

TOPNOTCH

GYEONGGI ACADEMY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES INTERNATIONAL NEWS MAGAZINE

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Principal's Message

Greetings,

This school, despite its short history, has flourished thanks to the hard work of the teachers and the passion of the students, and is now becoming the most desired foreign language high school to attend. The school's foundation, staff, and students alike will not stop striving to turn this school into a better one: one that will nurture great individuals. Outstanding students will be recruited on a national scale, and I will strive to turn them into creative global leaders who will contribute greatly to humanity.

To achieve this, we will:

- Enforce education based on Christian morals and ethics
- Help students get ready for university life with higher standards of education
- Encourage individuality and creativity
- Develop linguistic skills in order to establish a real global education system that can reveal Korea to the world.

The faculty and I shall work hard to achieve the above goals, with experience and knowledge. I will also strive to make the graduates into not those who will conquer the world, but into true leaders who will share with them the pain and hardships of others.

This school's new name is Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages. With this new change, our school will rewrite history, and turn our local education into an international one.

Thank you.

Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages Principal,
Ha-Shik Park



Good to Great School!
Global Top 7 High School!



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MJFLHS starts new as GAFL

Jee Ye Choi

As of the year 2009, Myong-Ji Foreign Language High School has changed its name to Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages. The biggest change of all is that the school foundation has changed from Myong-Ji to Bong Ahm Institute, and that Mr. Park Ha Shik has become our new principal. The change to GAFL not only means the change of name, but also everything from the spirit and educational policy to the school curriculum.

GAFL

The underlying signal of all the changes is the change of the school emblem to Bong-Ahm, meaning "the place where the Chinese phoenix lays its egg." The Chinese phoenix is said to symbolize the benevolent and wise king. Thus, Bong-Ahm as the token of our school means that Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages educates students to be the benevolent and wise leaders of today's world.

To live up to the whole meaning of our school's name, several old systems of Myong-Ji have been altered to raise leaders to be global leaders. First, the daily routine of Gafilians has changed so that Classes can start a little earlier and student can go to bed earlier to have enough sleep to survive the next busy day at GAFL. Also, a new program called ASG has started. ASG stands for 'After School of GAFL', and can be divided into 3 main terms; during the semester, weekends, and vacations. Currently, students take ASG after school during this semester. All 1st and 2nd graders were mandated to in the dormitories. Still, loopholes of this program do exist; most students complain that ASG takes up too much time. Nonetheless, with a few touches, ASG may well become the new pride of GAFL.

As the old saying "Well begun is half done" goes, Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages certainly has stepped off on the right foot. Expectations on GAFL are high, and GAFL and all 'Gafilians' can be accredited to live up to those high expectations and become the new global leaders of our age.



Our First Sports Day as GAFL

Lee Kang-San

Gaflians' sports day was celebrated on May 22nd. Following the entrance ceremonies, of each department were the final games of soccer, basketball and dodge ball. Other matches such as reply, balloon-rolling were prepared. The Chinese class swept both 1st and 2nd graders' trophies. Regardless of winning or losing, we did spend the most energetic and exhilarating day.

※ The day of being friends with the second graders.

"Sports day was not only the day of playing and running, but also a day for first years and second years to know each other more" said Hyun-joon(1112). He also expected this day will forever be cherished in his heart as a "harmonious day". Min-ah(1431) referred the sports day as "the first and most exciting opportunity to learn about cooperation". Also Hyuk(1708) said "The sports day was a great experience for 1st graders to be with the second graders. I also hope to be one of those great second graders that encourage the first graders in the future." Two other girls from Chinese-English major also interviewed with such joy. "It was a new kind of sensation for freshman, being the youngest. It was awesome to watch all the games and it will

forever last in my memory," exclaimed Jung-moon with enthusiasm in her eyes. Jung Min-hye, too, freely expressed her positive views on the sports day. "I never knew that sports day could be so exciting and competitive. It was inspiring and I'm looking forward to next year's sports day and a victory for our department!"

※ Chinese are the best!!

As Chinese class made a grand-slam, boys from Chinese department were very proud. "I was really surprised at GAFL sports day. GAFL sports day was full of our students' passion and enthusiasm. I enjoyed very much and I was proud our department again. Forever Chinese class!!" said Hwa-pyeong(1615), while Hyun-min(1616), another Chinese freshman, said "It was fantastic!!! I didn't even expect that we could win. Despite the continuous winning since our school was established, this time, I felt anxiety that we might lose. But, anyway... we are 中國語課!!"

Now, let's hear from other freshmen.

As it was my first time having such a big festival at highschool, I guess it was kind of a fresh experience.



Kim Sung-min(1703)

I heard about the fierce competition between different departments before, but I didn't think it was this fierce. It was the day that friends became complete enemies. (We become friends again later though)



Lee Ji-eun(1437)

It just broke my prejudice that foreign language high school students must be boring. I really look forward to the next field day.



Choi In-hye(1442)

We Love you, teacher!

Hyunju Park



On teacher's day in GAFL, many events and ceremonies were waiting to shine this memorable day. Early in the morning, students gathered around in classroom to prepare for their small yet meaningful events for the teachers.

Since all teachers were told not to accept any gifts except for cards and letters, students chose to write heartfelt letters and prepared special events as a token of appreciation. On the eve of the teacher's day, students wrote letters and cards and planned amazing parties to give their teachers a surprise. They decorated the entire classrooms with balloons, small pieces of papers with grateful messages on, and chocolate pie cake instead of expensive cake from bakeries. The blackboards in every class were beautifully decorated with handwritten messages and caricature of the homeroom teacher and classmates. Students handed bunch of cards and small presents and pinned the red carnations on the chests of their teachers. Astonished yet very much delighted, many teachers shed tears of joy and shared valuable time with students.

After that, all people gathered up in the gymnasium to attend a school ceremony. The ceremony started with a congratulations speech from the principal. Several students also went up stage to address the letters of thanks. As usual, the orchestra 'Dolce', one of the most active clubs in the school, delivered a

harmonious and mellifluous performance to the audiences. Especially on this day, Dolce played special pieces like 'Teacher's Love' as an expression of thanks to the great teachers in GAFL. Furthermore, the student council sang a song together and shared the results of a survey, 'We asked GAFLIANS', which was the most enjoyable part of the ceremony. The survey asked several students in school to vote for one teacher who they think to be most appropriate for the question. Many funny and witty questions were asked, like 'Who is most likely to turn away their heads when faced with students in seven eleven?' and 'Who is the fashion leader of GAFL?' The teachers chosen by Gaflians as the best fashion leaders showed a fantastic runway walk. The teachers who were nominated to be most likely to dominate the microphone in Karaoke boasted their remarkable singing skills. Finally, all students stood up and sang 'Teacher's Love' together. On this day, many of the graduated students also visited school to express gratitude to their respected teachers. Teachers in GAFL had the happiest moments on the day, both with current students and the graduates.

A teacher is just like a candle that illuminates others while consuming itself. They shape the minds and characters of a new generation and keep alive the light of learning. On this special day, all Gaflians had a valuable chance to rethink their teachers' hard work and memorialize their unlimited love and support.

Making a bridge with the Middle East

Ji Yun Jang



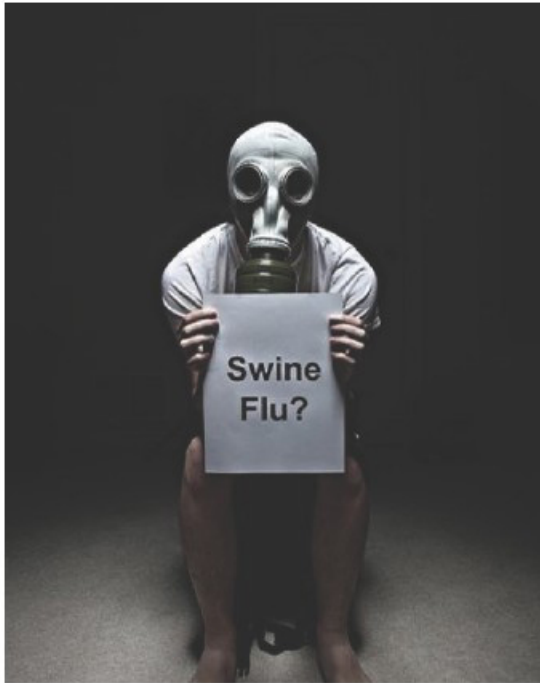
"And I'm also proud to carry with me the goodwill of the American people, and a greeting of peace from Muslim communities in my country: Assalaamu alaykum."

When President Barack Obama delivered with Arabic greeting, an audience of 3000 in the auditorium gave a standing ovation. This is the speech that was addressed on the forth of June in Cairo University by President Obama—"a new start". For 50 minutes Obama announced the new relationship of new fraternity between the Muslims and America to 13 million Muslims in the world. The speech was broadcasted by the representative press 'Al Arabia' and 'Al Zarabia' addressed directly to every person living in the Middle East. Also, it was translated in Arabic and Persian language on the homepage of the White House. The White House published the speech on Facebook, Tweeter, and even Myspace(the methods Barack use to communicate with citizens online) for citizens to have active debate.

Before his inauguration he had continuously put effort on relieving the relationship with Muslims and had a famous press 'Al Arabia' interview him first when elected as the president. During his speech, he expressed his hospitality to Muslims by quoting three times and mentioning his personal story that his father was from Kenya who was influenced by Muslim culture. Mesmerized by his speech, the audience clapped for more than 20 minutes. Also, he announced that America will not war with Muslims in any near future. And he also publicly addressed specific Middle East policy. Ironically, this speech was nearly similar to the one that was addressed by George Bush in New York, the UN headquarters at September 19.

