

National Profile

2009–2010
South Korea



ICYE South Korea/Seoul YMCA

Welcome to 5,000 Years old country, Korea

Dear Future Exchangees;

We are very happy to welcome you to spend one year in South Korea.

This national profile is a brief introduction about what you can expect during your exchange year. This will give you a basic idea on how the Korean society is and how it is living in Korea. Obviously, this book will not cover all the issues you may curious but if you read it carefully it will be a step in the right direction.

Living in other country is totally different from travelling. Therefore your effort on commitment to adapt foreign culture will give you rewards of deep cross-cultural understanding.

Please read this National Profile so that you can get great deal of very

important information.

We hope you are all set to experience exciting Korea!

Yours faithfully

Kang, Tai-Chul
Chairperson
ICYE South Korea

Korea in Brief

Land

The Korean Peninsula extends southward from the eastern end of the vast Asian continent. Korean Peninsula is roughly 1,020 km(612 miles) long and 175 km(105 miles) wide at its narrowest point.

Mountains cover 70% of the Korea's land area, making it one of the most mountainous regions in the world.

The lifting and folding of Korea's granite and limestone base has created breathtaking landscape of scenic hills and valleys. The mountain range that traverses the length of the east coast plunges steeply into the East Sea, while along the southern and western coasts, the mountains descend gradually to

the coastal plains that produce the bulk of Korea's agricultural crops, especially rice.

Location

Korea lies adjacent to China and Japan. The northern border of Korea is formed by the Amnokgang(Yalu) and Dumangang(Tumen) rivers, which separate it from Manchuria. A 16-kilometer segment of the Dumangang to the east also serves as a natural border with Russia. The west coast of the Korean Peninsula is bounded by the Korean Bay to the north and the West Sea to the south; the east coast faces the East Sea.

Two hundred kilometers separate the peninsula from eastern China. The shortest distance between Korean and Chinese coasts is 200 kilometers and from the southeastern tip of the peninsula, the nearest point on the Japanese coast is also about 200 kilometers away.

Because of its unique geographical location, Chinese culture filtered into Japan through Korea; a common cultural sphere of Buddhism and Confucianism was thus established between the three countries.

The Korean Peninsula extends about 1,000 kilometers southward from the northeast Asian continental landmass. Roughly 300 kilometers in width, climate variations are more pronounced along the south-north axis. Differences in plant vegetation can be seen between the colder north and the warmer south.

The peninsula and all of its associated islands lie between 33° 06'40"N and 43°00'39"N parallels and 124°11'00"E and 131°52'08"E meridians. The latitudinal location of Korea is similar to that of the Iberian Peninsula and Greece. The entire peninsula corresponds approximately to the north-south span of the state of California.

Longitudinally, Korea lies straight north of the Philippines and central Australia. The meridian of 127°30'E passes through the middle of the Korean Peninsula. Korea, however, shares the same standard meridian of 135°E with Japan. Seoul and Tokyo local time is nine hours earlier than Greenwich Mean

Time(GMT).

Territory

The total area of the peninsula, including its islands, is 222,154 square kilometers of which about 45 percent(99,313 square kilometers), excluding the area in the Demilitarized Zone(DMZ), constitutes the territory of South Korea. The combined territories of South and North Korea are similar to the size of Britain(244,100 square kilometers) and Guyana(215,000 square kilometers). South Korea alone is about the size of Hungary(93,000 square kilometers) and Jordan (97,700 square kilometers).

There are about 3,000 islands belonging to Korea. The islands are located mostly off the west and south coasts; only a handful of them lie off the East Sea. Ulleungdo, the largest island in the East Sea, serves as a major fishery base as does Dokdo. Bigger islands include Jeju - the largest, Geoje, Ganghwa, and Namhae.

Until the 11th century, the territory of Korea had encompassed most of Manchuria but by the 15th century, due to repeated conflicts with China, Koreans retreated southward and the Amnokgang and Dumangang rivers became the permanent Sino-Korean border.

At the end of World War II, the peninsula was divided into a northern zone occupied by Soviet forces and a southern zone occupied by U.S. forces. The boundary between the two zones was the 38th parallel. In 1953 at the end of the Korean War, a new border was fixed at the Demilitarized Zone(DMZ), a 4 kilometer-wide strip of land that runs along the lines of ceasefire from the east to the west coast for a distance of about 241 kilometers.

Administrative Units

There are three administrative tiers in South Korea. The highest tier includes seven metropolitan cities and nine provinces(do). Designated metropolitan cities are those urban areas with a population of over one million. Seoul, the capital of South Korea, is the largest urban center, having 10 million residents.

