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Cover Story
The Environment and Fast Fashion
Hello! I appreciate your picking up this magazine today and deciding to read it. We here at Ezine do our best to deliver quality articles to you guys. But before you move on to the cover story, I want to ask you something: are you a punctual person who does not postpone your plans and does your jobs on time? I want to give you applause if you say you are. And I'll admire your conscientiousness and diligence too, because I'm the exact opposite. In my case, I always fix my plans dozens of times, only then for things to get out of hand when their due dates are around the corner.

Since then, I have watched many motivational videos on YouTube and noted down many inspirational quotes to change myself. Most of them were talking about things like having a positive mindset, putting your goals on the calendar, setting small goals to build momentum, and rewarding yourself for the little wins as well as the big ones. At first, I agreed with them and tried to follow those rules. However, in the end, they were too easy for me. I only managed to follow them for the first few days, and then dropped back to the same stage. So then, I thought that figuring out my fundamental problems should be the top priority. But finally, I found a video lecture on psychology about how to achieve maximal motivation. It was about the scientific ways of testing animal motivation done by famous psychologist Jaak Panksepp:

So, imagine you have a starving rat and let it know that it'll get food down the end of a corridor. You can put a little spring on its tail and measure how hard it pulls and that gives you an indication of its motivation-al force. Then, they waft in some cat odor. Now that rat is starving and wants to escape too. It’s going to try to pull even further towards the food. Even if getting away plus getting forward are separate motivational systems, they are really potent if you can add them together.

The lecturer asked people to imagine the place where they’d like to end up, which is their desired future. Also, imagine the place where you could end up if you let everything fall apart so that your anxiety chases you and pull you forward. And he tells them to focus more on the latter one. In other words, you have to be more afraid of not pursuing your goals than you are of pursuing them. Because you can’t always choose good things in your life. Oftentimes, you face two bad options, and you get to pick one of them. At that moment, you have to pick your poison and be willing to suffer through that. Otherwise, you’ll torture yourself by thinking, “Well, maybe there’s a good solution to this,” even when there is just ‘risky solution number one’ and ‘risky solution number two’. And sometimes both of them are bad.

But if you at least get to pick which one you’re willing to suffer through, that makes quite a difference. Because you’re also facing it voluntarily, instead of it chasing you. Then, it’ll put you in a challenging frame of mind. That’ll make you free from stresses and activate your exploratory and seeking systems, which secret dopamine from your brain. In short, it’s worthwhile to go and find the dragon in its lair instead of waiting for it to come and eat you. Because there is a possibility that you may find a baby dragon earlier before it becomes a full-fledged monster that will go to take you down.

This lecture reminds me of Carl Jung and stoicism too, such as in “that which you most need will be found where you least want to look” and “the obstacle is the way.” Both mean the biggest obstacle to achieving your goal is the exact thing you need to embrace in order to overcome it. And also, a famous line from Shakespeare’s Caesar, “Cowards die many times before their deaths the valiant never taste of death but once.” This suggests that every time they do not face their fears, back out of a confrontation, or let something pass they should’ve stood up against, they are dying. This is a metaphorical death, and they lose a part of their soul. For me, this “face the fear” type of advice was much more helpful than other ones. If you are suffering the same problem as me, I hope you give yourself a chance to change your problem-solving attitude by following those pieces of advice.

Summer Greetings from Ezine
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SAP Global Students Participate in UN Competition

In the first semester of 2022, 10 students from Q College were sent to Saint Mary’s University (SMU) in the United States through DSU’s SAP Global program. Saint Mary’s University is a DSU sister university in the United States located in San Antonio, Texas, with the dispatched students receiving scholarships from DSU that completely covered the costs of local tuition, dormitory accommodation, food, and airfare.

SAP Global is a project-based class program conducted in DSU’s various sister universities in major overseas cities as part of DSU’s Korea-style Minera education system. Through this program, participating students can earn credits abroad whilst improving their ability to implement projects. They do so by not only engaging in the Intensive English program, but also the UN Project conducted exclusively for DSU students through the Global Communications Department.

Under the guidance of Professor Lim Seong-bae of SMU, Director of the UN Project, the 10 DSU students were taught under the theme of ‘How to Change the World by Supporting UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030’, which covered topics ranging from the metaverse, big data, artificial intelligence, and blockchains, all rapidly emerging technologies related to the Fourth Industrial Revolution. As such, it is a project that continuously teaches not only about these specific topics but also innovation strategies more broadly, including ‘sustainable development’, ‘design thinking’, ‘co-creation’, and ‘digital convergence’, with the goal of working towards a final presentation at a UN competition.

For this competition, students prepared assignments and presentations under 17 various topics under the umbrella theme of ‘Sustainable Development Goals 2030’, which covered the costs of local tuition, dormitory accommodation, food, and airfare.

The UN project and ultimate competition was conducted under 1:1 coaching and guidance with Professor Lim and professors affiliated with Q College, and included special lectures by Dr. Jeong Jun-gon of the Eurasia Foundation and by Omar Hernandez, public affairs officer of the United Nations Academic Impact Department of the United Nations.

Mr. Felipe Queipo, the general manager of the UN Global Communications Department, who reviewed the project presentations, said of the students, “It was a really impressive effort. The students were able to fully empathize with the concerns and efforts to change the world for the better. Students may be frustrated in implementing these projects, but we realize they will continue to be patient and work hard. All five students gave really good presentations.”

Regarding this UN project, DSU Q College Dean Kwak Jun-sik said, “While working on the SDGs theme with the UN, all involved gained the valuable experience of thinking about sustainable development, the greatest common goal of the international community, and suggesting solutions.”

Professor Lim, who oversaw the project locally, said, “I am proud of all 10 students who did their best, and I hope that this successful event with the United Nations will serve as a turning point for students to grow into future leaders who change the world beautifully.”

Dongseo University’s many study abroad programs, regrettably put on an extended hold due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, are beginning to open again. For one of the first, in the first semester of 2022, 15 students from the Japanese team of the Campus Asia Department left for Kansai International Airport on April 20 to study at Ritsumeikan University in Japan. Part of the Mobile Campus program, it is open to sophomore and junior students in the Campus Asia Department, and involves studying on the campuses of Ritsumeikan University in Japan and Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in China for two years. It is an educational program unique to the Campus Asia Department and jointly hosted by the Ministries of Education in Korea, Japan, and China, through which credits gained overseas are recognized for students’ domestic degrees. For participating DSU students, DSU generously provides either full or half tuition support for four years, as well as full airfare support, isolation compensation costs, and accommodation expenses.

Upon arrival at Kansai Airport, the 15 students went into quarantine and went through the required isolation period without a hitch; subsequently, they immediately started participating in classes conducted by local professors at Ritsumeikan University, together with Chinese and Japanese students also participating in the program. In addition, during their stay they will experience local life by participating in various other exchange programs open to them. Following are some impressions from two participating students:

Lee Seo-yeon, Campus Asia, Sophomore

An exciting new semester has begun. I thought I would have to give up studying abroad due to the pandemic, but I was finally able to come to Japan! In my freshman year, when I heard that I might not be able to study abroad, I was glad that at least I could still take Japanese and Chinese classes online. However, I still really wanted to go to Japan and China to learn the culture and language myself. And, thanks to everyone not giving up hope and to the great help of our professors, finally came the day when I was able to arrive in Japan safely!