But there' s a difference; President Barack Obama prepared this speech alone. Not only that, the evaluation and the response to the speech of Obama seemed more favorable than that to George Bush's speech. The Washington Post claimed that it was the richest speech Obama had ever made.

Aside from the evaluation of how good the speech was, revolutionary it was that Obama strived to show such openness to the Muslims.



People all around the globe have been devastated by the seemingly 'deadly' swine flu. On April 23rd, about 100 people in regions of Mexico reported their infection of H1N1, a mutated influenza caused by pigs. The contagious characteristics of H1N1 hoisted a sail and swept the whole globe in only a month; soon enough, new SI carriers emerged in the states of California, Kansas, and Texas. And the infected population further stretched into Asia and Europe. Currently, as H1N1 is being spread, countries like Philippine and Hong Kong are dealing with it wisely based on their former experiences with SARS and avian flu. For instance, Hong Kong keeps the biggest number of flu specialists and owns stacks of Tamiflu. Many countries are strengthening airport security with quarantines of suspected SI carriers and taking them to laboratories to conduct experiments regarding swine flu. Some suspicious areas are temporarily suspended from holding concerts, sporting events, or other public affairs.

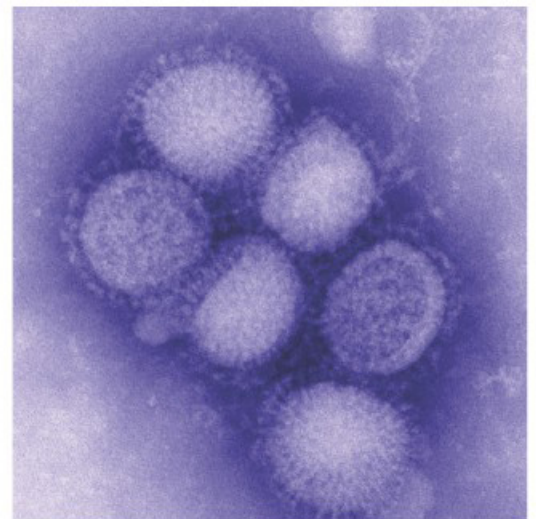
But listen—did you know that swine flu is not as serious as how people fear? According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), annual death caused by less-mentioned seasonal flu averages 3 million only in the United States. In contrast, death toll of swine flu is only at 81 so far. Let's compare it on a body; if seasonal flu kills people as much as the size of the body, swine flu kills less than bacteria living in the fingertip. The diagnosis rates also differ greatly. While about 300

False Alert Swine Flu is not the 'Black Plague'

HyoJin Ryu

million people annually suffer from seasonal flu, only 787 cases of swine flu have been reported. That is probably why World Health Organization (WHO) has not even rung the pandemic alarm—all the while media disguising SI as the notorious 'Black Plague'.

So far, there has been no definite cure for any kinds of flu, not even for the common and seasonal flu. Then why do people fear swine flu more than common flu that has more devastating effects? The answer is, as stated earlier, the media. People hurriedly buying preventive masks or refraining from pork dishes could be said to be the victims of exaggerated media, where competition sparks up for the glimpse of viewers. Ever since the emergence of the mutation H1N1 in Mexico, the media has made SI seem like a devil's pod that would eradicate the human race. But hey, calm down! As long as you live in a certain standard of sanitation and exercise regularly, it stands no chance against your immune system. What people should rather worry about is not the newcomer Swine Flu, but the common flu that has been bothering us all along.



Nuclear Crisis on Korean Peninsula

Junho Seo



On May 25th, North Korea tested two nuclear weapons in Gilju, North Hamgyeong province. It is the second time that the North Korean government operated such test since October, 2006. This test aroused anger internationally, and infuriated especially South Koreans who were grief-stricken after former President Roh's

death. President Lee Myeong-bak issued a statement that criticized inconsiderate behavior of the test immediately after the report. U.S. President Obama also blamed North Korea as the culprit of incessant disturbance in international society, and called the UN Security Council to discuss problem of strengthening sanctions on North Korea. Intended or not, North Korea's ambush has succeeded in drawing international attention.

Many experts were shocked at the fact that North Korea had done the test when its reputation was worst ever after the several missile launches. The North Korean government successively launched long and short-range missiles on April and May this year. Then some countries, especially U.S. and Japan, interpreted this action as a direct threat to their national security and warned that they could add more sanctions on the North Korea and enlist its name again on the State Sponsors of Terrorism. In spite of all these threats, however, North Korea did dangerous test again. Now, it's clear that the test aggravated the situation. Therefore, lots of people think that North Korea can earn nothing much from the nuclear weapon test. However, some of the experts stated that the nuclear test was inevitable for some credible reasons. They pointed out to the several domestic and international factors that led to the test.

One of the diplomatic causes is North Korea's intention to get a superior position in negotiations with newly elected Obama administration. As former president of the U.S., George Bush was very strict to North Korea and showed little interest in negotiating with the 'axis of evil', North Korea could not expect much from talks with the United States. However, since President Obama promised direct talks with the 'evils', the North Koreans would have anticipated that Obama would set North Korea-related problems at the top priority in his foreign policy agenda. Nonetheless, contrary to North Korea's anticipation, Obama turned out to be more interested in the Middle East issues. Thus, experts say, the North Korean



government chose to draw attention of the U.S. government by bragging their weapons.

Another likely diplomatic cause of the test is conservative South Korean government's attitude toward North Korea. During ten years of progressive regime in South Korea, the two Koreas participated in many talks to improve relations with each other. As a result, two summit talks have even taken place between South Korean presidents and North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-il. Yet, a regime swift from liberal to conservative in South Korea aggravated relations between two countries. Most of experts in South Korea ascribe nuclear crisis to attitude of the new government.

The last credible factor that may have triggered the crisis is closely related to domestic problems in North Korea. Power structure in North Korean government seems to have faced some changes. According to reports from NIS (National Intelligence Service), some hard-liners in North Korean military took up most of key positions in the government. These hard-liners lead hostile attitude toward South Korea and the U.S. Plus, some experts stated that Kim Jong-il contrived to show nuclear weapons to residents in North Korea to root patriotism in their minds.

None of the three factors are negligible, considering that these three causes altogether became the reason for the nuclear weapon test. What's obvious is that Kim Jong-il and North Korean government decided to use weapons of mass destruction as their way to defend themselves from their enemies. Right now, only red light is blinking for the signs of talks. But the best way that we can hope is to solve problems through negotiations and talks so that till the 'Berlin Wall' collapses in Korean peninsula.

The road to death - okay to be this easy?

JungYeon Lee

"I've tried to die with the people I met on the web," murmured a 19-year-old boy in an investigation on a group suicide attempt.

The party, which had attempted to commit suicide by inhaling gas in a van, consisted of 6 people from various social groups. Three were high school students, one a college student, and two men—one with a family and one with none. Observing only the outward appearance and social status, they had nothing in common except for one thing: serious lack of self-confidence.

Here is the never-ending question. Why do people think of killing themselves? The reasons may be mental disease, physical illness, love in vain, stress, huge grief, philosophical or ideological loss, discrimination, guilty conscience, loneliness and so on. But morale or self-assurance takes up the biggest part of all. People who go through these kinds of setbacks develop skepticism about their lives and about the reasons why they're struggling so rigorously to survive in the harsh society. The inferiority starts merely as simple emotion, but when the melancholic people stumble across someone just like themselves, their obscure thoughts become vivid and lucid. As they share their typical concerns with each other on sources such as the Internet, they evolve solid belief about their deficiency.

Every individual in the Korean society, or perhaps the entire world, has thought of suicide at least once in their crooked paths of lives. Nobody can absolutely adore their lives since they each have their own dreams of fairytale-like ideal lives. Absolutely natural it is to have aspects that do not fulfill the expectation of oneself, but people generally do not realize this and frequently conceive of self-destruction. However, hardly any human beings have the guts to put it into operation. Suicide needs more courage than anything. People feel the most attachment and affection to their own lives. Thus, even though it is painless to want to die, it actually needs great bravery to stop one's lives by their own hands. However, when people meet others who have

the wills to accompany them along the journey to death, they generate a baseless courage to kill themselves. Eventually, they die altogether, and their road of sweated endeavors and dearest memories with their loved ones ends just like that.

The suicide web sites are the culprit for these pitiful situations. The web provides the perfect seclusion for people to talk freely, because nobody knows who they are in the real world. Online, people feel at great ease to openly talk about anything—even the things they haven't told their closest relations for the sake of their images. Slowly, empathy arises; they meet each other and commit suicide. The web site is transfiguring such a dreadful behavior into something as easy as eating a piece of cake. Ironical it is, that the web, which was first made for human beings' convenience and welfare, makes everything simpler for people to let go of their own lives. Our nation should gravely think about this matter and initiate a settlement as promptly as possible.



A Sorrowful Day

Ji Woon Choo

On May 23rd, a tragedy hit Korea: the death of ex-president, Mr. Roh. The shock wave spreaded all over Korea. Many people watched this tragic breaking news on TV and lamented the ex-president's demise. Some even shed tears. Mr. Roh left the Blue House for Bongha village, his hometown after his resignation. That was where the tragedy began.

At 5:21 on the morning of his death, Mr. Roh finished typing his will on his computer and left it on. 25 minutes later, Mr. Roh went out for a walk in Bongha Mountain with only one bodyguard. When they had reached the Owl Rock, Mr. Roh dissipated the bodyguard's attention to the person going beneath the Rock and when the bodyguard looked, Mr. Roh threw himself down the Rock. So quick did everything happen that the bodyguard couldn't do anything to stop his president. After the accident, the bodyguard took Mr. Roh to the hospital and tried CPR, but he did not open his eyes. At 9:30, when the hospital saw no hope of reviving Mr. Roh, the government released the news of Mr. Roh's death.