Busan is the second largest city, with a population of over four million. Daegu, Incheon, Gwangju, Daejeon and Ulsan, in descending order, are each home to more than one million people. At the second administrative tier, provinces(do) are subdivided into cities(si) and counties(gun). A city has a population of more than 50,000. A gun consists of one town (eup) and five to ten myeon. Although they are administrative units, provinces(do) also play an important role in the regional identification of the people and many Koreans often identify themselves by the province in which they were born and raised.

Metropolitan cities are subdivided into districts(gu). The lowest units are dong in cities and ri in provinces. In the last several decades, South Korea has witnessed the rapid growth of its urban centers. The population of these areas now constitutes over 85 percent of the national total. Urban growth has been particularly spectacular along the Seoul–Busan corridor, the Seoul metropolitan area and the Gyeongsang Province area. By contrast, the southwestern and northeastern regions have sustained a considerable loss in population.

People

The Koreans are one ethnic family speaking one language. Linguistic and anthropological studies as well as legendary sources clearly distinguish Koreans from the Chinese and the Japanese. Sharing distinct physical characteristics, they are believed to be descendants of several Mongol tribes that migrated onto the Korean Peninsula from Central Asia. Koreans were a homogeneous people by the beginning of the Christian era. In the seventh century, they were politically unified for the first time by the Shilla Kingdom (57 B.C.–A.D. 935) and subsequently witnessed a great cultural flowering. The Korean people struggled successfully for millennia to maintain their cultural and political identity despite the influence of neighboring China and the more recent aggressive inclinations of the Japanese. They are a proud people with one of the longest national histories in the world.

A notable trend in Korea's demographics is that it is growing older with each

passing year. Statistics show that 6.9 percent of the total population of Korea was 65 years or older in 1999 and 7.9 percent of the total in 2002.

In the 1960s Korea's population distribution formed a pyramid shape, with a high birth rate and relatively short life expectancy. However, the structure is now shaped more like a bell with a low birth rate and extended life expectancy. Youth (under the age of 15 years) will make up a decreasing portion of the total, while senior citizens(65 years or older) will account for some 15.1 percent of the total by the year 2020.

Climate

Korea lies in the temperate zone and has four distinct seasons. In late March or early April, the trees burst into leafy splendor to make the beginning of spring. Mostly sunny days can be expected from March to May.

During the relatively hot and rainy summer season, the vegetation is lush. By June, average temperature is over 20°C(68°F). Monsoon rains usually begin around the end of June and last until mid-to-late July. August is hot.

The coming of autumn in late September brings continental winds and clear, dry weather, making the fall months perhaps the most pleasant time of year. October's vivid golds and vibrant reds create colorful panorama.

December to February are cold and dry with occasional snow or rain. During the winter months, three or four days of cold weather are often followed by a few warmer days

Religion

Freedom of religion is fully guaranteed in the Republic of Korea. Korea's traditional religions – Shamanism, Buddhism, and Confucianism – have all played all integral role in the country's socio-cultural development. There are also various minor religions based on various combinations of elements from

these traditional religions. Christianity has developed a large following since its introduction in the late 18th century.

Language

The Korean language, like Hungarian, Turkish, Mongolian, and Finnish, is classified into the Ural–Altaic Language group. Hangeul, the Korean alphabet, is composed of 10 simple vowels and 14 consonants. A group of scholars under the patronage of King Sejong developed this systematic rendition of spoken sound in 1443. It is widely acclaimed by linguists as an ingenious invention.

The chart on the next page presents the Romanization of the 24 hangeul letters. This Romanization is based on the new Romanization system proclaimed in 2000 by the Korean government.

However, because all road signs and information boards that are based on McCune–Reischauer system, the old official Romanization cannot be changed immediately, there might be some coexistence of two systems through 2005.

Consonants					
ㄱ	g, k	ㅋ	b, p	ㆁ	k
ㄴ	n	ㅌ	s	ㄷ	t
ㄷ	d, t	ㅇ	ng, silent	ㅍ	p
ㄹ	r, l	ㅈ	j	ㅎ	h
ㅁ	m	ㅊ	ch		
Vowels					
ㅏ	a	ㅜ	o	ㅡ	eu
ㅑ	ya	ㅠ	yo	ㅣ	i
ㅓ	eo	ㅓ	u		
ㅕ	yeo	ㅠ	yu		

a g Silent h 한 u 국 어 eo n k	Hangeul is written in syllabic Units made up of two, three, or Four letters
han guk eo (Korean language)	

Dangun and the Founding Myth of Korea

Millennia ago when Hwanung, a son of Heaven, ruled the people, there were a bear and a tiger that serious wanted to become human. So they prayed fervently to Hwanung to grant their wishes. Hwanung was moved by their entreaties and promised to transform them if only they could endure a dark cave eating only garlic and mugwort for a full 100 days. The tiger's patience was soon worn thin, cooped up with the dark and without being able to hunt, and it gave up the ordeal. The bear became a woman after 21days of endurance. She then asked Hwanung to find her a husband; he found her very beautiful and married her. The couple gave a birth a son, Dangun, who established a kingdom named Go Joseon in 2333 B.C., the first kingdom of the Korean peninsula.

