

Newsletter for Servas Korea



Bulletin 30, January, 2024

Discover Korea 2023 in Daejeon



Discover Korea, the nationwide meeting for Servas Korea during the every first half of the year, was held from April 22nd through 23rd in Daejeon, located at the geographic center of the Republic of Korea. The people of Daejeon are a loving, warm and considerate people, with a creative, harmony-oriented and pioneering spirit. Collectively, we believe our way forward is to build a society where we all get along in prosperity.

The theme of this event is to encounter pure nature and experience healing. It is planned to take place at Daejeon Student Training Center, where participants will explore the Wonsando Beach, indulge in relaxation and healing at the front sea of

Daecheon, in order to appreciate the beauty and preciousness of nature.

The secret garden 'Sanghwawon' lives up to its name, which means 'revering harmony.' The island's entire area is a large garden where visitors can appreciate the beauty of a traditional Korean garden simply by taking a stroll around it. The preservation of the island's natural beauty is the fundamental principle of Sanghwawon.

This Daejeon gathering received abundant praise from all members for its focus on the essence of the event with a simple and uncluttered approach. The participants were divided into two teams, one for exploring the secret garden,

Sanghwawon, and the other for walking along the Trail in Daecheon Harbor. They had the opportunity to immerse themselves in nature and appreciate the surroundings based on their individual preferences.



〈The secret garden 'Sanghwawon'〉

As a special event, Jo Hyun-geun, who runs a busking band, provided an opportunity to enjoy a romantic sunset performance on the beach through saxophone playing. Participants had a fantastic time, immersed in the beauty of nature, the sea, and the harmonious atmosphere.

To provide presentation opportunities for members with various talents, we plan to hold regional talent presentations at the Seoul meeting in 2024.



The event attracted international attention with the participation of Ann from France and Michael from Canada. Prior to the main event, various social club activities were showcased, including a friendly table tennis competition among branch representatives, promoting camaraderie."



The Korea Servas General Assembly in Busan



Busan is the 2nd largest city and number one trading hub in Korea, with a population of 3.4 million and a total area of 770.17 square kilometers as of 2022.

Since opening Korea's first international port in 1876, the city has become a hub of trade, commerce and industry. Global events including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference, Busan International Film Festival and Busan Fireworks Festival, as well as various sea-related festivals are held throughout the year.

The city is also a tourist

destination and home to Asia's largest department store, Haeundae beach, and a yacht marina.

Located on the southern tip of the Korean Peninsula, Busan is a historic city that served as the temporary capital during the Korean War and refuge for men, women and children fleeing the North to build new lives.

The second general assembly took place in the beautiful coastal city of Busan, with the hope of attracting the Expo. It was held from Saturday, September 16th to Sunday, September 17th, 2023.

The event included a yacht tour where participants could enjoy the night view of Busan with a fireworks display. Other attractions such as Marine City, Dongbaek Island, Haeundae Beach, and Igidae Park offered a unique blend of natural beauty and urban scenery, providing a contemplative setting for attendees to enjoy.



Despite the continuous rainfall throughout the day, I witnessed locals and foreigners walking along the beach, engaging in water activities such as swimming and diving. While Hong Kong is famous for its nighttime skyline, I believed that the diverse scenery of Busan's waterfront, following the meandering harbor, was more captivating. Everyone was soaked in both rain and the beauty of the surroundings, gazing at the lights of the buildings that curved along with the waves, offering a unique and mesmerizing view. The fireworks display reached its climax, creating a truly

unforgettable moment.



As locals provided detailed guidance and introduced us to new places alongside the familiar ones, we couldn't help but feel a sense of novelty and curiosity. Wishing for the beautiful memories and peaceful hearts to be remembered for a long time, we concluded the assembly in festive Busan.



Servas East Asia Meeting 2023 in Taiwan



Theme : Poeting ponderings from a lively city (Taichung, center city of Taiwan)

Date: 10-12 November 2023

Participants: 26 from Korea, 6 from Japan, 2 from the United States, and 34 from Taiwan, for a total of 68 people.

Islands Among People, Islands of Physical Distance

From the information that Taiwan is an island nation, I thought that the word "island" perfectly captures the spirit pursued by Service. It evokes the image of a desire for communication among disconnected individuals, as well as the dual nature of being a healing space like an attic where one doesn't need to

intrude upon each other. Who knows if peace will come, like a world in imagination, as we connect and connect people who are disconnected like islands?

A schedule that began with genuine joy

There's nothing quite like the instinctive joy of seeing a well-prepared breakfast after a leisurely morning.

We first visited the Lin Family Mansion and Garden. It is said to be the most well-preserved garden in Taiwan. Wealthy businessmen in the past greatly appreciated a high-quality lifestyle and spared no expense in constructing exquisite mansions and gardens to entertain government officials



and business partners.

We then proceeded to the National Museum of Natural Science, the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts and Providence University (PU) for a campus tour and a speech from a representative of the Providence Church. After a promotional video showcasing the unique characteristics of this university and a brief presentation by the representative of the affiliated church, we had the opportunity to hear from Mr. Song, the representative of Korea's Servas, and Mr. Heo, a former advisor, sharing their experiences. This was followed by a brief presentation from the Japanese representative.

Surfing people in the city

Someone asked, "What was your first impression of this country?" Without a moment's hesitation, I spoke that this

vibrant city was not just filled with tall buildings and loud noise, but also possessed a warmth and dignity that emanated from its people.



Every citizen was a citizen diplomat.

