



Life-Long **Friendship**
Life-Changing **Leadership**



About KASC

The Korea-America Student Conference (KASC) is an academic and cultural program that focuses on hands-on learning and leadership training. Every annual month-long Conference aims to build closer ties between 50 young leaders in both countries. KASC is relatively new, but the bilateral relationship runs deep. By exploring this relationship on multiple levels (e.g. politics, trade, culture, news media), students will gain knowledge and confidence to discuss, debate, and co-create bilateral and international relations. A unique feature of the program is that students organize each conference, working together across the Pacific throughout the academic year. They also host round-tables during the Conference, discussing important issues outside the traditional classroom with other students from across the globe.



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Executive Director's Review

By all measures, the 6th Korea-America Student Conference (KASC) was one of the most successful conferences in KASC's history. The 10 KASC student leaders from both countries worked closely for nearly a year to implement a month-long conference filled with academic field trips, roundtable discussions, lectures, and community service.

Bringing together 40 students competitively selected from universities in the U.S. and Korea, our delegates convened at **Handong Global University (Pohang), Yonsei University Underwood International College (Seoul), Korea Advanced Institute for Science and Technology — KAIST (Daejeon), and Jeju National University (Jeju Island).**

As a unified troupe, the 6th KASC delegation learned about Korea's national economic development at the POSCO steel company, visited the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), symbol of the Korean War and the divided peninsula, held the very first KASC Youth Career Forum, and engaged with government leaders such as Ambassador Sung Kim and Incheon City Mayor Song. This year, the 6th KASC also partnered with the Korea International Trade Association (KITA) to hold a Joint Final Forum at the Coex Convention Center.

What distinguishes KASC from other exchange programs is the amount of responsibility that KASC entrusts student leaders in creating their own conference. All activities that you will read in this report were planned and implemented by the student Executive Committee. This year, the student leadership was particularly outstanding — they worked together with an exceptional understanding of one another and led the delegation with confidence. Thus, ISC's student-run model has proved effective again: nothing empowers young leaders to know and understand each other more than having a true "ownership" over a program where they spend an entire month planning, studying, living and laughing together— and KASC does exactly that.

We would like especially to thank our benefactors and host universities, including the Korea Foundation, the Freeman Foundation, the Nimick Forbesway Foundation, Jeju National University, KAIST, Yonsei University, and Handong Global University. Your support has nurtured and inspired a new generation of leaders in both Korea and the United States.

I hope you enjoy the following report of KASC's activities and accomplishments in 2013. We look forward to celebrating our seventh Conference with you next summer!

Sincerely,

Yuuki Shinomiya
Executive Director





한미대학생컨퍼런스(KASC) 축하 서한

올해로 제 6회를 맞는 한미학생회의의 한국 개최를 축하드리며, 미국 및 한국의 대표 학생들을 진심으로 환영합니다.

2008년부터 시작한 한미학생회의의 활동으로 한국과 미국의 동맹관계가 더욱 돈독해지고, 양국 학생 간 상호 이해 및 신뢰가 깊어지는 성과를 거두었습니다.

한미학생회의는 다양한 국제적 이슈를 논의하는 자리로 학생들의 글로벌 마인드를 제고할 뿐 아니라 양국 학생들 간의 따뜻한 우정도 키워나갈 수 있는 소중한 기회라고 생각합니다.

양국 학생 여러분들이 한국에서 진행될 한달 간의 한미대학생컨퍼런스를 통해 글로벌 리더십과 인적 네트워크를 구축하여 대한민국과 미국을 이끌어 나갈 훌륭한 인재로 성장하길 기원합니다. 감사합니다.

2013년 7월 1일

교육부 장관 서 남 수



*Ambassador of the United States of America
Seoul, Korea*

April 8, 2013

Message to
Korea America Student Conference Participants

Congratulations on your participation in the 2013 Korea America Student Conference.

The special relationship between the U.S. and Korea has never been stronger. We represent two nations that have shared common values and the understanding that by standing together and maintaining a close partnership, we can ensure a long term peace and prosperity in this region and around the world.

By joining the Korea America Student Conference, you have become important contributors to that lasting peace and prosperity. As a result of this program you will not only have a deeper understanding of the culture, policy, and interests of our two nations, but you will also understand one another better as well, and it's that person-to-person contact that underpins the foundation of our alliance and partnership.