Upon hearing the news, many citizens were mournful. Many cities made their own places of incense burning for Mr. Roh to pay the last respect to their ex-president. Some people even went to Bongha village to attend the funeral. It was a sad day for all Koreans. However, the government didn't seem pleased with these gatherings of people who grieved over Mr. Roh's decease. Sending the police to disorganize these assemblies, the government even allowed violence.

The reasons for Mr. Roh's catastrophic suicide are obscure, but many people are blaming President Lee. After Mr. Roh's retirement, President Lee obsessively dug in to find Mr. Roh's "foul past." When President Lee finally found out that Mr. Roh's family members received money from Park Yeon Cha, the corrupted chairman of Tae Gwang Industry, he "practically" ordered the Public Prosecutor's Office to investigate this suspicion. Now, we must remember "Mr. Roh-received-bribe-theory" was only just an accusation. Although President Lee was not sure if Mr. Roh actually received the money, he continued the investigation, making it a big issue. The investigation hurt Mr. Roh's morality, which he emphasized so much during his presidency. Mr. Roh's self-esteem had been cut down. This can be the very reason why he committed such suicide.

Mr. Roh's passing away is heartbreaking. Although he wore his heart on his sleeves about certain things, he was a man of integrity. "I would carry the entire burden with me so that my family or friends won't have to suffer," wrote he in his will. He cared about his associates even until the last moment of his life.

Never should we forget Mr. Roh, the true president of Korea.



A New Social Code: Dead-end Drama

JuEun Kim

Here's a story: One man, who was fed up with his wife, tries to kill her with his mistress. After killing her, he and his mistress become a married couple. They think the abandoned wife is dead but she survives. She grudgingly determines to revenge herself on her ex-husband. Down through the months, she strives to exercise and to learn dancing, and master foreign languages. Also, she camouflages herself by getting a haircut and drawing a spot on her face. After becoming a perfect and charming woman, she allures her ex-husband, the fool who abandons his mistress and marries her ex-wife.

Isn't this story absurd? This is the storyline of the drama, "The Temptation of Wife", which dominated the popularity among Koreans for the last months. Although the storyline of this drama was extremely unrealistic, many Koreans raved this drama so ardently that its ratings hit around 40%.

These days in Korea, we can often hear the word, 'Makjang' drama, which has the same meaning as 'Dead-end' drama. Since the success of "The Temptation of Wife", all the broadcasting companies are competing against each other to make more sensational dead-end dramas. Dead-end dramas use controversial subject matters such as adultery, incest, an adulterous relationship of relatives, and violence with an unreasonable and shocking story flow. It's an irony—people get tempted to watch these dramas while they detest these dramas.

The critics relate the popularity of these dramas to the reality of the society. Stuck in the current society so competitive and strict, people are tired of striving to endure this hardship. Plus, Korea is in tense atmosphere these days. Korea is suffering from recession and political conflicts with North Korea. Thus, people are looking for a haven from reality and find relief in dead-end drama.

Many critics worry that the dead-end drama, setting up a new culture code, can affect society. Especially youngsters are vulnerable to such dramas. The scenes of the dead-end drama containing sexual violence or adultery may make youngsters take these issues as general problems of society. This can increase the crime rate and the discord within family members. In short, "dead-end" drama is a pollution: It degrades the culture of Korea to the "Dead-end".





Show me what you've got!

Hyun ji Lee

Bi bi di ba bi di boo. When Cinderella loses hope of meeting her prince, her fairy Godmother helps her singing this song. It is told that when one sings this song, his or her dreams will come true. Although he didn't "Bi bi di ba bi di boo", Paul Potts achieved his life long dream by singing in the Britain's Got Talent, one of the most famous talent shows in the world. Along with the growing popularity of reality programs, talent shows have also gained fame. 'Britain's Got Talent', which has just curtailed its third season, is regarded as the 21st version of golden tickets for one's dream.

'Britain's Got Talent', aired on ITV, is a British version of 'Got Talent' series. The main goal of this program is to seek for people with talents from singing to tap dancing. Anyone with a talent can audition. After getting through the auditions, semi final and the grand finale, the chosen winner receives £100,000 and gets the honorable chance to perform at the Royal Variety Performance in front of the Royal Family including the Queen.

'Britain's Got Talent' is where normal people get a shot to show their talents to audience and the three renowned judges, Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, and Piers Morgan. With its first show on 9 June 2007, 'Britain's Got Talent' has already gone through 3 cycles. Over the years, it has returned fame not only toward itself, but also to its participants. Paul Potts, who was once living an unsatisfying life as a salesman, shocked the globe in the first series of 'Britain's Got Talent' by singing "Nessun Dorma" and won the final.

Not only Paul Potts, but many other people were also enabled to change their lives. Susan Boyle finally procured the chance to sing in front of the audience after years of lonely days as she placed 2nd in the competition. People who laughed at her dream of becoming a singer were truly amazed by her beautiful voice. Last year, a young street dancer George Sampson took the crown with his innovative dance routine. This year, a street dance group called Diversity got the golden ticket to perform in front of the Queen.

'Britain's Got Talent' is more than a normal variety show. 'Britain's Got Talent' gives normal people a chance to become stars. Most importantly, people are satisfied to realize that they can struggle to approach their dreams. Just like "Bi bi di ba bi di boo", 'Britain's Got Talent' is the magical song for people who aspire to show their talents.



“B-boy Performance of the Marionette”

Dongwoo Shin

“Life is all about Expressing” -Lee Woo Sung

When you think about b-boys, you usually conjure up images of flashy moves, head-spins, and powerful break dancing. However, somewhat unsuitable to describe with these words is a popular b-boy performance ‘The Marionette’. In 2006, Marionette was introduced with an eight-minute video through the Internet. And that eight-minute video transformed into the eighty-minute performance today. ‘The Marionette’ had won numerous awards and is one of the most popular performances in theaters even in times of recession. The director and the member of the Expression Crew, Lee Woo Sung created ‘Marionette,’ and his team-Expression Crew-performed the piece.

‘The Marionette’ portrays a tragic love story of a marionette doll. The story takes place in a little village and starts when a doll performer meets a nondescript marionette doll. Their excellent performances impress the villagers. Eventually with the help of the villagers they establish their own theater. One day, the doll notices a young girl who comes to see the show every day and falls in love with her. He performs his best for her to make her happy. However, even the girl could not bypass the magnitude of time. As an old woman, she comes to his show for the last time in her life. Sadly, the ageless doll was never to see her again. And the doll’s beautiful performance meets its fate as an evil magician who has always contrived to take over the theater, finally satiates his vicious desire.

It’s not easy to envision how this plot would be performed, considering that b-boy dances and performances usually consist of vivid moves and skills. And that’s what makes ‘The Marionette’ more unique and rewarding. While maintaining the b-boy dance moves, the Expression Crew portrays emotions of the sad marionette: love, sadness, and joy. ‘The Marionette’, is the mixture of tranquil and moving theme expressed through soft and powerful moves. The audience is left breathless as this moving drama narrates its story only through the silent movements of bodies. But this is not a ballet but a b-boy dance

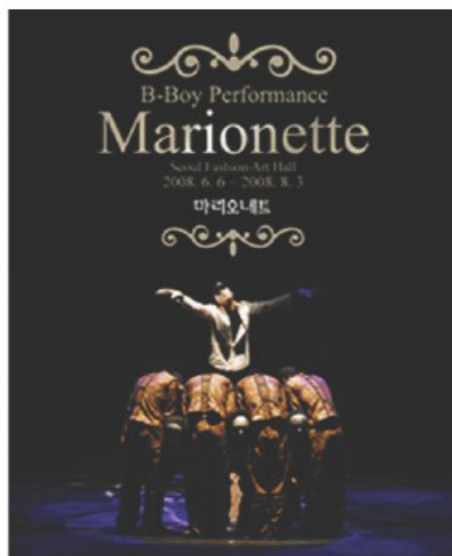
that magically invites the audience to the strong emotions of the story.

Such an extraordinary performance follows an extraordinary director. His name is Lee Woo Sung, whose life story and creation of ‘The Marionette’ are just as spectacular as his performance. Michael Jackson’s CD that Lee’s father bought for his middle school boy enticed Lee Woo Sung to the world of b-boy dancing. His deep love of dancing mounted as he grew older. In 1992, he created his own dance group called “Lee Woo Sung and Turntables”. Through various activities as the leader of this group, he confirmed that his life should be dedicated to dancing. Five years later in 1997, he created the Expression

Crew. Until then, he did not realize that this was the beginning of the downhill of his life. Living as a professional dancer was extremely difficult at that time; the Expression Crew was on the verge of disorganization. Lee Woo Sung, at this point thought that this could be the last of his dancing career and decided that the team would give the best performance of their lives and see how the fate turned. They prepared and practiced to the utmost of their ability. Exceeding everyone’s expectation, the Expression Crew finally returned as the first place in the Battle of the Year competition held in Germany.

However, the honor couldn’t curb the team’s misery. The popularity they retrieved after winning the competition faded away quickly in less than six months. Finally, the Expression Crew began to dismantle. A few even gave up. But Lee did not give up; rather, he once again gathered the remaining teammates. This time was born the famous Marionette. As soon as eight-minute video popped up on the internet came such explosive popularity! More than 190 million watched the video and demanded a full performance.