I am now experiencing firsthand the cultural differences that I had previously only read about. I am really feeling the reward of studying hard while I was waiting to come. I don’t know what will happen during the next semester, but I’m so excited to study in Japan, which I’ve been wanting to do for so long. I think it was very fortunate to be able to meet the Japanese and Chinese participants who came to Korea last semester who encouraged me, and because of their warm support I want to spend my semester in Japan to the fullest.

Bae Jeong-han, Campus Asia, Junior

In my case, I had actually already studied at Ritsumeikan University in the second semester of 2019, when I was in a different department. I was excited about going again, but suddenly my plan was suspended due to the pandemic. So, I enlisted in the military, thinking that the pandemic would subside by the time I was discharged.

However, while it still had not by then, I decided to return to school. On April 6, the Japanese semester started, and we took classes online. It was a pity that I was only able to virtually greet professors I had not seen in such a long time. I thought a lot about how good it would be to good to go to Japan and take a class in front of the professors. So, just a few days later, I decided to enter the Campus Asia Department to ensure I could do so. My professors were very happy when they found out. The thought of meeting them and my Japanese friends again made me feel butterflies.

But I was still anxious until I got on the plane. I didn’t think the pandemic situation would get better, and I couldn’t sleep well thinking about what to do if I caught the virus. Fortunately, myself and all of the friends I was traveling with tested negative for it, and we were able to enter Japan safely.
Dongseo University Student Kang Su-yeon, a Sophomore in the Department of Advertising and Public Relations, won the Silver Prize and a cash prize of 1 million won at the IMC Advertising Planning Contest, which is based around the popular Goraesa brand of fishcakes. Goraesa holds this annual contest for university students majoring in advertising and marketing in Busan in order to raise brand awareness of Goraesa fishcakes. Kang’s award-winning work, ‘Oh My Goraesa,’ a play on the similar English phrase, was chosen for the Silver Prize after rigorous screening through a first project review round and then a second presentation.

Upon being presented with the award, Kang remarked, “It was very meaningful to win the Silver Prize by participating in a contest for Goraesa, one of Busan’s leading companies. I especially think that the process of working with my supporting team of seniors was very rewarding and helpful, and that the synergy between both of us, what I gained from the excellent lessons at university, and with my own is what is responsible for my gaining the award. I look forward to doing my best to put the skills I have learned at DSU into practice when I become an advertiser.”
**Dongseo University Selected for LINC 3.0 Project**

Dongseo University has been selected for the 3rd-Phase Industry-University-Research Collaboration Leading University Fostering Project, demanding tailored growth IPs [LINC (3.0) by the Ministry of Education and the National Research Foundation of Korea]. Since 2012, DSU has been building on and implementing a unique industrial-educational cooperation model of the university by carrying out projects to foster leading universities in industry-academic cooperation.

The LINC 3.0 project will spur this "industry-university-research cooperation" in the field of meta-technology-based cultural contents drive to respond to future-oriented trends, and will receive at least 24 billion won in government subsidies for 6 years from 2022.

The LINC 3.0 project group, meanwhile, is operated under the vision of a world-class university industry research cooperation model university in specialized fields, with the goals of innovation in industry-academic collaboration platforms, nurturing convergence talent in the field of cultural contents, and leading innovation in ICF-centered technology development. The project group further plans to establish and operate promotion platforms, nurturing personnel specializing in related new technologies and spreading of results and feedback.

Among those strategies, in the field of industry-academia-research cooperation systems specifically, the plan is to efficiently manage industry-university cooperation information and performance by promoting the continuity of the industry-university-research cooperation systems and by establishing an Information Sharing Capability Diagnosis platform. In the field of human resource training, the IFS 3.0 education innovation model is a recruitment-linked corporate track curriculum systemized with the IFS 3.0 corporate track, IFS 3.0-PBL teaching method, and JIT 200 industrial-school subjects track, and is a model for nurturing future talents tailored to the needs of new industries.

The cooperation systems will continue to long-term development plans. Among those strategies, in the field of industry-academia-research cooperation systems specifically, the plan is to efficiently manage industry-university cooperation information and performance by promoting the continuity of the industry-university-research cooperation systems and by establishing an Information Sharing Capability Diagnosis platform.

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Still further plans include, through sharing and collaborating with universities in other regions in the contents field, in the fields of human resource development, technology development and commercialization, and establishment of sustainability and independence as a leading model for industry-university-research cooperation through the spread of results and feedback.

Hwang Gi-hyeon, Chairperson of the LINC 3.0 project group, said, "Based on the excellent industrial-educational cooperation achievements of DSU built through the LINC+ project, it has become a meta-technology-based cultural content industry-academic collaboration leading university, nurturing personnel specializing in related new technologies and the deepening use of artificial intelligence for social goods. To that end, Software Department students participating in R&D will develop an individually owned web/app shopping mall by donating artificial intelligence developed by students based on the AI Advanced Track (AI Engineering, Big Data) major.

The DSU SW Centered University Project Team is generously supporting the operation of the AI Advanced Track major, as well as the SW Convergence Link. It is serving as a base camp for the selection of government and local government R&D projects related to artificial intelligence and big data.

**Software Students Donate Al System in Support of Small Business Owners**

Together with Goldbridge, DSU's Software Department has been selected for the individually owned web/app shopping mall development service for win-win growth of small businesses' project. This project aims at incorporating the ideas and opinions of users, including citizens and experts, in their goals for moving from the business model advancement stage to the service prototype testing process.

Dongseo University Software Department students Ahn Ji-hyeon, Jo Su-bin, and Jang Jae-Il were very proud that their department has been selected for a project so heavily promoting social development, and expressed their desires to conduct research and development together with their professors so that their combined ideas could better contribute to the deepening use of artificial intelligence for social goods. To that end, Software Department students participating in R&D will develop an individually owned web/app shopping mall by donating artificial intelligence developed by students based on the AI Advanced Track (AI Engineering, Big Data) major.

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**Opening Ceremony Held for Creative Life Coding Exhibition**

On Wednesday April 13, the DSU SW Centered University Project Group held the opening ceremony for the Creative Life Coding Exhibition on the 3rd floor of the Student Plaza. In attendance were: Professors Park Seong-mi, Dean of the Minseok College of Liberal Education; Moon Mi-kyung and Kim Dong-heyon, Director and Vice-director of the SW Centered University Project; Song Jong-geun, in charge of Creative Life Coding; as well as professors and students engaged in the Creative Life Coding 1 and 2 courses.

For the Creative Life Coding Exhibition, 40 works among the 1,200 entries were selected for the Best and Excellence awards, and were exhibited along with their counterparts from the contests held in 2020 and 2021. The annual contest is open to all students taking Creative Life Coding 1 and 2 courses, which focus on positive self-change, competency development, and discovery of best self-practices through coding education, to which more than 300 students apply every semester. The particular aim of the exhibition was to further promote the Creative Life courses to new and current students of DSU, as well as to resolve misunderstandings about the burdens of coding education. The exhibition ran until Friday April 22.