I send my compliments to the organizers of this conference, including the KASC alumni who have come back to serve on the board and help continue this important program, and my best wishes to all conference members. I look forward to meeting you this summer.

Sung Y. Kim

Student-led Cross-Cultural Negotiations



Every July, student leaders choose 5 specific roundtable topics to discuss in depth with their peers throughout the month-long Conference. Delegates hold debates, field trips and lectures based on these roundtable topics. The goal of these roundtables is for students from both countries to come up with joint creative solutions to current bilateral and global issues. The 2013 6th KASC focused on the following roundtables:

Impact Business
: From Maximizing Profit to Maximizing Impact
Led by Andrew Ghim and Jiyoung Hwang
Creative capitalism, as suggested by Bill Gates at the 2008 World Economic Forum, states that capitalism is at the crossroad of a great transformation. Protests to global corporations are witnessed throughout the world. Meanwhile, people who lack power to make important societal and economic decisions suffer the most—they are called the Bottom of the Pyramid. But there is potential to alleviate this situation. In fact, impacting businesses is a way that creates solutions for this world’s inequities by using a business model; that is, with an innovative idea that stretches the profit motive by reconsidering the market of developing countries and enhancing accessibility and affordability to technology and social improvements. We, as future entrepreneurs, will examine the market opportunities and set sustainable strategies that impact not only for the corporation itself but also society. Through this roundtable, we will explore the different possibilities of how South Korea and the U.S. can utilize this prospect for the better to generate profit while achieving a social objective.

International Development
: Empowering People to their Full Potential
Led by Tiffany Vang and Bella Bokyoung Kim
Economic development and human rights are usually seen as two separate distinctions, but are in reality deeply connected; it deals with improving the quality of life for all human beings. With international development issues involving hunger, the environment, education, public health, ethnicity and gender concerns, and the global economy, it is apparent that solving poverty is much more complicated and cannot be solved just by an increase in income. The International Development Roundtable will explore the challenges of creating international development policies that foster empowerment, independence, and partnership within countries rather than dependence on foreign aid. We will analyze the role of ROK-US relations in the context of human rights and international development, and which development issues are priorities for each nation’s interest. Furthermore, delegates will examine different approaches and methods to solving the world’s most important social justice problems.



U.S.-ROK
: A New Era for Peace and Security
Led by Hyejin Park and Yunkyong Chung

The formidable military alliance of the United States and the Republic of Korea has fostered stability and peace in Northeast Asia. Although the relationship between U.S.-ROK in terms of national security is strong, there is a definite pressure on Washington to reduce its overseas national security obligations due to domestic and international disapproval. The majority of American and Korean strategists concur that the value of the alliance is beyond security on the Korean peninsula, but the future direction of U.S.-ROK alliance has yet to be configured. Cooperation among the two countries has been difficult especially due to differing views on Pyongyang, and also towards the role that ROK should have in the Asia Pacific. In the Peace and Security Roundtable, we will seek to find areas of cooperation between the U.S.-ROK that will serve both national interests. Can both countries agree on certain terms to normalize relations with North Korea? How does the new leadership change in North Korea affect the reunification of the Korean Peninsula? In an era where unilateralism has become ineffective, cooperation is essential for peace and security.

Art and Culture
: Tool to Strengthen U.S.-ROK Relations
Led by Alexander Pryor and Sibi Lee

As U.S.-Korea relations grow stronger every day in a globalized society, there has been more emphasis on cross cultural interactions among both countries. Young people in South Korea are singing to classics of Queen and dancing to the modern beats of Kanye West, while Psy’s Gangnam Style has taken on its own cultural phenomenon in the US, catalyzing hundreds of parodies on YouTube. American drama shows are watched in Seoul, while Korean Dramas are enjoyed by online viewers in the US. With the current cultural climate, it is easier than previous decades for people from divergent cultures and backgrounds to find common interests; the arts and culture of the US and Korea can enable both country to further mutual understanding and goodwill. In this roundtable, we will critically look at American and Korean culture to identify our commonalities as well as differences. How can our common interests and differences strengthen our relations? With Korea and U.S. each having a strong and dominant culture of their own, how can we bridge the cultural gap of both countries by using art and culture?

