%. Due to economic recovery and job creation efforts, the year-on-year increase in the number of the employed recorded a big jump to 415,000 from the previous year.

Employment Structure

Comparing the industry employment structure from 2007 to 2011, the distribution ratio of those employed in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors and those employed in the mining and manufacturing sectors decreased by 1.0%p and 0.3%p respectively, while the distribution ratio of those employed in the SOC and other service sectors increased by 1.3%p. It appears that such a trend will continue amid the development of information and communication technology as well as the recent trend for attaching importance to high value-added industrial sectors, such as services, knowledge-based sectors and sophisticated technology sectors.

The country's employment structure has changed, in the space of only 30~40 years, to become something similar to that of more industrialized countries, as shown by the following figure.

Table 3.1 Employment Trend

(1,000 persons, %)

	Population 15 or over	Economically active population			Labor force participation rate	Unemployment rate
		The employed	The unemployed			
2000	36,186	22,134	21,156	979	61.2	4.4
2005	38,300	23,743	22,856	887	62.0	3.7
2008	39,598	24,347	23,577	769	61.5	3.2
2009	40,092	24,394	23,560	889	60.8	3.6
2010	40,590	24,748	23,829	920	61.0	3.7
2011	41,052	25,099	24,244	855	61.1	3.4

Note: Enlisted service people and those serving jail terms are excluded in the number of those aged 15 or over.
Source: KOSTAT

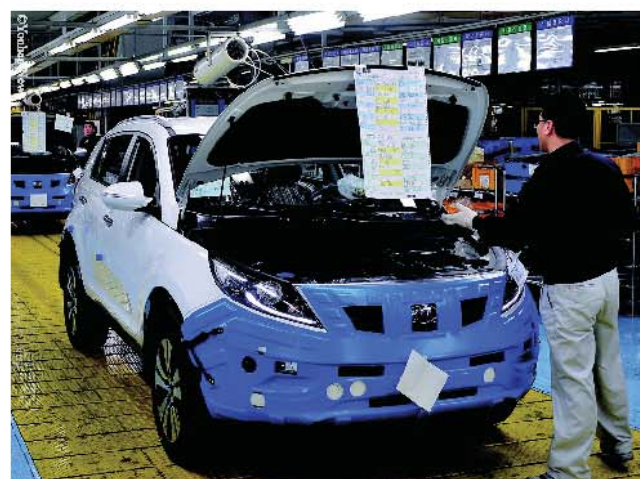
Fig 3.1 Distribution Ratio of the Employed in Major Countries (2008)



Source: KOSTAT, ILO



Office workers in South Korea



Production employees in South Korea

Wage Level

Amid the trend towards globalization and the opening of domestic markets and the attempt to run them in a single unified environment, the securing of domestic goods' competitiveness has emerged as a factor more important than anything else. National competitiveness, including the price competitiveness of goods, is affected by nominal labor cost (wages), labor productivity and exchange rates. A low rate of rise in nominal wages leads to higher competitiveness from a labor cost perspective.

Table 3.3 shows a comparison of the Hourly Wage Index in manufacturing among various countries. It shows that the Domestic Wage Index stood at 126.2 in 2011, a 3.4-fold rise from 36.9 in 1990. This was a relatively high rate of increase compared to a 1.5-fold rise in the USA, a 1.2-fold rise in Japan and a 1.4-fold rise in Canada in the same period.

Average Work Hours per Week

In 2010, the average annual work hours among Koreans in the manufacturing sector stood at 2,193 hours, a 39 hour decrease from the preceding year. It shows that Koreans work longer hours than their counterparts in other OECD member countries.

In 2004, the country adopted a five-day work week system, with businesses employing less than 20 employees not required to adopt the system until 2011. Under the new system, employers shall not ask their employees to work for more than 40 hours a week. The system is expected to enable workers to have more time for leisure and hobby activities, enhance the quality of their lives, foster a family-oriented leisure atmosphere, and develop more sound consumption habits. It will also enhance overall productivity through the development of human resources, provide more opportunities to enhance the participation of women in social activities, help develop service-related industrial sectors and help share jobs among workers.

Table 3.2 Distribution Ratio of the Employed (1,000 people, %)

	Total	Agri- culture, forestry and fish- eries	Percent- age	Mining and manuf- acturing	Percent- age	SOC and other service	Percent- age
2008	23,577	1,686	7.2	3,985	16.9	17,906	75.9
2009	23,506	1,648	7.0	3,859	16.4	17,998	76.6
2010	23,829	1,566	6.6	4,049	17.0	18,214	76.4
2011	24,244	1,542	6.4	4,108	16.9	18,595	76.7

Source: KOSTAT

Table 3.3 Hourly Wage Index (in manufacturing) (2005=100.0)

	USA	Japan	Canada	Korea
1990	75.3	86.0	77.6	36.9
1995	86.2	95.0	90.9	70.2
2000	86.5	96.4	88.9	65.1
2005	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2008	107.2	101.0	106.9	108.9
2009	110.1	92.9	101.5	109.8
2010	112.4	97.1	106.4	124.1
2011	114.4	99.2	109.8	126.2
Rate of increase (1990 - 2011)	1.52	1.15	1.41	3.42

Source: OECD, Main Economic Indicators

Table 3.4 Average Annual Work Hours in Manufacturing OECD Member Countries (2010)

Rank	Country	Work hours	Rank	Country	Work hours
1	Korea	2,193	14	USA	1,778
2	Greece	2,109	16	Japan	1,733
3	Chile	2,068	24	UK	1,647
4	Russia	1,976	32	Germany	1,419
5	Hungary	1,961	33	Norway	1,414
6	Czech Republic	1,947	34	Netherland	1,377
7	Poland	1,939	-	OECD average	1,749

Source: OECD

4/ Prices and Household Economy

In 2011, the monthly average income of households with two persons or more stood at 3,841,600 won, a 5.8% (or 209,900 won) increase from 3,631,700 won in 2010.

Prices

The price index, which is a figure used to express changes in prices, is a useful index to indicate changes in the economy. It is divided into producer price index, consumer price index and import and export price index.

The consumer price index (CPI) is a measure of changes in consumer goods and services purchased by urban households. The consumer price index measures a price change for a constant market basket of goods and services (481 items in 2010) compared to the base year (currently 2010).

Consumer Price Index

In 2011, the consumer price index of Korea stood at 104.0 (2010=100.0), a 4.0% year-on-year rise. OECD countries that posted a year-on-year rise in the consumer price index in 2011 lower than Korea included the USA (3.2%), Canada (2.9%), and Germany (2.3%), while those that stood at the other end of spectrum were UK (4.5%), China (5.4%), and Brazil (6.6%).

When looked at on an item by item basis, only the communication index—cell phones, wired phones, Internet subscription expenditure—fell by 1.7%, while all the remaining 11 indices rose including the food and nonalcoholic beverages index by 8.1% and the transport index by 7.0%.

Producer Price Index

In 2011, the producer price index stood at 122.1 (2005=100.0), a 6.1% year-on-year rise. The rise was attributable to a sharp increase in manufacturing industry products, including petroleum products (21.0%), chemical products (14.2%) and primary metal products (11.6%) under the impact of a concurrent rise in international oil and gold prices.

All of the producer price indexes showed a rise from the preceding year, including the index for 'manufacturing industry products' by 7.7% and the index for 'agricultural, forest and marine products' by 7.4%.

Table 4.1 Consumer Price Index Change Rate (2010=100)

(Year-on-year percent change (%))

	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011
Overall index	2.3	2.8	4.7	2.8	3.0	4.0
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0.8	3.1	4.9	7.6	6.4	8.1
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0.8	14.9	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.8
Clothing and footwear	1.5	1.0	2.6	5.1	2.9	3.3
Housing, water, electricity and other fuels	3.7	1.9	4.3	1.1	2.4	4.5
Furnishings and household equipment	-2.5	0.6	4.4	4.4	0.3	3.7
Health	7.3	2.2	1.9	2.2	1.8	1.8
Transport	4.5	5.0	8.8	-3.5	4.9	7.0
Communication	-2.3	-1.8	-1.4	-0.2	-0.9	-1.7
Recreation and culture	-1.0	0.1	1.5	2.3	0.9	1.6
Education	5.1	4.2	5.5	2.5	2.3	1.7
Restaurants and Hotels	0.9	2.4	4.8	3.8	2.3	4.3
Miscellaneous goods and services	1.3	1.4	9.0	6.8	3.5	3.2

Source: KOSTAT

Table 4.2 Producer Price Index Change Rate (2005=100)

(Year-on-year percent change (%))

	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011
Overall index	2.1	8.6	-0.2	3.8	6.1
Agricultural, forest and marine products	-3.7	1.1	8.7	9.0	7.4
Manufacturing industry products	6.7	11.9	-1.6	4.2	7.7
Electric power, water and gas supply	1.2	4.2	6.7	4.0	5.8
Services	1.2	2.5	0.7	1.7	1.8

Source: The Bank of Korea



A contemporary shopping mall



A traditional market in South Korea

Household Economy

Along with businesses and the government, another key player in the national economy is the household economy. This third economy is a kind of private economy that aims to maintain and enhance family life. With the expansion of the size of the national economy, household income has increased and thus the income structure has become more diversified. Household consumption and expenditure showed a change both quantitatively and structurally.

Household Income

In 2011, the monthly average income of households with two persons or more stood at 3,841,600 won, a 5.8% (or 209,900 won) increase from 3,631,700 won in 2010. The rate of increase was the same as that of the preceding year, 5.8%, which was 4.6%p higher than 1.2% in 2009 after the global financial crisis. The monthly average regular income of households stood at 3,705,300 won, a 6.1% (or 214,200 won) year-on-year increase, while monthly average non-regular income of households stood at 136,300 won, a 3.0% (or 4,300 won) year-on-year decrease. However, the actual rate of increase in household income adjusted by the inflation rate fell to 1.7% from 2.8% in 2010.

Table 4.3 Monthly Average Household Income¹⁾

(1,000 won, %)

	2009			2010			2011		
	Amount	Component ratio	Percent change	Amount	Component ratio	Percent change	Amount	Component ratio	Percent change
Income	3,432.0	100.0	1.2	3,631.7	100.0	5.8	3,841.6	100.0	5.8
Regular income	3,293.0	96.0	1.2	3,491.1	96.1	6.0	3,705.3	96.5	6.1
Employee income	2,237.4	65.2	1.3	2,348.6	64.7	5.0	2,495.6	65.0	6.3
Self-employment income	747.2	21.8	1.5	804.8	22.2	7.7	841.1	21.9	4.5
Property income	14.8	0.4	-18.2	14.5	0.4	-2.2	16.3	0.4	12.3
Transfer income	294.5	8.6	1.3	323.3	8.9	9.8	352.3	9.2	9.0
Non-regular income	138.1	4.0	1.1	140.6	3.9	1.8	136.3	3.5	-3.0

Note: 1) Based on households with two or more members.

Source: KOSTAT

5/ National Account

In 2011, the country's nominal GDP stood at 1,237 trillion won, a 5.4% year-on-year increase. In U.S. dollars, it stood at \$1,116.4 billion, a 10.0% year-on-year increase, helped by an exchange rate drop of 4.2%.

Korea's Economic Size Ranks 15th Globally

The size of a country's economy can be verified by the process of the cycling of economic activities. This refers to all activities related to purchasing goods and services with the income earned in return for participation in production activities using individually owned labor or capital. GDP is an indicator showing the size of a country's economy.

In 2011, the country's nominal GDP stood at 1,237 trillion won, a 5.4% year-on-year increase. In U.S. dollars, it stood at \$1,116.4 billion, a 10.0% year-on-year increase, helped by an exchange rate drop of 4.2%.

In 2010, the country's GDP ranked the 15th largest globally, compared to China (2nd), Japan (3th) and India (9th).

Korea's Per-capita GNI: \$20,000

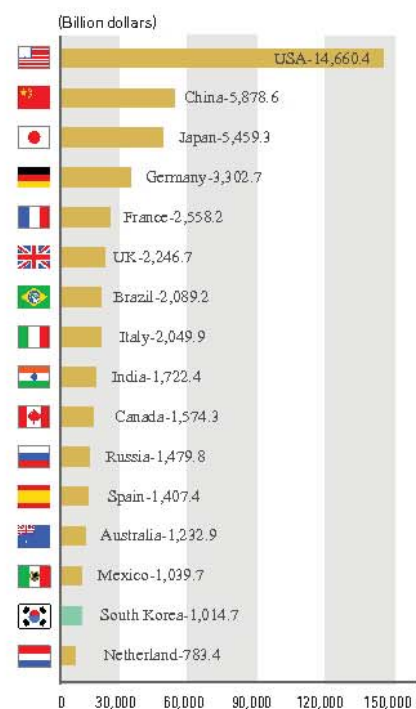
GNI (Gross National Income) is an indicator of the size of a country's economy. As for per-capita GNI, which shows the living standards or income size of individuals, the country passed the \$20,000 mark in 2007. This was a particularly significant feat as it was a result accomplished in just ten years following the drop in the country's per-capita GNI to below \$10,000 following the financial crisis that hit the country in 1997. Reaching the mark of \$20,000 in per-capita GNI means that the country's economy has grown enough to join the ranks of industrialized countries, and it will have the positive effect of pushing up the country's credit rating.

Table 5.1 National Income (based on year-end exchange rate for relevant year)

	GDP		GNI		Per-capita GNI	
	Billion Won	Billion Dollars	Billion Won	Billion Dollars	Million won	Dollar
2000	603,236.00	533.50	600,158.80	530.80	12.8	11,292
2005	865,240.90	844.70	864,427.30	843.90	18.0	17,531
2008	1,026,451.80	930.90	1,034,115.40	937.90	21.3	19,161
2009	1,065,036.80	834.40	1,069,783.10	838.10	21.8	17,041
2010	1,173,274.90	1,014.70	1,174,753.00	1,016.00	23.8	20,562
2011p	1,237,128.20	1,116.40	1,240,503.90	1,119.50	24.9	22,489

Source: The Bank of Korea

Fig 5.1 Comparison of Major Countries' GDP (2010)



Note: Refer to the GDP rank.

Source: The Bank of Korea, IMF 「International Financial Statistics」 2011.8.



G-20 Seoul Summit 2010



Yeosu Industrial Complex

According to per-capita GNI announced by the World Bank in 2010, Monaco (\$183,150 in 2009) ranked No.1 in the world, followed by Lichtenstein (2nd), Norway (3rd) and Switzerland (5th). The USA ranked 13th (\$47,340) and Japan ranked 21st (\$41,850. South Korea ranked 40th (\$20,562) behind Singapore 24th (\$40,070) and Hong Kong 28th (\$32,780) in the ranking, yet ahead of the Czech Republic 44th (\$17,890) and Saudi Arabia 46th (\$16,190).

Industrial Structure

The country's industrial structure has changed from a typical agricultural country in the 1960s to an industrialized country, and is now being transformed into a service industry country. Looked at in more detail, the share of agriculture, forestry and fisheries towards GDP was only 2.7% in 2011, whereas the share of manufacturing in 2011 increased to 31.2%, a 0.9%p rise from the preceding year. In the same year, the share of construction in GDP decreased to 5.9%, a 0.4%p drop from the preceding year. In the meantime, the share of services continued to increase to occupy 58.1% of GDP, a moderate 0.4%p drop from the preceding year.

Table 5.2 Major Countries' Per-capita GNI (2010)

(US\$)

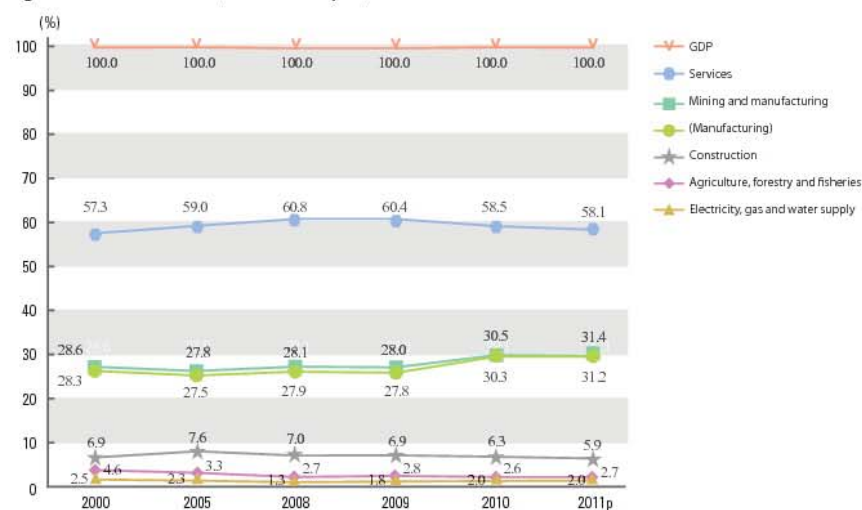
Rank	Country	Per-capita GNI	Rank	Country	Per-capita GNI
1	Monaco	183,150	21	Japan	41,850
2	Lichtenstein	137,070	24	Singapore	40,070
3	Norway	87,350	25	UK	38,200
5	Switzerland	71,520	28	Hong Kong	32,780
7	Denmark	59,400	40	Korea	20,562
8	Sweden	50,100	44	Czech	17,890
13	USA	47,340	46	Saudi Arabia	16,190
19	France	42,370	104	China	4,270

Note: The GNI per-capita of Monaco and Liechtenstein is based on data for 2009, since that of 2010 was not provided.

The GNI per-capita ranking was decided on the basis of approximate figures.

Source: The Bank of Korea, The World Bank, World Development Indicators

Fig 5.2 Industrial Structure (2005 as base year)



Note: Figures in () refer to manufacturing.

Source: The Bank of Korea

6/ Manufacturing

Korea is still the 5th ranked automobile production country in the world (5.8% of world automobile production) shipping out a record-breaking 4.66 million cars, a 9.0% year-on-year jump.

Overview

As of the end of 2009, the number of manufacturing establishments with 10 employees or more stood at 57,996, a 0.8% (or 463) year-on-year decrease. The monthly average number of employees came to 2,452,880, a 0.1% decrease from the preceding year. In 2009, the total shipment value from the manufacturing sector stood at 1,123 trillion won, a 0.9% increase from a year ago.

Table 6.1 Major Indices in Manufacturing

	2006	2007	2008	2009	Percent change (%)	
					2008	2009
Number of establishment (Each)	58,928	61,785	58,459	57,996	-5.4	-0.8
Monthly average number of employees (Persons)	2,484,405	2,507,588	2,454,263	2,452,880	-2.1	-0.1
Shipment value (Billion won)	856,135	944,713	1,113,309	1,122,987	17.8	0.9

Note: Based on manufacturers with 10 employees or more.
Source: KOSTAT

Table 6.2 Share of Iron & Steel Industry in the Korean Economy (%)

		1980	1990	2000	2005	2009	2010
GDP (Billion won)	All industries	34,490	167,713	538,548	775,890	958,231	1,057,012
	Manufacturing	8,431	45,725	152,177	213,646	265,733	323,050
	Iron & steel	569	3,940	10,207	19,461	20,132	29,610
	Ratio of iron & steel to all industries (%)	1.6	2.3	1.9	2.5	2.1	2.8
	Ratio of iron & steel to manufacturing (%)	6.7	8.6	6.7	9.1	7.6	9.2

Source: Korea Iron & Steel Association

Table 6.3 Crude Steel Production by Country (2010) (1,000 tons, %)

Rank	Country	Crude Steel Production		
			Year-on-year increase rate	Component ratio
	World total	1,411,893	6.8	100.0
1	China	626,654	9.3	44.4
2	Japan	109,599	25.2	7.8
3	USA	80,495	38.3	5.7
4	Russia	66,942	11.5	4.7
5	India	66,848	6.4	4.7
6	Korea	58,912	21.3	4.2
7	Germany	43,830	34.2	3.1

Source: Korea Iron & Steel Association

Korea Ranks 6th Globally in Crude Steel Production Capacity

As one of the country's strategic industrial sectors, the iron & steel industry played the role of locomotive for the country's economic growth during the 1970s, and thereafter, on the back of positive policy support by the government and the managerial efforts of private businesses.

The share of the iron & steel industry in the domestic economy stood at 2.8% in 2010, a 0.7%p increase from the preceding year.

In 1973, POSCO started production of iron & steel goods and passed the mark of 1 million tons in crude steel production. As of 2010, the country maintained its rank of 6th globally in terms of crude steel production as a result of continued expansion of production facilities and a rapid increase in demand. The country's share of the world's crude steel production increased from 0.1% in 1970 to 4.2% in 2010.

The country's iron & steel industry used to make investments with a focus on enhancement of production efficiency. These investments were designed to improve profitability through the mass production of general-purpose iron & steel goods. However, in the 2000s China emerged as a force to be reckoned with in this sector, increasing the supply of iron & steel products. Thus, the growth rate of Korea's iron & steel production slowed down, due chiefly to the effort to compete through the improvement of quality rather than an increase in supply capacity.

However, the production of iron & steel goods increased 21.3% from the preceding year with the help of the operation of Ilkwan Steel Mill, a subsidiary of Hyundai Steel.

The iron & steel industry recorded an increase in production (9.6%), consumption (7.6%) and export (16.9%) from the preceding year due to the expansion of steel facilities, along with a rise in the demand from automobile and shipbuilding industries. At the same time, imports decreased to 23,120,000 tons resulting in the first trade surplus in ten years. The fact that exports surpassed imports in 2011 resulted from the domestic production of import-dependent items through facility investment over the past three years.



A Samsung booth at McCormick Place in Chicago

Information & Communications Industry is New Engine for the Country's Economy

In 2011, the actual GDP of Information & Communications industry stood at 128 trillion won, a 7.9% (9 trillion won) year-on-year increase to occupy 11.8% of GDP. The Information & Communications industry exported 217 trillion won, a 7.6% (15 trillion won) year-on-year increase to occupy 43.5% of total export, which confirmed that the Information & Communications industry was the leading industry in the Korean economy.

Korea Ranks 5th Globally in Car Production

Korea is still the 5th ranked automobile production country in the world (5.8% of world automobile production) shipping out a record-breaking 4.66 million cars, a 9.0% year-on-year jump. This is due to a 13.7% rise in exports through the Korea-EU free trade agreement, enhancement of quality competitiveness and brand awareness, and the expansion of strategic export automobile selection. In 2011, China shipped out 18,420,000 cars, 0.8% (22.9% of world automobile production) year-on-year increase, to take the title of the world's No.1 car producing country three years in a row.

Table 6.4 Supply-Demand Trends in Electronic Goods (Billion won, %)

	2008	2009	2010	2011
GDP (Actual)	978,498.8	981,625.1	1,043,666.3	1,081,593.9
Information & communications industry	97,081.7	100,829.2	118,671.1	128,066.3
Component ratio	9.9	10.3	11.4	11.8
Equipment investment (Including intangible fixed asset investment)	110,290.4	101,448.6	123,545.4	128,866.3
Equipment investment by information & communications industry	35,551.4	33,316.5	36,984.7	41,226.2
Component ratio	32.2	32.8	29.9	32.0
Private expenditure	518,820.8	518,776.0	541,537.3	553,778.2
Private expenditure of information & communications goods	39,793.4	39,528.7	42,672.5	45,668.0
Component ratio	7.7	7.6	7.9	8.3
Export	390,354.2	389,529.5	451,763.4	499,213.1
Export of information & communications goods	155,442.1	169,131.7	201,926.6	217,173.9
Component ratio	39.8	43.4	44.7	43.5
Import	337,212.4	310,961.8	368,232.7	400,110.1
Import of information & communications goods	84,624.2	78,396.7	98,127.8	112,043.4
Component ratio	25.1	25.2	26.6	28.0

Source: The Bank of Korea

Table 6.5 Automobile Supply and Demand (1,000 cars, %)

		2008	2009	2010	2011	Percent change	
						2010	2011
Production	Passenger cars	3,450	3,158	3,866	4,222	22.4	9.2
	Commercial vehicles	377	355	408	437	14.9	7.1
	Total	3,827	3,513	4,274	4,658	21.7	9.0
Domestic consumption	Passenger cars	959	1,175	1,218	1,211	3.7	-0.6
	Commercial vehicles	195	219	248	263	13.2	6.0
	Total	1,154	1,394	1,465	1,475	5.1	0.7
Export	Passenger cars	2,509	2,007	2,611	2,981	30.1	14.2
	Commercial vehicles	175	142	161	171	13.4	6.2
	Total	2,684	2,149	2,772	3,152	29.0	13.7
Import	Passenger cars	76	65	100	113	53.8	13.0
	Commercial vehicles	5	4	4	5	0.0	25.0
	Total	81	69	105	118	52.2	12.4

Note: Knocked-down vehicles are not included.

Source: Korea Automobile Manufacturers Association (KAMA)

In 2011, domestic sales increased 0.7% from the previous year as a result of the enhancement of quality competitiveness and brand awareness through the Korea-EU free trade agreement, and the quality enhancement and introduction of new models. Exports increased 13.7% from the previous year due to the Korea-EU free trade agreement, enhancement of quality competitiveness and brand awareness and the expansion of strategic export automobile selections.