Professor Song Jong-geun of the Software Convergence College, who organized the exhibition, said, "By reading the winning entries of the Creative Life Coding Exhibition, students who are not majoring in SW can also be given an introduction to SW education every year. I feel grateful to the students for expressing various opinions about what they have learned and felt and insights into how to improve the courses, and I will do my best to continue to increase learning satisfaction through this student-centered communication and customized education."
Self-Examination Service Created for Industrial Accident Victims

In conjunction with Unix labor law firm, The Well, DSU’s Q College has announced its intention to develop an ‘Occupational Accident Data-Based Occupational Disease Determination Matching Service,’ and that it has also been selected by Busan Metropolitan City as a target for the ‘2022 Citizen Participation Service Research and Development (R&D) Support Project in Busan.’

The latter project was created by Busan Metropolitan City in cooperation with the Busan Institute of Industrial Science and Innovation, which since last year has been discovering and developing new innovative and creative business models in the service sector, as well as supporting service R&D.

Meanwhile, it was DSU Q College students themselves who proposed the brand naming and logo design of the ‘Occupational Accident Data-Based Occupational Disease Determination Matching Service’ for the former project, and are seeking ways to increase user convenience through questionnaires and interviews for user groups. In addition, they plan to support marketing through such efforts as service promotion card distribution and marketing-related activities.

Dongseo Small and Medium Business Contract Department Created

In a ceremony held in the Global Room of the New Millennium Hall on April 28, DSU and the Busan Regional Small and Medium Enterprise Business Administration signed an agreement for ‘the Establishment and Operation of the Dongseo University Small and Medium Business Contract Department,’ which will begin operation in the second semester.

The Small and Medium Business Contract Department is taking advantage of a ‘pre-employment-backward education’ form of talent nurturing program that opens a degree course at a university-based industry demand in order to strengthen the innovation capabilities of SME workers and support their degree acquisition. Additionally, DSU will further establish a Cloud Convergence Education Department in the master’s program’s cases, and will recruit 20 workers who have been working for more than six months at small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as new students from the second semester of this year. Of particular interest to prospective students, 65 percent of tuition costs are waived for 2 years, and weekend and night courses are operated.

Choi Wan-yeong, head of the Busan Regional Small and Medium Venture Business Administration Matching Service, said, “Small SMEs who are having difficulties in finding high-quality human resources are solving problems facing companies by nurturing and securing professional recruits on their own through the creation of this Small and Medium Business Contract Department at DSU. I feel assured that DSU will establish itself as a leading university in demand-based industry-venture university cooperation.”

Dongseo University President Chang Jeuk further added, “The Department of Computer Engineering, a specialized field taught at our university, will also contribute to strengthening the competitiveness of SMEs and the development of Busan’s future industry by nurturing key personnel in the field of cloud computing, which is attracting attention as a new industry of the future.”

Crossing the Sea in Search of Young Talent

For 2 days from Wednesday April 27 to Thursday April 28, DSU held the first ‘Jeju Area Biz 5 Hotel & Resort Job Fair.’ Among the large representative companies of Jeju Island participating were CJ Logistics, Club Nine Bridges, SK Pirex, Landing Jeju Development Co., Ltd., Hotel Shilla Jeju, and others.

On the first day, recruitment briefing sessions were held at the main DSU (Naenjeong) and Centum (Haeundae) campuses, and on the following day on-site interviews were conducted in the former’s Student Plaza. About 40 field trainees in 12 job areas were selected as a result, from among whom excellent trainees will become regular employees after their internships. It is unprecedented for Jeju Island hotel, resort, leisure, and tourism companies to plan events together and visit universities to recruit students. However, DSU was selected as a recipient of this development through the building of its previous conducting of business negotiations and IPPE long-term field training with Club Nine Bridges, Landing Jeju Development Co., Ltd., and Hotel Shilla Jeju through DSU D-Partners in 2021. As a result of these two, students were hired, and subsequently excellent trainees hired as regular employees. This success is partially what attracted the additional companies that joined this year’s event.

Due to the charm of Jeju Island, and the participation of such large corporations in its fields, interest in and enthusiasm for participating in the recruitment briefings and on-site interviews was very high. In order to prepare the students who applied for the job fair in advance, they received a special lecture on how to write a self-introduction as well as one-to-one personal resume consulting at the University Job Center of DSU, so that they could systematically prepare for their on-site interviews.

The final students selected through the fierce competition will participate in either two months of field training from July to August, or six months between July and December, and in each case will receive a monthly field training fee of two million won and dormitory accommodation, meals, and other assorted expenses provided for.

In the future, DSU is planning to further actively utilize the network of IPPE practitioners by industry, centering on IPP-type work-study parallel project field training companies and D-Partners businesses. Furthermore, by holding such job fairs differentiated by industry field and job type, job-recruitment mismatches will be minimized, allowing for the expansion of effective industry-academic cooperation for customized talent cultivation.

Korean Film Council Selects Dongseo Student to Receive Independent Art Film Production Support

As a future-orientated innovative university, the DSU Q College selects students from various majors, with the goal of becoming a ‘challenging school’ and supports them so that they can freely take on challenges in Busan, Asia, and the United States and receive credits in order to solve entrepreneurial, creative, and social problems.

Summer 2022
As environmental degradation becomes more serious, global interest in it has also increased. In addition, there are global commitments and goals for the environment, and each country is striving to achieve them. So, what changes have been made individually, not only by countries?

Spurred by the recent devastating forest fires in Australia, at the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual general meeting in Davos, Switzerland, environmental issues, especially climate change, are firmly on the agenda. The 2020 World Risk Report, published by the WEF ahead of the opening of the Davos Forum, cited “weather anomalies” as the biggest threat facing humanity in the 2020s. The WEF judged that failure to respond to climate change, natural disasters, biodiversity loss, and human-induced environmental disasters are the biggest threats humanity will face in the 2020s. Starting from 2006 to this year, which is the 15th anniversary, it is the first time that environment-related issues have ranked seventh, first, and fifth in the global risk report. Additionally, the UN General Assembly has designated June 5 as World Environment Day.

As the environmental pollution problem accelerates, our food, clothing, and shelter will go in a direction that does not cause environmental pollution as much as possible, and many companies are already applying and implementing these ways. Among them, the trend toward fashion is gradually becoming eco-friendly and receiving a lot of enthusiasm. As evidenced by this, the fashion industry is blowing up a “conscientious fashion” trend. The word “conscientious fashion” comes from “conscious consumption” and “fashion,” combining to mean a consumption trend that can make a better society. From material selection to manufacturing, transportation, storage, sales, and recycling, clothes are made in consideration of the environment. It means consuming clothing produced in an eco-friendly and ethical process. As of 24 February, 2022, according to market research firm Research & Market, the global conscientious fashion market is expected to grow from about $6.26 billion in 2019 to about $8.25 billion in 2023.

This craze has had a lot of influence on domestic and foreign fashion companies. Domestic fashion companies are focusing on developing eco-products and conducting eco-friendly activities through various methods. Skechers, a global brand, said it plans to produce its entire denim line with eco-friendly materials by 2023 to strengthen sustainable fashion. Already in 2019 it established an eco-friendly organization in which production, designers, planners, and marketers are a team and launched denim products using eco-friendly materials for the first time among domestic brands. As it can protect the environment and provide goods at a more reasonable price, it was confirmed that it is receiving a hot response from the MZ generation, which aims to consume value.