Not only the many people who hosted us, but also all the Taiwanese people I happened to encounter were polite and kind. Despite the language barrier, their kindness and willingness to help were truly inspiring. I was deeply moved by their sincere efforts to assist me in every way possible.

Servas International Peace Riding



Date: May 25-28, 2023
(3 nights, 4 days)
Total number of participants: 32
Team Leader: Choi Byung-wan
Bike Team 1: 9 participants
Bike Team 2: 11 participants
Bike Team 3: 11 participants

Cycling tour along the Geumgang River Trail

The Geumgang River is named after its beautiful and silky appearance. The Geumgang Cycling Trail, which runs for 146 km from Daecheong Dam to Geumgang Estuary in Gunsan via locations such as Sintanjin, Sejong, Gongju, Buyeo, and Iksan, is a well-maintained course following the Geumgang. This route offers a leisurely cycling experience that

allows you to appreciate the harmony of nature while feeling the breath of Baekje history, as it passes by the historical sites of Gongju and Buyeo. Divided into three teams consisting of a total of 32 members, we completed the 3-night, 4-day itinerary as one team.

Day 1 - May 25, 60km

Gathering at Sintanjin Station ~ Daecheong Dam Certification Center ~ Sintanjin ~ Buyong Sports Park ~ Sejong Hapgang Certification Center ~ Sejong Bridge ~ Seokjang-ri Prehistoric Site ~ Geumgang ShinGwan Park ~ Gongju Bridge ~ Gongju Hotel Kai - Gongsanseong Fortress Night Tour.



Day 2 - May 26, 40km

Hotel Kai ~ Gongju King Muryeong's Tomb ~ Woongjin Baekje Cultural Museum ~ Gongju Hanok Village ~ Gongju Dam ~ Notjeom Naru Ferry ~ Wangjin Naru Park ~ Baekje Dam ~ Buyeo Youth Hostel Busosanseong Fortress ~ Nakhwaam Rock ~ Gudeurae Sculpture Park.

Day 3 - May 27, 65km

Buyeo Youth Hostel ~ Yongan Ecological Wetland Area ~ Iksan Seongdangpo Port Certification Center ~ Ungpo Gomgaenaru Auto Camping Site ~ Geumgang Estuary Certification Center ~ Gunsan Youth Training Center.

Day 4 - May 28

Gunsan Youth Training Center ~ Saemankeum Embankment ~ Seonu Island ~ Youth Training Center.

Beginning and End

The journey began in Seoul, where a total of 20 bicycles, including 5 e-bikes, were

delivered by truck to Sintanjin Station, the meeting point. Even just seeing the truck carrying the 20 bikes was overwhelming, as it marked the start of a monumental moment in history.

The highlight of the day was the presentation of a gratitude plaque to Captain Choi Byung-wan, who has been leading this cycling event for 15 years.

Striking a pose at Geumgyeguk Field, witnessing the sunset over the Baengma River, at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Baekje Historical Relics, and showcasing our ability to handle any situation that arose - every moment was precious and filled with happiness.



Other Group Activities



1. Table tennis

Prior to the Discover Korea and the general assembly, a pre-meeting event was held to foster peace and camaraderie among members through regional tournaments. Various activities were organized, including regional tournaments, where participants competed in friendly competitions. The winners were recognized and awarded, while all participants enjoyed the opportunity to engage in light-hearted conversations and exchange small tokens of appreciation.

community. Moving forward, there are plans to expand these activities to include member countries from East Asia, aiming for broader regional engagement.

I believe that all of these activities will promote understanding and cooperation among domestic members, and will lead to overseas activities, becoming a small stepping stone for a peaceful world.

2. Hiking and trekking

As a group activity, members gather from various regions or through announcements to participate in simple hiking or trekking. The focus is on bringing together interested members from different areas and fostering a sense of



The Current Status of each Region



Seoul: The capital of South Korea, known for its vibrant city life, historical landmarks, and vibrant culture.

Gyeonggi Province : Gyeonggi-do is located in the central western part of the Korean Peninsula.

Gangwon State : Gangwon State is a new name that was created on June 11, 2023, after 628 years. Gangwon State is located in the mid-eastern part of the Korean Peninsula and is divided into two areas, Yeongdong and Yeongseo, by the Taebaek Mountains running along the eastern part of the peninsula.

Daejeon and Chungcheong Province : Daejeon is located at

the geographic center of the Republic of Korea and has been a great place to live since prehistoric times

Jeollabuk State : The special self-governing province is a region with a guarantee of a high degree of self-governance unlike the authority granted to general provinces.

Gwangju and Jeollanam Province : A Sacred Land of Democratization, Righteous City, Asian Culture Center City, Elegant City

Daegu and Gyeongsangbuk Province : A city located in the southeastern region, known for its rich cultural heritage, traditional markets, and the annual Daegu International Marathon.

Busan : A coastal city located in the southeastern part of the country, famous for its beautiful beaches, seafood, and the annual Busan International Film Festival.

Jeju : An island located on the southern coast, renowned for its natural beauty, volcanic landscapes, and being a UNESCO-listed Jeju Island.

Each region offers unique tourist attractions, cultural experiences, and local specialties, making Korea a diverse and enchanting country to explore.



Number of members by region

Region	Number of Members
1. Seoul	47
2. Gyeonggi Province	21
3. Gangwon Province	3
4. Daejeon and Chungcheong Province	23
5. Jeollabuk Province	18
6. Gwangju and Jeollanam Province	24
7. Daegu and Gyeongsangbuk Province	36
8. East Gyeongsang Province	11
9. Gyung-sangnam Province	18
10. Busan	32
11. Jeju	12



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