As dramatic as the show ‘The Marionette’, Lee Woo Sung’s life as the leader and the director of Expression Crew was not always smooth. Rather it was cruel and rugged with hardships. However, Lee strong volition to retry after constant failures bestowed a performance that will be cherished throughout decades.



Korean Films bloom in Cannes Film Festival

Dongeun Choi

One of the greatest film festivals in the world, Cannes Film Festival, is where every talented director competes and admires. Surprisingly, in this 62nd Cannes Film Festival, Korean movies drew truly tremendous attentions worldwide. The number of Movies that made inroads to this festival was the largest number in Korean film history. Including two awarded movies, a total of ten movies were shown in Cannes. The number and diversity of films were also so remarkable— from famous directors' film to student's films, and from animation to classic film.

"Thirst", directed by Park Chan-wook, won the Jury Prize which is the third-highest honor at the Cannes Film Festival. "Thirst" ("Bakjiwi" in Korean) is about a priest who turned into the vampire and struggles with his physical desires. This is director Park's second success at Cannes. He had already won the Grand Jury Prize in 2004 for his film "Old Boy". His unique style of storytelling and sensational imagery is well-shown in this film as well.

Even though it did not receive an award, "Mother" had stimulated hot interest and considerable attention from the natives through the 'Un Certain Regard' section. "Mother" portrays a mother who fights for her son's innocence against an accusation of murder. To the director of this film Bong Joon-ho, this is his third time to be nominated at Cannes including his prior films "The Host" and "Tokyo!"

The Korean director who has drawn Cannes' attention the most is director Hong Sang-soo. For Hong, it is fifth time to be in Cannes. He was invited for the non-competitive Director's Fortnight Section with his latest film "Like You Know It." He is the only director to send five films to both the competitive and non-competitive sections. Moreover, director Hong is the only director to make his way to the competitive section two years in

a row. The animation "Dust Kid" by director Jung Yu-mi was also screened in same section with Hong's film.

Actors Kim Tae-woo and Kim Tae-hun are the first brothers to be in Cannes at the same time. Kim Tae-woo visited Cannes for director Hong Sang-soo's "Like You Know It" which was shown during the International Critics Week; Kim Tae-hun for short film "Six Hours" by director Moon Seong-hyeok which was shown during the International Directors Week. The director of the "Secret Sunshine" - which honored actress Jeon Do-yeon for the Best Actress Prize in 2007 - Lee Chang-dong was appointed as part of the Cannes jury. This 62nd Cannes is the first case for Korean jurors to screen the competition.



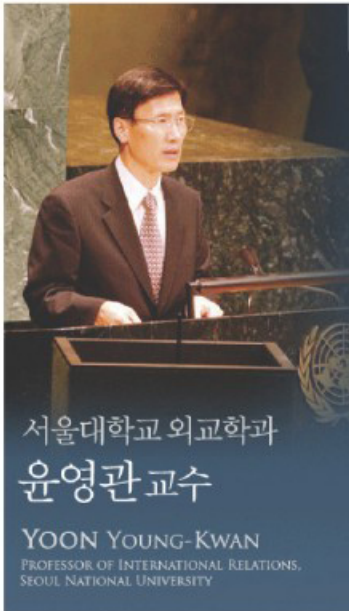
The other film invited to Cannes is the joint French-Korean film "A Brand New Life" by Ounie Lecomte who was born in Korea but adopted to France. One of the producers of this film is director Lee Chang-dong. Two Korean films participated in Cinefondation, a competitive section for young student directors: "The Horn" by director Kim Kyung-dong and "Don't Step Out of the House" by Jo Seung-hee. Jo's film, which was the experimental film of the Korea Film Academy, received the third prize in this section. "The Land of Scarecrows" by Roh Gyeong-tae was screened as part of the ACID program. Plus, digitally restored film "Prince Yeonsan" by the late director Shin Sang-ok was featured in Cannes Classics.

Korean film industry has bloomed more dazzlingly than ever in this year's Cannes Film Festival. The petals of these blossoms would fly with the winds to mesmerize audiences all over the world.

Dear Gaflian Diplomats

Interview with Seoul National Univ. International Politics professor, Yoon Young Kwan

Dayoung Oh



It was 9th, June when heavy clouds were fully loaded with raindrops, but not enough to block TOPNOTCH's way to the symbolic gate of Seoul National University. On our way to professor Yoon's lab, we quarreled who would knock professor's lab door. Our argument melt away as we reached the lab - the door was open for us. The opened door gave us an impression that he may be benevolent, unlike what we thought. Indeed a gentleman he was. As soon as we stepped inside,

gasping at the towered books, he offered us seats.

(T : TOPNOTCH, Y : professor Yoon)

T : I hope our visit didn't mess you up with your schedule..

Y : No, no. Not a chance.

T : Thanks. Now, for our first question: What is diplomacy?

Y : Actually, 'Diplomacy' is not about diplomacy. It is rather an 'International Politics' which stands for nation-to-nation, or nation-to-non-nation (NGO, multinational companies) relationship.

T : When did you first get interested in 'International Politics'(Diplomacy)?

Y : I found International Politics interesting when I was in my middle school years. I caught adults talking about the unification of North and South Korea. Then I found true philosophy of International Politics - unification is indeed important and diplomacy can serve as the key step for the unification. So I decided to dig more into diplomacy.

T : Recently North Korea's nuclear development has become a great crux. What will the crisis turn into in the future?

Y : North Korea nuclear crisis is now in a dilemma. United States and North Korea do not dare to trust each other - just as South

and North Korea do. For example, North Korea has another guess on United States' foreign policy - United States is waiting for a chance to isolate North Korea. This absurd idea made North Korea stick to developing nuclear weapons. However, United States worries that if it - the United States - leaves the crisis unsettled, the bitter future will come. Every word and every warning Nuclear NonProliferation Treaty (NPT) gives out to each country will just go in one ear and out the other. Also, when United States neglects North Korea's nuclear weapons, Iran would take the negligence as a tacit permission to bear nuclear weapons. This misunderstanding can work out as a threat to US-Middle Asia relationship. Especially, nuclear development of North Korea is hard for South Korea not only for the fear of nuclear weapons but also for North Korea trying to isolate South Korea by using brinkmanship. So, how the situation progresses we will see.

T : So how do you think the Korean government should tackle the problem?

Y : I have been advocating a policy of engaging with the North. Before North Korea reforms itself, there is nothing we can do. Starting a business in North Korea or contacting North Korean government whenever we want is still a long way off from us. North Korea still turns a deaf ear to other's advice about how to survive when its economy hit the skids. So we need to help North Korea to adopt the widespread economic structure so that North Korea can make living by themselves.

T : However, professor, two Koreas cannot contact each other since North Korea cut the line off. Then what do we have to do now?

Y : There used to be a channel that connected two Koreas. However none of them lasted as you said. So we have no choice but to rely on shuffle diplomacy based on cooperation with other countries.

T : United Nation started from a group of victory countries from WW II . So power in United Nation is up to those victory countries. What do you think about this?

Y : Right. United Nation, IMF and World Bank altogether needs to reform itself to get more access to real-life events. Despite many discussions about the reform plan of those organizations, the results of the passionate argument are still a baby step pulled

back by each country's interests.

T : Can you give some advice to future diplomats in GAFL?

Y : After 10 to 20 years when you are on service, things will change a lot. For one thing, I don't think North Korea can sustain current system for such long years. After all, North Korea relies on other countries to protect their livelihood. We never know whether North and South Korea can unify or build up a strong bond in trust by that time. Even so, if the future that envision comes, the toll of peace will resonate throughout every corner of Korean peninsula. One more: Up to global expectations, we need more experts in India, Islamic countries and Latin America. Along with this, we need 'diplomats out of conference table', which means we need cultural or economic experts who will take part in 'real' diplomacy. Gafians, new epoch will welcome you all. Your stage will not be limited in this peninsula – yours is the world. So, you'd better see high and clear. I always emphasize these following to my students too. Read international newspapers and catch up with what's going on around the world. In doing so, you will be able to wake yourself up, dust yourself off and aim at all points.

About professor Yoon (from his homepage <http://yoon21.net/>)

Jan 2004 - Present: Professor, Dept. of International Relations, Seoul National University

Feb 2003 - Jan 2004: Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Jan 2003 - Feb 2003: Chairman, Committee of Foreign Relations, Security, and Unification, Presidential Transition Team

Feb 2000 - 2002: Member, Policy Evaluation Commission (Foreign Affairs and Trade), Prime Minister's Office

Aug 1990 - Feb 2003: Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Dept. of International Relations, Seoul National University

July 1987 - July 1990: Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of California at Davis.

1985 - 1986: Part-time Research Assistant to the World Bank, South Asia Projects Department

1977 - 1980: Full-time Professorial Lecturer of International Law, Korean Naval Academy

Yoon Young-kwan (Ph.D., SAIS, The Johns Hopkins University) is professor of international political economy at Department of

International Relations, Seoul National University. Before he joined the faculty of Seoul National University in 1990, he taught at University of California at Davis for three years.

He wrote several books and published about 50 articles in the field of international political economy, Korea's foreign policy, and inter-Korean relations, some of which appeared in international academic journals such as *World Politics*, *International*

Political Science Review, *Asian Survey*, etc.

He established and served as the president of the Korean Institute for Future Strategies, a private non-profit research institute (www.kifs.org). He is currently senior advisor to the KIFS and the director of another research institute, the Korea Peace Institute (www.koreapeace.or.kr).

After serving as Chairman of Committee of Foreign Relations, Security, and Unification of Presidential Transition Team (Jan.-Feb., 2003), he served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade until January 2004.