Domestic outdoor brands also showed signs of conscious fashion, and Black Yak received a great response from “Plastic Collection,” an eco-friendly product made of plastic bottles used in Korea in April last year. This consisted of a variety of T-shirts, jackets, and pants, and depending on the type, at least 15 to up to 30 PET bottles were recycled based on 500ml per product. In addition, the casual wear brand Musinsa Standard held a “Musinsa Standard Green Event” on 22 April, Earth Day, and collaborated with Hyosung T&C, a domestic textile manufacturer, on green line T-shirts and socks. Linen yarn is recycled polyester made by recycling discarded PET bottles. In this way, we could see examples of eco-friendly fashion marketing by domestic fashion companies.

How will consumers react to eco-friendly fashion brands? Unfortunately according to one study, domestic consumers’ attitudes toward eco-friendly fashion were somewhat negative. The first reason was low awareness and knowledge. Interviewees only knew about some brands and recycling, which advertised eco-friendly fashion primarily as natural dyeing, natural materials, and eco-friendly products. The second reason is the high price. There were many cases where the price of eco-friendly fashion was perceived as expensive. Lastly, there was a complaint about design quality. Consumers also thought that the design of eco-friendly fashion that they have encountered so far was tacky or did not reflect trends.

Why should people consume eco-friendly fashion despite these negative opinions? According to the research results of another paper, all factors of environmental value had an effect on the intention to repurchase eco-friendly fashion products, and these factors were specifically social altruistic values, environmental conservation values, and self-centered values. It values the interests of society and aims for social altruistic values that care about the environment. It could mean that not only environmental conservation thinking is more important than human-centered thinking, but the more self-centered value it has, the higher the intention to repurchase eco-friendly fashion products.

However, it was confirmed that consumers who are willing to actively participate in recycling events or use products that protect the environment only when they are inexpensive are less willing to repurchase eco-friendly fashion products. There are various reasons for throwing away clothes, such as dust, clutter and size change, but there is a separate reason for most people to agree on. This is a case of buying fashionable clothes, such as dust, clutter and size change, but there is a separate reason for most people to agree on. This is a case of buying fashionable clothes, such as dust, clutter and size change, but there is a separate reason for most people to agree on. This is a case of buying fashionable clothes, such as dust, clutter and size change, but there is a separate reason for most people to agree on. This is a case of buying fashionable clothes, such as dust, clutter and size change, but there is a separate reason for most people to agree on. This is a case of buying fashionable clothes, such as dust, clutter and size change, but there is a separate reason for most people to agree on. This is a case of buying fashionable clothes, such as dust, clutter and size change, but there is a separate reason for most people to agree on. This is a case of buying fashionable clothes, such as dust, clutter and size change, but there is a separate reason for most people to agree on. This is a case of buying fashionable clothes, such as dust, clutter and size change.
away clothes in a short period of time have become the main culprits of environmental pollution in the entire process of production, sales, and disposal. It is positive that companies show environmental protection movements, but the inside of companies is a little different. When waste plastic is used for clothing manufacturing, microplastics are released during washing, just like clothes using regular polyester. It is far from eco-friendly because polyester is used when making artificial leather. There is no change in encouraging consumption by encouraging consumers to relax and continue to make products. Efforts to solve the problem of clothing waste are also rare. This is why there is controversy over “greenwashing,” which means that it is not eco-friendly, although it is promoting eco-friendly products. This is a phenomenon caused by increased public interest in the environment and increased preference for eco-friendly products. The controversy over greenwashing is unlikely to be easily erased, unless it clearly explains what fibers were used to produce the product and what environmental pollution risks the consumption of the clothing poses.

In the UK, the government will directly take green washing measures and announce the ‘Green Claims Code,’ which can be called an eco-friendly marketing implementation guideline, and will be implemented from next year. The guidelines, prepared by the Competition and Market Authority, the Korea Fair Trade Commission, based on the Consumer Protection Act, include six rules, including whether eco-friendly claims are true and clear, and not to omit or hide important information.

At this point in time when many analyzes and opinions related to environmental protection come and go, a consumption trend called ‘Meaning out’ has emerged. Meaning out is an abbreviation for valuable consumption. It means the expression of individual tastes and beliefs through consumption behavior. It is a phenomenon in which one's own meaning, taste, or political and social beliefs are actively expressed through consumption behavior, and that is the form of consumption that is gradually expanding by changing. In other words, the act of boycotting brands that are not sincere from the consumer's point of view while referring to good consumption and value consumption, or purchasing and authenticating products from companies with socially acceptable values is increasing.

Not only consumers but also companies were able to quickly catch a look at ‘Allbirds,’ an eco-friendly footwear company. This company is a brand launched by a New Zealand soccer player and produces eco-friendly shoes using New Zealand’s most common wool as the main material. Looking at the manufacturing plant, it is said that it uses less energy and water compared to other companies, reuses used water several times, and also donates shoes to low-income families for free through a charity called SOLES4SOULS for the socially disadvantaged.

Besides these fashion-related companies, various companies prefer ESG management and try to keep pace with the trend of mining out. Emily Ockey, Alpha Sutaria, Coca-Cola’s head of sustainability, announced that Coca-Cola’s consumers are sensitive to sustainability issues, so they took this opportunity to make containers from 100 percent recycled plastic. As the Coca-Cola example shows, successful purpose-driven companies have also influenced consumer behavior. For example, 20 years ago, most consumers understood the word ‘sustainable’ to mean ‘good enough.’ In other words, sustainable products are expensive or of poor quality. However, this perception has steadily changed when quality products have appeared on the market boasting certificates of sustainability. As a result, consumers have come to believe as a fact that sustainable and great products are possible, thus the awareness that more products can have the same demands has increased. As such, now we can clearly see how many people in modern society are moving step by step towards the meaning of ‘Meaning Out,’ the slogan that I am a good consumer and therefore exist meaningfully through consumption. The fact that many people have acted for the environment does not disappear even if they have done things in a way that is not relevant or rather harmful to the environment. If these interests and actions are combined, it is hoped that the contradictory flow will be reduced, and the environmental pollution problem will be alleviated.
What is Korean Age?

Have you ever had to readjust your age when talking to a foreign friend or filling out a form? If you have, you may be one of the millions of people who have been confused by the existing age system. In Korea, age is unique, and some would argue antiquated. Koreans have long considered time in the womb to count towards their age. This means that a baby born in December is considered to be a year old and have another year added on January 1.

There are many theories about the genesis of this system; from respecting a fetus, to the influences of seasons. While the exact origin can be traced back to China and different parts of Asia, the origins of this practice can be traced back to Korea and different parts of Asia. There are many theories about the genesis of this system; from respecting a fetus, to the influences of seasons. While the exact origin can be traced back to China and different parts of Asia, the origins of this practice can be traced back to China and different parts of Asia.

The main reason behind this system is that it would be difficult to manage the population, including military service conscription and protecting juveniles from harsher laws. Finally, there is also the traditional system which remains the most common in society even now. The aforementioned "Korean age" one plus one system in which babies start at one year old and have another year added on January 1. The confusion that can arise from the various methods either alone or concerning legal issues might soon be at an end. Perhaps overdue, the 'Act on Age Calculation and Indication' was submitted to the National Assembly in early 2019 to alleviate any problems and simplify matters. This proposal was the first legal approach to using the international age system in all aspects of daily life, including official documents. On April 11, 2022, the presidential transition committee officially announced that it would seek to unify these age calculations to reduce unnecessary confusion and eliminate social and economic costs due to the non-integrated legal and social age calculation system. This announcement was met with a great deal of support since nearly everyone has experienced the same inconveniences from the existing and oft confusing mixture of age systems.