Science and Technology (S&T)
: Future Development of U.S.-ROK Relations
Led by Marteka Fair and Gangsan Lee

The Republic of Korea and the United States have exhibited a commitment to building a cooperative relationship in science and technology that serves political, socioeconomic, and scientific goals in each country. The increased capacity within Korean technology has enabled cooperation with the U.S. across a broad range of S&T. Indeed, advances in areas such as movies, aerospace, health (bio and medical), IT (mobile and computer), vehicle machinery, architecture, new and renewable energy have increased the interconnection of the two nations while also revolutionizing how our societies interact. These S&T are becoming the cornerstone of global interaction and changing the ways in which issues in the world are discussed. In the Science and Technology Roundtable, the U.S.-ROK relationship in new S&T and research will be critically examined in hopes of catalyzing potential for continued growth, reorganization, new areas of emphasis, and joint outreach to third parties -- such as Samsung and Apple, in relationship to the growing development of S&T.

June 30 ~ July 2, 2013

KASCers Attend Leadership Workshops at Stanford University and HUFs



Prior to the Conference, the American and Korean delegations hold an Orientation in each country. The goal is to get to know each other before meeting the Korean/American counterparts. Student leaders host leadership workshops, lectures, and a networking reception to better prepare themselves and the delegates for the intense month-long journey.

American Orientation: Stanford University

The 6th KASC American Orientation took place at Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA. Delegates met with David Straub, Associate Director of the Korea Studies Department as well as a board member of ISC, and attended lectures by Dafna Zur and Katharina Zellwegger. The delegation was also joined by a KASC 1 alumnus who shared his personal experience with KASC and led a workshop on cultural and societal differences between the two countries.

The last day was devoted to a networking reception with members of the Council on Korean Americans (CKA): Phil Yun, Grant Kim, and Catharina Min. After an engaging panel session, the three speakers shared their insight with students regarding personal and professional development.

▼ Delegates speak with Catharina Min, Chairman of the Council of Korean Americans, at the send-off reception



▼ American delegation in front of Stanford Chapel



Korean Orientation: Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFs)

The Korean Orientation was held at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul. Delegates traveled to the U.S. Embassy for a cultural workshop, attended lectures by Aen Ah Lee, an expert from ASEAN Korea, Chunsang Moon, a member of KASC National Advisory Committee, and Professor Wayne Patterson from St. Norbert College. The main highlight was a reception with Director Taehwan Kim from Korea Foundation who applauded them for taking part of this amazing student-run leadership conference.

On July 3, Korean delegates traveled to Handong Global University, Pohang, to welcome their American peers.

▼ Korean delegates at a reception sponsored by the Korea Foundation with Director Kim



July 4 ~ July 9, 2013

Learning, Experiencing, Volunteering



The 6th KASC first site was Handong Global University in Pohang. Pohang was very meaningful in that it was the very first time KASC visited the city. In Pohang, the delegation learned about Korea's economic development since the end of the Korean War, explored the country's long-standing Buddhist culture, and engaged in community service with local volunteers.



► Delegates paint wall of an elementary school in downtown Pohang as part of their community service project



◀ Delegates learn "Chamseon", an official prayer ceremony led by the monks at Bulguksa Temple, a UNESCO World Cultural Asset



► Arts and Culture Roundtable has its first meeting

▼ Vice President for Global Advancement of Handong Global University, Dr. Choi, Dosun delivers the keynote speech at the 6th KASC Opening Ceremony



July 10 ~ July 16, 2013

Conflict Resolution: KASCers Discuss Creative Solutions for Peace



Hosted for the first time by Yonsei University, the 6th KASC took advantage of the school's prime location to further explore Seoul. From a visit to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a meeting with Ambassador Sung Kim, and briefings at the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Samsung Electronics, the delegation discussed various issues ranging from politics, human rights, history, and social entrepreneurship.



◀ Delegates with Ambassador Sung Kim at the American Center



▲ The delegation visits the Joint Security Area at the Demilitarized Zone (Panmunjeom). This was a very emotional and meaningful day for both American and Korean delegates



► Delegates visit Kim Dae Joong Presidential Library for a tour and a lecture by Professor Chung in Moon

July 17 ~ July 18, 2013

KASCers Initiate a Discussion on Youth Unemployment with Global Leaders



Sponsored by Gale International, KASC held its inaugural Youth Career Forum at the Songdo Convention Center, bringing together the current 6th KASC delegates, KASC alumni, and students from various partner universities and organizations to meet and network with multinational companies in Songdo International Business District. Given the fact that one of the major concerns the American and Korean youth share is unemployment and job insecurity, KASC aimed to foster communication and open dialogue with the private sector to understand new job trends and the skills young professionals need to be more competitive in the global market. The event was such a success that the 7th KASC also plans to hold a career forum next year.