Interview with Park Jin Tak:

“The founder of Organ Donating Foundation and the living token of servant leadership.”

Esther Hong



The motto of GAFL is “Servant Leadership,” meaning that a true leader does not rule but serve. The leader that this century, this world wants is a leader who sacrifices oneself to benefit others. People usually call this sacrifice “volunteering”. This Sunday, I met a truly great person. Having devoted his whole life for others, his passion for volunteering and his warm loving heart indeed touched me.

“Volunteering has become a part of my life. I cannot live without it. I do not think that volunteering is an act of bestowing favor; it is an obligation.”

Pastor Park, the founder of the Korea’s sole existing Organ Donating Foundation, is not just the founder or a president; he is a living witness and the harbinger of Korea’s volunteer activities and organ-tissue donation. Being the very first man to start the practice of donation of organs and blood, he has inspired other fellow Koreans to roll up their sleeves for blood and organ donations.

Q. Could you introduce briefly about this organization and how it started?

1991 February, I founded the Korean Organ and Tissue Donor Program. Before that, I regularly took part in the drive for blood donation. Finally, the efforts paid off. A number of people that I got to know in the campaign got together and found the organization in the hope of saving those who were desperate for healthy organs. Since, the campaign was the first to encourage people to donate their organs, it roused up people’s interest, or more precisely, curiosity. Thousands of people signed up to a point where one even had to make appointments beforehand.

I was not content with this. On the very first day we founded this organization; I got myself hospitalized and donated my kidney, becoming the first living person to donate organ in Korea.

Q. what inspired you to start the campaign?

After I had graduated from college, I decided to do something really valuable, something that can really change the world, and that would help people who are suffering from the greatest agony. After times of contemplations, I started as a pastor in a Useok Hospital. One day, I met a man whose life could be at stake without a proper surgery. Unfortunately, the man did not have the blood he needed for the surgery. Do or die – I decide to donate my blood. It took me a great courage to do this. Yet the strong faith that my sacrifice will salvage this man gave the strength to make such an important decision. After seeing the man fully recovered, I realized how happy and impressive experience donation – act of love and affection – can give to a person. The deep emotion that I felt gave me the life time mission. Subsequently, I continued participating in the campaign for blood donation. As the campaign went on smoothly, I decided to go to U.S to study. There I saw a dying patient being cured by the help and the donation from a person who is in comma. I was deeply stirred by this and decided to start a new project: campaign for organ donation.

Q. How are the organ and tissue donations working in Korea?

Last year, about 5000 people were brain dead (a condition where a person is unable to do any sorts of brain activity). In this state, one can donate about 9 organs. Last year 250 brain dead people donated their organs. This accounts for one-fifteenth of other nations. However, Korea is unique for its people donating kidney even when alive (Zero cases were found in Japan) Also, the fact that the government controls these sorts of donation system acts as a stumbling block. This is because we do not gain enough funding from the government. In fact, we depend primarily on the beneficent contribution of others. (For other countries, private organizations take the lead; donating is more flexible and active.)

Q. What were the most memorable moments?

Well, among many memorable and heart-touching moments, the

one that really touched me was the donation of a felon. This man, who just got out of jail after serving his sentence for a long period, called us and asked if he could donate his organs. He decided to donate his organs to start a new life as a good person, and this decision changed his life completely. After a few years, we received a letter from him. In the letter, he confessed that even in situations so desperate that he was tempted to do something illegal, he thought of the organ donation and the joy that he felt. Afraid to “lose” the deep emotion he felt after his compassionate acts, he refrained himself from committing more crimes.

Q. Also, were there any changes in your life while you were volunteering? What is the purpose of volunteering, why do we even have to volunteer? What is your concept of volunteering?

I believe that volunteering is a blessing. Volunteering, the most beautiful action a person can do makes a life fruitful. The fact that I have done something worthy makes me feel prouder about my life and further gives me the control over my life.

Many people when asked why they volunteer say that they are sharing what they have for others. This is true. Nevertheless, I believe that volunteering and helping others is a part of one's life. This has to be done. In other words volunteering is not a choice; it is a “must.”

You should never volunteer to show off. It should be solely out of a loving heart. You should have a strong faith that you will grow

to become a better person by the act of volunteering.

Q. Were there any difficulties while you were volunteering?

There were many difficulties. The campaign started without any firm backgrounds. There were no laws or rules, causing many misunderstandings. Some even said that I worked as a broker who sells organs and tissues. Even close people around me were skeptical and treated me as a cold-blooded person who sold people's lives. There were about 7 major difficulties that almost drove this organization to the end. Nonetheless, the strong belief about what I am doing and the passion for the works that I did prevented me from giving up.

Q. Are there things that Gaflians can do to be a part of this beautiful act altogether?

People under 18 are able to donate bone marrow only under the permission of parents and their families. Nevertheless, no indication states the legal age for donation. Yet, we do not “encourage” young people to donate, for it may burden one's families. We do suggest, for those people who are willing to donate to be healthy. Organ donation does not only come from a loving heart; It also has to be in a good condition. Thus, for all of you, always be considerate of your health.

When I was young, I looked for what gave me a righteous happiness. At first I found that happiness in Bible and this happiness brought me to study the Bible. While I was studying the Bible, I found the joy in helping others. This pure blessing of helping others made who I am now. Now, I suggest everyone to find what really makes them happy, for this will guide you to become a great leader.





日本語先生たちとの話し合い！

Yejin Kim

お寿司とタコ焼の国、日本！ 映画とアニメの本場、日本！ 今日はお隣の国、日本から来た二人の美女先生と一緒にインタビューをしました。

一年生の日本語会話の授業を担当していらっしゃるひとみ先生と、二年生の授業をなさっているあや先生。

今日は二人の先生方に普段の時は聞けなかったお話をたくさん聞くことが出来ました。

あや先生とひとみ先生は忙しいところわざわざ時間を出して、楽しくインタビューに応じてくださいました。まずは二人先生の個人的な事についてきいてみました。

◇：日本を離れて韓国で先生の仕事をやっている理由を教えてください。

ア：私は日本でも教える仕事をしてたんですよ。教えるって言うとならそうですけど、韓国に来た理由は、私が日本にいた時、韓国人の友だちが来て韓国に興味を持つようになりました。それではじめて韓国へ来ました。

ヒ：私も同じく日本にいた時、韓国の生徒が多くて、韓国に何回か来たんですけど、食べ物もおいしいし、町の雰囲気も好きだから韓国へ来ました。

◇：わあー、先生日本でも先生だったんですね。では、次の質問はGAFLの皆が一番聞きたがる質問でした。

あや先生とひとみ先生はいくつでしょうか？

ア：(笑) それは秘密です。

ヒ：ええーじゃあ、私も秘密で！

◇：秘密なんですか。私も知りたかったのに残念。ところで先生、彼氏はいますか？

ア：いませんよ。

ヒ：私もいません。でもほしいです。(笑)

あや先生とひとみ先生はぜんぜん緊張しないで、普通どおりやさしく質問に答えてくださいました。

そのおかげで、私もずっと楽しくインタビューをすることが出来ました。

次はGAFLでの日本語会話授業について聞いてみました。

◇：次の質問です。もし授業中、大変だった事とか、うれしかった事や、おもしろい話があったら教えて下さい。

ヒ：私、三月にここへきて、ひらがなとカタカナから一年生の勉強を始めたんだけど、四月の終りごろ、ずっとカタカナを書けなかった男の子がプリントに自分の名前を書いてくれた時すごくうれしかったですよ。

◇：去年いっちゃったかおり先生もそれいいましたよ。ほかに大変だった事がありますか？

ヒ：大変なことは、皆、元気すぎて、うるさい時が多いですね～

◇：あや先生はうれしい事とかありましたか？

ア：一番うれしい時は、皆が一生懸命日本語を話そうとしている時、そして授業で習った事を使う時かな。

大変な事は特になんですけど、先生が二年生の授業の時、前に絵のプリント持っているんだけど、

それがおもしろいですよ。(笑) "皆、早く言って～" って思います。

◇：プリントがおもかったんですね。それじゃ、おもしろい話はありませんか？

ア：去年、クラスで地震の避難訓練をやってたんですよ。

電気を消して地震の画像を見ながら皆でつくえの下に入ったりしたんですけど、

ちょうどその日がお母さんたちが見に来る日だったんですよ。暗い部屋で皆がつくえの下に入っていたから、

クラスの外からお母さんたちや部長先生の方がみて、だれも入って来なかったんです。(笑)

◇：先生、GAFLでいい思い出がたくさんありますね。あ！この前に体育祭があったんですけど、

何か体育祭を見て思った事とかありますか？

ア：私は感動しましたよ。日本語会話はクラ

スも半分だし皆が一緒にいる姿を見る機会がなかったんですけど、体育祭の時、

皆が集まって応援をしたりゲームしたりするのを見てすごく感動しましたね。

ヒ：私も皆で楽しんだり、互いに応援するのを見てGAFLが好きになりました。

先生に授業の事や体育祭の話をきいて、私はとてもおもしろかったです。

そして私たちのために一生懸命頑張っている二人の先生に感動しました。

次は先生方に韓国と日本について比較してもらいました。先生の目からは韓国はどんな国なのか、

先生の韓国の好きな食べ物はなにか全部ここにあります

◇：まず、先生。韓国語は出来ますか？

ア：挨拶ぐらい。

ヒ：挨拶と食堂のメニューは大丈夫です。でも発音が悪いから、"ジョッバル" になっちゃう。むずかしい～(笑)