Asia showed the largest increase reflecting a 45.7% jump of exports to China. This accounted for 57.1% of the entire Asian automobile market. The Pacific region was the only market which showed a decrease, reflecting a 13.4% drop of exports to Australia. This accounted for 90.6% of the region. EU occupied the largest share (43%) of car exports, followed by Asia (32.4%), North America (13.7%), non-EU (11.2%), Central and South America (10.7%), and Middle East (6.6%).

Korea Ranks 2nd Globally in Shipbuilding Volume

Korea has been the No.1 shipbuilding country in the world since 2002. However, in 2010 Korea's shipbuilding volume stood at 14,907,000 CG/T as the nation handed over the world's No.1 position to China. Three countries in Northeast Asia accounted for over 80% of the world's shipbuilding orders. Namely, China (36.4%), Korea (28.9%), and Japan (19.0%).

In 2011, shipbuilding orders increased by 42.6% to 11,630,000 CG/T. This increase came as a result of the worldwide economic recovery along with an increase in demand from emerging countries such as China and India. However, it seemed that it would take more time for a full recovery of the market.

Table 6.6 Korea's Automobile Exports

(1,000 cars, %)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	Percent change		
					2009	2010	2011
Total	2,684	2,149	2,772	3,152	-19.9	29.0	13.7
EU	409	302	298	426	-26.2	-1.4	43.0
Non-EU	409	98	241	268	-76.0	145.9	11.2
Africa	181	174	172	180	-3.9	-1.1	4.7
Asia	104	115	170	225	10.6	47.8	32.4
Middle East	419	420	587	626	0.2	39.8	6.6
Pacific	104	148	180	161	42.3	21.6	-10.6
North America	766	609	678	771	-20.5	11.3	13.7
Latin America	291	284	447	495	-2.4	57.4	10.7

Source: KAMA

Table 6.8 World's Shipbuilding Trends

(1,000 CG/T)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2010	
					Share(%)	Rank
Entire world	34,670	41,019	41,151	51,664	100.0	-
Korea	11,277	14,509	14,466	14,907	28.9	2
Japan	8,913	9,759	9,608	9,821	19.0	3
China	6,765	9,065	12,387	18,801	36.4	1
Germany	1,140	1,174	722	852	1.6	5
USA	269	297	407	332	0.6	9
Poland	510	579	375	278	0.5	10
Italy	768	746	633	1,816	3.5	4

CG/T: Compensated Gross Tonnage

Note: Based on ships sized 100 GT or more.

Source: Lloyd's World Shipbuilding Statistics

South Korea ranks 2nd globally in terms of shipbuilding volume.



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7/ Construction and Energy

The Government plans to depend more on environmentally-friendly new and renewable energy, such as photovoltaic energy and wind power energy, increasing its share from 2.3% in 2010 to 11% by 2030.

Overseas Construction

Korea began overseas construction projects in 1965, enjoying a boom during the 1980s, particularly in Middle Eastern countries that initiated numerous projects on the back of the oil dollar, and saw a decline under the impact of the financial crisis in 1997. The country is now ushering in a second overseas construction work boom era with a sharp increase in the number of overseas projects evident since 2005.

Looking at the trend of the country's overseas construction projects, the highest point was hit in 1997, when a figure of \$14 billion was earned, after which the number of projects fell dramatically. However, in 2003 the sector rebounded and was able to post a growth, winning more than \$10 billion in 2005 for the first time in the 2000s. It earned \$47.6 billion in 2008, \$49.1 billion in 2009, \$71.6 billion in 2010 and \$59.1 billion in 2011, securing contracts of more than \$40 billion for four years in a row, along with six consecutive years of an increase in contracts earned, excluding the UAE nuclear power plant contract.

The country's overseas construction sector has recovered steadily after a turnaround in 2003, following the decline in 1998. This recovery was attributable to better overall market conditions with high international oil prices. This in turn, triggered another development boom in Middle Eastern countries, as well as strengthened plant market competitiveness in construction firms.

By work classification, industrial plants were by far the most lucrative type, marking \$43.2 billion and accounting for 73% of the total amount, followed by architectural engineering at \$7.9 billion (13%), and civil engineering at \$5.8 billion (10%).

By area, the Middle East marked \$29.5 billion, accounting for 50% of the total amount, followed by Asia at \$19.4 billion (33%), Central and South America at \$6.6 billion (11%) and Africa at \$2.2 billion (3.7%) in 2011. The weighted share of Middle Eastern countries (66%) loosened while Asia (25%) and Central and South America (3%) made impressive moves.

It is expected that overseas construction will continue to gain momentum for years to come through the enhancement of competitiveness and government support.

Energy Consumption

In 2010, Korea ranked 8th globally in terms of primary energy consumption with a 2.2% share of the world's entire energy consumption of 11,912 million TOE. As for per-capita gross energy consumption, the world's average per-capita energy consumption stood at 5.05 TOE, a 7.9% year-on-year increase.

According to IEA's statistics, Koreans consumed 4.70 TOE, higher than the 4.28 TOE average of OECD countries. This was still about half the U.S. figure (7.03 TOE), yet noticeably higher than that of Germany, the UK, France and Japan.

Table 7.1 Overseas Construction Projects by Korean Enterprises

(Million dollars, %)

	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total	5,433	10,859	47,639	49,147	71,573	59,131
Percent change (%)	-41	45	120	103	146	-17
Civil engineering	2,765	836	9,365	6,273	7,709	7,933
Architectural engineering	732	1,266	9,191	6,273	7,709	7,933
Industrial plants	1,703	8,263	26,764	35,692	57,426	43,205
Electrical engineering & telecommunications	220	387	1,335	775	1,228	1,128
Services	13	147	963	660	1,216	1,108

Source: International Contractors Association of Korea

Table 7.2 New and Renewable Energy Distribution

(1,000 TOE)

	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010
Supply amount	2,127.4	4,879.2	5,608.8	5,858.5	6,086.2	6,856.3
(Share, %)	1.6	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.6
Solar heat energy	41.7	34.7	29.4	28.0	30.7	29.3
Photovoltaic energy	1.3	3.6	15.3	61.1	121.7	166.2
Biomass	82.0	181.3	370.2	426.8	580.4	754.6
Waste	1,977.7	3,705.5	4,319.3	4,568.6	4,558.1	4,862.3
Hydraulic power	20.5	918.5	780.9	660.1	606.6	792.3
Wind power	4.2	32.5	80.8	93.7	147.4	175.6
Geothermal energy	-	2.6	11.1	15.7	22.1	33.4
Hydrogen and fuel cell	-	0.5	1.8	4.4	19.2	42.3

Note: 1) "Large" hydraulic power was included in Hydraulic power from 2003. Fuel cells and others, whose supply amount remains extremely small, are included in total supply amount, without their individual supply amount being stated.

2) The share refers to the share of individual new and renewable energy in primary energy sources.

3) "Photovoltaic energy" refers to power generation facilities using light coming from the sun. "Solar heat" refers to facilities producing energy using heat coming from the sun.

4) Figures are rounded off to the nearest second decimal place. They may be a little different from those offered by other sources like KOSIS.

Source: New & Renewable Energy Center * Statistics on the Distribution of New and Renewable Energy

Primary Energy Consumption Structure by Source

Looking at the primary energy consumption structure by source in 2010, petroleum was the most used source at 39.7% of total energy consumption, followed by coal (28.9%), LNG (16.4%) and nuclear energy (12.2 %). Recently, the country's leading energy sources are being changed from petroleum to environmentally-friendly energies, such as LNG.

Energy Policy in the Era of High Oil Prices

The Government is keenly aware of the need for establishment of a fundamental energy policy keeping in mind that a sharp rise in international oil prices may impair the country's economic growth potential. Such a policy includes development of overseas oil fields and pushes ahead with energy-saving initiatives and development of alternative energies with the aim of lowering the country's dependence on oil, until it accounts for less than 35% of its energy consumption. In addition to the efforts to enhance the share of natural gas and nuclear energy usage, the Government plans to depend more on environmentally-friendly new and renewable energy, such as photovoltaic energy and wind power energy, increasing its share from 2.3% in 2010 to 11% by 2030.

New and Renewable Energy

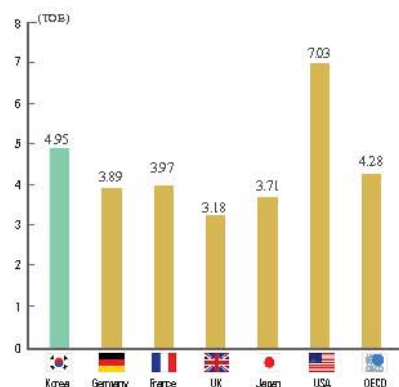
Recently, new and renewable energy has emerged as a solution to the depletion of fossil-based energy and the associated environmental problems and its importance is being re-recognized in connection with the instability of international oil prices and regulations set by the UNFCCC. Under such circumstances, it is necessary to press forward with more positive uses of new and renewable energy in terms of the use of locally available resources and in consideration of factors relating to environmental protection, transportation and national security. Particularly so, as the country's energy supply is being shifted to a decentralization method.

The use of new energy (divided into three sectors, i.e. fuel cells, coal liquefaction and gasification, and hydrogen energy) and renewable energy (divided into eight sectors, i.e. solar heat, photovoltaic energy, biomass, wind power, small hydraulic power, geothermal energy, marine energy and waste energy) is steadily increasing on the back of positive governmental investment designed to cope with external factors, including high oil prices, and participation from the private sector, in connection with the moves relating to the UNFCCC's new regulations. In 2010, the recycled use of waste translated into energy in the private sector stood at 48,623,000 TOE amid concerted efforts to cope with high international oil prices. Large-scale wind power generation complexes were built amid a growing recognition of their importance. The use of geothermal energy is being encouraged in connection with the measure that made it obligatory for public institutions to utilize new and renewable energy as much as possible.

As for the composition of new and renewable energy supplied in 2010, waste energy, hydraulic power and biomass accounted for 70.9%, 11.6% and 11%, respectively. However, the growth rate in the use of these energy sources is falling gradually, while that for technology-intensive energy sources, such as photovoltaic energy, wind power and geothermal energy is increasing drastically. This has resulted in a noticeable improvement in the energy supply structure.

At present, the share of new and renewable energy in the country's entire energy needs is lower than those of more advanced countries, but the country is showing a growth rate in the sector faster than those countries under consideration.

Fig 7.1 Per-capita Energy Consumption (2009)

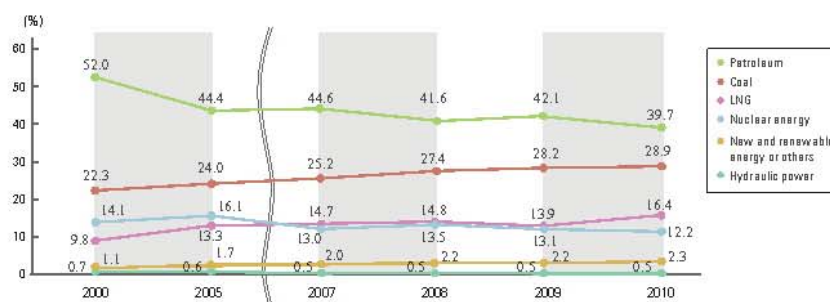


Source: Korea Energy Economics Institute (KEEI), IEA



The hydroelectric power plant at Chungju Dam

Fig 7.2 Primary Energy Sources' Component Ratio



Source: KEEI

8/ Culture and Tourism

In 2010, the country's export of cultural objects stood at \$2,746,323 thousand, 28% increase from the preceding year. Leading items of export were computer games (58.5%), publications (13.0%), characters (10.1%) and broadcast materials (8.3%).

Export of Cultural Objects

In 2010, the country's export of cultural objects stood at \$2,746,323 thousand, 28% increase from the preceding year. Leading items of export were computer games (58.5%), publications (13.0%), characters (10.1%) and broadcast materials (8.3%).

Inbound/Outbound Tourists

In 2011, the number of inbound visitors stood at 9,795,000 people. In the meantime, the number of outbound Koreans was 12,694,000 people, which was 2,899,000 people more than that of inbound visitors. The number of inbound visitors grew by 3,000 people, and while that of outbound Koreans increased greatly by 206,000 people from the previous year. And the number of inbound tourists stood at 7,203,000 people, up 13% from the previous year.

Tourism Account Balance

As for the tourism account balance in 2011, revenue stood at \$12,247.7 million compared to an expenditure of \$14,992.1 million. Tourism expenditure by foreign tourists in Korea stood at \$1,250 per person, up 6.6% from the previous year. In the meantime, overseas tourism expenditure by Korean tourists in foreign countries stood at \$1,181 per person, up 11.1% from the previous year.

Table 8.1 Export of Cultural Objects

(1,000 dollars)

	2004	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total	750,363	1,230,764	1,556,842	1,889,903	2,145,121	2,746,323
Publications	182,181	191,346	213,100	260,010	250,764	357,881
Cartoons	1,909	3,268	3,986	4,135	4,209	8,153
Music	34,218	22,278	13,885	16,468	31,269	83,262
Computer games	387,692	564,660	781,004	1,093,865	1,240,856	1,606,102
Films	58,285	75,995	24,396	21,037	14,122	13,583
Animations	61,765	78,429	72,770	80,583	89,651	96,827
Broadcast materials (films)	70,306	121,763	150,953	171,348	184,577	228,633
Ads	20,761	9,359	93,859	14,212	93,152	75,554
Characters	117,336	163,666	202,889	228,250	236,521	276,328

Source: Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST)

Table 8.2 Inbound/Outbound Tourists

(1,000 people)

Year	Inbound visitors (A)	Outbound Koreans (B)	Difference (A-B)	Inbound tourists (C)
2002	5,347	7,123	-1,776	3,844
2005	6,023	10,080	-4,057	4,347
2008	6,891	11,996	-5,105	4,642
2009	7,818	9,494	-1,676	5,685
2010	8,798	12,488	-3,690	6,366
2011	9,795	12,694	-2,899	7,203

Source: Korea Tourism Organization (KTO)

A foreign dance company performs Gangnam Style



Table 8.3 Trends of Tourism Account Balance

(1,000 people)

Year	Revenue		Expenditure		Tourism account balance
		Per-capita (\$)		Per-capita (\$)	
2002	5,918	1,110	9,037.9	1,333	-3,119.1
2005	5,793	968	12,025.0	1,247	-6,232.0
2008	9,719	1,410	14,580.7	1,215	-4,861.6
2009	9,782.4	1,251	11,040.4	1,163	-1,258.6
2010	10,321.4	1,173	14,291.5	1,056	-3,970.1
2011	12,247.7	1,250	14,992.1	1,181	-2,744.4

Note: AEPC (Average Expenditure per Capita)

Source: KTO

9/ Transportation and Telecommunications

As for passenger transportation share by transportation means, roads led the others with a share of 74.1%, followed by subways (17.5%) and railway services (8.2%).

A Vehicle for Every Three People

Transportation means chiefly used by people have undergone a great change with the size of the national economy growing larger and the enhancement of people's income. The most noticeable change has been the shift from public transportation to privately owned cars as the chief means of transportation.

The number of registered cars, which showed an increase of more than a million a year in the 1993~1996 period, plummeted in 1998, when the country was hit by the financial crisis, then gradually improved until losing steam in 2003 and thereafter.

Between 2005 and 2007, the growth rate in the number of registered cars started to gradually increase once again. However, the growth rate, which went as high as 8% a year, up to 2002, has remained at the 3% level since 2005, indicating that the domestic car market has entered the maturity stage. In 2008, the growth rate in the number of registered cars recorded a sharp drop, apparently because of a wariness in people's attitude towards consumption in light of the worldwide recession, yet showed signs of slowly recovering as of 2009.

As of the end of 2011, the number of registered cars stands at 18,440,000, i.e. a vehicle for every 2.75 people or 0.92 vehicles for every household. In 2010, Korea ranked 16th globally in terms of the vehicles registered. The figure is expected to reach 20 million in 2015.

Passenger Transportation Share by Transportation Means

The number of domestic users of public transportation increased gradually until 1990 in tandem with an increase in the number of people engaged in economic activities and tourists. However, this figure stopped increasing, or decreased, due to the explosive increase in the number of privately owned cars in the 1990s. In 2005, however, it started increasing again. The number of people using railway services or subways, in particular, has been on the increase.

In 2010, the number of users of public transportation came to 13,015 million, a 1.5% increase from the previous year. As for passenger transportation share by transportation means, roads led the others with a share of 74.1%, followed by subways (17.5%) and railway services (8.2%).

Table 9.1 Domestic Passenger Transportation

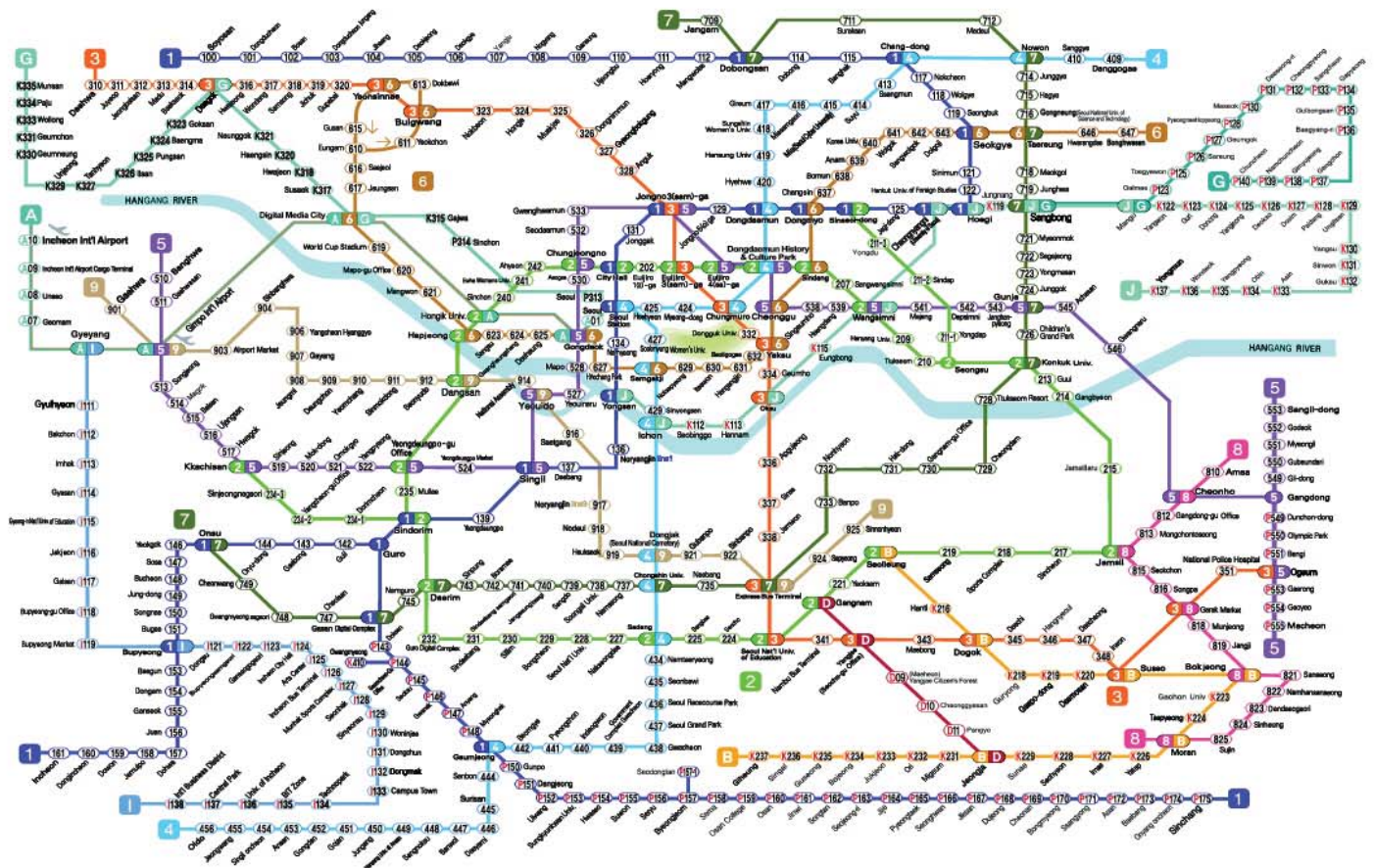
	Passenger (Million people)	Share (%)				
		Railroad	Subway	Road	Ship	Airplane
1990	14,488	4.5	7.6	87.8	0.1	0.1
1995	13,803	5.7	12.2	81.8	0.1	0.2
2000	13,515	6.2	16.5	77.0	0.1	0.2
2007	12,628	7.8	16.6	75.4	0.1	0.1
2008	12,990	7.8	16.5	75.4	0.1	0.1
2009	12,824	8.0	17.0	74.8	0.1	0.1
2010	13,015	8.2	17.5	74.1	0.1	0.1

Source: MLTM "Annual Statistical Report on National Land and Seas"

Fig 9.1 Comparison of Vehicles Registered (2010)



Source: MLTM, e-National Indicators



The map of subway stations in Seoul and the metropolitan areas

All Destinations in the Country Accessible within Half a Day through the Opening of the High-Speed Railroad

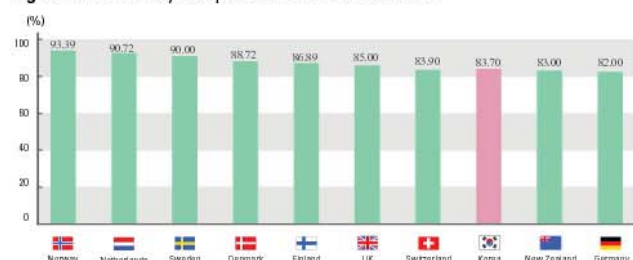
With the opening of the country's first high-speed railroad in April 2004, it came to take only two hours and 40 minutes between Seoul and Busan; thus making all destinations in the country accessible within half a day. Following the work carried out between 1992 and April 2004, the Seoul-Busan High-Speed Railroad was opened to traffic, with the Daegu-Busan section still using the existing railroad. Thus, the country joined the ranks of countries operating trains at a speed higher than 250km/h, i.e. Japan, France, Germany, Spain, etc. The adoption of this new high-speed, mass transportation option made all destinations in the country accessible within 3 hours, thus bringing a drastic change to people's everyday life. The high-speed railroad has secured its position as a leading next-generation means of transportation that

is fast, safe and environmentally-friendly; in addition to being a product of high-end technology.

With the construction of the Seoul-Busan High-Speed Railroad, the railroad's passenger transportation capability increased by 3.4-fold. It is also expected that many of the previous users of highways will switch to the high-speed railroad, resulting in approximately 2.4 trillion won worth of socioeconomic benefits related to time and fuel expenses saved (based on estimation in 2001).

Looking at leading countries in the provision of a high-speed railroad, Japan is the most advanced country. It opened the first high-speed railroad in 1964 and has extended the network to a total of 2,277 km. It is followed by France that has built a total of 2,106 km. Germany and Spain built their respective high-speed railroads in the early 1990s.

Fig 9.2 Inter-country Comparison of Internet Use Rate



Note: Excluding states with population lower than 1 million.
Source: ITU 2011

Table 9.2 Comparison of the High-Speed Railroads in Major Countries

	Length (km)	Highest speed (km/h)
Korea	432	300
Belgium	209	300
France	2,106	300-320
Germany	1,285	250-320
Italy	926	300
Spain	1,979	300
Japan	2,227	300

Source: UIC 2011 Standards (for over 250km/hour routes)



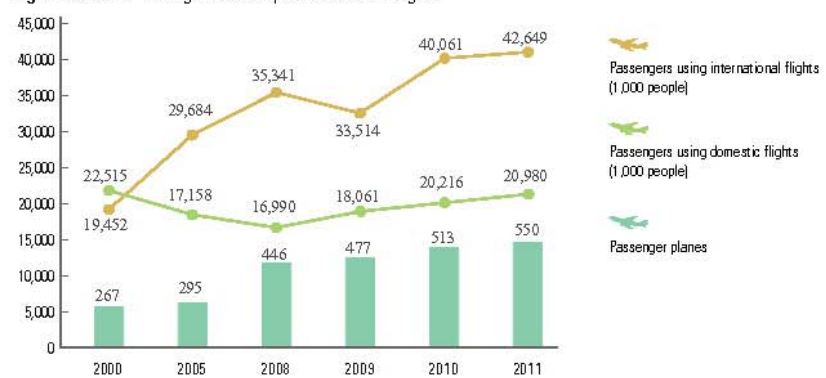
KTX (Korea Train Express), the high-speed railroad of South Korea

A Sharp Increase in the Demand for Commercial Flights amid Globalization

Passenger flights have made strides in step with the progress of science and technology. With the adoption of full-sized jet planes that can cover long distances within a short space of time, passenger flights came to occupy an important position in passenger transportation. The demand for passenger flights in Korea has grown steadily—in tandem with the economic growth and the enhancement of people's income—since the 1960s and particularly in the 1990s, on the strength of the briskness of trade and exchange with other countries amid the flow of globalization.