▲ Mayor Song, Young-gil of Incheon City speaks to the delegation and guests at the career forum reception



◀ Mayor Song, Young-gil with two KASC delegates

▼ Delegates ask questions after a lecture with Roland Wilson, professor at George Mason University

► An Executive Committee member with a gift from her American counterpart after the career forum



July 14 ~ July 22, 2013

First-Hand Experience in Korea's S&T and Cultural Tradition



In Daejeon, the delegates focused on its Science and Technology (S&T) Roundtable: they traveled to the Korea Institute of Energy Research and the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute in the Daeduk Valley. The group also stopped by Jeonju traditional vil-lage for a day-long cultural experience.



▲ Delegates listen to a lecture on robot intelligence



► Delegates tour the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute



▲ The delegation travels to Jeonju for a traditional cultural experience



► Delegates discuss pop culture and its impact on the youth confidence level

July 23 ~ July 29, 2013

KASCers Explore Jeju Island History & Green Culture

In Jeju Island, delegates explored the island's unique eco-friendly energy policies as well as its beautiful volcanic landscape. The students also spent two days with local families and learned about the history and mythology of the island that still impact Jeju's society. As their last site, delegates met very day in their roundtables to prepare for their Final Forum.

► Delegates at the Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO)



▼ Delegates and homestay families play team-building games at Jeju University campus



► Delegates enjoy a delicious dinner at Closing Ceremony at the KAL Hotel



▲ Delegates visit the Peace Park and learn about the April 3, 1948 Massacre of Jeju Island



An Interlocking World

This year, the 6th KASC partnered with the Korea International Trade Association (KITA) for its Final Forum. Hosted at the Coex Convention Center in the heart of Seoul, KITA's Goodwill Ambassadors and 6th KASC delegates delivered outstanding presentations on their research topics and impressed their audience. Speakers from KITA's America's Team and ISC's Board of Directors shone the forum with inspiring words, and three panel speakers provided constructive feedback to the students.



► The Business Roundtable presents its research findings to open a bicycle business in North Korea



◀ Delegates mingle with guests and speakers at the reception following the presentations

▼ KASC delegates celebrate the end of a successful conference with KITA's Goodwill Ambassadors



► A member of the Korean Executive Committee moderates the panel





Florence Maher, KASC 1
Current Profession: Diplomat



Many of us applied for KASC looking for a fun summer of making friends and improving language skills. What KASC teaches, however, goes far beyond verb conjugation. Instead we learned teamwork in an international context and cross-cultural communication – assets which cannot be captured in a vacation snapshot, and without which I would not be where I am now. For many, myself included, KASC is an intense experience conjuring fierce emotions. Group and cultural dynamics are heightened by the exciting schedule and close interaction. The balance between Korean and American delegates results in two cultural norms, two languages, two natural groupings which simultaneously (chaotically! exhilaratingly!) co-exist, compete, merge and reform. Rare is the delegate who emerges unaffected. I learned a lot from my fellow delegates about myself – as a leader, as a group member, and as a social being.

Although I felt tearful when KASC ended, in the months that followed, I realized that the end was only the beginning. I reflected on and tried to integrate the lessons I had learned during my time with KASC. What had I learned? First and foremost – communication. We worked in roundtables with two distinct linguistic and cultural groups. Next – interpersonal skills. We shared close quarters with strangers from halfway around the world who did not share our cultural assumptions and expectations. Finally – leadership and team-building. This month-long, four-city conference is organized by a group of students located on multiple continents. As a member of the US diplomatic corps, my job requires strong cross-cultural communication and teamwork skills. Diplomacy is not about speaking the loudest or the longest, but rather about creating common ground from differing perspectives and positions. During KASC, our “common ground” of mutual interest and good will is considerably wider, but the idea is the same: we have differences. How can we work together?