◇："ジョッバル" っておもしろいですね。それでは、

日本の高校生と韓国の高校生の違うところや同じところは何だと思いますか？雰囲気とか言葉使いとか…

ア：ええと、韓国の生徒さんたちが物腰に自信があるんじゃないかな。何か思ったことをはっきり言える感じ？

ヒ：あの、日本の学校ってスポーツ一生懸命にやるんでしょう？皆あまり見る機会がなかったんですけど、

体育祭の時に皆運動しているのを見てやっぱり高校生は同じだねとあや先生としゃべりました^^

◇：やっぱりスポーツって世界どこでも同じなんですね。ところで先生、韓国の料理で一番好きな食べ物は何ですか？

ア：一番って言うともむずかしいね。たくさんあるから。(笑)

ヒ：私ね、一番が"サンギョブサル"、二番が"チョゲグイ"、三番が"ジャジャンミョン"です。

◇：どれもおいしいですね。でも"チョゲグ

イ"って日本にもあるんじゃないですか？

ヒ：日本で食べたら貝って高いんですよ。でも韓国ではじめて"チョゲグイ"を食べた時、量も多くってうれしかった。大好き。

ア：私の好きな韓国の料理は"ダクハンマリ"かな。

◇："ダクハンマリ"って鶏一匹が入っている料理でしょう？

ア：日本では鳥が一匹全部入ってる料理ってないんですよ。だからはじめて見たとき"と、

とりが入ってる"って思ってびっくりしました。

◇：じゃあ、逆に韓国に紹介したい日本の料理はなんですか？

ア：いろいろあるけど、今思いついたのはトンカツかな。

ヒ：私も！！韓国には薄い豚肉の上に梅干しを巻いてトンカツにしたやつないんでしょう？しそと梅がまいてあって、夏に食べたくなるんですよ。自分で作ろうとしたらやっぱりめんどくさくなって、しそがないとおいしくないから…

ア：その他にもた焼きやお好み焼き焼きうどんもぜひ紹介したいですねえ～

◇：トンカツもお好み焼きも全部食べたくなちゃった。先生方は思ったより韓国語に弱いでした。

でもスポーツとかを見て感じる感動は世界どこでも同じだと再びこのインタビューで知りました。

そして、日本の食べ物と韓国の食べ物について話しながら、やっぱり、国ごとに伝統的な料理があるんだと思いました。

日本と韓国の料理、私にはどれもおいしそうで、

これからも両国が料理だけでなく互いの文化や教育などの場面でも交流を増やしてほしいです。

インタビューの最後にはGAFLの生徒たちがもっとも聞きたかった質問をしました。

◇：いよいよ最後の質問です。ひとみ先生にまず質問しますよ。一年生の皆が先生の事"かわいい"と言ってるんですけど、それについてどう思いますか？

ヒ：私はやっぱりうれしいですね。それはたぶん私がいつも笑ってるからだと思います。

◇：先生、本当にかわいいですよ。そして、あや先生は皆が欲しがってるナイスボディーもっているんですけど、そのスタイルの秘訣とかありますか？

ア：まず、ナイスボディーではないから秘訣とかないんですけど、皆をだますように努力してます。

立つ時も姿勢を良くするとか、おなかに力を入れるとか意識しているんですよ。

◇：そゆう秘訣があったんですね。私たちはみんなだまされてたのか。残念ですが、

これで準備した質問は全部終わりました。今日は本当にありがとうございました。

私にこのインタビューはとても楽しくていい思い出になりました。そして、

二人の先生についていろんなのを分かることができました。忙しいところ時間を出してくれた二人の、

あや先生！ひとみ先生これからもGAFLのために頑張ってください!!!



修学旅行とインフルエンザA(H1N1)

YooJae Na

インフルエンザA(H1N1)が世界で急速に広がり多くの被害をもたらした。
 中国、日本などつまり、1、2年生が修学旅行に行く国みんなが感染者が出た。
 今年の修学旅行で国外に行く生徒たちは自分の行動に責任を持たなければならない。
 インフルエンザの大量発生によって大阪とアメリカへ行く計画がとり消された。
 多くの学生たちには関係のない話だが、東京へ行く学生たちはむねを撫で下ろしたはずだ。
 大阪への修学旅行がとり消された時、東京はインフルエンザA(H1N1)の感染者が出ていなかった。
 しかし去る6月12日、東京都港区の高校生8人と教師3人がインフルエンザA(H1N1)に感染しことが確認された。
 また、東京都近の千葉県学校でも6人の感染者が出た。残念ながら、東京も今はそんなに安全ではないようだ。
 他の国も公式的な感染者は日本よりは少ないとは言え、本当に安全だとは言いきれない。
 特に中国は、インフルエンザに感染した人が申告もせず町を歩きまわることが多いと言われている。
 私たちの修学旅行が蒸し暑い7月に予定されていることも‘幸運’だったと思うことはできない。
 専門家によれば夏にインフルエンザの伝播力が弱くなるということが一般的ではあるが、
 今度の新種ウイルスは言葉どおり‘新種’であるから気温上昇にどのように反応するか予測することができないと言う。
 インフルエンザA(H1N1)が気温に直接的な影響を受けるのであればメキシコのように気候が高い所では患者が発生するはずはないのにそうではなかったということが気になる部分だ。
 今度の修学旅行は1年生には高校生としての初めての修学旅行であり、2年生には最後の修学旅行となる意味ぶかい旅行だ。
 特別な修学旅行を思う存分楽しむことも良いが、今度の修学旅行は他の時とは違って気をつけなければならないということをも肝に銘じ行動すべきだ。



留学“热”

KyeongWon Park

中国教育部表示，在中国留学的外国留学生中，韩国留学生最多，其次为美国、日本留学生。就像中国流行‘韩流’，韩国也掀起了‘中国热’。韩国同学里很多人都以能说汉语、能交中国朋友为荣。

中国教育部副部长章新胜说，随着中韩经济交往不断扩大，企业、工商等社会各界对汉语产生了极大的关注，他们需要交流与交际，掌握普通话、简体字、实用汉语，从而进一步了解中国社会的方方面面。

韩国教育人力资源部副部长金信福则表示，无论从经济目的还是从文化渊源来说，韩中都有必要进行交流。

中国教育部国际合作与交流司司长张秀琴发表声明：“截至去年年末，在中国留学的外国留学生人数为22.3499万人（189个国家），比前一年增加了14.3%。”这个数据表明：“中国凭借灿烂的历史和文化、改善政府服务质量等，已成长为外国留学生首选留学国家之一。”

韩国留学生选择去中国留学的几大理由如下：

1. 中国经济的飞速发展

中国于1978年开始实行改革开放政策，经济建设取得飞跃性的发展。自1997年以来，中国经济平均每年增长7.7%，是世界上经济发展速度最快的国家。2001中国加入了世界贸易组织(WTO)，促进了中国的开放和加入全球化的进程。随着中国经济的高速发展，中国人民生活质量有显著提高，思想观念逐渐开放，中国逐渐形成了巨大的消费市场，为全球经济注入了新的活力，并吸引了越来越多的国际大公司来中国投资。而不断涌入的外资也促进了中国民族的产业发展。2008年的奥运会召开以后，北京名副其实地成为了世人瞩目的焦点。

2. 中国有着优良的教育设施和环境

中国拥有五千年的悠久历史。中国自孔子时期开始，就非常重视教育。中国自中华人民共和国成立至今，已建立起较为完备的教育体系，培养各类专业人才，为人类社会的发展做出了重大贡献，也提高了中国整体的国民素质。

3. 中国有着悠久灿烂的历史与文化

中国是东方文化的起源地，很多亚洲国家的文化的根源都可以追溯到中国文化。中国有博大精深的古典哲学、丰富的古典文学、饮食文化，还拥有诸多名胜古迹；在保持和继承传统文化的同时，中国文化也在向现代化发展。到中国学习可以体验到中国古老的传统文化和现代碰撞交融后的中国文化。

4. 中国政府十分重视外国留学生工作

中国政府历来十分重视外国留学生工作。在新中国成立的第二年即1950年就开展了来华留学生教育。1978年实行改革开放后，来华留学生工作进入了快速发展时期。这也就说明了中国经济的发展是吸引外国留学生的一大因素。

许多韩国青年意识到，中国迅速发展的经济和广阔的市场不仅给韩国带来巨大机遇，也为他们提供另一种前程选择，汉语已成为他们求职升迁的砝码。

因此选择去中国留学的韩国留学生越来越多，他们怀着自己的梦想远赴异国他乡，愿他们都能实现自己的梦想。

global warming.
oh no.



地球着火了

Sunjin Kim

随着工业技术的发展，再加上人们的环保意识薄弱，地球变暖问题也越来越严重了。这地球变暖现象是石油、煤等燃料燃烧以后排出的二氧化碳造成的。大气中的二氧化碳的增加会使地球表面的温度上升，南、北极的冰川融化。海平面升高，这将给全世界带来大灾难。

据专家们预测，如果不及时减少CO₂排放量的话，过了数十年后，会给人类带来严重的后果。就我国而言，冬季会消失，从事冬季事业的商人们都会失业；我国会进入亚热带气候圈，韩半岛会有很多亚热带害虫登陆繁殖；而对整个地球来看，全球的沙漠化现象会不停的进行，台风、暴雨等自然灾害也常常会发生。

由此可见，二氧化碳排放带来的后果是非常严重的。它不仅仅给我国带来灾难，全世界都受其影响。比如低于海平面低的国家和城市，像荷兰和纽约，会被海水淹没就是一个好例子。

那么，我们应该要如何防止地球变暖现象呢？答案是很简单的：不用化石燃料就好了。

因为化石燃料就是造成地球变暖的原因。但是，像中国、印度等发展中国家，不太愿意采取降低二氧化碳排放量的措施。开发太阳能等环保能源不仅会减少球环境污染的问题，而且这种能源也是全世界都可以共享能源。

环保型能源不像石油那样非要从某个国家进口。环保型能源技术的开发除了政府的引导之外，还需要我们每个人共同参与。此外为了减少二氧化碳的排放，我们可以从节约用水、少用汽车等小事做起。

总而言之，地球变暖现象的原因是人们的生产生活排出的二氧化碳造成的。如果我们不降低二氧化碳排放量，全世界都会深受其害。所以我们需要世界各国努力去开发环保的能源，而且我们国民应该要有一个节约用电、少用汽车等环保意识，才能使这个问题得到控制，使全世界人类过上幸福的生活。



Science for Humanity

Sungho Park

"What is science?"