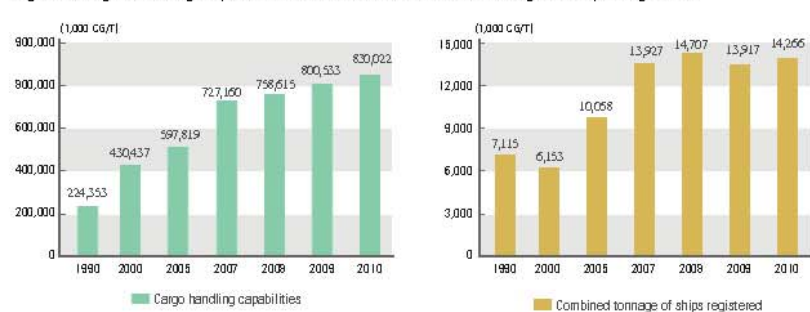
This demand is insatiably increasing due to people's preference for fast and high-end transportation means for both domestic and international trips. As of 2011, the number of passenger planes owned by domestic airlines stood at 550, a more than 2 fold increase from 2000. This was in response to the increase in the number of passengers and the volume of cargo for international flights.

Fig 9.3 Number of Registered Airplanes & Passengers



Source: Korea Civil Aviation Development Association (KADA)

Fig 9.4 Cargo Handling Capabilities at Ports and Combined Tonnage of Ships Registered



Source: MLTM "Annual Statistical Report on National Land and Seas"

A Rapid Increase in Cargo Handling Capabilities at Ports

In the course of carrying out its economic development plan in the 1960s, and thereafter, the country pushed ahead with an economic policy focusing on a shift of the economic structure away from domestic consumption to an export-oriented structure. Thus, the volume of exports and imports increased greatly, which, in turn, led to phenomenal development of the country's maritime and port sectors, as well as the expansion of the scope of its international transportation focused on timely delivery of cargo and enhancement of international competitiveness of its goods.

Recently, the importance of ports as logistics centers has been emphasized more than ever before amid globalization of the economy and changes in businesses' management strategies. This is because ports contribute greatly to what is good for both local businesses and the country concerned. Logistics centers act as the focal point of the local economy; they serve as a channel for the supply of goods, people and information and create enormous added value. At present, the Government is making an all-out effort to develop Busan and Gwangyang into world-class ports to serve as leading gateways to Northeast Asia, under the strategy of making the country the logistics hub in the region.

As of 2010, the country's combined cargo handling capabilities at its ports stood at 830,022 thousand CG/T, a more than 3.7-fold increase from 1990. The combined tonnage of ships registered in the country came to 14,266 thousand CG/T, almost 2-fold increase from 1990, amid the trend towards larger ships.

Internet Use Rate

Korea has established an advanced Internet infrastructure within a short period time. This well-established Internet infrastructure helps various sectors enhance their productivity in an epoch-defining way, while causing changes in people's lifestyles and increasing the number of Internet-related jobs.

Since 1994, when the country's commercial Internet service first began, the number of people using it has continued to increase until it had 30 million users in 2004 and 37,180,000 in 2011 (78% of Koreans aged 6 or more used Internet services, thus ushering in the "popularized" Internet era).

It was the result of establishment of a nationwide high-speed Internet network, adoption of a competitive system in the market for Internet connection services, and Koreans' strong interest in education and in adoption of new technologies. Thus, the Internet has become a part of Koreans' everyday life, through Internet banking to shopping.

As of the end of 2010, the country ranked 8th globally, in terms of population-based Internet use rate (83.7%), after Norway, Netherlands etc. according to the ITU.

10.5 out of Every 10 Koreans Use a Cell Phone

Cell phones have become a universal means of communication. Nowadays, virtually no Korean can imagine spending a day without their cell phone. They offer a variety of conveniences, including being able to talk to others in almost any place and at any time and easy access to a huge amount of useful information.

As of the end of 2011, the number of cell phone service subscribers stood at 52,510 thousand, which surpassed the actual population. That is 10.5 cell phones for every 10 Koreans.

Status of the Software Industry

As shown by the computer distribution rate and the number of Internet users, Korean society has been equipped with the world's top information infrastructure. In 2011, the country's information technology (IT) sector posted exports worth \$156.6 billion, which accounted for 28.2% of the country's entire exports \$555.2 billion. It shows that the IT sector takes the lion's share of the country's economy. With the development of the IT industry, the share of the software industry has also grown larger. The Government has a strong commitment to the development of the software industry as a next-generation growth engine.

Although the country still does not have a software business large enough to be reckoned with in the world market, and it appears that many people do not have a firm view of copyright as an object that should be protected at any price, the share of software industry in GDP showed a steady increase from \$1,918.4 billion in 2005 to \$2,915.5 billion in 2011.

Table 9.3 Internet Users and Internet Use Rate (10,000 people, %)

	2000	2004	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011
Internet users	1,904	3,158	3,301	3,619	3,658	3,701	3,718
Internet use rate	44.7	70.2	72.8	76.5	77.2	77.8	78.0

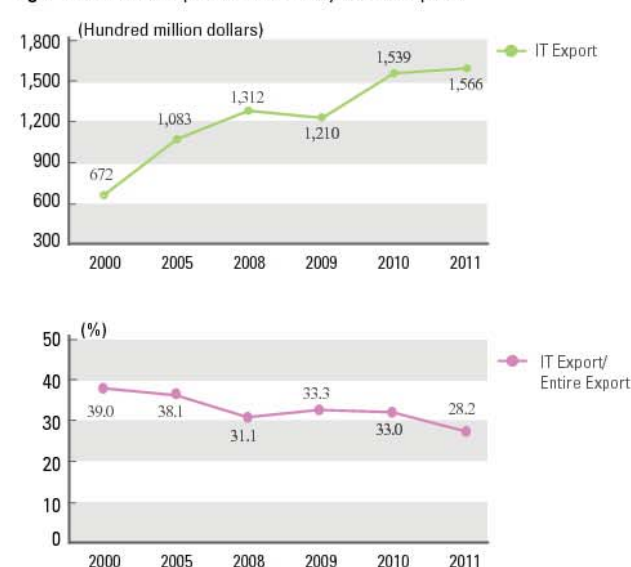
Source: National Internet Development Agency of Korea (NIDA) ¹A survey of the status of Internet use.

Table 9.4 Number of Cell Phone Subscribers

	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011
Internet users	2,682	3,834	4,561	4,794	5,077	5,251

Source: Korea Communications Commission

Fig 9.5 Share of IT Exports in the Country's Entire Exports



Source: Institute for Information Technology Advancement (IITA)

10/ Foreign Trade

In 2011, the country's exports reached \$555,214 million, a 19% year-on-year increase as a result of all-time high performances from key areas such as shipbuilding, petroleum products, automobiles, etc.

Inter-country trade is an economic activity designed to enhance the respective interests of countries by means of exchanges of goods and services. For Korea, foreign trade has particular significance as the resource-deficient country has to rely on imported raw materials to be exported after processing. The development of transportation means and telecommunications technologies results in brisker inter-country transactions. Earlier, inter-country trade focused on goods, particularly raw materials, including petroleum, coal, and intermediate goods. Now, in contrast, the items traded have become much more diverse, including services relating to labor, capital, technology and finance, as well as intellectual property rights, such as trademarks, copyrights and patents.

A Surplus of \$30.8 Billion in the Trade Balance

In 2011, the country's exports reached \$555,214 million, a 19% year-on-year increase as a result of all-time high performances from key areas such as shipbuilding, petroleum products, automobiles, etc. This occurred in spite of risk factors such as the global recession and a variety of natural disasters. Imports also posted a 23.3% increase to \$524,413 million, as a result of a sharp rise in imports of crude oil, gas, coals etc., amid price rises in raw materials triggered by high oil prices. The trade surplus was recorded at \$40.4 billion in 2009 and \$41.2 billion in 2010. The surplus resulted from record high exports for key items. Furthermore, imports also recorded an all-time high due to price rises in raw materials such as crude oil.

In the meantime, the country's share of exports in the global market stood at 3.0%. Twenty years have passed since recording the benchmark share of 2% in 1989. Regarding trade trends in 2011, the total amount of trade surpassed \$1 trillion with record high exports of \$555.2 billion. The trade surplus has continued for 23 months in a row since February 2010.

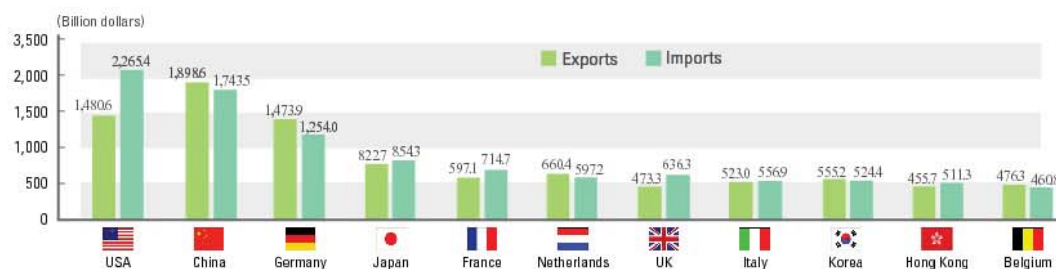
In 2011, among trade with its 10 major trading-partner nations, Korea recorded a surplus towards China, USA, Hong Kong and Singapore while posting deficits to Japan, Saudi Arabia, Australia and Qatar from which it imported chiefly capital goods and raw materials. Considering the size of inter-country trade, China emerged as the country's No. 1 trading partner nation, pushing aside the USA and Japan.

Table 10.1 Status of Exports and Imports (based on customs clearance)
(Million dollars, %)

	Exports		Imports		Trade balance
		Percent change		Percent change	
1990	65,016	4.1	69,844	13.6	4,828
2000	172,268	19.9	160,481	34.0	11,786
2005	284,419	12.0	261,238	16.4	23,180
2008	422,007	13.6	435,275	22.0	3,267
2009	363,534	-13.9	323,085	-25.8	40,449
2010	466,384	28.3	425,212	31.6	41,172
2011	555,214	19.0	524,413	23.3	30,801

Source: Korea Customs Service

Fig 10.1 Major Countries' Trade Volume (2010)



Source: WTO

Major Items Exported and Imported

As for the country's leading export and import items in 2011, shipbuilding topped the list of exported items, followed by petroleum products, semi-conductors, cars, LCDs and mobile phones, whereas crude oil and coal topped the list of import items due to high oil prices, followed by electrical products, gas and petroleum products.

Foreign Exchange Reserve

Foreign exchange reserve refers to foreign currency-denominated financial assets available for use by the central bank and the Government. They are assets featuring high exchangeability, liquidity and marketability.

An extremely low level of foreign exchange reserve may lead to the status of moratorium (which means that a borrower declares inability to repay some or all of an outstanding debt or ceases paying the debt service interest on a loan).

The country's foreign exchange reserve has steadily increased on the back of the continued surplus in the current account balance due to increases in exports, the continued inflow of foreigners' investment funds amid successful corporate management, innovation of the financial structure and the enhancement of the sovereign rating. It is difficult to say what is a proper level

of foreign exchange reserve, but it is necessary to improve the efficiency of the operation of foreign currencies on hand and make continued efforts to reduce the expense of keeping them. However, it should be kept in mind that it is important to maintain a sufficient level of foreign exchange reserve to enhance the country's sovereign rating and prevent the repetition of a crisis situation (with due considering given to the country's specific situation, such as its being a small-sized open economy and the geopolitical situation surrounding the country).

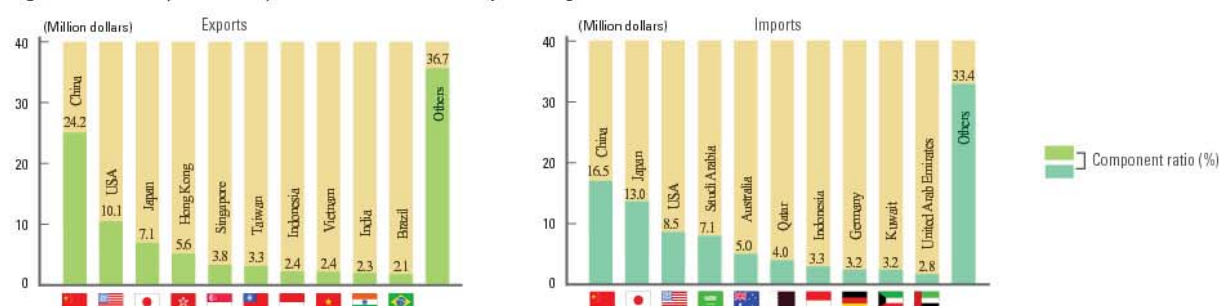
As of 2011, the country's level of foreign exchange reserve stood at \$306.4 billion, the world's 7th largest after China, Japan, Russia, Taiwan, Brazil and Switzerland.

Table 10.2 Foreign Exchange Reserve

	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011
Foreign exchange reserve (Hundred million dollars)	962	2,104	2,012	2,700	2,916	3,064
Ratio of foreign exchange reserve to GDP (%)	18.8	24.9	21.6	32.4	28.7	27.4
Foreign exchange reserve/Monthly ordinary payment made in dollars (Months)	5.5	7.4	4.4	7.8	6.5	5.6
Short-term foreign debts/Foreign exchange reserve (%)	51.6	31.3	74.5	55.3	47.9	44.4

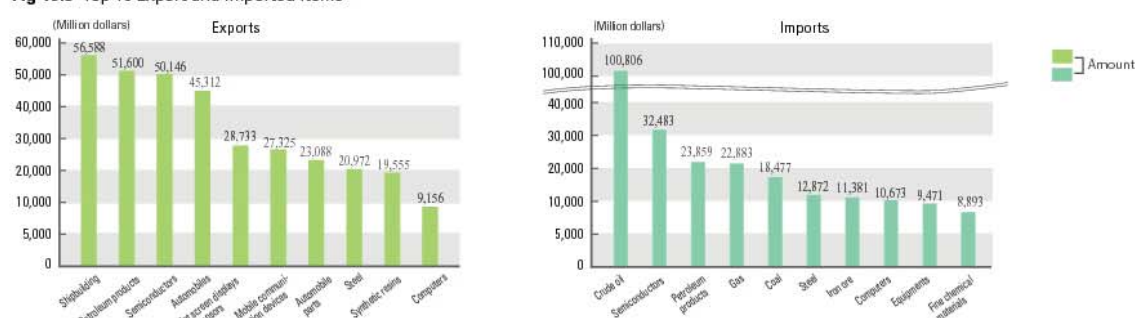
Source: The Bank of Korea

Fig 10.2 Korea's Exports and Imports to and from the Ten Major Trading Nations



Note: based on customs clearance in 2011.
Source: Korea Customs Service

Fig 10.3 Top 10 Export and Imported Items



Note: Based on customs clearance in 2011
Source: Korea Customs Service

11/ Public Finance and Financial Institutions

In 2011, the total size of the central Government's public finance stands at 309 trillion won, a 5.5% increase from 293 trillion won in 2010.

Ratio of Public Finance to GDP: 22.1%

The country has made a rapid progress since its liberation from colonial rule, overcoming an array of political and social confusions and tumultuous changes. In such a process, the role of public finance was very importance in connection with the need to form SOC, a sound investment basis and develop key industries. Public finance refers to the management of expenses for the maintenance and operation of the state system by the government, as entrusted by the people. The scale of public finance has grown in keeping with the country's economic growth.

The size of the central Government's consolidated public finance, which used to remain stable at the level of 18~20% against GDP, rose with public finance playing a positive role in the economic recovery following the financial crisis in 1997. At present (2011), it maintains a level of 22.1%, after dropping to a level close to 19% with the economic recovery in 2002.

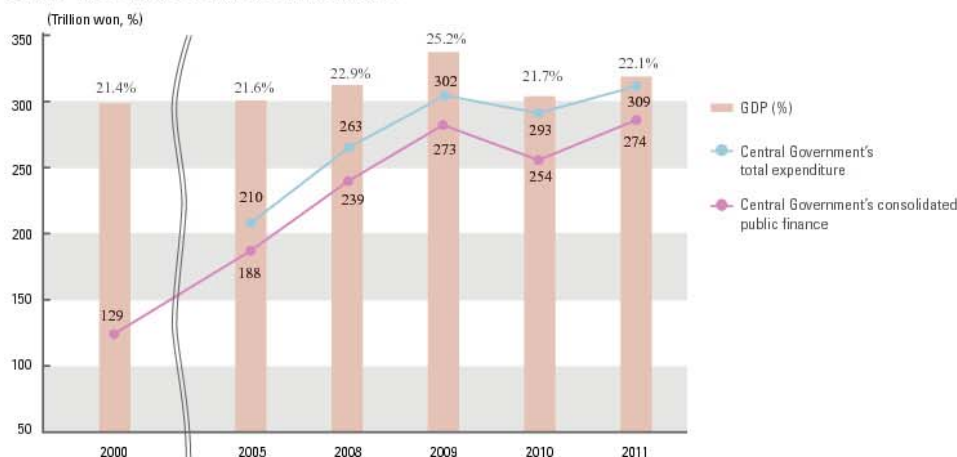
In 2011, the total size of the central Government's public finance stands at 309 trillion won, a 5.5% increase from 293 trillion won in 2010.

The Country's Tax Burden Ratio is Lower than Those of More Advanced Countries

The country has long maintained a fiscal policy that makes a point of keeping annual expenditure within the limit of annual revenue. Until the issuance of a large quantity of government/municipal bonds, which were intended to make up for the deficit caused by the financial crisis that hit the country towards the end of 1997, the Government imposed special-purpose taxes, such as the defense tax (1975), the education tax (1982) and the rural area special tax for development of rural areas (1994), rather than choosing the easier option of borrowing (like the issuance of government/municipal bonds), even when there was a need for special expenditure.

In such a process, the tax burden ratio has continued to increase along with the tax amount in accordance with an increase in people's income. However, the tax burden ratio dropped by 1.5%p to 19.3% in 2010 owing to lower taxation enforced to overcome the recession that started with the credit crunch in the USA in 2008.

Fig 11.1 The Central Government's Public Finance



Note: Concerning the central Government's consolidated public finance, figures concerning up to 2007 are based on account settlement, while figures for 2008~2009 and the size of the total expenditure are based on budget.

Source: Ministry of Strategy and Finance (MOSF) "Consolidated Central Government Statistics," "Budget Overview," "National Fiscal Management Plan"

But compared to the average figure for the 30 OECD countries, i.e. 25.8% (2008), the country's tax burden ratio still remains low. The public burden ratio, which refers to the ratio of the amount including national tax, local tax and social security contributions to GDP, stood at 25.1% in 2009, showing a rise similar to the tax burden ratio. It did, however, remain lower than the average of the major OECD countries, i.e. 34.8% (2008).

The continued rise in the country's public burden ratio can be attributed to an increase in wage income, which is the basis for imposition of social security insurance premiums, a rise in premiums for health insurance and industrial disaster insurance, and an increase in the number of national pension subscribers.

The Amount of Currency in Circulation

Fiscal policy exerts a direct impact on people with changes in the Government's expenditure or tax rate, while financial policy has an impact on people's income in an indirect way, such as the amount of currency in circulation or interest rates. The primary means of financial policy is to regulate the amount of currency in supply through open market operation or rediscount policies. The amount of currency in supply grows larger steadily as the size of the economy gets larger. Thus, the former is managed in consideration of the economic growth rate so as to support the expansion of the real economy.

The amount of currency issued as of the end of 2011, based on the closing balance, came to 48,657.6 billion won; while the size of the supply of the reserve base stood at 80,055.9 billion won, a 7.4% increase from the previous year. Currency plus demand deposits (M1) stood at 442,077.5 billion won. The money supply equal to M1 plus time deposits in commercial banks (M2) came to 1,751,458.4 billion won. The liquidity aggregate of financial institutions, including deposits in non-banking financial institutions (Lf), stood at 2,277,679 billion won.

Securities

The country's stock market, which went bullish until 2007, went south like those in other countries in 2008, following the worldwide recession that started with the credit crunch in the USA. As a result, the aggregate value of listed stocks in 2009 decreased by 438 trillion won from the previous year.

This increase was brought about by the positive economic growth rate in the first quarter 2009, which was for the first time among OECD countries, as a result of the Government's positive measures taken to stimulate the economy, and currency policy as well as the accelerated recovery in the second half.

In 2011, the aggregate value of listed stocks decreased to 1,148 trillion won, a 7.4% year-on-year drop from the preceding year.

Table 11.1 Tax Burden Ratio

(Trillion won)

	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010
Ordinary GDP	865.2	975.0	1,023.9	1,063.1	1,172.8
Tax	163.4	205.0	212.8	209.7	226.9
Tax burden ratio (%)	18.9	21.0	20.8	19.7	19.3
National tax	127.5	161.5	167.3	164.5	177.7
Local tax	36.0	43.5	45.5	45.2	49.2

Source: e-National Indicators

Table 11.2 Major Currency Indicators

(Billion won, %)

	Amount of currency issued	Reserve base	M1	M2	Lf
1995	17,323.8	29,305.4	101,665.9	370,600.4	527,017.0
2000	21,424.9	28,238.1	196,714.5	707,698.9	911,641.8
2005	26,135.8	43,249.0	332,344.9	1,021,448.7	1,391,559.6
2008	30,758.3	64,846.3	330,623.7	1,425,887.5	1,845,199.1
2009	37,346.2	67,779.1	389,394.5	1,566,850.0	2,018,785.0
2010	43,307.2	74,545.7	427,791.6	1,660,530.0	2,137,197.9
2011	48,657.6	80,055.9	442,077.5	1,751,458.4	2,277,679.0
2009/2008 Percent change	12.4	7.4	3.3	5.5	6.6

Note: Based on closing balances.

Source: The Bank of Korea

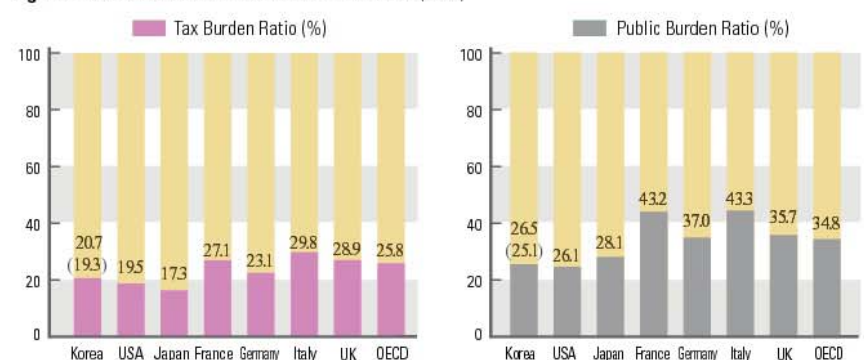
Table 11.3 Number of Listed Firms and Aggregate Value of Listed Stocks

(Trillion won)

		2005	2008	2009	2010	2011
Number of listed firms	Total	1,620	1,803	1,798	1,806	1,822
	Securities	702	765	770	777	791
	Kosdaq	918	1,038	1,028	1,029	1,031
Aggregate value of listed stocks	Total	726.0	623.1	974.0	1,240	1,148
	Securities	655.1	576.9	887.9	1,142	1,042
	Kosdaq	70.9	46.2	86.1	98.0	106.0

Source: Korea Exchange (*Securities Futures)

Fig 11.2 Tax Burden Ratio and Public Burden Ratio (2008)



Note: Figures in () are 2010 data.

Source: OECD Revenue Statistics, e-National Indicators

12/ Health and Welfare

As of the end of 2010, 48,907,000 people were covered by the health insurance system and 20,533,000 people were subscribed to a public pension system.

Life Expectancy

With the development of medical skills and enhancement of health-related consciousness, the life expectancy of Koreans has increased by 9.1 years, i.e. from 71.7 years in 1991 to 80.8 in 2010 (with that of females being about 7 years higher than that of their male counterparts).

People Eligible for Public Pensions

As for public pension insurance, pensions for public officials, military personnel and private school teachers were launched in 1960, 1963 and 1975, respectively, and were followed by the national pension (1988) and the farmer's and fisherman's pension (1995).

Under the national pension system, subscribers or their family members get paid pension when they are no longer able to engage in income-earning activities due to old age, disability or death.

The system was first carried out in businesses with 10 or more employees in January 1988. In January 1992, it was extended to include businesses with five or more employees. In January 2006, the system was finally extended to all businesses with an employee(s). Regionally, the system was adopted in rural and fishing villages and gun in July 1995. In April 1999, it was extended to include urban areas. In 2010, the number of the subscribers to the national pension system stood at 19,229,000, up 3.2% from 2009.

In 2010, the number of subscribers to a public pension system was 20,553,000, a slight increase from the preceding two years on the back of the increase in the number of subscribers to the national pension system.

As for health insurance, the system was first adopted in 1977 for businesses with 500 or more employees. In 1988, it was extended to include rural villagers. In 1989, it was extended to include all people. As of the end of 2010, 48,907,000 people were covered by the health insurance system and 20,533,000 people were subscribed to a public pension system.

Medical Institutions

The country's medical institutions have grown both in numbers and service quality. Amid higher interest in health following an increase in income and enhancement of living standards, the number of medical institutions increased about 1.5-fold, i.e. from 38,665 in 2000 to 56,244 in 2010. The number of sickbeds has outpaced the population growth rate by a wide margin, showing a increase in the number of sickbeds per 1,000 people from 6.1 in 2000 to 10.7 in 2010. This attests to the drastic improvement in health care environment.