History

The habitation of early man in Korea appears to have started about half a million years ago. The first kingdom, named Go Joseon, was formed in 2,333 B.C. By the first century B.C., Korea's three ancient kingdoms of Goguryeo (37B.C.-A.D.668), Baekje (18B.C.-A.D.660), and the Shilla (57B.C.-A.D.676) ruled the whole Korean Peninsula and much of Manchuria; they were very far the most powerful and eminent kingdoms in the area. The period of their rule, 57B.C.- A.D.668, is known as the Three Kingdoms period. Goguryeo and Baekje were ultimately vanquished by Shilla in A.D.668.

In A.D.676, Shilla unified the peninsula for the first time. The Unified Shilla period, A.D.676–935, was a golden age for Korean culture. The advancements in the area of Buddhist art are especially noteworthy.

In the succeeding Goryeo Dynasty, A.D.918–1392, an aristocratic government was instituted. Buddhism was established as the state religion and came to have great influence in the political and administrative spheres. The name "Korea" is a derivative of "Goryeo".

The Joseon Dynasty A.D.1392–1910, was the peninsula's final dynasty. During this period various political and economic reforms were enacted. The most prominent of these was adoption of Confucianism as the state ideology. The surge of creative literary endeavors and the invention of hangeul, the Korean alphabet, in 1443, invest this period with special cultural significance. Hanyang, now known as Seoul, was established as the dynasty's capital city in 1394. Palaces and gates constructed during this period can still be seen in the city today.

The Japanese invasion of the peninsula in 1910 ended the Joseon Dynasty. Korea remained under Japanese colonial rule for 35 years until the end of World War II. On August 15, 1945, Japan surrendered to the Allies and withdrew from the Korean Peninsula, which was then divided into two: South Korea in the free world and North Korea in the communist bloc. The Republic of Korea in the south established an independent government three years later.

The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, the North Korea invaded the South. An armistice agreement was signed three years later in 1953.

South Korea's tireless post-war reconstruction efforts were highly successful in the promotion of national prosperity and stability.

Arts

The artistic talents of the Korean people are expressed through the music, dance and painting that have evolved over their 5,000-year history. While in modern times many Western art forms have been introduced and embraced by

Korea, her unique arts still flourish, both in their pure forms and in various harmonious combinations with modern genre.

Traditional music – Traditional Korean music, called *gukak*, has shared a similar cultural background with China and Japan. However, despite some superficial similarities, anyone who has experienced *gugak* can easily tell that it is clearly different from other East Asian music. Korean music, for example, traditionally has a triple rhythm (three beats per measure), while Chinese and Japanese music have two beats per measure.

Gugak can be divided into two types; *Jeongak* or the music of the upper classes, and *minsokak* or folk music. *Jeongak*, has a slow, solemn and complicated melody, while *minsokak* such as farmers music, *pansori* (epic solo song) and shamanistic music is fast and vigorous.

Traditional dance – Korea's traditional dance, like its music, can also be classified into either court dances or folk dances. The slow, gracious movements of the court dances reflect the beauty of moderation and the subdued emotions formed as a result of the strong influence of Confucian philosophy. In contrast, the folk dances, mirroring the life, work and religion, of the common people, are exciting and romantic, aptly portraying the free and spontaneous emotions of the Korean people. Some typical folk dances are the farmers dances, mask dances and shamanistic dances.

The appreciation of Korean traditional music and dance helps the visitor to better understand Korea itself.

Traditional painting – Traditional Korean painting is very different from Western. Its roots lie in the unique lines and the colors of the Orient. Evidence of early Korean paintings can be found in the royal tombs of the three Kingdom's period (57 B.C.–A.D. 668), which have helped us piece together details about the lifestyles of the time.

During the later Goryeo Dynasty (A.D. 918–1392) Buddhism reached its peak,

leaving many precious Buddhist paintings and images in temples around the country. Confucianism became the political ideology of the Joseon Dynasty(A.D.1392–1910) and the upper-class intellectuals who produced much of the art were profoundly influenced by the Chinese style. Folk painting, which became popular among the lower classes, was not influenced by any particular school but used free, expressive techniques and bright colors to depict strength, humor and leisure.