There will be a time of transition required, as confusion is to be expected with the introduction of any sweeping measure. A new age system will need a moment to be embraced, especially in a country where one’s age is important in social interactions. However, according to a market research company Embrain Trend Monitor’s survey of 1,000 adult men and women in Korea, 69 percent of respondents have been confused by the existing age system, 55 percent agree with the proposal, while only 12 percent disagree. Given citizens’ overwhelming approval of the new age system, I don’t think it will take too long for Korean society to adapt to it. My advice is to embrace it; there is a time when you get to legally take a year or two off your age!
South Korea’s Demographic Cliff

Never before in history have there been so many people on Earth as right now. Our numbers have skyrocketed, from 1 billion in 1800, to 2.3 billion in 1940, and 7.7 billion in 2022. It is easy to see how not too long ago, people believed the human population would spiral out of control. First people who did so was an English economist and demographer, Thomas Robert Malthus, who theorized that population growth will always tend to outrun the food supply and that betterment of humankind is impossible without limits on reproduction. Much later, there was a book named Limits to Growth published in 1972 by The Club of Rome think tank. They suggested that economic growth could not continue indefinitely because of resource depletion and the growing population’s need for resources. And that as a result, there would be riots, mass starvation, and mass migration due to the overpopulation. Since then, everybody absorbed into sustainable development. And the idea that population growth harms the environment has become one of today’s prevailing beliefs. However, a number of intellectuals recently claimed that population growth harms the environment has become one of today’s prevailing beliefs. However, a number of intellectuals recently claimed that the environment has become one of today’s prevailing beliefs. However, a number of intellectuals recently claimed that population growth harms the environment has become one of today’s prevailing beliefs. However, a number of intellectuals recently claimed that population growth harms the environment has become one of today’s prevailing beliefs. However, a number of intellectuals recently claimed that population growth harms the environment has become one of today’s prevailing beliefs. However, a number of intellectuals recently claimed that population growth harms the environment has become one of today’s prevailing beliefs. However, a number of intellectuals recently claimed that population growth harms the environment has become one of today’s prevailing beliefs.

Then there is South Korea, where the birth rate has declined since 1960. Until the 1980s, it was widely believed that this demographic trend would end, and that the population would eventually stabilize. After the baby boom in the 1950s, the population increased drastically, so the government implemented strict population planning policies in the 1960s. Along with these efforts, the fertility rate declined because women had greater access to contraception, lower infant mortality, and a reduced need for children as a source of family labor or retirement welfare, both of which reduce the incentive to have many children. However, as time went by, the fertility rate continued to fall sharply, reaching some of the lowest fertility and marriage levels in the world. In 2018, the total fertility rate in South Korea was 0.98, which fell below 1.0 for the first time. So, why did this happen? Well, there are several reasons, such as sex preference, education cost, and competitive society, but we need to look at the situation of young Koreans first.

Firstly, an increasing number of young people decide not to marry. This tendency is widespread in society, and there is even a term “No-po generation,” who gives up many values that were important to the former generation, including ties, marriage, and children. And this social phenomenon indicates that the younger generation lacks hope for a better future. In addition, modern Korean women want to live independently and put their dreams into reality rather than simply giving birth and living as a housewife. They are afraid to combine family and work and fear the loss of independence. Moreover, most women say that they do not want to suffer like their mothers did in a patriarchal Confucianist society. Indeed, according to the 2018 ‘National Survey on Fertility and Family Health and Welfare’ done by the Korean Institute for Health and Social Affairs, the average South Korean man devotes only 17 minutes a day to unpaid work, such as housekeeping, and women spend seven times more with 129 minutes a day. When it comes to caring for children, men spend 14.9 minutes a day, and women spend three times more with 52.2 minutes a day. But we can’t just blame sexism, because men devote 546 minutes per day to paid work and women devote 412 minutes. Moreover, raising children poses a significant economic burden. According to a 2019 estimate by the Centenary Era Research Institute affiliated with NH Investment and Securities, the cost of raising a child until high school graduation is 200 million won, counting in the average cost of private tutoring. Many young people cannot imagine having this amount available.

The Korean government has implemented several action plans since the early 2000s to promote fertility and make family life more compatible with employment. Support has been provided for daycare, preschool education, medical expenses, and economic incentives for multi-child families. However, we already know those fertility policies were ineffective. Therefore, the upcoming government should bring new solutions, such as easing the labor market transition of youth and sufficiently address the gender inequality in the family and at work. Most workers face job insecurity and low levels of social protection too, which is hardly compatible with starting a family. Also, the government has to reduce stress for working parents. For example, they should recognize that most workplaces in Korea still do not fully guarantee maternity or parental leave, ultimately forcing women who want to have children to quit. Therefore, the government has to ensure subsidized prenatal care and delivery, and the right for women to have at least 12 weeks of maternity leave. Many experts say that a change of policy paradigms is necessary. In short, governments have to lower the socio-economic hurdles of being parents to prevent population collapse. And for that to happen, we need to be more concerned about that evenability.
No Kids Zone, Yes Kids Zone

May 5, 2023 marks the 100th anniversary of Children’s Day. While Koreans celebrate the day by holding large-scale events geared towards children, more and more shops and spaces are actually restricting or prohibiting their entry. No Kids Zones are child-free areas. The banned age ranges vary from store to store, from infants, children under 5 or 10, those customers that are accompanying them, and at the upper reaches any elementary student.

Many places have stated that such zones were implemented with the aim of preventing accidents for children and providing a comfortable environment for adults. While the concern for the safety of children is admirable, many are saying that it is merely a form of age discrimination, and not protection. There is no set standard for businesses that have brought in such a policy, nor guidelines that can clarify the confusion. Families with children have unexpectedly been denied service, refused even entry, which has led to campaigns to share lists of stores using the policy, more and more people are beginning to question which group will be next. Will it be the elderly? Will it be the middle-aged? If age discrimination is permitted for children, why would or should other groups of the population be spared? The idea of fairness is strong in Korean society, and it is with this societal backdrop that the concept of No Kids Zones has lost the level of support that it originally had. In 2022, six years after the policy became a social issue there are more people against it than for it.

Keywords that were once tied to searches about hate or misogyny now are coupled with references to No Kids Zones. Restricted access to cafes or restaurants simply because of children is almost certainly creating an atmosphere in which many women are choosing not to have them. The idea being that as it is mainly women that are responsible for the caring and raising of children in Korea, and thus the exclusion of children is not only discrimination but also misogyny. Internet users often refer to women with children as “mom-racers” adding more fuel to the fire.

While parents who ignore their children making a fuss in a restaurant, running around dangerously, making noise, and being disruptive are indeed to be scolded and perhaps encouraged to stay home, most parents are attentive and should not be excluded for the actions of a few. Blanket responses are generalizations that should be avoided. The problem of children was discovered not to be a problem with children themselves, but rather one of parenting. Poor parenting is the reason that many places have put the No Kids Zone in place. Going further and looking at keywords related to parenting, the five most commonly searched were negative in connotation indicating that there is a lot of stress surrounding childrearing. Discrimination and the difficulty with single parenting also accounts for a lot of internet negativity. In Korea it is often difficult for two parents to raise a child, it is much more challenging when doing it alone. Reliable childcare services are not always available or affordable. Parents need to both live and enjoy time with their children. It is essential that people with children be included in society and not relegated because they are raising them.