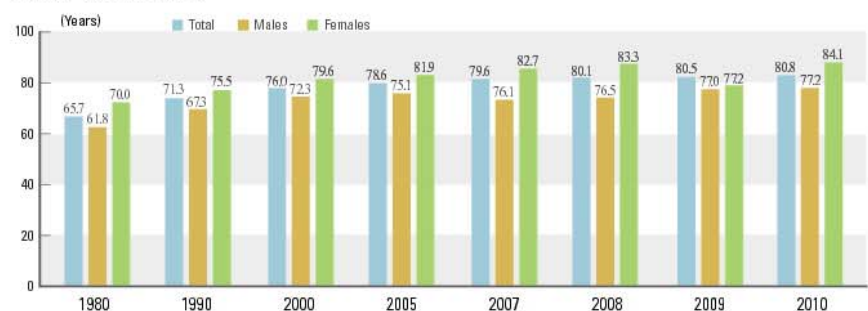
The number of medical doctors increased by 1.4-fold, i.e. from 72,503 in 2000 to 101,443 in 2010. The number of dentists increased by 1.4-fold, i.e. from 18,039 to 25,390, and the number of nurses increased by 1.7-fold, i.e. from 160,295 to 270,274

Table 12.1 Public Pension Subscribers and People Covered by Health Insurance (1,000 people)

	Public pension insurants					People covered by health insurance
	Total	National pension	Government employees pension	Private school teacher pension	Semi-official post office pension	
2005	18,352	17,124	986	237	5	47,392
2007	19,543	18,267	1,022	251	4	47,820
2008	19,627	18,335	1,030	257	4	48,160
2009	19,938	18,624	1,048	262	4	48,614
2010	20,553	19,229	1,052	267	4	48,907

Source: National Pension Service, Government Employees Pension Service, Korea Teachers Pension, National Health Insurance Corporation

Fig 12.1 Life Expectancy



Source: KOSTAT

in the same period. While the number of people per one doctor decreased by 25.6% from 648 in 2000 to 482 in 2010, showing a noticeable improvement in the medical service conditions.

The number of medical institutions, doctors and nurses has steadily increased. The service quality offered by medical institutions has also been improved amid competitions between them. According to the Social Survey carried out in 2007, the respondents who expressed satisfaction with the medical service they received over the past year outnumbered those who answered negatively. It was a far cry from a similar survey carried out in 1999, when the respondents who expressed dissatisfaction with the medical service they received over the past year outnumbered those who answered positively.

Looking at the status of medical doctors compared to more advanced countries, the number of medical doctors (including traditional Korean medicine doctors) stood at 1.9 per 1,000 people in 2009, slightly insufficient compared to 2.4 in the USA, 2.7 in UK, 2.2 in Japan, yet seriously insufficient when compared to Norway and Austria, which stood at 4.0 and 4.7 respectively.

Social Expenditure

Social expenditures represent social payments (cash, goods or services) provided by public institutions, or financial contributions targeted at individuals who are facing social risks (aging, disease, unemployment, disaster, etc.). Social expenditures are an indicator of social security in a given country.

According to the OECD guidelines, social expenditures in Korea in 2009 were estimated to reach 110.5 trillion won, 10.38% of nominal GDP. They improved by nearly double in 7 years from 5.62% of nominal GDP in 2002 to 10.38 % of nominal GDP in 2009, owing to the foundation of a basic framework for social security, such as national basic living security and the introduction and expansion of the social security system.

Table 12.2 Number of Medical Personnel¹⁾

	Medical doctors	People per one doctor	Dentists ²⁾	Pharmacists	Nurses
1990	42,554	1,007	9,619	37,118	89,032
1995	57,188	789	13,681	43,269	120,415
2000	72,503	648	18,039	50,623	160,295
2005	85,369	564	21,581	54,829	213,644
2007	91,475	530	23,126	57,176	235,687
2008	95,088	511	23,924	58,363	246,840
2009	98,434	495	24,639	59,717	258,568
2010	101,443	482	25,390	60,956	270,274

Note: 1) Including licensed persons and overseas residents.

2) Including conditionally qualified limited physicians. Conditionally qualified limited physicians: physicians who are permitted to practice medicine within a certain area.

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

Table 12.3 Medical Personnel per 1,000 People in Major Countries¹⁾ (2009)
(Persons)

	Korea ²⁾	USA	UK	Japan ³⁾	Australia	Norway
Doctors	1.9	2.4	2.7	2.2	4.7	4.0
Dentists	0.4	-	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.9
Nurses	4.5	-	9.7	9.5	7.6	14.2

Note: 1) Doctors, pharmacists and dentists are based on those currently practicing. Nurses are based on license-holders.

2) Doctors (including traditional Korean medicine doctors) and dentists are based on those currently practicing. Pharmacists and nurses are based on license-holders.

3) Based on 2008 figures.

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare "Annual Report on Health and Welfare Statistics," OECD "Health Data 2011,"

Table 12.4 Social Expenditure Ratio of GDP (%)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Social Expenditure (A+B)	7.03	7.96	8.20	8.96	10.38
Public (A)	6.46	7.38	7.59	8.34	9.56
Private (B)	0.57	0.58	0.62	0.62	0.82

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare "Social Welfare Spending Estimation of Korea,"

An increasing number of foreigners are visiting South Korea for medical tourism.



The number of low-floor buses for the handicapped is increasing in South Korea.



13/ Environment

Continued efforts to improve the water supply and sewage system resulted in the enhancement of their distribution rate to 97.7% and 90.1%, respectively, as of the end of 2010.

Environmental Improvement Efforts Made by Various Sectors

The fostering of a pleasant atmosphere is closely related to the improvement of the quality of people's lives. The Government is stepping up its efforts to reduce environmental pollution and reuse waste as energy resources.

Compared to 2002, when disposed waste reached a record figure, the total amount of household waste recorded 49,159 tons in 2010. Amid people's positive participation in recycling, the ratio of recycling rose from 44% in 2002 to 60.5% in 2010, while landfill showed a continuing decrease from 41.5% in 2002 to 17.9% in 2010.

Continued efforts to improve the water supply and sewage system resulted in the enhancement of their distribution rate to 97.7% and 90.1%, respectively, as of the end of 2010.

Emission of Air Pollutants

There are various sources of air pollutants: vehicles, factories, thermal power plants, household/office heating, airplanes and ships. Most of them stem from human activities. Looking at the changing trends in leading air pollutants, nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) chiefly emitted from vehicles continued to increase by 2004. NO_x emission started to decrease in 2005, and reached 1,062,000 tons in 2009, a 1.6% increase from the previous year. As for VOC, it recorded a year-on-year decrease in 2005. However, it turned around to increase in 2006, and decreased by 0.7% in 2009 from 2008. SO_x had continued to decrease since 2001, apparently under the impact of the policy for the supply of low-sulfur oil but recorded a year-on-year increase in 2006. And it showed to 419,000 tons in 2009. CO emission stood at 846,000 tons, a 20% year-on-year increase in 2009. PM10 increased by 11.7% from the previous year, after recording ups and downs repeatedly.

Table 13.1 Environmental Improvement Record (Tons, %)

	Household waste disposed			Sewage supply rate	Piped water supply distribution rate
	Total amount	Recycled	Incinerated		
2000	46,438	41.3	11.7	47.0	70.5
2005	48,398	56.3	16.0	27.7	83.5
2007	50,346	57.8	18.6	23.6	87.1
2008	52,072	59.8	19.9	20.3	88.6
2009	50,906	61.1	20.3	18.6	89.4
2010	49,159	60.5	21.6	17.9	90.1

Source: Ministry of Environment

Table 13.3 Waste Generated (1,000 tons/day)

	Total	Household waste	Per-capita (kg/day)	Industrial waste	Construction waste
2000	226.7	46.4	0.98	101.5	78.8
2005	295.7	48.4	0.99	112.4	134.9
2007	337.2	50.3	1.02	114.8	172.0
2008	359.3	52.1	1.04	130.8	176.4
2009	357.9	50.9	1.02	123.6	183.4
2010	365.2	49.2	0.96	137.9	178.1

Source: Ministry of Environment, e-National Indicators

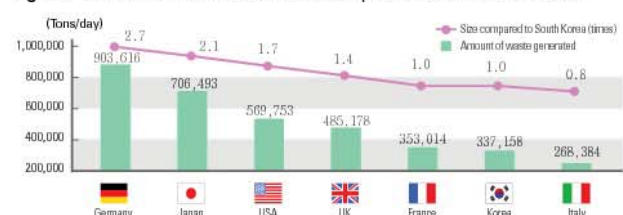
Table 13.2 Emission of Air Pollutants (1,000 tons/year)

	CO	NO _x	SO _x	PM10	VOC
2000	901	1,123	491	62	707
2005	789	1,307	408	67	756
2006	830	1,275	446	65	794
2007	809	1,188	403	98	875
2008	704	1,045	418	111	858
2009	846	1,062	419	124	852

Note: Not inclusive of flying dust particles or biogenic emissions.

Source: National Institute of Environmental Research

Fig 13.1 Amount of Waste Generated - Comparison with OECD Countries



Note: 1) Ref. OECD Compendium 2004.

2) Figures in () refer to the size compared to South Korea (times).

Source: Ministry of Environment, e-National Indicators



Suncheon Bay, a richly-diverse ecological system, provides a nesting place for a variety of marine life.

Amount of Waste Generated

The amount of waste generated on a daily basis has been on the increase since 1998. Construction waste decreased in 2005 under the impact of recession in the housing sector and the decrease in the number of construction projects, but turned around to increase in 2006. It rose to 178,100 tons/day in 2010, accounting for 48.8% of the entire daily waste generated. Industrial waste, which accounted for 37.8% of the entire waste generated, stood at 137,900 tons/day, a 11.6% year-on-year increase, in 2010. Household waste, which recorded a slight decrease for a few years from 2003, recorded to 49,200 tons/day in 2010, accounting for 13.5% of the total waste. The amount of per-capita household waste generated on a daily basis remains at a stable level supposedly through the pay-by-the-bag system for collection of waste, despite enhancement of the level of income and an increase in consumption.

Environmentally-Friendly Products

Concerted efforts for environmentally-friendly production and consumption will help reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, which will improve the situation related to climatic changes. Development of environmentally-friendly technologies can enhance national competitiveness, including that of individual businesses.

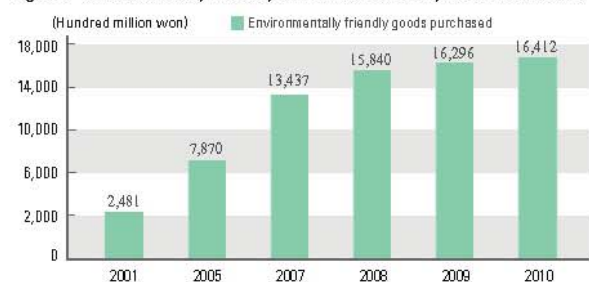
The country is pushing ahead with a policy for distribution of environmentally-friendly goods that contribute towards the saving of resources and the reduction of environmental pollution in terms of production, consumption and scrapping. Looking at public institutions' purchase of environmentally-friendly goods, the growth rate in the purchase of such goods remained at the level of 74% in the 2000-2004 period. This figure increased noticeably in 2005 when a law was passed making it obligatory that public institutions should purchase environmentally-friendly goods.

With the inclusion of PCs, printers and copiers in the purchase list of environmentally-friendly goods, purchases of such goods by public institutions increased greatly from 209.9 billion won in 2002 to 1,641.2 billion won in 2010.

The purchases of environment-friendly products showed a continuing upward trend, which was attributable to the law enforcement concerning the obligatory purchases of environment-friendly products by public institutions, purchase guidelines and training, and green growth-related government policy.

Countries, such as Japan, China and the EU adopt a similar system. As for public institutions in Japan, about 90% of their entire purchases are environmentally-friendly goods. The Korean government plans to raise the percentage of environmentally-friendly goods purchased by public institutions through the obligatory purchase system of environment-friendly products by public institutions.

Fig 13.2 Environmentally-Friendly Goods Purchased by Public Institutions



Source: Ministry of Environment, e-National Indicators



An Understanding of Pre-primary and Primary Education in South Korea

Written by Park Jong Hyo (Konkuk University)

South Korea's education is renowned all around the world for its excellence: Many developing countries strive to benchmark its systems. It also contributes to the economic development and the national brand of the country. South Korea's educational system is structured such that students start primary learning at age 6, undergo 6 years of elementary school, 3 years of middle school, 3 years of high school, and 2 or 4 years of college.

This article introduces pre-primary and primary education, which are fundamental parts of the Korean system. In South Korea, elementary and middle school education is compulsory. In addition, the recent adoption of the "Universal (Nuri) Education Curriculum" for all five-year-old pre-school children implies not only an expansion of the scope of mandatory education but also a determination to maintain a certain level of excellence through closely managing the quality of pre-school education.

1. Pre-primary Education

Two types of institutions are responsible for South Korea's pre-primary education. Kindergartens are the first type, and are overseen by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology as institutes of education. There are both public and private kindergartens.

Childcare facilities are the second type, overseen by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, as institutes of care and protection which take various forms ranging from public facilities to those built into the workplace, parental co-ops, and private households.

Since the statistical sources and methods are different, this overview shall focus primarily mostly on kindergartens as they are researched in the same way as elementary schools.

1.1 Number of Schools and Students in Kindergarten

As of 2011, there were 8,424 kindergartens in South Korea, comprising 564,834 students and 38,622 teachers. This figure includes 3 national, 4,499 public, and 3,922 private kindergartens. In 1970, the total number of kindergartens was at 484, and in 1985, the figure increased greatly to 6,242. Having reached its peak in 1995 at 8,960, the figure remains stable at around 8,400 to this day.

The number of children attending kindergarten has risen steadily from 22,271 in 1970 to the current figure of 564,834. In a similar fashion to student numbers, the number of kindergarten teachers rose steadily from 1,660 in 1970. As of 2011, there were a total of 38,622 people teaching at kindergartens.

The type of kindergarten usually depends on the area in which it is located. For example, kindergartens in large cities—of which there are 2,467—are most likely to be private (74.2% with 1,830 private kindergartens) while kindergartens in small- and medium-sized cities (2,940) have an equally likelihood of being private or public. Those in the countryside (2,624) or on islands and in remote areas (393) have a strong tendency to be public (80.9% and 98.0% respectively).

1.2 Enrollment Rate at Kindergartens

As of 2011, only 564,834 out of a total of 1,301,808 children of kindergarten-attending age (3-5 years of age), or 43.4%, actually attend kindergarten. The percentage of children from 0-6 years of age who actually attend childcare facilities is 39.9%. While it is hard to make a direct comparison, if we limit the scope to children of kindergarten-attending age, it can be said that approximately 70% of children attend kindergarten or some kind of childcare facility before entering elementary school.

As of 2009, the educational attendance rate was 32.3% for children of 3-4 years of age, which is significantly lower than the OECD average of 70.1%. Only children in full-day programs were counted. In configuring the attendance rate for children of less than 4 years of age, childcare facilities were

Fig. 1 Number of Kindergartens



Fig. 2 Number of Students in Kindergarten

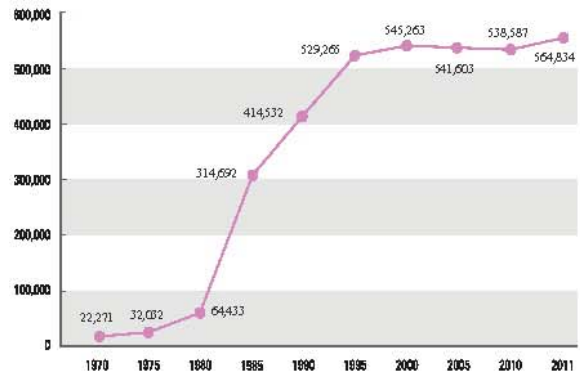


Fig. 3 Number of Teachers at Kindergartens

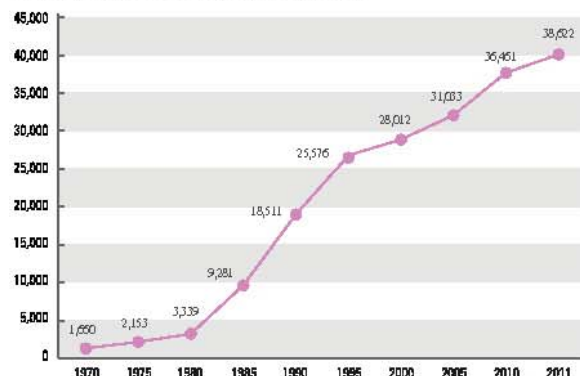


Fig. 4 Enrollment Rate at Kindergartens (2009)



excluded and only kindergartens were considered. A more accurate attendance rate, which includes childcare facilities, will be calculated soon.

1.3 Educational Programs

From 2005 to the present, while the number of children in half-day or after-hours programs has rapidly declined, the figure for those in all-day programs has increased dramatically. Today, two out of three children attending kindergarten participate in all-day programs.

1.4 Class Size and Teacher-Student Ratio

Currently, the number of children per class in kindergartens is 20.9. In national and public kindergartens, the class size is at 16.0 and 17.3 respectively, while class sizes are larger in private kindergartens at 22.3 children per class. The number of students per kindergarten teacher is at 17.5, more than 3 units higher than the OECD average of 14.3. The difference is even more significantly pronounced compared to other highly developed countries, thus suggesting the need to reduce the student-to-teacher ratio.

1.5 Teacher Characteristics

The quality of Korean kindergarten teachers is quite high according to global standards. In terms of the education levels of kindergarten teachers, in 2011, 13,973 teachers (comprising 36.1%) out of 38,622 kindergarten teachers came from four-year colleges, followed by three-year-college graduates (11,907, 30.3%), two-year-college graduates (7,502, 18.8%), and M.A. graduates (5,429, 14.0%).

In terms of experience, most teachers had under 5 years of experience (18,995, 49.0%) or 5-10 years of experience (8,380, 21.7%). For 10-35 years of experience, the figures decreased dramatically. National and public kindergartens had a large percentage of teachers with 5-10 years of experience (2,069, 22.4%) and 20-25 years of experience (2,131, 23.1%), while most teachers in private kindergartens had under 5 years of experience (17,689, 60.1%).

Part of the reason for this difference could be that national and public kindergarten teachers are acknowledged as educational civil servants and so have a lower rate of job change and resignation. Therefore, while the average age of kindergarten teachers (out of 38,662) is rather low with many teachers being under 24 (10,212, 26.4%) and 25-29 (10,657, 27.6%), public kindergarten teachers (out of 9,221) tend to be higher in age, many being 40-44 (1,897, 20.6%) or 45-49 (2,277, 24.7%) years of age.

Fig. 5 Numbers of Students Attending Kindergarten Programs



Fig. 6 Student-to-Teacher Ratio in Kindergartens (2006)

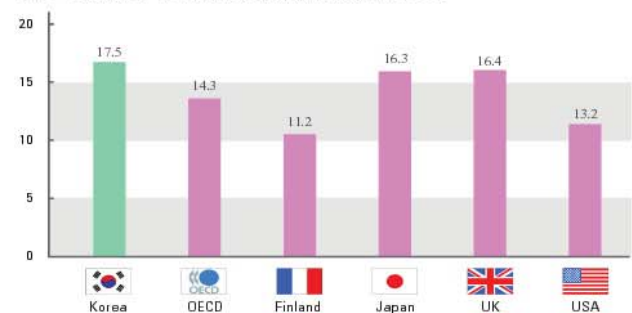


Fig. 7 Educational Level of Kindergarten Teachers (2011)

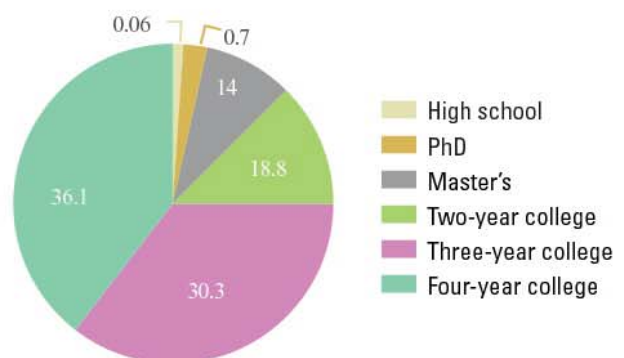


Fig. 8 Teaching Experience of Kindergarten Teachers (2011)

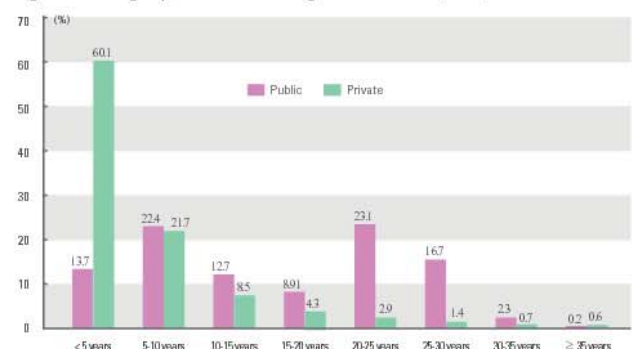


Fig. 9 Educational Expenditure per Student in Kindergarten by Country (2008)



Fig. 10 Number of Schools Offering Primary Education



Fig. 11 Number of Students in Primary Education



Fig. 12 Number of Teachers in Primary Education



A class at a kindergarten

1.6 Annual Educational Expenditure per Student

According to OECD Educational Statistics, the amount of public funding per child (of pre-primary age) is at 4,821 USD (based on purchasing power parity, PPP), a significantly lower number than the OECD average of 6,210 USD.

2. Primary School

2.1 Number of Schools and Students

As of 2011, there are 5,822 elementary schools in South Korea comprising 3,132,477 students and 180,623 teachers. Elementary schools can be categorized into national, public, and private schools. There are 17 national elementary schools (0.3%), and the overwhelming majority of these schools are public. There are a total of 76 private elementary schools, which include those religiously-affiliated (54.4%) and others which are secular (45.6%).

As of 2011, 1.3% of these schools were private, teaching 1.4% of all elementary school students. The rest were public elementary schools. In terms of size, small-sized schools (with less than 100 students) were most frequent in the countryside, while large- and medium-scale schools were most often located in small and large cities.

The number of students attending elementary schools decreased from 5,749,301 in 1970 to 4,856,752 in 1985, and 3,905,163 in 1995. As of 2011, the figure has fallen to 3,132,477, and is expected to continue to decrease due to low birth rates. On the other hand, the number of elementary school teachers has steadily increased from 101,095 in 1970 to 140,000 in 2000 to the current figure of 180,623. The government aims to continue increasing the number of elementary school teachers so as to match OECD standards in student-to-teacher ratio.



An English class taught by a native speaker



Elementary students are romping around merrily.



A scientific experiment class for elementary school students

2.2 Entry, Graduation, and Dropout Rate

The age of entrance for elementary schools is 6, but there are some students who enter at age 5 or age 7. As of 2011, the ratio of children who entered at age 6 became greatly higher (98.4%) as opposed to the ratio of those who entered at age 5 (1.0%) or age 7 (0.5%). The entrance and graduation rates for elementary schools have remained stable at 98-99% from 2005 to 2011. While the 2006 graduation rate of 103.3% needs some verification, it might possibly be due to the inclusion of students who did not graduate the year before.

A total of 18,836 students ceased their studies in 2010, comprising 0.6% of all students. The number of students who dropped out increased steadily from 2004 onwards. It slightly decreased from 2006 to 2009 and rose again in 2010. The reasons for dropping out are diverse: They include family moves or study-abroad.

In 2010, 8,795 primary school students opted to study abroad, which means that for every 10,000 students, 26.7 left to study abroad—a decrease from 2006, when the figure was at 35.2 per 10,000 students. Since 2007, the number of students who live abroad for less than 2 years has steadily declined, while the number of those who live abroad for more than two years is increasing.

2.3 Class Size and Student-to-Teacher Ratio

The number of students per class is currently at 25.5 as of 2011. This figure has steadily declined ever since the 1990s, from 41.4 in 1990, 35.8 in 2000, 31.8 in 2005 and 26.6 in 2010. The student-to-teacher ratio was 35.6 in 1990, 28.2 in 1995, 28.7 in 2000, decreasing to 25.1 in 2005 and 18.7 in 2010, and, as of 2011, it had fallen to 17.3.