Bokyoung Kim, KASC 5 and KASC 6
Chair of the Korean Executive Committee



KASC is truly a wonderful journey that you are privileged to have as a student. After being actively engaged in your surroundings, you will discover yourself nurtured as a true leader. Through a one year preparation and implementation of the month-long conference, I redefined the meaning of a leader. Leadership is not about you. It is really about the team. A leader is not only about representing the team or speaking with high profile people. A leader’s greatest responsibility is to lead the team and make their efforts worthwhile. Leading a delegation of 40 diverse students made me realize that leadership starts from responsibility. Without responsibility, you are just a boss, not a leader. As the previous Korea Chair of the 6th KASC, I was responsible for many things such as planning a month-long conference schedule and building connections with corporations and professionals. Despite many of the challenges, which sometimes were uncomfortable to face, my responsibility as Chair drove me to take initiatives, stretch myself and reach beyond my grasp. Being comfortable with the uncomfortable actually made me grow more in the end. KASC presented me a global passport in my head that not only enable me to be adaptable to changes, but also be proactive in creating positive changes.



Jose Pulido, KASC 3 and KASC 4
Current Profession: Researcher at Mitsui



KASC was a great experience for me, not just for enriching my college experience, but for setting me up with a great set of skills for my professional career. Though I became a better leader, team-player, and problem-solver through my experience as an Executive Committee Member, the most important skills I gained were my communication skills. By its very nature, KASC forces members to refine their inter-cultural communication skills through teamwork with their peers. However, I also found myself interacting with people of all sorts of age-brackets as well (which requires a different set of formalities and courtesies). This is a skill that I use daily in my work-place, as I interact with Latinos, Asians, and Americans, of all social, educational, and generational backgrounds. I honestly feel that KASC played a crucial role in developing this skill, and I would recommend anyone to attend KASC to achieve that goal.



Tiffany Vang, KASC 5 and KASC 6
Chair of the American Executive Committee



One of the greatest achievements for anyone, I believe, is to invest and build something that they can call their own, and KASC gave me a wonderful opportunity to turn my ideas into a reality. As the previous America Chair for the 6th KASC, it has been a challenging and rewarding path for me. Leading a delegation of 40 diverse students, planning a month long conference schedule, building relationships with companies and professionals, and on top of that fundraising is a lot of responsibility for a college student, but it’s such a unique experience that has made me a better leader. Not only did my experience in KASC solidify my interest in economic development in Asia, but it challenged the way I approached and worked with people. Planning a conference with my Korean counterparts showed me that a real leader is someone who can make hard decisions, adapt to different cultural surroundings, engage and actively build relationships, and also take the initiative to try different ideas and projects. After my experience in KASC, I feel fearless! I feel that anything I put my mind to is possible.



2014 7th KASC OVERVIEW

The 7th KASC will convene July 1-30, 2014, guided by the theme **Introspection: Opportunity to Learn, Grow, and Prosper**. Delegates will be traveling to Seoul; Gangwon-do; Busan; and, Jeju Island.

Roundtable Topics

1. Business and Society: Restructuring Our Economies for Modern Times;
2. Communication and Culture: An Emerging Multicultural Media;
3. Education: Problems of Current Education System and New Model for Both;
4. Global Human Rights: Responsibility in Finding Solutions to a Fair Society
5. Politics and Security: The Past, Present and New Direction for the ROK-U.S. Alliance

Eligibility


The basic requirement is full-time student status at the time of application in the U.S. or Korea.

Cost

In 2014, the participation fee of \$2,500~\$3,500 per delegate covers all lodging, meals, activities, air travel, and ground transportation for the entire Conference. The actual cost of the program per student is approximately \$7,000. ISC subsidizes the cost through corporate, foundation, and individual support. ISC must raise over \$150,000 to operate the program each year.

Applications

Application deadline is January 31. Applications must be received through the website or email (kasc@iscdc.org). Forms and instructions are available on the ISC website at www.iscdc.org.


Korea-America Student Conference
한미학생회의

INTROSPECTION:

Opportunity to Learn, Grow, and Prosper

SUMMER 2014

gangwondo seoul busan jeju island
강원도 서울 부산 제주도



Priority deadline: January 31st
Visit www.iscdc.org/kasc to apply & learn more information!

About ISC

International Student Conferences (ISC) is a non-profit organization incorporated in Washington, DC. It facilitates two academic and cultural exchange programs organized by university students in the U.S., Japan, and Korea: the Korea-America Student Conference (KASC) and the Japan-America Student Conference (JASC). Beginning in 1934, JASC is the first and oldest exchange between the two countries that is conceived and carried out by university students. Patterned after the JASC model of a student-run Conference, the first KASC launched in 2008.

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