As a medicinal chemist of the future, I define "science" as "an attempt to analyze natural phenomena." This simple definition fits well into the science before the 20th century, and discoveries made during this period are the main source of the material that constitutes our science textbooks.

In today's world, however, "science" does not necessarily imply a quest for the wonders of nature derived from pure curiosity; instead, it is often interpreted as a term interchangeable with "technology." The purpose of today's "science" is not only to discover and unveil, but also to apply the theories to practical areas. As scientific research progresses, technology also develops, facilitating a society where humans can easily fulfill their desires.

In short, the role of science has changed over the centuries. It is not just a subject of research, but is also a method, a means to improve this world. This does not imply a "tainting" of the original science. Although we cannot deny that tragic events such as the advent of the Weapons of Mass Destruction can be attributed to science specialists, modern science has indeed successfully played its role in making this planet a better place to live in.

Then what are the objectives for science to accomplish? This question is analogous to how we must deal with science in the future. First of all, if it is to be used for the sake of our desires, we must first question the value of those wishes. This is a moral problem that varies depending on the individuals' set of life principles, but that science should never be used to harm others is a sure thing. The Manhattan Project led by American physicists during the 2nd World War, which led to the invention of the atomic bomb is a good example of how science can go awry.

Furthermore, science must solve the major problems humanity is facing now.

"Should our best minds be dedicated to solving our biggest problems?"

This quote from Bill Gates' Harvard Commencement Speech of 2007 implies what scientists can and must achieve with their knowledge and research. The severe poverty and diseases prevalent in the Third World and the environmental crisis the Earth is facing now are common challenges which only science can yield the answers. Science for Humanity is the hope that will change the world.

Interview with the Japanese Teachers!

Yejin Kim

The land of Sushi and Takoyaki, Japan! The motherland of animation films, Japan! Today, TOPNOTCH interviewed the beautiful teachers from the neighboring country: Ms. Hitomi, in charge of freshmen's conversation classes and Ms. Aya, in charge of the second graders. Today was the exceptional day to hear from the two teachers about their personal stories. The ladies were kind enough to offer TOPNOTCH their time for interview. (A stands for Ms. Aya, H stands for Ms. Hitomi.)

◇ : Tell us the reason why you're teaching in Korea outside your homeland.

A : Teaching seems significant, but I've been teaching in Japan. I came to Korea because I was drawn to Korea, thanks to the influence of my Korean friend.

H : Same with me. I frequently flew to Korea when I was in Japan, got attracted to the delicious food and the atmosphere of the streets in Korea, and decided to come here.

◇ : Wow, so you still were teachers in Japan. And the next question is what all Gaffians want to know. How old are you?

A : It's confidential.

H : For me, too.

◇ : So you're all tightening your mouths. Okay. Then, do you have boyfriends?

A : No, I don't.

H : Neither do I. But I'd love to have one. (Smiles)

Since Ms. Aya and Hitomi responded with their usual tranquility and generosity, TOPNOTCH could continue on the interview with excitement. Next, I questioned the two teachers about their conversation classes.

◇ : Next question. Tell us any episodes from your classes. Hard times, happy times, anything.

H : I started teaching on March with Hiragana and Katagana with the juniors. And there was a boy in my class who couldn't write Katakana. But when—about April—that boy wrote down his name on the print, I was more than happy.

◇ : You know, Ms. Kaori last year said the same thing. Weren't there any difficulties?

H : Well, the students are so energetic that they get too loud.

◇ : What about you Ms. Aya, any moments of happiness during your classes?

A : I feel the happiest when everyone tries to speak in Japanese and to use the grammars I taught during the class. I don't particularly have hardships, but the print I'm holding during the class, are very heavy. So I murmur inside my brain, "please speak faster—"

◇ : Oh I didn't know that print was heavy. By the way, is there any interesting episode?

A : Last year, we did some mock earthquake evacuation. Everyone went under the tables while watching the motion pictures of earthquake. But that day was the parents' school-visiting day! Seeing everyone under the desks with all the lights out, parents or supervisors wouldn't come in to the classroom.

◇ : I see both of you have good memories in GAFL. Right, we had GAFL sports day last month, what did you think about the sports' day?

A : I was very impressed. Since the Japanese conversation classes consist of only half of the entire class, I didn't get much chance to see the entire class. But I was touched at the scene of everyone cheering and working hard for their teams.

H : I, too, got very fond of GAFL after seeing everyone cheering and enjoying their times.

◇ : I had fun hearing your thoughts about the sports' day, and I as well was moved to see you working hard for us. For the next question, I asked the ladies about Korea and Japan from what Korea means to them, what Korean food they like the most to what cuisine they can cook everything here.

◇ : First, can you speak Korean?

A : Just saying hello.

H : Saying hello and reading the menus in restaurants are okay with me, but my pronunciation is too bad. I pronounce, "jokbarre—" when I say "jokbal." It's difficult.

◇ : "Jokbarre—" That's funny. Did you find any difference between Korean and Japanese students? Like speaking habits, styles, or anything.

A : Um, I think Korean students are more confident when speaking.

H : Japanese students actively participate in their PE classes, don't they? I didn't get to see the students here exercising hard till the sports' day. Ms. Aya and Ms. Hitomi nodded our heads that all students are the same.

◇ : After all, sports is same everywhere. By the way, what is your favorite Korean food?

A : My "favorite" is too hard to pick. I have too many.

H : My first favorite is "Samgyebsal," second "flared nutshells," and third "Jajangmyeon."

◇ : You're favorites are one of the most delicious among Korean food. But don't you have the

flared nutshells back in Japan, too?

H : Nutshells in Japan are too pricy. But when I first tasted nutshell in Korea, I was pleased to taste a lot of them. I love nutshells.

A : My favorite Korean food is "w10000 chicken"

◇ : Yeah, that's the chicken packed without getting cut.

A : No food in Japan serves a chicken as it is. So when I first saw that chicken, I was like "ch, chicken is packed in!" I was shocked.

◇ : Now, is there any food that you'd like to introduce to Koreans?

A : I have several but now I can only think of fried pork.

H : Me too! There isn't a fried pork made by putting fermented plum on thin pork meat, is there? The taste of "Siso" and fermented plum comes to your mind in summer. I tried to make it by myself, but not surprisingly, it's less delicious without "Siso" and takes too much work.

A : I'd love to introduce Takoyaki, Okonomiyaki, or Yaki noodles.

◇ : Ah—I want to taste the fried pork and Okonomiyaki! Teachers weren't as good in speaking Korean as expected. But TOPNOTCH realized that we all felt the same passion on the impressive sports' day. Talking about Korean and Japanese food bestowed us the opportunity to know about the signature food of each country. TOPNOTCH hopes to see the two countries expanding their ranges of interaction, from cuisines to culture and education. Wrapping up the interview, TOPNOTCH popped up the most inquired question to the teachers.

◇ : Finally, the last question! All juniors say that you're so cute. What do you think about that?

H : Of course I'm glad. That's probably because I laugh all the time.

◇ : You're really cute. And for Ms. Aya, you're in such a good shape. How do you keep that shape? Any secrets?

A : I don't have a secret because I don't think I'm in a good shape. I'm just trying hard to deceive others. I'm always aware of my body by standing up straight and tightening my stomach.

◇ : Wow, that was your secret, then. So we're all getting tricked! Now, I really hate to say this but this is the end of today's interview. Thank you again for your time! Today's interview will be cherished as a meaningful memory for a long time. And I got to know more about the teachers. Ms. Aya and Hitomi, thank you again for your generous offer and please keep up the good work for GAFL!

Translated by Hangyeol Lee

Summer Vacation Trip & Influenza A (H1N1)

Yoojae Na

The spread of Influenza A inflicted the world with its formidable rapidity. Japan and China, to which the juniors and seniors chose to take a trip all reported several cases of infection. Those who chose to take trips abroad must hold responsibility on their actions.

The flight set for Osaka and the U.S was canceled due to the spread of influenza. Though this cancellation does not inflict most of GAFL students, those set for Tokyo must have been apprehensive. Tokyo has not yet reported any case of H1N1 when the trip to Osaka was cancelled. However, eight high school students and three teachers in Minato-gu, Tokyo were confirmed as the first case of H1N1 infection. Six more cases were confirmed in Chiba. Unfortunately, Tokyo is no longer a safe haven. Other countries reported less number of cases; but fewer cases don't necessarily mean safety. It seems rampant particularly in China for influenza carriers to walk around the streets without reporting or getting proper treatment.

The fact that our trip is scheduled on July is not a serendipity. Experts say that the diffusion rate of influenza normally thwarted by the heat of summer, but since this influenza is literally 'new', nothing can predict how this influenza reacts to the rise of temperature. To believe that influenza is directly related to temperature is troubling, noting that Mexico reported several infection cases.