Fig. 13 Enrollment and Graduation Rate in Primary Education

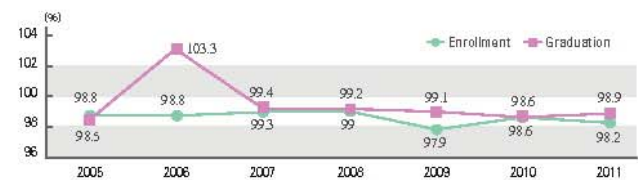


Fig. 14 Dropout Rate of Primary School Students

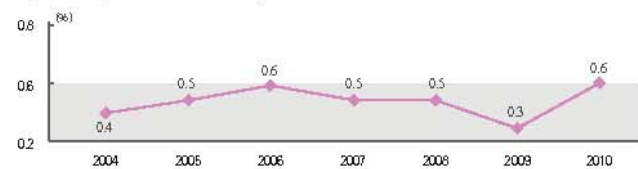


Fig. 15 Students Studying Abroad by Period of Stay

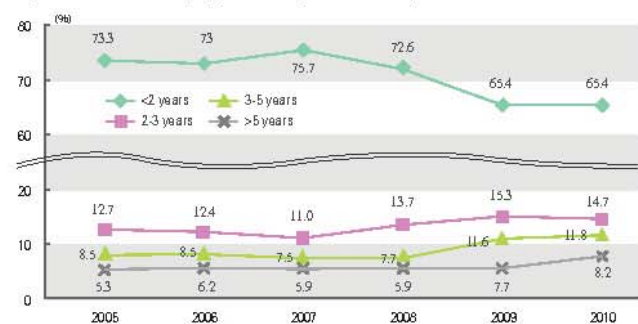


Fig. 16 Class Size and Student-to-Teacher Ratio in Primary Education

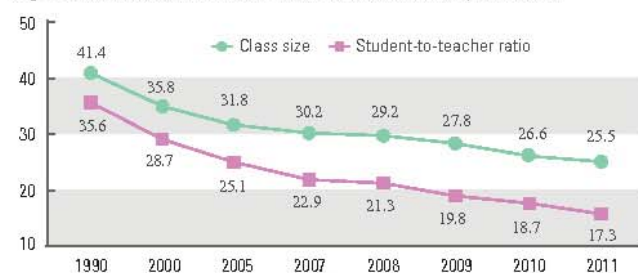


Fig. 17 Weekly Teaching Hours per Teacher in Primary Education

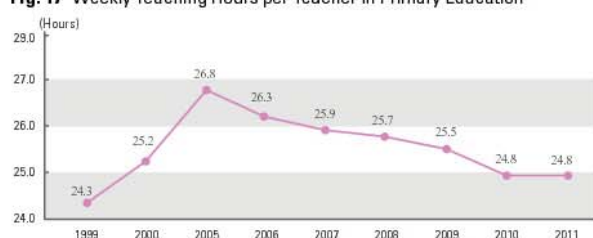


Fig. 18 Teaching and Working Hours of Primary School Teachers (2009)

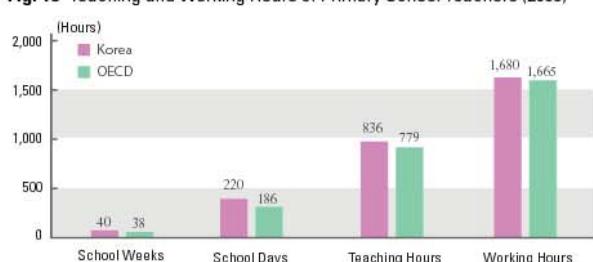


Fig. 19 Compulsory Instruction Time in Primary School (2009)

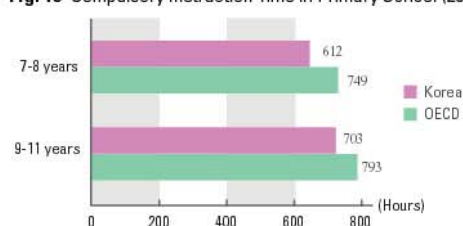


Fig. 20 Instruction Time per Subject for 9- to 11-year-olds (2009)

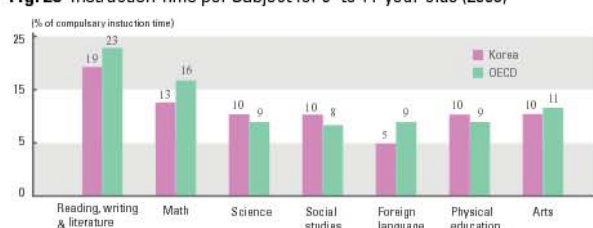
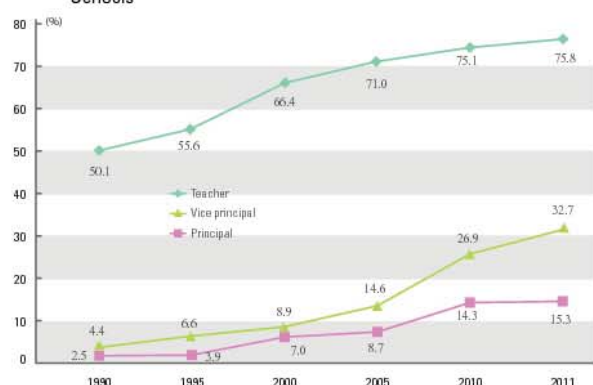


Fig. 21 Ratio of Female Teachers, Vice Principals, Principals in Primary Schools



2.4 Teaching Hours of Primary School Teachers

The number of teaching hours per week was 24.8 in 2011—a figure which had been continuously rising from 1999 to 2009, but which began declining in 2010.

In large cities, it was lowest at 24.3 hours, while, in small cities and the countryside, the figure was 25.9 hours. The average teaching hours per week is currently at 24.8 hours, longer than that of middle schools (19.7) and high schools (17.4).

Korean primary schools offer 40 weeks of classes and 220 days of school, while the OECD average is 38 weeks and 186 days. Furthermore, the total number of class hours is 836 hours, significantly higher than the OECD average of 779, while the mandated number of working hours was 1,680 in Korea, as opposed to the OECD average of 1,665 hours.

2.5 Compulsory Instruction Time of Students in Primary School

As of 2009, the number of required class hours for Korean students age 7-8 was 612, which is significantly lower than the OECD average of 749 hours. Similarly, the number of required class hours for those age 9-11 in South Korea was 703—a figure lower than the OECD average of 793 hours.

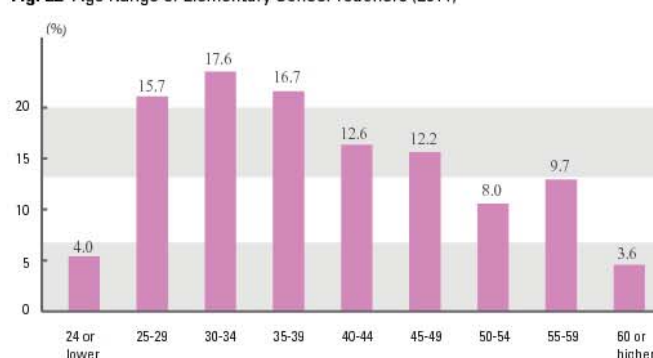
In terms of subjects of instruction, among OECD member countries, on average, language arts, math, and science take up about 48% of the curriculum in the later years of elementary education. This figure is lower in South Korea, while the weight given to science, social sciences, and art exceeds OECD averages.

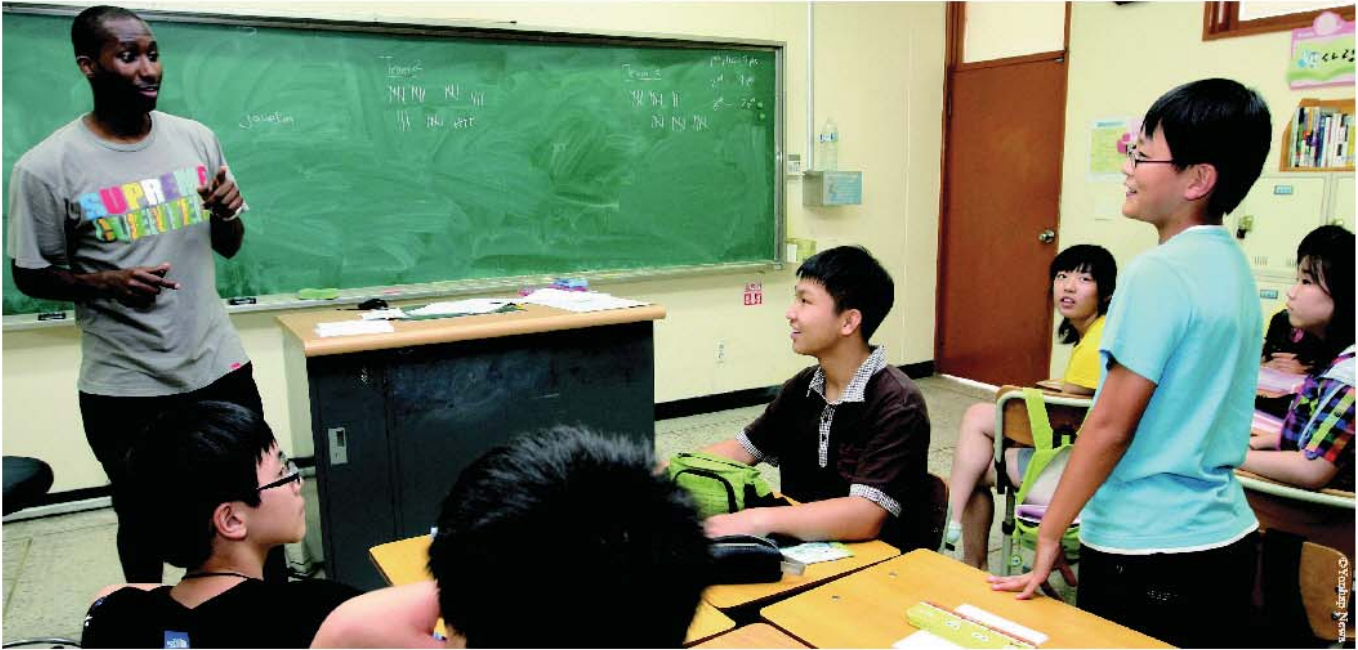
2.6 Teacher Characteristics

The rate of female teachers was 50.1% in 1990, 66.4% in 2000, and 71.0% in 2005. As of 2011, the rate is 75.8%, which means that there are three times as many female teachers as there are male teachers. This is a high rate, compared to that of middle schools (66.8%) or high schools (46.2%). Furthermore, rate of females taking such administrative roles as vice principal has greatly increased from 4.4% in 1990, 8.9% in 2000, and 32.7% in 2011. This is a high rate, especially in comparison with those of middle schools (25.7%) and high schools (8.5%).

The average age for teachers at the beginning of their careers was 32.1 for males and 31.4 for females in public schools, and 32.1

Fig. 22 Age Range of Elementary School Teachers (2011)





A foreign language class taught by a native speaker

for males and 30.2 for females in private schools. A majority of these new teachers (83.1%) came from Universities of Education specialized in training elementary school teachers while only 5.3% came from departments of education in other colleges.

The age range in which elementary school faculty most often fall is 30-34 years at 17.6%, followed by 35-39 years at 16.7%, and 25-29 years at 15.7%. Those aged over 40 take up 46.1% of the whole, signifying an increase in the average age of school faculty.

In terms of years of experience, the percentage of those with less than a year was the lowest at 4.5%, followed by 13.0% for those with 1-5 years, 18.2% for those with 5-10. Those with 10-15 years of experience were most common at 19.8%. Those with 20-30 years were 18.6% of the whole, while those with 30-40 years and more than 40 years were 13.8% and 2.1% of the whole respectively.

The ratio of temporary faculty has continued to rise since 1990, and in 2011, it rose greatly from 0.2% to 4.7%, although that percentage of temporary elementary school teachers, at 4.7%, is a significantly lower rate than that of middle school (11.5%) and high school (11.1%). The increasing proportion of temporary teachers reflects the government's attempt to reduce student-to-teacher ratio within limited budget

English native-speaking instructors were placed in 49.6% of all schools in small and medium sized cities, 20.4% of countryside schools, 17.4% of large city schools, and 10.7% of island-area schools.

Fig. 23 Teaching Experience of Elementary School Teachers (2011)

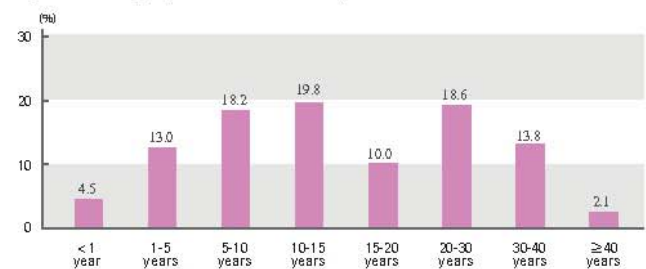


Fig. 24 Temporary Teacher Ratio in Primary School

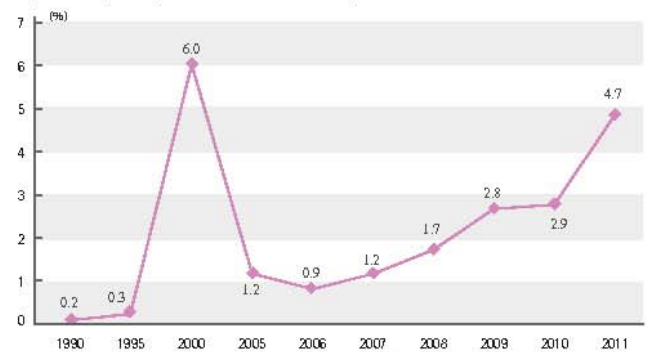


Fig. 25 Placement of Native-Speaking Instructors in Primary School (2011)

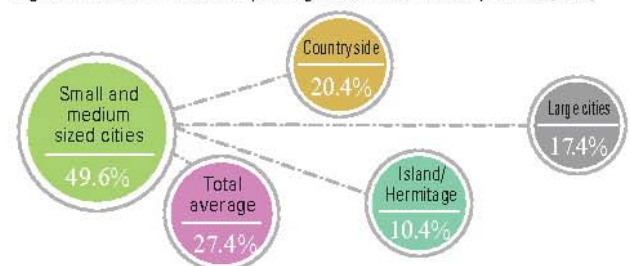


Fig. 26 Annual Teacher's Salary in Primary Education (2009)



Fig. 27 Annual Expenditure per Student in Primary Schools by Country (2008)

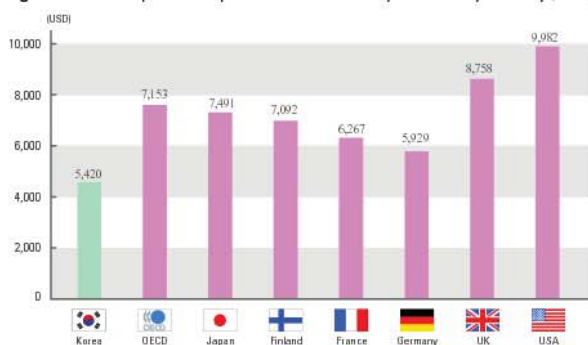
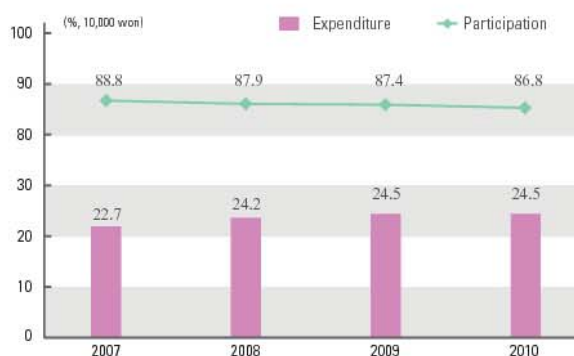


Fig. 28 Participation Rate and Expenditure for Private Education in Primary Students



2.7 Teachers' Salaries

As of 2009, according to dollar-based PPP conversions, the starting wages of public elementary school teachers were similar to the OECD average, but wages after 15 years of experience were higher, while the highest possible annual wages for elementary school teachers greatly exceeded the OECD average.

2.8 Educational Expenditure per Student

In 2010, educational expenditure per elementary student was 6,372,000 Korean won, including private expenditure. It was lower than the figures 6,431,000 won and 8,449,000 Korean won for middle and high school students respectively. Even excluding private expenditure, the figure is 5,741,000 Korean won per student, as opposed to 5,804,000 and 7,303,000 Korean won for middle and high school students respectively.

As of 2008, the average public spending on education per student was lower than the OECD average at all academic levels. Annual expenditure by primary school per student was 5,420 USD (converted using PPP), lower than the OECD average (USD PPP 7,153). (The PPP exchange rate in 2008 was 785.72 Korean won per 1 USD.)

2.9 Private Expenditure for Private Education

Another characteristic of Korean elementary education is private education. Private education is the use of educational providers outside of school, particularly from the private sector. It is reported that in 71.7% of all students participated in private education, with the rate for elementary school students standing especially high at 86.8%. On average, each student spent about \$210 (245,000 Korean won) per month on private education.

The participation rate and expenses of private education corresponded with the students' family income levels. Simply put, the higher the household income level, the higher the average monthly expenditures per student and the participation rate. For example, 85.3% of all students from families earning more than 7 million won per month participated in private education, spending an average of 440,000 Korean won each month. Meanwhile, only 35.3% of students from families earning less than 1 million won per month participated in private education, spending an average of 68,000 Korean won each month.

In order to alleviate the apparent socioeconomic divide in private education as well as to provide a healthy substitute, the government has been implementing government-organized supplements to the regular school curriculum. One of such examples is the after-school programs. After-school programs were first piloted in experimental cases in 2005 and then gradually spread on a national level in 2007 and 2008. The content of these programs ranges from supplements to the regular curriculum to leisure-oriented activities, taught either by school faculty members or outside lecturers. The participation rate has grown steadily since its implementation and in 2011, about 50.4% of all elementary school students made use of the system, a rate that is a little lower than the national average (56.6%).



A Concise Outline of Old Korean Literature

Written by Lim Chi-kyun (The Academy of Korean Studies)

1. The Concept of Korean Literature

How can we define Korean literature? This question comes first among a handful of inquiries that are raised when we discuss Korean literature. One of the most universal answers is that Korean literature refers to “the body of literature that is written in Korean language by a Korean and exposes the sentiments and cultures of Korea.” While one could anticipate dissent arising from any attempt at definition, this definition is nevertheless convincing.

When it comes to ancient Korean literature, however, the criterion of Korean language should be given less weight. As a sizable volume of ancient Korean literature was recorded in Chinese letters, or *hanja*, it would be hard to classify literature written in Chinese characters as Korean literature if we just follow the above definition.

As a matter of fact, there have been controversies over whether to see it as Korean literature or not. But we must take into account the special circumstances of the medieval period

when ancient Korean literature was produced. Korea, in the medieval period, shared a common bloc of civilization centering around old China, with Chinese characters as the common linguistic and cultural element between the East Asian nations. Accordingly, the Korean people of that period regarded Chinese letters as a language of their own. What is especially noteworthy was the way Chinese letters were pronounced in old Korea. Korean ancestors had their own way of pronouncing Chinese letters, which were perfectly adapted into the Korean-style characters. It is on this ground that we can regard the Chinese-character literary works of ancient Korea as Korean literature.

In contemporary Korean literature, there is no such problem of language. No common cultural or linguistic sphere currently exists in East Asia, and hangeul, or the Korean alphabet, has a monopolistic position in every sector of Korean society.

A study of this limited length cannot offer a comprehensive history of ancient Korean literature. For this reason, I will offer plain and general explanations of old Korean literature with greater focus on the major literary genres in each period.

2. The Foundation Myth of Korea and Its Tradition

A myth is defined as a sacred narrative, or a story about gods. A myth can sustain its vitality only in a community whose members basically appreciate the story. A myth is a manifestation of a community whose members think they are superior to, and more sacred than, other communities.

While there is considerable diversity in myths, in Korea's case, the foundation myth is one of the most conspicuous elements of its myths. The foundation myth is a sacred narrative portraying a process whereby a mysterious figure builds a new nation.

Not a few Korean people have a common idea that they are the descendants of Dangun, the mythical founding father of ancient Korea. Such a consciousness is derived from the Dangun myth, the foundation myth of Old Joseon (or, Gojoseon), known as the first state of Korea. The contents of the myth are as follows:

Hwan-ung, the son of Hwan-in (the Heavenly King), often expressed his wish to govern the human world. Having recognized the desire of his son, Hwan-in gave Hwan-ung three heavenly seals, and commanded him to descend from heaven and rule over his people. With his three thousand loyal subjects, Hwan-ung descended from heaven and appeared under a sandalwood tree on the peak of Taebaek Mountain. He assumed the title of Hwan-ung Cheonwang (Hwan-ung the Heavenly King) and named the place Sin-si (the City of God). He led his ministers of wind, rain and clouds in teaching the people more than 360 useful arts, including agriculture, and he allotted life spans, illness, punishment, and good and evil.

At that time, there lived a bear and a tiger in the same cave. They prayed to Hwan-ung, the divine god, to be blessed with incarnation as human beings, which, they said, had been their long-cherished dream. The king gave them each a bunch of sacred mugwort and twenty cloves of garlic, saying that if they eat this holy food and do not see sunlight for one hundred days they will become human beings.

The bear and the tiger took the food and ate it. In twenty-one days the bear became a woman. But the tiger, who had disobeyed the king's instruction, remained in her original form. But the bear-woman could find no husband, so she always prayed under the sandalwood tree to be blessed with a child. Hwan-ung heard her prayers and married her. She conceived and bore a son who was called Dangun Wanggeom, the king of Sandalwood. Dangun set up his royal residence in Pyeongyang-seong and bestowed the name Joseon on his kingdom.¹

The symbol of sacred nature in the Dangun myth is found in its lineage. Dangun was born of the father of Heaven and the mother of Earth in terms of lineage. In other words, Dangun was endowed with the mysterious spirit of both Heaven and Earth.



Korean literature entered into a new phase with the invention of hangeul, or the Korean alphabet, by King Sejong the Great.

The divine nature of the lineage in the Dangun myth is also easily found in the later foundation myths such as *Dongmyeongwang Sinhwa* (Myth of King Dongmyeong, Goguryeo), *Pak Hyeokgeose Sinhwa* (Myth of King Pak Hyeokgeose, Silla), and *Kim Suro Sinhwa* (Myth of Kim Suro, Gaya). King Dongmyeong, the founder of Goguryeo, was born of Haemosu, the Heavenly father, and Lady Yuhwa, the mother of Earth. Pak Hyeokgeose and Kim Suro were all heavenly figures who had descended from Heaven.²

The people of the states governed by those figures from special lineages maintained that they had exclusive superiority over neighboring states, based on which a strong internal unity was formed. This is one of the major functions of the foundation myths.

Goryeo and Joseon created their own narratives similar to the national foundation myths: *Goryeo Segye* (Record of Goryeo) in Goryeo and *Yongbi-eocheon ga* (Songs of Flying Dragons) in Joseon. *Goryeo Segye* deals with the six generations of forefathers preceding Wang Geon, a.k.a. King Taejo of Goryeo. Wang Geon did not build Goryeo in a day, according to the book, but had long prepared for the project. *Goryeo Segye* also puts much emphasis on Wang Geon's lineage. According to the book, Hogeong, the ancestor preceding Wang Geon by six generations, becomes the husband of a guardian spirit of a mountain, and King Suzong of Tang China and a princess of the dragon king appear as the grandfather and grandmother of the Goryeo founder. Such a lineage invests Wang Geon's foundation of Goryeo with legitimacy. *Yongbi-eocheon ga* is in line with *Goryeo Segye* in that it eulogizes the historical achievements of the six generations of forefathers³ of the Joseon Dy-

nasty. *Songs of Flying Dragons* emphasizes that Joseon was by no means built easily but was founded under “the Heavenly mandate.”

Both Goryeo and Joseon were founded after destroying the preceding dynasties. Therefore, the two nations desperately wished to consolidate their legitimacy and publicize their superiority. That is the reason why their narratives are similar to the foundation myths.

What is noteworthy is that, of all the foundation myths, *Dongmyeong-wang Sinhwa* is the only narrative that tells of the difficulties and the struggles a ruler had in the process of founding a nation.

Jumong was born of the noble family of Haemosu, the lord of Heaven, and Lady Yuhwa, the daughter of Habaek. He was abandoned by King Geumwa of East Buyeo because Lady Yuhwa had born him in the form of an egg. But as animals took care of the egg, it was returned to Lady Yuhwa. After having been hatched from the egg, Jumong showed outstanding skills, especially in archery. Prince Daeso, a son of King Geumwa, was jealous of Jumong and asked Geumwa to assassinate him to prevent possible trouble in future. Geumwa did not listen to him and let Jumong be in charge of cleaning a stable. Jumong chose a fine horse for future use and starved it to make it look emaciated. Geumwa gave the horse to Jumong. When Daeso plotted to kill Jumong, Jumong rode on horseback and escaped from East Buyeo with his group. After having arrived in a land governed by Songyang, Jumong became victorious through displaying his outstanding archery, building a palace with rotten trees, and summoning floods and submerging a town, after which finally he founded Goguryeo.⁴

In this narrative, a figure—born from a mysterious lineage and endowed with tremendous talents from birth—is rescued after facing a near-death crisis, overcomes the crisis and finally gains victory in the end. It is composed of a narrative structure, which is the so-called “biography of a hero.” Such a narrative structure became a universal trend not only of the heroic fiction of later periods, like *Yu Chung-yeol jeon* (Story of Yu Chung-yeol), but also in the genre of the “new novel” (sin-oseol) of Korea in the early 20th century.⁵ This shows that a myth has exerted an influence on not only the spiritual world but also the literary world of the Korean people.

3. Korean Poetry

1) Ancient Poems

Before the establishment of literary genres in earnest in Korea, people sang what is now known as the ancient poems. Three ancient poems are still extant: *Gongmudoha ga* (Milord, Don't Cross the River); *Hwangjo ga* (Song of Orioles); and *Guji ga* (Song of Guji). The three poems share the common characteristic that they have background stories of their own in which each

song was sung.