Most business owners say that they operate the No Kids Zones out of consideration for other customers, but regardless the number of No Kids Zones cannot be continuously increased. This is especially true at a time when generational conflicts are deepening due to low fertility rates, women are choosing to remain childless, and the population is seriously aging. The need for acceptance is greater than ever, even if children can be a noisy nuisance. Childless customers and parents aside, there also needs to be attention given to the emotions of the children. Not long ago, 17-year-old author Su Jeon-i penned a diary documenting his experience of being bullied at a restaurant that had a No Kids Zone. This diary became a hot topic on social media as most people never stop to consider the feelings of children. The opinion that No-Silover Zones could also be created in retaliation is circulating on some social media.

Experts are pointing out that the NoKids Zones are a serious issue that can adversely affect children’s emotional development. Moving beyond simply discriminating against children’s human rights, it is argued that if children whose identities have not been established are exposed to the experience of being denied entry, they may feel confused or even feel guilty about their existence. Jang Kyung-oon, a professor at the Department of Child and Family at Kyunghee University, believes that children could blame themselves for their parents fighting. However, as the situation of not being able to enter the No Kids Zone is also an experience in which parents are also rejected, they were concerned that feelings of regret and guilt toward the parents could adversely affect the children’s emotions. She then pointed out that children can be distracted in public, but it is a problem that needs to be improved through education, and that depriving them of opportunities is an inappropriate measure. In addition, Noh Hye-yeon, a professor of social work at Soongil University, said that there is no law preventing the No Kids Zone from spreading to other vulnerable groups such as the elderly and the disabled in the future. She emphasized that there is no difference between implicitly instilling a social message in children that society can exclude objects it wants to reject. She continued by stating that it is necessary to be aware of the seriousness of the matter and be alert.

Unlike arguments in the past, public opinion is approaching the problem from multiple angles and not as a black and white issue. People are considering the parents’ position, the store owners’ position, and most importantly the emotions of the children. One thing is certain though: general opposition to the existence of No Kids Zones is increasing. One suggestion aimed at being more inclusive while still addressing the concerns of store owners and customers is the creation of a warning zone. This area would be for parents and children but only for parents that promise to be attentive, and children that promise to be respectful. If either the parents of the children fail to observe the rules they could be asked to leave. Another suggestion is to have kid-friendly, and No Kids Zones is a store. Whatever method becomes the social norm, it is important to create a social atmosphere which is inclusive.

Frankly speaking, No Kids Zones are more a commentary on parents and not about children. A rejection of the senseless behavior of parents that have been criticized in countless articles and programs over the years rather than a rejection of the existence of children. The parents that are worse than the children, you can see them in restaurants easily and often, those who confidently ask for food that is not on the menu, or those that should be held responsible for the behavior of their children running around loudly in crowded places has no restraint but react poorly when another customer reaches the point of scolding the child. They lash out quickly and loudly as well. “Why are you talking like that to my child?” “What gives you the right to scold them?” Once again it is not correct to punish many for the foolishness of a few. “Please don’t create a no kids zone. We are learning, too,” is a phrase a child wrote on a poster for Children’s Day recently. It is natural that patience is required with children, everyone goes through a childhood that requires education and learning, and everyone will one day face an age when it is difficult to accept new things. Let’s think about our childhood. Were we people that knew how to do everything right from the start? Obviously not. There must have been many times when I was scolded for making a mistake, and without those experiences, I would have learned to properly distinguish between what was wrong and what was right. So, how about looking at children with a more tolerant eye, searching for a new compromise rather than embracing a society where the unconditional rejection of children is the norm?
Ezine Interview with UN Project Presenters

Written by Kim Yeong-hun
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Ezine First of all, thank you for meeting with us. We read about some of your recent experiences while we were preparing articles for this summer’s issue of Ezine. We’re glad for this chance to ask you some additional questions. Can you tell us about how DSU helped you get an opportunity to study in the United States?

UN Project Presenters I got this great opportunity through a program run by DSU’s Q-college. To give you a brief description of it, it’s a program whereby you can sort of create an alter-ego. In other words, it is a program that helps you find another aspect of yourself while planning various projects with others, away from studying only one’s major. And, of course, this program also lets you have a chance to study abroad at Saint Mary’s University (SMU) in the United States, Texas. As far as I know, we were the first ones among participants in DSU’s many various U.S. study-abroad programs to study in Texas specifically, but there was never any need for anyone to worry given the ample and comprehensive support of DSU.

Ezine How did your experiences in U.S. classes differ from your experiences in Korean classes?

UN Project Presenters The most significant difference was the approach of students in the classroom. In Korea, we tend to be good listeners and hesitate to ask a question during lectures. But we saw many students from SMU asking questions without hesitation. And some of them didn’t hesitate to argue with the professor to express their opinion either. We also felt that the relationship between professors and students is much more even than the top-down teaching style of Korea, where we are there to “take” the classes.

Ezine What kind of cultural differences did you notice between Korea and the U.S. in your time outside of the classrooms?

UN Project Presenters First and foremost was the strange tipping culture there. There were times when we felt so frustrated with it, that we decided to save money by using kiosk machines instead of paying clerks at marts or having to give tips when ordering delivery food. And we didn’t know that brushing teeth in the public bathroom in the U.S was unacceptable either—middle-aged women get very alarmed at seeing one of us do so in the school bathroom once. Later, we realized that U.S. students brush their teeth only in their private bathrooms. Lastly, we felt that people in the U.S. are much less self-conscious than in South Korea. It was refreshing to see how they didn’t pay as much attention to what others were doing or wearing as we do in South Korea.

Ezine How do you understand the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) change through working on the UN Project?

UN Project Presenters Honestly, we didn’t know much about the SDGs until we participated in this program. However, while doing so, we felt a deep sense of disappointment and skepticism from the fact that major problems such as gender inequality and hunger still exist as late as this modern era of the 21st century. At the same time though, we also felt a sense of duty to make efforts to accomplish those SDGs by not just depending on governmental policies but also by seeking out how to improve them at the individual level. And we learned there are so many people, organizations, and countries that are putting their heads together to achieve those SDGs.

Ezine What do you believe are some of the SDG areas in need of the most attention?

UN Project Presenters We think climate change is the area that needs the most attention. Since we are living on this one beautiful planet, we should take more care to avoid the warming crisis. Because no matter how we achieve different SDGs, there is no use if we don’t solve climate change. But also, we shouldn’t forget that all the 17 goals of SDGs are interlinked with each other. Thus, achieving one goal or target may contribute to achieving others. Because of that, we should make sure that our efforts are not too lopsided either.

Ezine Were you nervous before sharing your ideas with the UN officials, what steps did you take to prepare for your presentations, and how were your ideas received?

UN Project Presenters Yeah, most of us were really nervous even after spending a lot of time practicing before the actual presentation. Our anxiety was also high despite us searching through a lot of data after spending a lot of time practicing before the actual presentation. But we were sure that our efforts are not too lopsided either.

Ezine What was the greatest benefit of this experience for you?

UN Project Presenters First of all, the global program itself was great. This type of opportunity never comes easily. We were able to broaden our horizons while participating in SMU classes, making friends, and having a presentation at the UN project. We learned a lot about SDGs, and we’ll never forget the beautiful memories we made. We learned that the impossible is nothing too that we have to be afraid of doing nothing and to not be satisfied with the current situation in order to jump into doing something unfamiliar.