This trip is the first school trip for the juniors and the last for the seniors. All Gaffians can relish the journey, but always be careful on your actions, noting that this trip is different from other trips.

Translated by Hangyeol Lee

The “Chinese Fever”

KyeongWon Park

The education department of China revealed that Korean students account for the most part of international students in China, followed by American and Japanese students. Like the wave of Korea that stirred China, the “Chinese Fever” is sweeping Korea. Korean students are striving themselves to interact with their Chinese friends.

The administrator of Chinese education department announced that interest on China is burgeoning as the economic transaction between China and Korea increases. To understand each other better, Koreans are learning formal Chinese expressions, Chinese characters, and conversation skills. In response, the administrator of Korean education department emphasized the importance of interaction between Korea and China. “Last year, estimated number of 22,349 studied in China and this number increased 14.3% this year. With its glorious history and high-quality governmental support attract international students around the world,” said the supervisor of foreign interaction in Chinese education department.

Following are the reasons why students chose China to study in:

1. The rapid development of China's economy

China welcomed significant economic growth since their open policy in 1978. Since 1997, the average rate of economic growth in China amounts to 7.7% and ranks as the fastest economy to grow. In 2001, China enrolled in WTO, stimulating the opening and globalization of China. Along with the rapid economic growth, living standard of Chinese has improved significantly and Chinese philosophy liberalized; Now China steps up as the tremendous consumer market in the world. Numerous foreign ventures invest in China, which in return energizes the world economy. The incessant inflow of foreign capital stimulated the development of China's industry. Since the 2008 Olympic, Beijing advanced as the intersection of world's focus

2. The system and environment of education in China

China glares with thousand years of history. China emphasized education since the Confucian dynasty and complemented its education system since the establishment of the China People's Republic. China fostered professional human capital in every fields to contribute to the development of mankind and strives to upgrade the overall abilities of its people.

3. Long and glorious culture and history of China

China is the origin of oriental culture. China boasts its magnificent and prolific classic literature, traditional food, and ancient philosophy. And China's assets are constantly being modernized along with the preservation work for those assets. Thus, students can have the opportunity to experience both the traditional and modern culture of China.

4. Chinese government's focus on international class

Chinese government has consistently been focusing on the international students. The education program for international students initiated only after the second year of the establishment of Chinese government. And the venture for international students congregated to its peak stage since the open policy in 1978. This accounts as the factors that attract international students to China.

Many Korean students acknowledge that China's significant development, economic growth, and broad market offer them a golden opportunity. Still, the students heading for China with dreams is gradually increasing. May all their dreams shine through.

Translated by Hangeeol Lee

The Burning Earth

Sunjin Kim

Along with the development of industrial technology and the shrink of our environmental awareness, the issue of global warming is worsening. The culprit of global warming is carbon dioxide, produced after the combustion of fossil fuels. The increase of carbon dioxide would incur the increase of temperature surface of Earth and the icebergs in North Pole would thaw away. Indeed, the rise of sea level would call for the catastrophic disaster to the entire world.

According to the estimates of experts, the mankind in ten years would face irreparable loss unless they reduce the release of carbon dioxide. To take Korea as an example, winter would be forgotten and so would the laborers working in winter. In addition, our peninsula would turn into a place where vermins proliferate. In a worldwide view, desertification would continue; such natural disasters as typhoon and rain fall would frequently sweep the world over.

As mentioned above, the consequences that carbon dioxide bring are tragic and catastrophic. Not only does carbon dioxide inflict Korea but also other countries. For example, those countries with low sea level (Netherlands and New York) would forever submerge into the ocean.

Then what's up to us to stop global warming? The answer is simple. Considering that fossil fuel is the main cause of global warming, we can stop using fossil fuels. However, developing countries such as China and India refuse to implement policies to reduce the release of fossil fuels. That's why we need the development of polar and environment-friendly energy. The environmentally friendly energy would diminish the environmental problems. What's more, green energy is not dominated by one country; such energy does not have to be imported from other countries. Not only that, we all should save water and use public transportations in our efforts to reduce carbon dioxide in our daily lives.

In short, the major culprit of global warming is carbon dioxide produced by the combustion of fossil fuels. Unless we reduce the release of carbon dioxide, we will have to confront a tremendous disaster. Thus, all countries must eagerly develop green energy; and we all should individually participate in improving the issue of global warming with the vigilant awareness on the environment.

Translated by Hangeeol Lee

Editor's Comments

[Editor] HanGyeol, Lee

The weight of this honorable title as the editor started chocking me as the final exam approached. Furiously typing the words, I felt anxious to see my friends flipping through the pages. But I find relief at the fact that I freely relished the joy of reading and writing. I'd like to appreciate the teachers in GAFL, those who helped editing the articles. To the gifted writers of TOPNOTCH, I sincerely respect you for going under such pressure of writing and taking my advice into your articles. In a few weeks, I would see the newborn face of my first edition. That's enough for me. The glittering pages, smartly written down with the words I've carefully caressed, compensate for everything I thought I lost for my title.

[GAFL Focus] HyunJoo, Park

At first, I worried a lot to write an article that everyone would see on the school newspaper. However, after finishing the article, I think it was a valuable experience to improve my English and to meet friends who have similar interest with me.

[GAFL Focus] GangSan, Lee

Writing an article was a very fresh experience for me. In a newspaper, the writers' roles are very crucial. I'll do my best for the rest of the year as well.

[GAFL Focus] JiYeh, CHoi

It was interesting for me to be a member of TopNotch for the first time. Writing the article wasn't easy, but it will surely be something that I won't ever forget!

[International] JunHo, Seo

It was my first time to write an article for TOPNOTCH. So writing a formal article was a little bit difficult, but it was a valuable experience for me.

[International] HyoJin, Ryu

I've always wanted to write an article in school's newspaper and I'm grateful that I was given that chance! It was such an awesome and joyful experience for me. And I think that writing at Top Notch will solidify my footage in journalism. I hope that students of GAFL could enjoy reading TOPNOTCH! Thanks.

[International] JiYoon, Jang

It was my pleasure to work in TOPNOTCH. I had a really good time. I hope everyone enjoys our newspaper.

[National] JiWoon, Choo

It has been fun to write another article of TOPNOTCH. I can't

believe this is the last year of me being able to write for TOPNOTCH! TOPNOTCH has taught me a lot, and it has been an extraordinary experience!

[National] JuEun, Kim

I was really happy to participate in the work of Topnotch and really enjoyed it. It was such a priceless experience for me. And I want to say thank you for all the people who have helped me. I'll always do my best as a member of TOPNOTCH!

[National] JungYeon, Lee

This experience of writing an article for a school newspaper was actually very difficult for me since I had never done it before. My article isn't anything close to perfect, but I put lots of effort on it, so I am satisfied and happy with it. Next time when I write an article, I believe that I can do much better. I am proud of being a member of Topnotch and I feel thankful to the seniors for giving me a chance.

[vice - Editor, Art&Life]

The Second year of TOPNOTCH has been, once again, amazing. As a vice president, I can't wait for the next edition.

[Art&Life] DongEun, Choi

Even though suffering some hardships - computer problems, chief's rage against my poetic expressions etc... - I can proudly say that there would be never such a precious experience like writing an article on the Topnotch. I hope every students and teachers can enjoy our articles. X-D

[Art&Life] DongWoo, Shin

Actually it's my first time writing a newspaper article. It was fun to write something other than essays, but it was a little bit difficult to meet the deadline.

[People] DaYoung, Oh

I poured a whole lot of my time into my article - From sending e-mail to professor Yoon, to revising the article when final exam was just ahead. However, on second thought, I earned more than I lost. By the time I hold in my hand the new edition of top-notch which bears my name on it, that'll do. Way to go, TOPNOTCH!

[People] Esther, Hong

I was really lucky to meet Mr. Park. Quite miraculously, he visited my church to give lectures and I went to him randomly and asked if I could interview him. I was really burdened with tons of schoolwork and the Final Exam but with the help of my friends and seniors, I was able to finish the article. It was a valuable experience from which I learned a lot. Next time, I hope I could

come up with a much better article!

[Japanese] YoonJae, Na

It was a hard time writing all the articles on my own. It took several hours for me to write the article, and translate it into Japanese. But, I think this was very rewarding, because I could use all the words freely, and everybody in the school will read my article. It was a great experience for me.

[Japanese] YeJin, Kim

Writing was really daunting, but I appreciate this experience. I thank for the Aya and Hitomi teachers and those who participated in my interview. It was fun and joyous!

[Chinese] KyeongWon, Park

通过写关于留学生的文章，我想起我在中国留学时的经验，还会学到很多东西。这是第一次写稿，过程当中有不少困难，但是可以学到我以前不知道的很多知识，我以后加倍努力提高我的汉语水平，写出更精彩的文章。

[Chinese] SunJin, Kim

我从没想到写一张原稿会需要这么长时间，非常累。还有，因为这是我第一次为TOPNOTCH写的文章，有很多小错误。但是我相信时间会使我的文章变得美好一些，令别的同学们读完我的文章后感到很大的感动。

[Views] SungHo, Park

As the only senior member, I strived to provide an epitome of an exceptional article for Topnotch journalists of the future. I am not sure if I have succeeded, but TOPNOTCH ROCKS anyway.

TOPNOTCH MEMBERS

Sungho Park
Hangyeol Lee
Hyun ji Lee
Dayoung Oh
Dongeun Choi
Jee Ye Choi
Lee Kang-San
Hyunju Park
Junho Seo
JungYeon Lee
Ji Woon Choo
YeJin Kim
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