Gongmudoha ga was written by Yeook based upon a song by the wife of a mad man with tangled gray hair.

Milord, don't cross the river,
Milord, after all, crosses it.
He falls into the river and dies.
What can I do for Milord?⁶

The accompanying episode of the song is as follows.

Gwangni Jago, a ferryman in Joseon, woke up early one morning and was pulling his boat to the river when he witnessed that a madman, with his gray hair tangled, was attempting to cross the river. His wife, following after her husband, asked him to stop crossing the river, but the husband sank under the water and finally was drowned. Taking up her musical instrument, the *gonghu*, and plucking it, she sang *Gongmudoha ga* whose melody was so mournful. After having sung the song, she jumped into the river and died. Upon returning home, Gwangni Jago told the song to his wife Yeook, who also took the *gonghu* and sang her song, plucking the harp. Everybody who heard the song wept and sobbed. Yeook taught the song to her neighbor-woman Yeoyong. Thus was born *Gonghuin* (A Melody for the Harp).⁷

What must be noted is the expression, “a ferryman in Joseon.” Joseon here refers to Old Joseon, the first state of Korea. But, the oldest records of the song can be found in *Qin Cao* (琴操, *Harp Music*) by Cai Yong (蔡邕, 133-192/ Later Han) and *Gujin Zhu* (古今注, *Annotations of Past and Present*) by Cui Bao (崔豹) compiled during the reign of King Huidi (惠帝, reigning 290-306) in West Jin — both in old China.

How was the song brought into China? During the Han Dynasty, China established the Han Commanderies in Old Joseon (108 B.C.). During that period, *Gongmudoha ga* was brought into China and was later transformed into the narrative music style of *yuefu* (樂府) played with the *gonghu*.

Such a theory may sound persuasive considering the content of the song, but it is hardly likely that a wife took up and played the *gonghu* during the urgent situation of her husband dying. It is assumed that, originally, she might have harbored a grudge or bore resentment against her husband who hadn't listened to her request not to cross the river. At first, supposedly, it was sung as a folk song and later was played with the accompaniment of the *gonghu*. The performance of the song by the old man's wife with the *gonghu* in the poem seems to suggest the situation of the music being played as a folk song with the *gonghu*. And it appears that Yeook composed the song into a musical piece performed with the *gonghu*. That Yeook taught the song to Yeoyong probably means that the song was transferred and passed down after it had been established as a piece of music.

Gongmudoha ga is a lyric poem that sings of death and



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2 ©The Academy of Korean Studies

- 1 The myth of Dangun, the founding father of Korea, is introduced in Samguk yusa (Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms).
- 2 Guji ga (Song of Turtles) is a song that tells the story of King Suro, a monarch of Dae Gaya.

parting in a period when myth was almost losing power.⁸ Although the man with gray hair is bizarre and mysterious, his death means that he had lost his mystical power.

Hwangjo ga is known as a song sung by King Yuri, the second monarch of Goguryeo.

Flutter, flutter, orioles,
Male and female, in pairs.
How lonely I am;
With whom shall I return?⁹

The song refers to the following episode:

In July during the third year of King Yuri's reign, the king built a palace as a dwelling place for leisure, and Queen Song died in October the same year. The king took two women as his second wives: Lady Hwa, the daughter of a man from Golcheon, and Lady Chi, a daughter of a Han Chinese parent. As the two were jealous of one another they quarreled to gain the favor of the king rather than getting along amicably. So the king ordered the establishment of two palaces in the eastern and western areas of the Yang valley for them to reside in separately. One day, the king went hunting on Mount Gi and did not return for seven days. Making the most of the chance, Lady Hwa scolded Lady Chi, saying, "How could you be so disrespectful although you are a mere daughter of a Han Chinese family?" Feeling humiliated and overwhelmed with sorrow, Lady Chi ran away in a hurry. Upon hearing the news, the king pursued Lady Chi on horseback, but she refused to come back, unable to calm herself down. Formerly, the king had taken a rest under a tree and happened to see a flock of orioles flying together. Being moved at the scene, he sang a song.¹⁰

Thus far, this song has long been interpreted as a lyric song that conveyed the king's sorrowful feelings of having lost his lover, Lady Chi, comparing them to the affection between a couple of orioles. But even at a glance, there is a part in the text that is hard to understand: "Formerly, the king..."

Considering the expression "Formerly, the king..." it is questionable whether the king sang the song yearning for Lady Chi. The word translated as "formerly" is used to refer to a point or period in time before the story of the two ladies, and thus the song had been sung before Lady Chi fled. Some argue from the record that Queen Song had died earlier, that it may have been her that King Yuri had yearned for.

Whatever the target of his yearning, the above story shows that *Hwangjo ga* has been established as a lyric song that sings of loneliness and yearning with orioles as the natural object.

Guji ga was sung as part of the myth of Kim Suro.

O turtle, O turtle.
Show your head!
If you do not,
We'll roast you and eat you.¹¹

This song was sung when a figure—fully determined to found a new nation and become a king—ordered nine chiefs and 200 to 300 people who had gathered at Mount Guji to dance and sing this song as they were digging a hole at the summit. Then a purple rope came from Heaven and touched the ground. On the site, they saw a golden box that contained six eggs. The eggs were hatched into children, one of whom became Suro, the king of Dae Gaya.¹²

Hae ga (The Song of the Sea) is worthy note together with *Guji ga*. People sung *Hae ga* on the advice of an old man when Lady Suro, the wife of Lord Sunjeong, was kidnapped by a dragon of the East Sea.

O turtle, turtle, release Suro!
How grave the sin of taking another's wife!
If you go against our will,
We'll catch you in a net, roast you and eat you.¹³

Though the contents are more specific, the basic line of the story is similar to Guji ga. Both songs are dedicated to greeting Suro and Lady Suro through singing. When people sang Hae ga, they tapped the ground of the waterfront with clubs, which was tantamount to the behavior of digging out earth at the summit of the mountain in Guji ga. It is presumed that Hae ga was sung at a private ritual after the end of the age of myths.

2) Hyangga

Hyangga were songs sung during the Silla Dynasty. The people of Silla believed that *hyangga* had a mysterious power. *Hyangga* contained a background story that tells of their origins. Probably *hyangga* were frequently created and enjoyed by the people of the Silla period, considering the record that the Silla people esteemed *hyangga* and regarded such songs as a means of pleasure. A total of 25 pieces of *hyangga* have been handed down until now: 14 pieces are recorded in *Samguk Yusa* (Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms) and the other 11 pieces in *Gyunyeo jeon* (Biography of Master Gyunyeo). The 11 pieces in *Gyunyeo jeon* were all written by Gyunyeo, a Buddhist monk of Goryeo. We, therefore, now have only 14 pieces of *hyangga* created in Silla.

Hyangga were written in Chinese characters in a system known as *hyangchal*. *Hyangchal* is a system of Chinese graphs which phonetically or semantically represents the sounds of the old Korean language. In general, nouns and stems borrowed the meanings of the Chinese letters, while postpositional particles and the endings of words borrowed the sounds. The songs were categorized as the poems of four lines, eight lines, and ten lines.

Now, let's examine the concrete aspects of *Seodongyo* (Song of Seodong or Song of Sōdong) and *Je Mangmae ga* (Requiem for the Dead Sister). *Seodongyo* is a four-line poem.

The verse is as follows:

Seon-hwa-gong-ju-ju-eun (善化公主主隱)
Ta-mil-ji-ga-ryang-chi-go (他密只嫁良置古)
Seo-dong-bang-eul (薯童房乙)
Ya-ui-myo-eul-po-gyeon-geo-yeo (夜矣卯乙抱遣去如)

Princess Sōnhwa,
After a secret affair,
Steals away at night,
With Sōdong in her arms.¹⁴

As *Seon-hwa-gong-ju* (Princess Seonhwa, or Princess Sōnhwa in the translated text) was a proper noun (a name), it is shown in Chinese letters. The word *ju* after *Seon-hwa-gong-ju* indicates the meaning ("the esteemed lady") of the Chinese letters, not the pronunciation. The word *eun* indicates the pronunciation, not the meaning, used as a subjective postposition of the

Korean language. As *hyangga* transcribed Korean language by borrowing Chinese letters, they are hard to interpret. Most Korean people in contemporary times find it difficult to precisely understand the transcription system of *hyangga*.

The song has the following episode.

A widow became intimate with a dragon in a southern pond and bore Seodong (Sōdong in the translated text), a peddler of yams. When Seodong heard that Princess Seonhwa had a beautiful countenance, he composed this song and let children sing it. As the rumor of the affair contained in the song reached the royal family of Silla, Seonhwa had to live in exile as punishment. Having waited for her, Seodong took her to Baekje and lived together with her. Seodong later became King Mu of Baekje.

The song is very simple, and tells of a simple episode and wish in a direct way, which is typical of the four-line *hyangga*.

In contrast, the ten-line "Je Mangmae ga" shows aesthetic, poetic development.

Saeng-sa-ro-eun (生死路隱)
Cha-ui-yu-ha-mi-cha-hil-i-gyeon (此矣有阿米次盼伊遣)
O-eun-geo-nae-yeo-sa-jil-do (吾隱去內如辭叱都)
Mo-yeo-un-gyeon-geo-nae-ni-jil-go (毛如云遣去內尼叱古)
Eo-nae-chu-chal-jo-eun-pung-mi (於內秋察早隱風未)
Cha-eui-pi-ui-pu-yang-nak-si-yeop-yeo (此矣彼矣浮良落尸葉如)
Il-deung-eun-chi-yang-chul-go (一等隱枝良出古)
Geo-no-eun-cheo-mo-song-ho-jeong (去奴隱處毛冬乎正)
A-ya-mi-ta-chal-yang-bong-ho-o (阿也彌陀利良逢乎吾)
Do-su-yang-dae-si-go-yeo (道修良待是古如)

On the hard road of life and death
That is near our land,
You went, afraid,
Without words.
We know not where we go,
Leaves blown, scattered,
Though fallen from the same tree,
By the first winds of autumn.
Ah, I will polish the path
Until I meet you in the Pure Land.¹⁵

Monk Wolmyeong sang the poem in memory of his deceased sister in a funeral service, when the wind blew abruptly and sent *noja-don* (paper money used for traveling expenses), an offering at the funeral ceremony, flying in a western direction. The song compares the inner sentiment of encountering the death of the author's younger sister, and of parting with her, with the natural objects of trees and leaves. Despite the fact it employs the mysterious metaphor of paper money being blown away by the wind, the song is evaluated as having elevated the lyric sentiment of *hyangga* by expressing the inner emotions through the medium of nature.

Table 1. The 14 Extant Hyangga of Silla

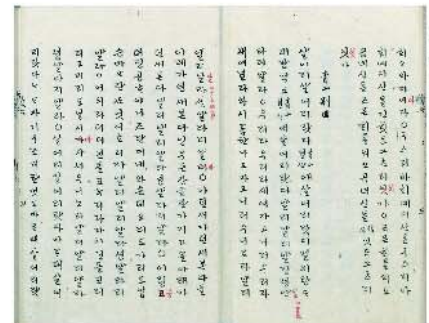
No.	Title	Author	Year	Style	Contents
1	Hyeseong ga (Song of a Comet)	Master Yungcheon	King Jinpyeong (579-631)	10-line song	This song cleared away a comet that had ominously appeared in the sky.
2	Seodongyo (Song of Seodong)	King Mu	King Jinpyeong	4-line song	See the main text.
3	Pungyo (Ode to Yangji)	Yangji	Queen Seondeok (632-646)	4-line song	When people built a grand Buddha statue, they received a divine revelation from the Buddha and sang this song.
4	Wonangsaeng ga (Prayer to Amitayus, or Infinite Life)	Wife of Gwangdeok	King Munmu (661-680)	10-line song	Gwangdeok is reincarnated in paradise, his friend Eomchang was infatuated with Gwangdeok's wife while practicing Buddhism but finally was reawakened.
5	Mo Jukjirang ga (Ode to Knight Jukji)	Deugo	King Hyoso (692-701)	10-line song	This was sung in memory of Knight Jukjirang who had an imposing appearance and a benevolent heart.
6	Heonhwa ga (Dedication of Flowers)	A certain old herdsman	King Seondeok (702-736)	4-line song	When Lady Suro asked for an azalea blooming on a cliff, an old herdsman climbed to the top, picked the flowers and dedicated them to her with this song.
7	Won ga (Regret)	Sin Chung	Third year of King Hyoseong (739)	8-line song (originally 10 lines) ¹⁶	Sin Chung wrote this song, feeling resentment against the king who hadn't fulfilled a promise. He stuck it to a nut tree and the tree soon withered.
8	Dosol ga (Dedication)	Master Wolmyeong	19 th year of King Gyeongdeok (760)	4-line song	When two suns appeared in the sky, people sang this song as they were scattering flowers on the ground. Then the phenomenon ended.
9	Je Mangmae ga (Requiem for the Dead Sister)	Master Wolmyeong	King Gyeongdeok (742-764)	10-line song	See the main text.
10	Chan Giparang ga (Ode to Knight Gipa)	Master Chungdam	King Gyeongdeok	10-line song	This song was written to praise Knight Gipa (Giparang).
11	Anmin ga (Statesmanship)	Master Chungdam	King Gyeongdeok	10-line song	A king visited a Buddhist monk he knew and asked him to write a song to pray for the peace and prosperity of the nation, and received this song.
12	Do Cheonsu Gwanum ga (Hymn to the Thousand-Eyed Bodhisattva Who Observes the Sounds of the World)	Huimyong	King Gyeongdeok	10-line song	The author, on behalf of her son who had lost his eyesight at age five, wrote this song and implored the image of the Thousand-Eyed Sound Observer, then the child opened his eyes.
13	Ujeok ga (Meeting with Bandits)	Master Yeongjae	King Wonseong (785-798)	10-line song	When the monk Yeongjae met thieves, he sang this song, which so moved them that they all became monks.
14	Cheoyong ga (Song of Cheoyong)	Cheoyong	Fifth Year of King Heongang (879)	8-line song	When Cheoyong was away, a demon of pestilence attacked his wife in her room at night. When Cheoyong witnessed the scene, he calmly sang this song, which so moved the demon that it went away.

3) Goryeo Sogyo (Goryeo Popular Songs)

Not a few pieces of poetry were known to have been produced in the Goryeo Dynasty. One of the noteworthy phenomena is that some songs, though originally based on folk songs, were sung as court music through revision and embellishment. Although they are known by different names, they are widely called Goryeo *sogyo* (Goryeo popular songs). Currently, they have been handed down in the form of *hangeul*, or the Korean alphabet. This is because they are recorded in *hangeul* in collections of songs—*Akhak guebeom* (*Canon of Music*), *Akjang gasa* (*Words for Songs and Music*), and *Siyonghyang akbo* (*Notations for Korean Music in Contemporary Use*)—all published during the Joseon Dynasty.

Among Goryeo's popular songs whose lyrics have remained intact are not only Samo gok (Song of Mother's Love), Gasiri (Will You Go), and Sangjeo ga (Song of the Pestle) which have the strong flavor of folk songs, but also Cheongsan byeolgok (Songs of Green Mountain), Seogyong byeolgok (Song of Pyeongyang), Dongdong (Ode to the Seasons), Jeongseok ga (Song of the Gong and Chimes), Ssanghwajeom (The Turkish Bakery), Man jeonchun byeolsa (Spring Overflows the Pavilion), and Isang gok (Treading on Frost)¹⁷. I will examine the characteristics of Goryeo's popular songs by introducing one of the major pieces in the genre.

Let's live, let's live,
 Let's live in the green mountain!
 With wild grapes and thyme,
 Let's live in the green mountain!
Yalli yalli yallasyeong yallari yalla
 Cry, cry, birds,
 You cry after you wake.



Cheongsan byeolgok (Songs of the Green Mountain) mainly deals with the sorrow and suffering of life.

I've more sorrow than you
And cry after I wake.
*Yalli yalli yallasyeong yallari yalla*¹⁸

"*Yalli yalli yallasyeong yallari yalla*" bears no special meaning, but it adds flavor to the songs. Such a refrain is one of the characteristics inherent in Goryeo popular songs. One line is generally composed of three meters, and four meaningful lines with one theme make a stanza.

The Confucian scholars of Joseon rejected this piece as "vulgar and obscene" literature or "pornographic" lyrics recounting a man and a woman seeking pleasure. As a matter of fact, not a few pieces of Goryeo popular songs deal with love between men and women. They seek love without fearing death. The typical text can be found in *Man jeonchun byeolsa*, whose first stanza says:

*Were I to build a bamboo hut on the ice,
Were I to die of cold with him on the ice,
Were I to build a bamboo hut on the ice,
Were I to die of cold with him on the ice,
O night, run slow, run slow, till our love is spent.*¹⁹

Considering the situation of the late Goryeo period and the banquet culture at court, the number of Goryeo popular songs would have been many more than the extant ones. Most of them, however, would have been destroyed during Joseon's process of rearranging the poetry of the previous dynasty. The existing Goryeo popular songs are those that have survived the crisis.

4) Sijo (A Three-Line Verse)

Sijo is a genre of poetry that appeared in the late Goryeo Dynasty and was popular in the Joseon Dynasty. The origin of *sijo* can be inferred from a reference to it by neo-Confucian scholar Yi Hwang. In *Dosan sibi-gok bal* (An Epilogue to the Twelve-circle Song of Dosan Mountain) Yi said that Chinese poems can be recited but cannot be sung. He wrote *Dosan sibi-gok* based on a belief that, in order to let the Korean people sing a poem, the text must be written in Korean language. *Sijo*, therefore, was created to express the inner sentiments of the people. In short, *sijo* was a popular song among the nobility, sung to a tune with lyrics written in Korean.

The number of *sijo* pieces comprises a lion's share of all the poems in the history of Korean literature. Besides, *sijo* is the only literary genre, among the classical poems, which has been sustaining life until today. The existence of *sijo* today is largely attributed to the *sijo* revival movement initiated by nationalists of Korea in the 1930s during the Japanese colonial period (1910-1945). In that period, the nationalists of Korea maintained that the Korean people under the Japanese rule should also seek what is really Korean even though it cannot be ignored that Korea's liberation from Japan was undoubtedly their top priority. They believed that *sijo* should be revitalized as it contains the essence of Korean culture.²⁰ *Sijo*, in contemporary

Neo-confucian scholar
Yi Hwang said that
poems should be written
in hangeul (the Korean
alphabet) in order to
be recited easily by the
Koreans.



times, however, remains a purely literary form, being devoid of the element of cantilation.

Sijo is composed of three lines (the first, the middle, and the last line) and each line is divided into four sections, or meters. This typical and general form is called *pyeong-sijo*, and a combination of two or more stanzas of *pyeong-sijo* piece under one title is called *yeon-sijo*. One section in a line of *pyeong-sijo* is generally composed of three to four syllables, but there is no strict principle. In the last line, however, the first section should necessarily be composed of three syllables and the second section, five or more syllables. For this reason, *sijo* has characteristics both as a verse with a fixed form and free verse.

*O-baek-nyeon do-eup-ji-reul pil-ma-ro dol-a-deu-ni
San-cheon-eun ui-gu-han-de in-geol-eun gan-de-eopta
Eo-jeu-beo tae-pyeong-nyeon-wol-i ggum-i-reo-ga ha-no-ra.*

I return on horseback to the capital of five hundred years.
Hills and rivers remain the same, but where are the great men
of the past?

Alas, the age of grand peace—it was only a dream!²¹

This piece of *sijo*, which portrays the collapse of Goryeo, was written by Gil Jae, an author of the later Goryeo Dynasty. The above-mentioned form of *sijo* can be understood when we read it. Especially, the first and the second parts of the third line begin with an exclamatory word (*Eo-jeu-beo*) and have an increased number of syllables (*tae-pyeong-nyeon-wol-i*), requiring rapid breathing. The exclamatory phrase combines the hitherto-accumulated sentiments into one. By increasing the number of syllables here, the author's emotions suddenly burst out. This is the part where the integration and the outburst of emotions are made. This is the charm that *sijo* exhibits.

Sijo was the literature of the nobility, who expressed their aesthetic sense within a framework of a neat and moderate pattern. They either sang of the scenic beauty of nature or forth-



Cantillation of sijo (a three-line verse) in a traditional Korean music performance

rightly portrayed the romantic feelings between man and woman. Other topics of sijo included loyalty to the monarch and the idea of education in social norms. In other words, sijo sang of almost all topics in life in general.

Other major forms of sijo included *eot-sijo* and *saseol-sijo*. In *eot-sijo*, a phrase is extended except for the first three syllables of the third line. In case of *saseol sijo*, two or more phrases are lengthened.

4. Classical Novels of Korea

Soseol (the Korean equivalent of a novel) is literally interpreted as a humble writing or narrative in Korean. *Soseol* in the Joseon period included miscellaneous writings like the chronicle of a town or diaries. It was not until the late 17th century that writings similar to today's novels started to make a sudden increase in circulation and the concept of novel began to be established as a new literary genre. At that time, works in the form of novels were called folk tales, tales of the town, or ancient narratives.

The classical novels of Korea developed in diverse forms, which can be broken down into *pilsa-bon* (transcribed forms), *banggak-bon* (engraved forms) and *gu-hwalja-bon* (old print-type forms).

Pilsa-bon (transcribed forms) refer to texts that have been written in calligraphy and circulated among individuals and family members. *Banggak-bon* (engraved forms) were originally engraved for commercial purposes, and examples include: *gyeongpan-bon* published in Seoul; *wanpan-bon* in Jeonju; and *anseongpan-bon* in Anseong. They circulated around the provincial regions, with the scope of circulation broader than that of *pilsa-bon*. *Gu-hwalja-bon* (old print-type forms) were introduced in the nation due to the import of new printing technologies from Japan during the late Joseon period.

Intellectuals of the Joseon Dynasty generally had a negative opinion of the novel, as they thought that classical novels

harmful social customs and hampered the practice of mind and body. Amid these circumstances, women emerged as the major readers of the classical novel, which produced such worries as "women are devoting themselves to reading novels rather than taking care of the household affairs" or "families are collapsing as women are more concerned about borrowing novels." Commercialization of the novel became accelerated during the late Joseon period. The influence of the female readers was so powerful that it prompted authors to write novels catering to the tastes of women.

Here are some major types of the classical novels of Korea.²²

1) Tales of Wonder (Chuanqi Fiction)

Tales of wonder, or *chuanqi* (傳奇) fiction in Chinese, as the nation's first novel genre, refer to a group of novels including *Geumo sinhwa* (New Stories from Gold Turtle Mountain) written by Kim Si-seup (1435-1493) in the 15th century.

As a literary genre, the tales of wonder are characterized by a unique style and a combination of lyric and narrative patterns. The style of the tales of wonder is characterized by sensuous and brilliant Chinese letters in a written form with much focus on atmosphere. They often show lyrical inclination and express poetic condensation and compression. They cherish rhetorical embellishments. Even though the tales of wonder revolve around a narrative story, they introduce not a few Chinese poems as major elements. The storylines of the tales of wonder are based on the combination of lyric and narrative elements. Based on these guidelines, the tales of wonder figuratively express the desires of the main characters in the form of encounters.

It may be true that the tales of wonder are comparatively unrealistic and fantastic in terms of contents. In *Geumo sinhwa*, "Manboksa jeopo gi" (Old Bachelor Yang Plays a Jeopo game with a Buddha of Ten Thousand Blessings Temple), "Yisaeng gyujang jeon" (Student Yi Peers over the Wall), and "Chwiyu bubyeok jeong gi" (Student Hong Plays a Floating Emerald Tower) deal with the encounters with the ghosts, while "Nam yeombuju ji" (Student Pak Visits the Underworld) and "Yong-gung buyeon rok" (Student Han Visits the Dragon Palace) deal with a journey to another world. For this reason, unrealistic and fantastic features are known to be the major elements of the tales of wonder, but such unrealistic and fantastic elements are rarely found in those novels written after the Hideyoshi invasion of Joseon (1592-1598), such as *Ju Saeng jeon* (Tale of Ju Hoe), *Choe Cheok jeon* (Tale of Choe Cheok), and *Wi Gyeong-cheon jeon* (Tale of Wi Gyeong-cheon). So, the unrealistic and fantastic elements can hardly be regarded as a definitive indicator of the tales of wonder.

Ju Saeng jeon, revolving around a love triangle, introduces a new type of main character who changes female partners in order to satisfy his own desire. In *Choe Cheok jeon*, the background is expanded further into China, Japan, and Annam. The novel is concerned with not only the main figure but also other neighboring figures, opening new realms and possibilities. Un-

yeongjeon (Tale of Unyeong) introduces an antagonistic figure, named Teuk, and deals with a journey in a dream.

Compared with the previous tales of wonder, these novels are lengthier. These novels expanded the boundary of narrative elements and subjects. These show the new changes in tales of wonder and at the same time imply the development of Korean novels from tales of wonder to new types of novels.

2) Grand Full-Length Fiction

Grand full-length fiction refers to a series of very lengthy novels that are presumed to have been germinated in the late 17th century or the early 18th century.