Ezine In what ways do you think you might continue to work on promoting the SDGs?

UN Project Presenters The most important thing to achieving SDGs is to attract people’s attention as much as possible. Still, many people don’t know what the SDGs are and how to deal with them. So, we’d like to upload SDG-related posts and share the articles on social media, blogs, and YouTube. Then, to tell this story to our friends and let them share this story with their friends, and so on. And we believe that letting people know about current crises in this way will make a big difference.

Ezine What advice would you give to younger students at DSU interested in international exchanges like this?

UN Project Presenters We hope that you never hesitate to participate in a global program even if you can’t speak English fluently. Dare to try first, and know that you’ve got nothing to lose even if you fail to be selected. Also, you can learn a lot from the opportunities presented. Indeed, we learned a lot from this program while overcoming the challenges it presented. And, of course, it is good to find opportunities from outside on your own, but don’t forget that there are already plenty of great opportunities offered by our university, and that there are many professors who can help you take advantage of them. We hope you get out of your comfort zone and try something new!

Ezine Many people contributed to the success of SAP-Global. Do you have any special thanks you would like to offer?

UN Project Presenters We’d like to send special thanks to the DSU and SMU faculty members who helped us have a dreamlike opportunity to study in the United States. Also, we’d like to thank our respective professors to the G-college members who’ve been through a lot as pioneers of this newborn international program. We won’t ever forget our memories of it!
The slow-cooked relationship of migration, trade, and food between Korea and Mexico for over 117 years.

One of the oldest and most enjoyable ways to express friendship and build relationships is to share food and meals together. In fact, many cultures have greetings and phrases that reflect this importance. In the West, “to break bread” together is to create a bond by sharing a meal. Food has always been an important signal between people. The same can be true of countries. Just as many good friendships between people begin over food and shared interests, many relationships on the international level are expressed through diplomacy and trade. As individuals, we usually experience this diplomacy and trade as a sudden abundance of foreign food products in our supermarkets and convenience stores. The shifting landscape of consumer demand and popular food trends is a coincidence.

In the case of diplomacy and free trade agreements between Mexico and South Korea, the burgeoning relationship paved the way to a wider diversity of some incredibly tasty food. This article will look at the trajectory of shared food and friendship between Korea and Mexico, and examine some of the dynamics that contributed to the good fortune we currently find on our plates.

Trade agreements are not the only condition that can create a market demand for new products. Migrants and immigrants also shape the economies in which they land. One of the first encounters between Korea and Mexico was through the journey of migrants. In 1905, the first wave of approximately 1000 Korean laborers boarded a British ship bound for the Mexican port of Progreso, on the Yucatan peninsula. They had forged contracts with British agents to work as agricultural labor on large farms, or haciendas. Not all agreements went as promised, however, and many Korean laborers fled the Yucatan for other shores, such as Hawaii and Cuba. But for those that stayed in Mexico, a new story was born. Through sweat and tears and sheer will, they integrated themselves into the local culture, and not only survived, but thrived. In fact, some of the best Korean restaurants in Mexico today can be found in Merida, the capital city of the Yucatan. Koreans have had such an impact that the city has designated May 4th as “Korea Day,” to commemorate the first migrants who arrived there in 1905.

And they were not the only ones. Throughout the 20th Century the Korean diaspora grew all over Latin America and the New World. This of course influenced trade and diplomacy. Korea established the first official diplomatic relations with Mexico in 1962, and opened its first embassy in Mexico City. In 1968, Korea placed a symbolic Friendship Pavilion in Chapultepec Park, one of the most iconic public parks in Mexico. The rest, as they say, is history. In 2019, South Korea’s trade volume with Mexico totaled up to $21 billion USD, with over 70 percent growth in the last decade. South Korean foreign direct investment into the Mexican economy tells another important story: it approached $7 billion by early 2021.

So how has all that changed and affected us here, in South Korea? Well, as we all now know, our selection of Mexican food choices has grown exponentially! In just over a decade, artisan Mexican restaurants have increased from maybe one or two in Seoul to a whole plethora of superstar venues there and across the country. Many of these new food choices are driven by immigrants, but there’s a fresh twist on that as well. Most of these new immigrant Mexican restaurant chefs are descendants of the Korean diaspora, “returning” to Korea via the United States. Their forte is a much beloved American cuisine known as “Tex-Mex,” which has gained its own unique flavors due to a blend between traditional Mexican food and American tacos just across the border.

And in the true transformative tradition of migration, the American border tradition of Tex-Mex is now reinventing itself into something new, something that many are identifying as Korean-Mexican “fusion.” This development started in Los Angeles due to the large communities of Korean and Mexican immigrants living in proximity to one another. The food truck trend also had a strong impact. When you combine these factors with two strong food traditions that favor many ingredients in common, the changes will be even broader, as Mexico is already Korea’s largest trading partner in Latin America, and Korea is the seventh-largest investor in Mexico. These trade relationships will only multiply and diversify. And the frontier of food and friendship will possibly come full circle, in a poignant way. As more agricultural imports increase from Mexico, so will its food, and possibly, the availability of traditional “authenticity.” In the words of Mexican Ambassador Bruno Figueroa: “You find tacos, you find enchiladas, you find burritos, but it’s difficult to find more traditional ones. Mexico is very rich in many verses, and when tourists arrive in Mexico, they are immediately amazed to see the huge, wide variety of the Mexican cuisine,” he said.

“Definitely there is still too much Korean Tex-Mex in Korea. So I am supporting having traditional ingredients and dishes that are more Mexican, and it’s happening little by little.”

Get your forks ready, dear readers. Mexican food is about to come full circle in Korea, bringing with it change, yet again. And we are here for it.
Old Place, Palace

Where is the best place to get an idea of a country’s culture? Think of tourist sites that people frequently visit when traveling in other countries. Some of the first things that come to my mind are the world’s famous palaces, like the Versailles Castle of Great Britain, France’s Versaille, Osaka Castle of Japan, and China’s Forbidden City. And in this, Korea is no exception. There are surviving relics of the country’s history and culture, and Seoul’s palaces are a must-see for tourists. The beautiful aesthetics of traditional Korean culture is melted into these palaces. A palace is a building where a king, queen, or member of the royal family lived. The palace is sometimes used as an official government building or the residence of a high-ranking official. As an aristocratic symbol, palaces have become a key element in attracting many tourists from afar, and palaces are also a core category of architecture too. In fact, in modern times, palaces are used as museums or hotels in many countries.

In East Asia, common translations for the English word “palace,” such as “Gung gwol,” “Gwol,” “Gung,” and “Gung jeon” all actually have different meanings. “Gung gwol,” also called “Gwol,” means the palace where the emperor or monarch of an independent country oversees government affairs, and a building one level lower than that is called “Gung.” In the Joseon Dynasty, a Gung gwol referred to a house where a king lived, a house where he lived before becoming a king, and a house where he stayed when he traveled. There are even cases where a dead king is enshrined is called a “Gung.” Again during the Joseon Dynasty, the palace where the king usually lived and conducted political activities can be seen as an official palace, and there are five remaining in the Seoul area: Gyeongbokgung, Changdeokgung, Changgyeonggung, Gyeonghuigung, and Gyeonghuigung (Deoksugung).