To begin with, these literary works were embroiled in a controversy over nationality. Lengthy novels such as *Wanwol-hoemaeng-yeon* (An Oath at a Banquet under the Moon), composed of 180 volumes in 180 books, raised doubts over whether it was possible for a Joseon author to write such voluminous works in the history of Korean literature. Early researchers attempted to prove that these are Korean works, on the basis of such references in grand full-length fiction as customs, old tales, proverbs, narratives, and regulations and systems. But critics had incessantly argued that they might have been translated or adapted from foreign literary pieces.

Such a controversy over nationality was to some extent settled after the Introduction of *Jeil gieon*, Hong Hui-bok's (1794-1859) translation of a Chinese novel *Jinghuayuan* (鏡花緣, *Flowers in the Mirror*), was discovered by Jeong Gyu-bok.²³ The translation introduced the list of the grand full-length novels written in Korean. On the other hand, some grand full-length fiction works now available, such as *Sibibong jeonhwangi* (Tale of Twelve Peaks), *Mumokwang-jeongchung rok* (Story of Loyalty), and *Jae Saeng-yeon jeon* (Story of Jae Saeng-yeon) turned out to be translations of Chinese novels. To sum it up, most grand full-length fiction works are classified as Korean literary works, but some works are presumed to have been translated or adapted.²⁴

A record was found that Lady Yi of the Yongin clan (1652-1712), the mother of Okso (pen name) Gwon Seop, transcribed a voluminous work of fiction *So Hyeon-seong rok* (Record of So Hyeon-seong), offering a clue about the period of grand full-length fiction's birth. As it was virtually impossible to transcribe a grand full-length fiction completely without having a lot of time, it is highly probable that Lady Yi of the aristocratic Yongin family might have transcribed *So Hyeon-seong rok* during her later years when she had plenty of time. From the perspective of the history of Korean novels, the grand full-length fiction is presumed to have been produced—to some extent—upon the basis of the Korea-language (Hangeul) novels. After the mid-17th century, the history of Korean novels witnessed *Han Gang-hyeon jeon* (Story of Han Gang-hyeon), *Sa-ssi nam jeong gi* (Records of Lady Sa's Journey South), *Changseon gamui rok* (Story of Loyalty and Filial Piety) and *Gunnmong* (Dream of Nine Clouds). Therefore, grand full-length fiction is presumed to have been germinated between the late 17th century and the

early 18th century at the earliest.

The recording of the categorization of *So Hyeon-seong rok* as a piece of voluminous fiction is a true reminder that there existed a recognition that such fiction was distinguished from other general novels. This can be found in a passage from Volume 6 of *Myeonghaeng jeongui rok* (Record of Upholding Righteousness, The Sequel to the Record of Repaying Gratitude), which says, "Other cases of handling major crimes are described precisely in the voluminous novel."

The characteristics of the grand full-length fiction are as follows:

First, as stated above, the works are very lengthy as exemplified by *Wanwol hoemaeng yeon* which is composed of 180 volumes and 180 books.

Second, the genre has, generally, a pattern of a sequence composed of a prequel and a sequel, which include *Yu Hyogong seonhaeng rok* (Record of Master Yu's Good Conduct) and *Yussi samdae rok* (Record of the Three Generations of Master Yu), *Seong hyeongong sukyeol gi* (Story of Master Seong and His Wife) and *Imssi samdae rok* (Record of the Three Generations of Master Im), *Ssangcheon gibong* (A Pair of Bracelets) and *Issi sedae rok* (Record of the Yi Family), *Boeun giu rok* (Record of Repaying Gratitude) and *Myeonghaeng jeongui rok*. Whether the writers of each sequence are the same or not, however, is still controversial.

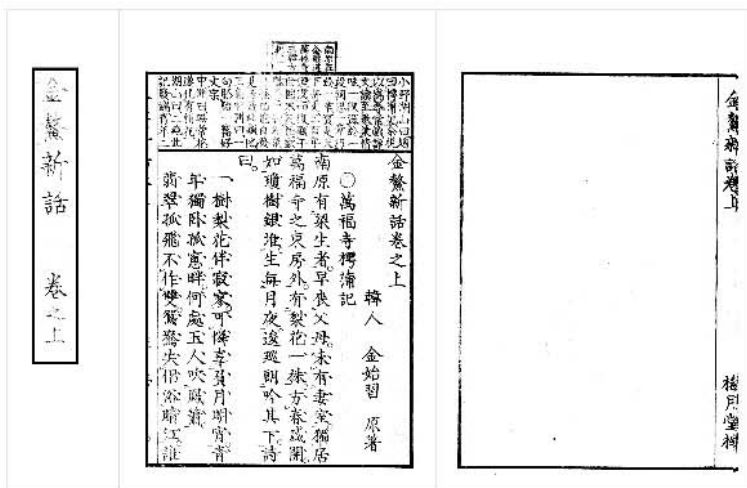
Third, grand full-length fiction generally deals with the prosperity of families as the main theme. Other subjects include: *Hwasan gibong* (Mysterious Encounter in Hwasan), a biography of a hero and *Okhwan gibong* (Mysterious Encounter Concerning a Jade Ring), a serious love affair between a man and woman against the backdrop of the rebuilding of a nation. In other words, the themes contained in grand full-length novels are highly diverse.

Fourth, there is a postscript at the end of the novel, in which the author is depicted as a person in the higher stratum of society. Such characterization in the postscript is mostly fictitious, but the records can be considered as ample grounds for concluding that these authors may have come from society's upper classes.

3) Heroic Fiction

In the late Joseon Dynasty, lots of novels dealt with the biography of the main characters who, born of a noble blood in a prominent family with the parents in advanced middle-age, suffer from ordeals, but overcome all difficulties and achieve victory after taking an active part in war. In short, they deal with heroes who attain their goals after going through wars. These novels were very much in vogue during that period. The number of works having survived is enormous, and many of them have alternative versions, attesting to the popularity of the genre. Of the still remaining classical novels, heroic fiction is categorized as a genre that mostly sought commercial success.

The oldest record related to heroic fiction was found in *Sangseo-gimun*. Written in 1794 by a Japanese interpreter at



Geumo sinhwa (New Stories from Gold Turtle Mountain) written by Kim Si-seup



Wanwol-hoemaeng-yeon (An Oath at a Banquet under the Moon), grand full-length fiction

Daemado, the book lists comparatively diverse forms of Korean works including *Jang Pung-un jeon* (Story of Jang Pung-un), *Gunnmong*, *Choe Hyeon jeon* (Story of Choe Hyeon), *Jang Bak jeon* (Story of Jang Bak), *Im janggun chungyeol jeon* (Story of General Im), *So Dae-seong jeon* (Story of So Dae-seong), *So Un jeon* (Story of So Un), *Choe Chung jeon* (Story of Choe Chung), and *Sukhyang jeon* (Story of Sukhyang). Of them, *Jang Pungun jeon*, *Jang Pak jeon*, *So Dae-seong jeon*, and *Choe Hyeon jeon* are heroic fiction.

It is hard to figure out exactly when heroic fiction appeared on the domestic literary scene. But it can be surmised that heroic fiction might have appeared since the mid-18th century considering several circumstances: 1) Grand full-length fictions like *Sa-ssi nam jeong gi*, *Gunnmong*, and *Changseon gamui rok* had already existed from the late 17th century to the early 18th century; 2) The environment for the popularity of commercialized novels such as the heroic novels and the war novels had already existed from the 18th century; 3) The records of the heroic novels generally appeared from the late 18th century to the early 19th century; and 4) A Chinese novel *Xue Renqui zhengdong* (薛仁貴征東, Tale of Xue Renqui), which was known to have exerted an influence on heroic fiction, was published in 1736.²⁵

What is noteworthy in heroic fiction is that the main characters are usually born of a mysterious blood lineage, which is already found in the foundation myth of ancient Korea. It was natural that the main characters of heroic fiction were born of a mysterious family since they were heroes in the fiction. The device of endowing the protagonists with the mysterious line of blood in heroic fiction can be found in taemong (or, a dream of the forthcoming conception of a baby).

The case below of a precognitive dream about the birth of a hero is not different in heroic fiction in general.

Between being asleep and awake, the lady saw that a child in red clothes had been coming slowly to the bedroom from

the southern sky then bowed to her two times, saying, "I've received a punishment for my crime in Heaven, so the Great Jade Emperor banished me into this mundane world. I have nowhere to go. As I have been hovering around without any destination, a guardian spirit of Mountain Namak informed me of your prestigious family, which led me to this place. Thus I bow down to the ground and cordially pray for you to accept me as a baby." Then the child suddenly entered into her bosom. The lady was startled at this and woke up to find that it had been a dream like an empty spring fantasy." (From *Jang Ik-seong jeon* (Story of Jang Ik-seong)).²⁶

This precognitive dream about the birth of a hero can be summed up in the following phrase: "My name is 'John Doe' (or 'Jane Doe'). I have been ostracized by Shuangdi (the Emperor of Heaven) and am at a loss as to where to go. Finally I have come here on the advice of another." This was a proper technique of identifying the main character born as a heavenly creature. By introducing the motif of a precognitive dream about the birth at the beginning of the novel, the story lets the readers have the expectation that the figure will do a great thing in the future. Of course, the heroes and military stories never fail to satisfy the expectations of the readers. The main character can overcome the harsh ordeal of facing death and then stand victorious after winning a war because they were already identified as having a mysterious lineage by the precognitive dream about their birth. The gender of the main character was typically a male. As time went on, however, some novels began to introduce female figures as protagonists as was seen in *Jeong Su-jeong jeon* (Story of Jeong Su-jeong) and *Hong Gye-wol jeon* (Story of Hong Gye-wol). Like the case of their preceding heroic fiction, they feature female protagonists who were born following their mothers' precognitive dreams before birth, suffer from hardships and finally become victorious during the war. One difference is that they disguise themselves in male attire when carrying out their

missions. Even in fiction, it was virtually impossible to expect the protagonists to perform such activities as females in the Joseon Dynasty when the distinction between male and female roles was strict.

Some of them outperform their husbands and often show little consideration for them, which is interpreted as having reflected the desire of the women who were living in male-dominated Joseon society.

4) Pansori Fiction

Pansori-style novels refer to a handful of the literary versions of *pansori* (traditional Korean narrative song-style music) that had been popular in the late Joseon Dynasty. The first record of *pansori* can be found in a long Chinese-character poem by Yu Jin-han. Yu composed it in 1754 in the 30th year of the reign of King Yeongjo when he saw the performance of *Chunhyang jeon* (Story of Chunhyang) on a market street. The piece was called *Manhwa-bon Chunhyang ga* (The Manhwa-version Song of Chunhyang). Manhwa is the pen name of Yu Jin-han. Based on his work, the *pansori* piece *Chunhyang ga* is presumed to have been almost completed by the year 1754. Scholars estimate that *pansori* would have emerged during the later period of King Sukjong (1674-1720).

Originally, there were 12 *pansori* pieces in existence: *Byeon Gangsoe ga* (Ballad of Byeon Gangsoe, a.k.a. *Hoengbu ga*, or *Garujigi taryeong*), *Baebijang taryeong* (Ballad of Subcommander Bae), *Ong gojip taryeong* (Ballad of the Miser Ong go-jip), *Maehwa taryeong* (Ballad of Maehwa), *Musugi taryeong* (Ballad of Musugi, a.k.a. *Walja taryeong*), *Jangkki taryeong* (Ballad of the Pheasant Cock), and *Gajja-sinseon taryeong* (Ballad of a Pseudo-Taoist Hermit), in addition to the still-performed *Chunhyang ga* (Song of Chunhyang), *Simcheong ga* (Song of Simcheong), *Sugung ga* (Song of the Rabbit and

the Turtle), *Heungbo ga* (Song of Heungbo), and *Jeokbyeok ga* (Song of Red Cliff). The so-called *pansori* novels refer to those that have been established as a literary form developed from *pansori* pieces for performance. These pieces usually evolved from a narrative into *pansori* and again into a novel, although there is an exception like the case of *Jeokbyeok ga* that evolved from the novel *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* to *pansori*, and again to a novel.

The novelization of *pansori* was attributed to a similarity between the two genres: *pansori* and novels. Although *pansori* has the elements of musical and dramatic elements, *pansori* basically revolves around a narrative. *Pansori* has a completely independent narrative system—a characteristic shared by novels.

Nevertheless, in terms of lexical usages and writing styles, however, *pansori* and the novels before the advent of *pansori* novels show lots of differences. *Pansori* novels are permeated with stylistic and lexical characteristics of *pansori* such as dialogues in the form of a direct speech, Jeolla province dialects, and dramatization of the scenes, all of which contribute to enlivening rhythmic features and the sense of location in *pansori* novels. As *pansori* features have spread through the novels, unprecedented techniques developed in the existing novels.

Pansori novels are categorized into two types: *pansori* novels with their corresponding *pansori* piece played as music and those with their corresponding *pansori* piece vanished. In case of the former, *pansori* novels flourished being boosted by the popularity of *pansori*, which would have resulted in the existence of various versions of *pansori* novels. Although it cannot be ignored that a diversity of alternate versions may have been closely concerned with commercialism, strictly speaking, commercialism has a direct correlation with popularity. *Pansori* as a performance art has to be on stage within the limitation of a certain time and a certain space. A novel, as reading material,



Pansori Sugung ga
(Song of the Rabbit and the Turtle)

however, is free from time and space. It is presumed that the readers of that period might have had a desire to experience the performance of pansori indirectly through reading novels.

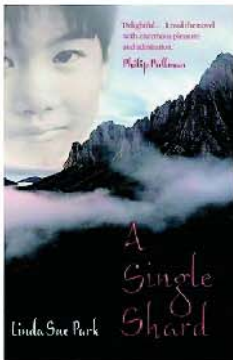
With regard to the latter case, pansori has remained in novel form as pansori gradually faded away from the public. Many reasons exist for the decline of pansori in the latter case, but some of them are noteworthy. First, the protagonists of

pansori are generally those with character flaws and faults so the aesthetic foundation is slanted to the comic beauty. Besides, pansori in the latter case is devoid of the development of individual contents. It began to sustain its tenacious vitality only after it had been established in the form of novels. As a result, *Ong gojip jeon* and *Jangkki jeon* gained enough unprecedented popularity to have more than ten different versions.²⁷

Translated by Sohn Tae-soo

1. This text is a paraphrase of the "Old Joseon" section of *Samguk yusa* (Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms). The original text is *Yeokju Samguk yusa* 1 (Annotated Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms 1), eds. In-gu Kang et al. (Ihoe, 2002), 140-141.
2. Pak Hyeokgeose and Kim Suro, both descendents from Heaven, marry women on Earth after having founded the nation. Compared with Dangun and King Dongmyeong, born of the heavenly father and the mother of Earth, these two are characterized as the type from a heavenly husband and earthly wife. This story exemplifies the difference between the myths of the northern area and the southern part of Korea. Ji-young Lee, *Hanguk sinhwa-ui singyeok yurae-e gwanhan yeongu* (A Study of the Origin of Divinity in the Myth of Korea), (Taehaksa, 1995).
3. The six generations of ancestors here refer to Mokjo, Ikjo, Dojo, Hwanjo, Taejo (Yi Seong-gye) and Taejong.
4. This text is a summary paraphrasing *Dongmyeongwang jeon* by Yi Gyu-bo.
5. Cho Dong-il says that *sin-oseol* (new novels) have the structure of the life story of heroes in myths. Dong-il Cho, *Sin-oseol-ui munhaksa-jeok seonggyeok* (Aspects of New Novels in the History of Korean Literature), (Seoul National University Press, 1973).
6. Peter H. Lee, ed., *A History of Korean Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), 64.
7. This text is the paraphrase of *Gujinzhu*. The original text was based on Gi-ok Song, "Gongmudoha ga yeongu" (A Study of *Gongmudoha ga*) (PhD diss., Seoul National University, 1988), 9.
8. This debate is based on "Gongmudoha ga yeongu" (A Study of *Gongmudoha ga*).
9. Peter H. Lee, ed., *A History of Korean Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), 65.
10. This text is a paraphrase of the "King Yuri" section of *Samguk sagi* (History of the Three Kingdoms). The original text is *Yeokju samguk sagi* 1 (Annotated History of the Three Kingdoms 1), eds., Gu-bok Jeong et al. (The Academy of Korean Studies, 1996), 148.
11. Peter H. Lee, ed., *A History of Korean Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), 62.
12. This text is a paraphrase of the *Garakguk-gi* section of *Yeokju Samguk yusa* 1 (Annotated Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms 1), eds. In-gu Kang et al. (Ihoe, 2002), 243-244.
13. Peter H. Lee, ed., *A History of Korean Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), 63.
14. Ibid., 71.
15. Ibid., 75.
16. *Won ga* originally had 10 lines, but the last two lines are missing.
17. This work is also seen as a piece written by Chae Hong-cheol. See Hak-seong Kim, "Goryeo sogyo-ran mueosinga?" (What is the Goryeo Popular Song?) in *Goryeo gayo akjang yeongu* (A Study of Goryeo gayo and Akjang), eds., Gukeogukmunhakhoe (Taehaksa, 1997), 13.
18. Peter H. Lee, ed., *A History of Korean Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), 108. These are the first two stanzas of the eight-stanza song "Cheongsan byeolgok."
19. Peter H. Lee, ed., *A History of Korean Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), 110.
20. Yun-sik Kim and Hyeon Kim, *Hanguk munhaksa* (A History of Korean Literature) (Minumsa, 1984), 154.
21. Peter H. Lee, ed., *The Columbia Anthology of Traditional Korean Poetry* (NY: Columbia University Press, 2002), 76.
22. The following text is the revision of the writer's article "Hanguk gojeon soseol-ui hawi-jangneui-wa yuhyeong" (The Sub-genres and Patterns of the Classical Korean Literature) in *Hanguk gojeon soseol-ui segye* (The World of the Classical Korean Literature), eds. Sang-tae Yi et al. (Dolbegae, 2005).
23. Gyu-bok Jeong, "Jeil gieon-e daehayeo" (About Jeil gieon), *Junggukhak nonchong* 1 (Papers in Chinese Studies 1), (1984), 79-80.
24. Meanwhile, *Taewon-ji* which had been known as a Chinese novel, turned out to be a Korean novel. Chi-kyun Lim, "Taewon-ji yeongu" (A Study of Taewon-ji), *Gojeon munhak yeongu* 35 (A Study of Classical Literature 35), (2009).
25. Ibid., 312.
26. The contemporary Korean language version, and the spacing of the words, of this novel were developed by the writer of this article.
27. The pansori part in this paper is based on two studies: Dong-cheol Lim, "Pansori-gye soseol-ui hyeongseong-gwa jeongae-yangsang" (The Formation and the Development of the Pansori Novel) (PhD diss., Chongju University, 1990); Jong-cheol Kim, *Pansori-ui jeongseo-wa mihak* (The Sentiment and the Aesthetics of Pansori), (Yuksabipyung-sa, 1996).

TEACHING with *A SINGLE SHARD*



GRADE LEVEL: 4-8

AUTHOR: Susan Jeffries

SUBJECT: Literature

TIME REQUIRED:

Eight to ten class periods

OBJECTIVES

1. Read and comprehend the book *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park.
2. Discuss the history of celadon and recreate a celadon vase.
3. Develop an understanding of the geography of Korea.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park

- Handout: Discussion Questions (attached)
- Map of Korea
- Clay or similar material for pottery making
- Paint and brushes
- Vocabulary Wall
- Pictures of celadon vases
- History source for celadon, such as Internet site: <http://www.koreainfogate.com>

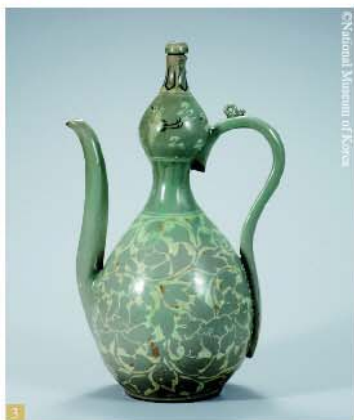
BACKGROUND

The teacher should read the book: *A Single Shard* and visit the Internet sites listed. The teacher should be familiar with a form of reading called “Readers’ Theater.” If not, the Internet is an excellent source of information.

Korea has achieved the widespread mastery of the ash glaze earthenware technique for making celadon. The elegant jade green color appears because of a special method of firing with reduced oxygen originated in Korea during the 11th century. Countries around the world admired celadon from Korea, and Korea potters perfected and enhanced their earthenware using various inlay and incision techniques through the 15th century.

GENERAL SYNOPSIS of *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park

Around the time of the creation of celadon—the 12th century—Tree-ear discovers his true calling...Tree-ear and Crane-man become a family, sharing their lives in a small village of Ch’ulp’o on the west coast of Korea. After accidentally breaking a clay box that belonged to Min, the finest master potter of all, Tree-ear becomes his apprentice to work off payment for the box. Eventually, Tree-ear takes two of Min’s best-inlaid vases on a long journey to the capital in hopes of a royal commission for the master potter. The journey proves rough. Upon arrival, only one single shard remains, but the exquisite work is evident and the commission is granted. Tree-ear returns home to a life without Crane-man and becomes a permanent part of Min’s family.



1 Celadon incense burner designed with seven treasures (Cheongjachilbotugak-hyangno), National Treasure No. 95

2 Celadon intaglio arabesque design ware (Cheongja-eumguk-yeonhwadangchomun-maehyeong), National Treasure No. 97

3 Celadon peony-vine design calabash-shape kettle (Cheongja moran-neongkulmunui jorongbak-moyang jujeonja), National Treasure No. 116

PROCEDURE

1. Bring to class a mushroom. If possible, bring the kind of mushroom that grows on tree trunks. Use the mushroom, to introduce the book *A Single Shard*. (Tree-ear was named after the mushroom that grows on tree trunks)
2. Have students read two chapters each day. Discuss chapters at the end of each class period, assigning study questions after the discussion. Create a Vocabulary Wall on which key words are written each day. Encourage students to check the Internet for related sites.
3. During the reading, locate different places on the map and have students mark these locations on their copies. Discuss the geography of Korea as the story unfolds.
4. During the reading, discuss the history and importance of the celadon. Display pictures of the celadon vases. Have students use modeling material to create a "celadon" vase and paint the vase when dry. Display vases.
5. After finishing the book, students will work in groups to create a "Readers' Theater" which is similar to a play but without props or movement. Students may create additional characters to expand the story. Students will perform their Readers' Theater for others.

EVALUATION

1. Informal questioning during class discussions. Students' understanding will be assessed through comments and answers during large and small group work.
2. The actual creation of the Readers' Theater with the participation of each student in its design and performance will be an evaluation tool.
3. The answers to the comprehension questions.
4. The creation of a "celadon" vase.
5. Student copy of Korean map with places correctly located.

ENRICHMENT

1. Read other books by Linda Sue Park.
2. Compare Korean celadon to pottery from other countries.
3. Become a television reporter and interview Tree-ear as the victim of crime.
4. Create a new ending to the story in which the single shard was not accepted as graciously as it was.

REFERENCES

- Park, Linda Sue. *A Single Shard*. New York: Clarion Books, 2001.
- "Koryo Celadon-Secret Color of Korea." Web Site: <http://www.koreainfogate.com/beautykorea/special/celadon.asp>
- "Geography of Korea." Web Site: http://www.koreainfogate.com/aboutkorea/item.asp?src=menu01_01

VOCABULARY FOR WORD WALL

1. Celadon
A type of ceramic pottery developed during the Koryo Dynasty in the ninth or tenth centuries in Korea. Celadon has a distinctive pale grayish green color.
2. Earthenware
The coarser sort of containers, tableware, etc., made of baked clay
3. Entourage
A group of associates or attendants
4. Harangue
A long, blustering, noisy or scolding speech
5. Impudent
Shamelessly bold or disrespectful; shameless
6. Inlaid
Set in pieces into a surface of another material so as to form a smooth surface
7. Insolence
Boldly disrespectful in speech or behavior
8. Jiggeh [chige]
An open-framed backpack made of branches.
9. Kiln
A furnace or oven for drying, burning, or baking something, as bricks, grain, or pottery
10. Paulownia
An Asiatic tree of the figwort family, with large, heart-shaped leaves and large, erect clusters of fragrant, violet flowers
11. Peninsula
A land area almost entirely surrounded by water and connected with the mainland by an isthmus
12. Scholar
A specialist in a particular branch of learning, especially in the humanities
13. Shard
A fragment or broken piece, especially of pottery; potsherd
14. Slip
Ceramics clay thinned to the consistency of cream for use in decorating or casting, or as a cement or coating
15. Spade
A heavy, flat bladed, long-handled tool used for digging by pressing the metal blade into the ground with the foot
16. Spoor
The track or trail of an animal, especially of a wild animal hunted as game
17. Surreptitiously
Acting in a secret, stealthy way
18. Terse
Free of extra words; short; concise
19. Trepidation
Fearful uncertainty; anxiety

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Note: Sample answers in italics.)

Chapter 1

1. Tree-ear made the decision to wait until the man losing the rice reached the bend in the road before he ran to catch him. Why did he wait?
Tree-ear would be able to pick up the fallen rice.
What would you have done if you had been in that situation?
Accept reasonable answers.
2. "Scholars read the great words of the world. But you and I must learn to read the world itself." (Page 7) What do these words mean?
Thinkers and readers can read and understand the world through the words in great books. Tree-ear and Crane-man, not having access to books, had to look at the world and figure out the mysteries of life and how the world works by themselves.

Chapter 2

- What was the punishment Min inflicted upon Tree-ear because of the misshapen pottery box?
Tree-ear would labor for Min for nine days. Was that a fair punishment? Explain. Accept reasonable answers.

Chapter 3

- Crane-man taught Tree-ear many things about the mountains on their walks there. What were some of the useful things he had taught him?
Which mushrooms were tasty and which were deadly; the birds by their songs; how a mountain lion's spoor was different from that of a deer; where the streams ran.

Chapter 4

- What were the steps in getting the clay ready for the potter?
1. *Cut the clay*
 2. *Dig a shallow hole and line it with grass cloth*
 3. *Shovel clay into pit.*
 4. *Mix clay with water.*
 5. *Stir repeatedly with wooden paddle until uniformly mixed.*
 6. *Scoop sludge and pour through sieve into another pit.*
 7. *Winnnow out pebble and other impurities.*
 8. *Leave clay a few days to settle.*
 9. *Take water off top.*
 10. *Test purified clay with fingers.*

Chapter 5

- How did Crane-man feel about taking the jacket from Tree-ear?
He knew it was a gift meant for Tree-ear and felt embarrassed to take it when Tree-ear should wear it.
Why do you think Crane-man felt that way?

He looked upon Tree-ear as a son and wanted his son to have the best. He had always provided for Tree-ear.

Chapter 6

If you were the emissary, whose work would you have chosen for royal commission? Why?

Accept reasonable answers.

Chapter 7

How did Min feel about Kang's work as a potter? How do you know?

Min felt that Kang was not a good potter. He had not gone to see Kang's work. He called Kang "that bumble-fingered excuse for a potter."

Chapter 8

What advice did Crane-man give to Tree-ear so that his body would not become tired before the journey to Songdo?

"Your mind knows that you are going to Songdo. But you must not tell your body. It must think one hill, one valley, and one day at a time. In that way, your spirit will not grow weary before you have even begun to walk." Do you think that was good advice? Explain. Accept reasonable answers.

Chapter 9

1. What took the joy out of Tree-ear's work?

The realization that he would never be allowed to make a pot because the work had to be passed from father to son and Tree-ear was an orphan.

2. Why did Ajima offer to feed Crane-man while Tree-ear was gone?

Tree-ear provided food for Crane-man, and he would be gone for a long time. Ajima probably felt sorry for Crane-man and grateful to Tree-ear for taking the pottery to Songdo.

Chapter 10

Why was Tree-ear so frightened of the fox?

He thought the fox would bewitch him and cause him to follow it to its lair; and, therefore, he would never see Crane-man again.

Chapter 11

Why did Tree-ear choose not to leap off the edge after the vases were broken?

He heard the voice of Crane-man saying that to leap was not the only way to show courage so he decided it took more courage to face Min. He had promised Ajima to return safely and Crane-man was waiting for him.

Chapter 12

1. How do you think Tree-ear felt when showing the shard to Emissary Kim?

Accept reasonable answers.

2. How did Tree-ear feel at the end of this chapter?

Delighted that his master had received the royal commission. Relieved that the broken vases had not hindered the commission.

Chapter 13

1. Why did Min act so quiet and solemn when told the joyful news that he had received the royal commission?

He was worried about the fact that Crane-man had died and he hated having to tell Tree-ear.

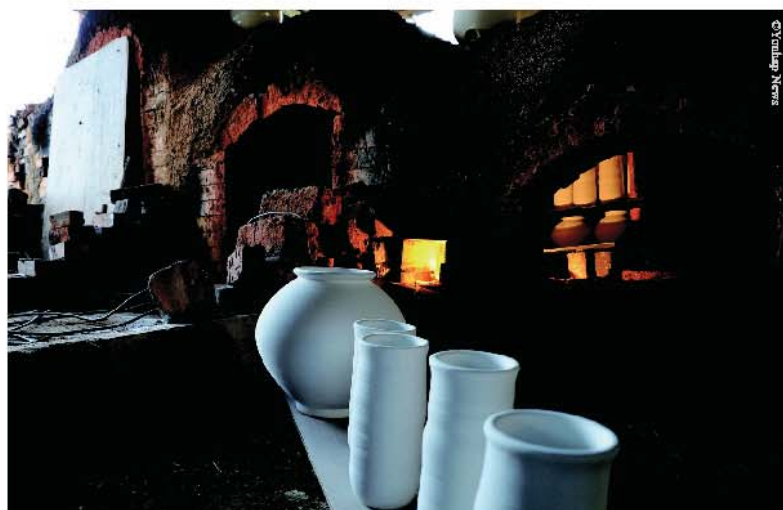
2. Do you think Tree-ear ever got to create a vase of which he could be proud? Explain your answer.

Accept reasonable answers.

3. What was the significance of Tree-ear being given a new name?

The new name showed that he was accepted as the adopted son of Min and Ajima and that he could now become a potter.

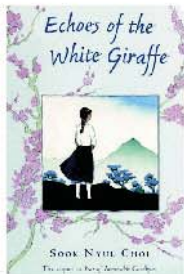
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An outside view of kiln sites

ECHOES OF THE WHITE GIRAFFE:

A STUDY GUIDE TO SOOK NYUL CHOI'S NOVEL



GRADE LEVEL: 6-8

AUTHOR:

Marcie Taylor-Thoma

SUBJECT:

Cultural Studies, Social Studies

TIME REQUIRED:

One class period to introduce the novel and its background and 2-3 weeks for students to work on independent study/reading

OBJECTIVES

1. Learn more about how events occurring in modern world history affected Korea.
2. Learn specific cultural aspects of the Korean people.
3. Learn how geography impacted Korean history.
4. Connect quotes from historical fiction to historical events.
5. Use critical thinking and processing skills to summarize past events and make predictions for the future.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Oh, Young Jin. "Two Koreas Yet to Cross Mine Field to Conclude Sub Incident." *The Korea Times*, 4 July 1998.
- Choi, Sook Nyul. *Echoes of the White Giraffe*. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc., 1993.
- Choi, Sook Nyul. *Year of Impossible Goodbyes*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1991. [Epilogue]

PROCEDURE

1. Begin by playing the game, “Lost Names” (Kim, Richard. *Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood*. University of California Press, 1998.). As the students enter the classroom give them each a piece of paper with a new name written on it. Tell them that the name on the paper is their new name, and they are forbidden to use any name but their assigned ones and are forbidden to speak in English. Explain this to them in English, and then begin speaking and explaining to them in another language, if possible. Continue this until you make a point and then explain to them that this is what happened to the boys and girls in Korea during the Japanese occupation. (A list of possible Japanese names is included at the end of this lesson).
2. It is suggested to read aloud the historical fiction piece *Year of Impossible Goodbyes* by Sook Nyul Choi. Write the names of the characters and setting of the story on the board. Pass the quotes out to the students and have them read them, and let the rest of the class try to place the context of the quote to tell the story.
3. Read the epilogue from *Year of Impossible Goodbyes*.
4. Pass out the map of Korea and orient the students to the placement of Korea in Asia and the location of key places on the map such as P’yongyang, Seoul and the 38th Parallel.
5. Read the notes about the author, Sook Nyul Choi to the class. Sook Nyul Choi was born in P’yongyang, North Korea. She immigrated to the United States to pursue her college education. After graduation, she taught in New York City schools for almost twenty years. She now resides in Cambridge, Massachusetts. On the reason she began *Year of Impossible Goodbyes*, Choi reports, “having lived through this turbulent period of Korean history, I wanted to share my experiences. So little is known about my homeland, its rich culture and its sad history. My love for my native country and for my adopted country prompted me to write this book to share some of my experiences and foster greater understanding.”
6. Pass out their units and novels and have them begin by reading the introduction to the book.
7. Review the book *Echoes of the White Giraffe*, chapter by chapter, using the questions below.
8. Upon answering the questions, have students write a letter to a friend and recommend the book *Echoes of the White Giraffe*. Cite examples from the text in your letter.

EVALUATION

- Grades should be based on the students’ preparation in answering the questions, comprehension of the story, and written assignments.

ENRICHMENT

- Do a biographic sketch of the author Sook Nyul Choi.
- Panmunjom is the area that separates North and South Korea. Many hostile activities still occur there. Have the students do research on the internet to find a current event that emphasizes some of these problems.
- Interview a senior citizen who lived during the Korean War. If possible, interview more than one person and get different perspectives.



Lines of evacuees during the Korean War

- Look at a map of Korea and find the following places on the map: Seoul, Incheon, Kwangju, Pusan, the 38th Parallel and Panmunjom. Write a short paragraph on each place to explain their importance.
- How is the 38th Parallel in Korea similar to the old Mason-Dixon Line in the United States?
- Read the newspaper article, “Two Koreas Yet to Cross Mine Field to Conclude Sub Incident,” from The Korea Times dated

STUDY GUIDE FOR ECHOES OF THE WHITE GIRAFFE

Chapter 1

1. Summarize the necessity of building a new school.
2. Explain the sentence, “Teacher Yun and a few other teachers from Ewha School in Seoul had managed to flee to Pusan, and they were anxious to teach refugee students like Bokhi and me.”
3. Find Pusan on a map. Describe its location in relation to Seoul.
4. Explain how Incheon and Sookan bought their new house. Do they seem to get along as brother and sister?
5. How would you react if your school was destroyed? Describe the satisfaction you might have once felt on the completion of a project.
6. Where does their mother work? What are some of her duties?
7. How are the refugees’ lives different from those who permanently live in Pusan?
8. “I stared at the steep mountain before me. How ominously it loomed above us.” What does ominous mean in this sentence?
9. What does Nuna mean? Why does Incheon call Sookan by that name?
10. Instead of crying and being upset after Mother slid down the mountain, they all laugh. Why do you think the author wrote the scene this way?
11. Describe the scenes on “refugee mountain” as the small family climbs to their shack at the top.
12. “I pretended that the ugly huts were special guest houses for the stars that came to visit Earth for the night.” Why does Sookan describe her mountainside home this way?
13. Despite the apparently difficult times this family faces, they still seem cheerful. Would you react the same way? Why or why not?

Chapter 2

1. Describe how the community responds to the shouting poet. What does Sookan think of this “bold and enchanting man”?
2. Sookan climbs to the top of the mountain and shouts back to the poet. How do Mother and Inchun respond to this?
3. Sookan complains that her family is not perfect anymore. Why is this so?
4. The author describes the scene at the well as, “...bold heroines waging a daily battle.” How would you describe it?
5. What are Sookan’s duties at the church? What are Inchun’s?
6. Explain this sentence, “But I think Inchun was tone deaf.” You may need to go back and read page 19 again.
7. If you were Sookan, how would you treat your younger brother?

Chapter 3

1. Sookan seems to relate many things to music and poetry. Give one example.
2. The author ties historical events by having Sookan describe her first day in Pusan. Summarize her memories.
3. Explain how the word “refugee” can elicit different emotions depending on how it is used. Use an example from this chapter.
4. Why is Sookan uncomfortable when she first meets Haerin? How does Haerin respond?
5. What common interests would eventually bring Sookan and Haerin closer?
6. Describe the new character Junho. Can you foresee any problems with this character?
7. Why does Sookan like singing in Latin?
8. How does Sookan’s and Junho’s singing talent bring them closer together?
9. Sookan has an uneasy feeling about Haerin. Why might that be so?
10. Describe how the author reveals that Mother is an artist. Why is Haerin surprised that they do not bring Mother’s artwork with them?
11. How does Junho make Sookan feel?
12. Junho and Haerin seem truly interested in Sookan and her past life. Write one experience of her life that Sookan shares with them.

Chapter 4

1. The school children from Seoul are eager to return to their new “Ewha School.” How do the students and the community support the opening of the Ewha School in Pusan?
2. What are Sookan’s favorite subjects? What are Bokhi’s favorite subjects?
3. Why are the students so eager to start attending school again?
4. Some of the refugees have problems adjusting to their new lives. Describe Bokhi’s problems. What is Sookan’s solu-

tion to her problem?

5. How do you think people got separated during the bombing? What does Mother do to try to reunite people?
6. How did Bokhi’s elation in finding her Uncle Lee Changil turn to disaster?
7. Describe how Bokhi responds to such news. How would you help your friend at a time like this?
8. “Chateau de sable.” How does this phrase describe how Bokhi is feeling?
9. What is the significance of the black armband?
10. What does Bokhi want to be when she grows up? What does Sookan want to be? Do you think it is still possible for them to accomplish their dreams?

Chapter 5

1. How does the refugee mountain change over time?
2. Sookan sees the mountain differently when she returns from spending time at the seashore with Bokhi. Describe what she sees as she returns home.
3. What does Mother tell Sookan about the shouting poet? How does Mother try to comfort her? Describe their plan to honor him.
4. Baik Rin is the poet’s name. Reread the part that compares the folklore with Baik Rin. What is odd about this name for the shouting poet? What made sense?
5. How does the planting of seeds symbolize life?
6. In this situation the poet ignores his own pain to give people hope. Have you ever known anyone else who was also unselfish?

Chapter 6

1. How does the weather match Sookan’s mood? Why do you think Sookan reacts so strongly to the death of the poet?
2. Summarize how Sookan and Junho’s relationship begins to change?
3. Why does Sookan have so many mixed feelings about Junho’s visit? What is his excuse for a visit?
4. What special talents does Mother have? How does this add to their lives?
5. How do you think Sookan feels about Junho being dishonest? Might this be a warning for her?
6. How do Junho and Father Lee honor the shouting poet?
7. What is ironic about people still finding time to look for beauty during the war?
8. How do you know Junho understands Sookan by the gift he gives her? What is it?
9. How would you react if a boy or girl that you liked gave you a special gift? Why does Sookan respond the way she does?
10. Mother seems to enjoy Junho’s company and invites him for tea. She suddenly seems so sad. Why?
11. How does the continual rain save their afternoon?
12. How does the author introduce Sookan’s dog Luxy? Why does the family not speak of Luxy?

13. Throughout the book the author weaves the history of the times into the story. How does she do so during the discussion about Luxy?
14. Who bombs Seoul? What is your opinion of why they did this?
15. What does Mother think happened to her three sons and husband?
16. Sookan and Junho share their plans for the future after high school. What are Sookan's plans?
17. How will Sookan's plans help her and her people? Why is Junho not as confident?
18. "A truce is being negotiated." How will this affect Mother and her family?
19. What countries are fighting over Seoul?

Chapter 7

1. How does the outing turn out? Why is it planned?
2. Describe the contrast of the army base and the picnic.
3. How does this chapter show that Haerin was forever thinking about music?
4. Why do Junho ask Haerin to practice the duet?
5. The author still conveys the feeling that communication between a boy and a girl would be inappropriate. How does Junho work around this?
6. Why is Sookan so confused? What is her dilemma? What would you do?
7. If Sookan had shared her problems with Bokhi how could things have worked out differently?
8. Why does Sookan eat such a large dinner? Did the plan work?

Chapter 8

1. What problems does the photograph create for Junho and Sookan?
2. How can lying about something small lead to more betrayal?
3. Mother waits until Inchun leaves the house to reveal the secret. How does Sookan feel when Mother tells her she would not be going to choir practice anymore?
4. How do Dr. and Mrs. Min react to the secret between Sookan and Junho? They seem to react in different ways. Why is Mrs. Min afraid?
5. Do you think that Sookan's mother understands the actions of Sookan and Junho? Why or why not?
6. Explain why you think Junho wants to become a priest?
7. How does Sookan's family deal with this embarrassment?
8. If you were Junho or Sookan what would you do to cope with this situation?

Chapter 9

1. Summarize how the armistice would change everyone's life.
2. How do the teachers prepare the students for the end of the war?

3. What is the result of the division along the 38th Parallel?
4. What does Sookan mean when she says, "Would my life ever be orderly enough to afford me the chance for a simple goodbye?"
5. What do Mother, Inchun and Sookan take with them as they return to Seoul?
6. Sookan looks back over the past 2½ years of her life on the mountain and says goodbye. What purpose do you think this reflection has on the understanding of the plot?
7. How does Sookan remember the shouting poet?
8. "The small family was filled with uncertainty as they boarded the train." How would you feel?
9. Junho takes a brave step in coming to the train station to say goodbye to Sookan. How might this be the first step in a new life for him?
10. How do the words in the poem express his feelings?
11. "I held the lily and the poem to my heart, and concluded that my life was not a series of sand castles." What does Sookan mean by this?
12. Why does mother suddenly appear worried and "pensive" on the train?
13. Describe the scene as the family leaves the train station and heads into the streets of Seoul.
14. How does the author paint a picture of hope for Korea?

Chapter 10

1. Describe the welcome home scene. What is missing from the happy scene?
2. Describe what Jaechun's job is during the war. Why? What do Hanchun and Hyunchun do during the war?
3. How does the family try to rebuild their life?
4. How do Teacher Yun and the other school officials help to restore a sense of normalcy for the children?
5. Why do you think mother works so hard looking through the piles of rubble in the yard?
6. What has become of Luxy?
7. What does Mother do with the jewelry she finds?
8. How do you know that Teacher Yun and Bokhi are close and supportive people in Sookan's life?
9. Describe how their lives continued. What is Sookan's life ambition? How do Father Lee and her family feel about this dream?
10. What plan does Sookan have to bring Hyunchun and Bokhi closer together?

Chapter 11

1. How is the family putting their life back together after the war?
2. How do Sundays serve as a way to unite the family and heal the community?
3. Why is Sookan so restless with her life?
4. Who is the surprise visitor? How has he changed? What is the reason for his visit? How have his plans changed?
5. "We'll always be friends. We're taking the same path, you know you will eventually go to the convent and I will be

at the seminary.” How was this conversation both happy and sad?

6. Why does Sookan not say what she really wants to say to Junho? How does Sookan’s family respect her privacy and her feelings?
7. The author’s craft is very evident in this chapter. She describes the scenes using all five senses. Give two examples.

Chapter 12

1. What steps does Sookan take to insure that she would travel overseas to study in the United States?
2. Reread the test-taking scene on page 125. What would be the most difficult part of testing?
3. How does Sookan’s family react when her name appears on the bulletin board announcing she has passed the exam?
4. Describe her farewell party. Why is this event so important?
5. What do you think is the hardest part about leaving her family?
6. What is a Hanbok? If you are not sure, find out.
7. How would visiting Junho at Dongkuk University ruin her reputation? How does mother help her solve this problem?
8. How does their mission of saying goodbye to Junho Min become so complicated?
9. “Mother nervously looked down at her clasped hands. I was not a good daughter to make her go through all of this for me.” Why is Sookan so upset in this scene? Have you ever done something embarrassing that your parents had to help you resolve?
10. Sookan and her mother are not granted permission to say goodbye to Junho. Why do you think they are not allowed to see him?

Chapter 13

1. How do Sookan’s family and friends respond to her leaving for America?
2. Why is Inchun’s present so special?
3. “The plane taxied away and I watched all of them wave their handkerchiefs until they looked like dancing snowflakes. I was suddenly filled with fear and remorse.” How would you feel traveling to another country to attend college and not know anyone there or speak their language.
4. Sookan sees many visions as the plane traveled through the clouds. Explain why she may have experienced these visions.
5. Sookan’s mother is a remarkable woman. She understands Sookan and bravely supports her. Describe one incident from the book that illustrates this.
6. Why is the title of this book *Echoes of the White Giraffe*, an appropriate title?

JAPANESE NAMES THAT CAN BE USED IN THE “LOST NAMES” GAME

Ito Makuo / Koyama Goro / Nobuki Saburo / Nakamura Toshio / Komatsu Ko / Hatsano Yoshio / Saito Eishiro / Toyoda Tatsuro / Ito Hirobumi / Tokuyawa Yoshimitsu / Yasataka Horiata / Yoshida Shigeru / Takikawas Yukitoki / Michiko Kaya / Aoki Shuyo / Mutso Munemutsu / Komura Jutara / Kido Takayashi / Touami Yasuski / Mori Arimiji / Kukuyawka Yukichi / Kato Kisaburo / Bito Saburo / Yasotaka Fumi

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Elementary school students during the Korean War



President's Letter



During the past thirty-five years, the Academy of Korean Studies has made constant efforts to promote Korean studies through in-depth research into, and education about, Korean culture. It has produced many noted scholars in the area of Korean studies as well as remarkable academic achievements. It has also grown into the mecca of Korean studies by accumulating and managing related materials, transforming them into useful pieces of information, and by propagating information on Korean studies and culture to those who need it both at home and abroad.

The Understanding Korea Project carried out by the Academy has developed a variety of materials devoted to better introducing Korea and Korean culture to foreigners, including educators. *Infokorea*, a leading magazine of the Academy of Korean Studies, has been published as a part of its mandate that strives to offer precise and up-to-date information and useful content on Korea to its readers. The current issue covers the latest statistics, articles related to Korean literature, and lesson plans for educators. The special articles present an outline of Korean literature and introduce actual literary pieces.

Infokorea plans to offer a special series on such topics as Korea's fascinating culture, the socio-cultural achievements of Korea, and other issues that can attract the attention of readers. We hope *Infokorea* will be of great help to those educators of the world as well as others who are interested in Korea when they want to acquire proper information on Korea and utilize it. Finally, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to Director Yang Young-Kyun and all the staff of the Center for International Affairs, who have made every effort to have this journal published.

Chung Chung Kil
President, Academy of Korean Studies



Lecture Program on Korean Culture



The Academy of Korean Studies held a series of lectures on Korean culture from July 16 to August 10, 2012. Students from as many as 17 foreign countries, highly motivated to learn about Ko-

rean culture, participated in the event and had a chance to learn and experience Korea and Korean culture. The participants promoted their understanding of the beauty of Korean culture through diverse lectures on Korea, and experienced Korean culture through a field trip of regional cultural heritage sites and the “experience traditional culture” programs including the practice of *samulnori* (the traditional Korean percussion quartet music) and a traditional Korean martial art of tae kwon do.

The lecture program on Korean culture—held 20 times as of this year since its commencement in 1999—is designed to offer foreigners a chance to learn and experience Korean language and culture and to help promote their understanding of Korea. Through the event, the foreign participants in the lectures on Korean culture enhanced their understanding of Korea and came to have a positive impression of the nation. They are now playing a pivotal role in publicizing Korea in their own nations.

The 6th World Congress of Korean Studies



The Academy of Korean Studies hosted the 6th World Congress of Korean Studies under the theme of “Transforming Korean Tradition: Past and Present” on September 25 and 26, 2012. The Congress

started with a keynote lecture “Tradition and Innovation in Korean Studies,” by Prof. Dong-il Cho, a Korean literature professor at Seoul National University, then numerous academic papers were presented by scholars of Korean studies from around the world. The Congress was composed of two subcommittees devoted to the presentation of papers: 1) a designated subcommittee in each of 14 categories, including history, society, culture/anthropology, and 2) the open subcommittee participated in by the members of the freely organized panels. The biggest-ever event in scale for a single academic event in the area of Korean studies, the Congress has succeeded in establishing a global network by inviting many leading and emerging scholars devoted to Korean studies in the world and exchanging academic knowledge and research achievements.

Encyclopedia of Korean Local Culture



The Encyclopedia of Korean Local Culture by the Academy of Korean Studies is a gigantic-scale compilation project of cultural content which includes consolidation and integration of local cultur-

al resources from 230 cities, counties and wards nationwide into a comprehensive body of knowledge. The project will be ongoing for over a period of twenty years starting from 2003. As the project progresses, it will provide a standard framework for city and county annals and thereby help improve the efficiency of their publishing processes. Content developed under this project closely reflects the cultural, social and historical characteristics of each community, thanks to meticulous surveys and research to identify resources available at individual cities or towns. Thirty-six areas have been completed as of December 2012. All content produced under this project will be also made available online, through the websites of local communities, such as city or town websites, and for mobile devices.

2012 Lecture Series of World Distinguished Scholars



The Academy of Korean Studies launched the first “Lecture Series of World Distinguished Scholars” program this year with a view to revitalizing international academic ex-

changes and to promoting the globalization of Korean studies based on in-depth discussions of the research outcomes of prestigious scholars from abroad.

The first event, dubbed the 2012 Lecture Series of World Distinguished Scholars, hosted Bernhard Fuehrer, Professor of Sinology at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Prof. Fuehrer gave four lectures, each followed by heated debates at the Academy of Korean Studies, Sungkyunkwan University, and El Tower in Seoul on November 15, 20 and 22, 2012. The titles of the lectures were: “Sima Qian as a Reader of Master Kong’s Utterances”; “Commentarial Features and Hermeneutical Strategies in Zhao Qi’s Work on the Mencius”; “Orality and the Transmission of Interpretations in Two Versions of Huang Kan’s Lunyuuyishu”; and “The Beard of the Master and Other Suppositions.”



Participants in a lecture program on Korean culture by the Academy of Korean Studies are practicing a traditional Korean dance.

The Academy of Korean Studies created the Center for International Affairs (CEFIA) in March 2003. The Center's mission is to promote a better understanding of Korean history, society, and culture throughout the world.