The Beginning and end of Joseon Gyeongbokgung, Nature-Friendly Palace. Changdeokgung and Changgyeonggung, Deoksugung was the site of humiliation. Gyeongbokgung is Joseon’s Beopgung Palace, and is a representative cultural heritage of Korea. It was the first palace to be built after the founding of the Joseon Dynasty. Gyeongbokgung Palace is located behind the main part of Bukak mountain, in front of it is located in the ideal spot where water flows. Gyeongbokgung Palace has been expanded and rebuilt many times since its foundation, and it has a painful history of many buildings being damaged by fires and foreign powers alongside its positive ones of prosperity.

Changdeokgung Palace was loved by kings. It was the palace where the most kings stayed. It has the traditional architecture of the Joseon Dynasty, and its architecture and landscaping against the backdrop of natural scenery express a high degree of harmony. It is located at the foot of Eungbong Peak, the left peak of Bukak Mountain. Changdeokgung Palace was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in December 1997. It is a representative palace with its unstructured beauty in the history of East Asian palace architecture, perfect harmony with the surrounding natural environment, and excellence in its layout.

Changdeokgung Palace is a palace built by King Sejong after King Taeyong passed away. In 1684, Sujeonggung Palace, a Japanese-style building, was demolished, and a new Sujeong Palace in the form of Octagon Pavilion was completed in 1686. In the 1800s, a consensus was formed between the government and the people for the development of national culture and the rediscovery and preservation of cultural and heritage traditions, as a result, many relics were renovated. In 1981, the government established the Changgyeonggung Palace Restoration Plan, and in 1983, more than 900 animals from 136 species and 2,177 plants from 691 species were moved to Seoul Grand Park. In the same year, the name was restored as Changgyeonggung Palace, and the Changgyeonggung Palace restoration project was carried out from 1984 to 1985. Changgyeonggung Palace has buildings that cannot be seen in other palaces, such as the Royal Tomb of King Sejong. In the Joseon Dynasty, when the descendants of the royal family were born, they buried a jar containing the name of the Spirit of the Korean Empire in Jeong-dong, Jung-gu, Seoul. Traditional wooden buildings of Joseon and Western architecture remain together, creating a unique atmosphere.

Even if you’re not a big history buff, these places are still nice to visit because the buildings are many hundreds of years old, and they have peaceful atmospheres, rather than the noise and crowds of the city. If you’re keen to learn about traditional Korean culture and beliefs, you’ll pick up more than others at these places. If you’ve enjoyed the content of this article, I recommend you visit these palaces or the city Gyeongju, which is full of Korean historical heritage. Thank you for reading, and I hope you visit those places someday.
Trading Apps for Used Goods

Paris is a world-renowned tourist city, and its flea markets are featured in the French drama, Lupin, which is one of the most popular series on Netflix. Flea markets are popular, not only in France, but also in many other countries among tourists as well as locals. As such, the selling of used items is deeply rooted in the culture of various countries. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many people have been unable to gather in places like flea markets, and people have become reluctant to meet strangers, for fear of infection. As a result, online used trading has become more active than ever before.

In Korea, various online services in which used trading is conducted include Bungee Marketplace and Joonggonana. However, the most popular among them is the Karrot Market, a used trading platform that is recognized for its corporate value of 3 trillion won. Currently, the Karrot Market has surpassed the value of Shinsegae, and has a similar value to Lotte.

The Karrot Market started in 2015 as the Pongyo Market, and operated exclusively within Korea’s equivalent of Silicon Valley, the Pongyo Tech Valley, just outside of Seoul. It established itself quickly, not only because it specialized in direct, used transactions, but also because it aimed at serving only the local community. Communication was encouraged between local residents, and it provided an easy way to obtain information related to the neighborhood, such as restaurants, recommendations and locations of local fish-shaped buns, as well as other trading carts, and essentially it captured the hearts of the local community.

These days, the Karrot Market operates throughout Korea, but, interestingly, it still retains aspects of its initial operation methods, to ensure that it serves local communities. The Karrot Market offers users a new experience: from the seller’s point of view, they are able to make money selling used items that were previously difficult to find the interested buyers for, so many items previously had to be thrown away. For the buyer also, they are able to experience buying an item conveniently and at an unexpectedly low price. The fact that trivial things at home can be sold at any time with the Karrot Market, made users attracted to the new platform.

The Karrot Market also gives people credibility. A characteristic of the Karrot Market is to limit the scope of transactions to a regional base. To act as a seller or buyer in the Karrot Market, local certification must be obtained through GPS. If someone is not registered in an area, it is not possible to see the products in that region, and therefore cannot trade in that area. This feature ensures that the Karrot Market operates in a similar way to the Panyyo Market before it, meaning that only people in the local neighborhood can see items for sale or make transactions. The transaction radius is limited to 6 km from a seller’s location, and in densely populated areas, this is reduced to being within 3 or 4 km. Therefore, courier transactions are not recommended, and turnover is usually fast, as close proximity allows buyers and sellers to meet shortly after a transaction is made to exchange the item. This also reduces concerns about fraud, with direct communication and transactions happening between local residents. Also, the Karrot Market, or Dang-geun Market in Korean, has the advantage of being an extension of the community. Dang-geun means “carrot,” but it can also mean, “let’s do it together.” As such, the Karrot Market is a service which suggests that you are able to share experiences or relieve difficulties with your neighbors. Sharing various interest-based activities, such as daily routines or hobbies, visiting local restaurants or volunteering, are just a few of the ways people experience the local community on the Karrot Market. It serves as an online meeting place which is integrated with the offline locality. In addition, for the purpose of effective connections, it is possible to specify a ‘target audience’ by allowing users to set the age, gender, or specific people to participate in group chats.

In other countries, the number of online trading services which are an extension of traditional flea markets is increasing due to the influence of COVID-19. Vinted is a French used trading service, which was launched in Lithuania in 2012. Although it started mainly by trading used clothing or accessories, almost any items can be traded and delivered by Vinted. Vinted offers non-face-to-face transactions, suitable for the COVID-19 situation and is actively used in 15 countries including France, with the ability to confirm the seller’s credit by the rating of buyers and the service also makes it easy to request a discount, being another attractive aspect of the platform. The Vinted app also has an intuitive interface, with various functions that make it superior to the previously-developed used transaction service, Leboncoin. It also has the advantage of smooth communication within Europe, as it supports translation services to trade not only within France, but also with neighboring countries. In the United States, there are various types of used trading apps such as eBay, using auction methods, and Etsy, which mainly sells handmade products. It is also possible to purchase used items on Amazon, a leading shopping site in the United States. A characteristic of using the Amazon app is that after searching for an item, it is divided into used and new items, and one can purchase items, comparing the prices. In Indonesia, a used item transaction service not only allows the sale of regular items, but also allows transactions on items such as cars and homes, going beyond what is typically sold on used trading platforms.

Although the economic downturn continues due to COVID-19, the used market has steadily shown growth. The pandemic has depressed the economy, and has prompted people to search online for second-hand goods in order to find cheaper items. COVID-19 has made people more cautious, but above all, people have found favorable methods in which to participate in used trading, rather than completely rejecting used transactions in themselves. The younger generation, who have positive experiences with sharing, consider the purchase of used goods as a reasonable means of consumption. They can also be left with a favorable impression, in that they are buying or selling an item with someone who has the same taste as them. Therefore, the possibility of further development of used transaction services in the future is to be expected.