Both Western and Korean schools of painting coexist today in Korea and some new works are combining both.

Pottery – Pottery-making techniques were transmitted from China to Korea over 1,000 years ago, where they flourished and produced an artistic tradition of which Koreans are justifiably proud.

The subtle beauty and unique bluish-green color of the celadon pottery of the Goryeo Dynasty(A.D.918–1392) have made it world-famous and much sought after by antique dealers. The white porcelain of the Joseon Dynasty(A.D.1392–1910) is also renowned.

This pottery-making skill was transmitted to Japan at different periods in history, particularly during the Japanese invasions of the 1590s, greatly contributed to the development of the art form in Japan.

Customs

Sense of Seniority – Although this is changing, the traditional Confucian social structure is still prevalent in Korea. Age or seniority is all important and juniors are expected to follow the wishes of their elders without question.

Therefore, people often ask you your age and sometimes your marital status (Interesting is that no matter how old you are at least among family members, you cannot be regarded as an adult if you are not married.) to find out their position relative to you. These questions are not meant to intrude on your privacy and you need not answer, if you don't want to.

Names – The majority of Koreans have one of a small set of family names: Kim (about 21% of all Koreans), Yi (or Lee or Rhee, 14%), Park or Pak, 8%), Choi (or Choe), Jeong (or Chung), Jang (or Chang), Han, Lim, etc. A Korean name consists of a family name, in almost every case one syllable, plus a given name usually of two syllables. The family name comes first. A Korean woman does not take her husband's family name, but their children take the father's family name. But , lately their children can take the father's family name and the mother's name.

Marriage – Koreans think marriage is the most important passage in one's life and a divorce is regarded a disgrace not only for the couple but also for their families – even though the divorce rate is growing rapidly these days.

Today's typical wedding ceremony is somewhat different from what it was in old times: first a Western-style ceremony is usually held at a wedding hall or a church with white dress and tuxedo, then later in the day comes the traditional ceremony in a different room, in colorful traditional costume.

Jerye (Ancestral Memorial Rite) – According to a traditional Korean belief, when people die their spirits do not immediately depart; instead it takes four generations. For this period the deceased are still regarded as family members and Koreans reaffirm the relationship between ancestors and descendants through *jerye* on the special days like Seollal and Chuseok, as well as on the day the ancestors passed away. Koreans also believe that people can live well and happily thanks to benefits their ancestors bestow.

Body Language – When you beckon to a person, do with your palm down and fluttering fingers. It is not polite to beckon with palm up – especially using only one finger, because we do that way only for dogs.

Hanbok – The *hanbok* has been the Korean people's unique traditional

costume for thousands of years. The beauty and grace of Korean culture can be seen in photographs of women dressed in the *hanbok*.

Before the arrival of Western-style clothing one hundred years ago, the *hanbok* was everyday attire. Men wore *jeogori* (Korean jackets) with *baji* (trousers) while women wore *jeogori* with *chima* (skirts). Today, the *hanbok* is worn on days of celebration such as weddings, Seollal (lunar New Year's Day) or Chuseok (Thanksgiving Day).

Ondol – Traditional Korean rooms have multiple functions. Rooms are not labeled or reserved for a specific purpose; there is no definite bedroom or dining room for example. Rather, tables and mats are brought in as needed. Most people sit and sleep on the floor on thick mats.

Underneath the floors are stone or concrete flues. Traditionally hot air was vented through the flues to provide heat. Clay or cement would be placed over the stones to protect the residents from noxious gasses. This type of underfloor heating is called “*ondol*.” Nowadays hot water covered with linoleum.

Gimjang – *Gimjang* is the age-old Korean practice of preparing winter kimchi, that has been passed down from generation to generation. Because very few vegetables are grown in the three or four winter months, *Gimjang* takes place in early winter and provides what has become a staple Korean food.

For Koreans, a dinner table without kimchi is unthinkable.

Oriental Medicine – Oriental medicine considers decreased vital energy and a weakened immune system as the cause of disease – not a problem of a particular body part, but rather an imbalance of the life forces in the whole body. Therefore Oriental medicine seeks to treat disease by strengthening the immune system and restoring the harmony within the body, not by removing pathogenic factors.

Major fields of Oriental medicine include herbal medicine, acupuncture, moxa treatment, and cupping therapies.

National and Public Holidays

New Year's holiday	January 1
	Last day of 12th Moon through the second day of the First
Seol holidays	Moon
Independence Movement Day	March 1
Buddha's Birthday	Eighth day of the Fourth Moon
Children's Day	May 5
Memorial Day	June 6
Constitution Day	July 17
Liberation Day	August 15
Chuseok holidays	14 th to 16 th days of the Eighth Moon
National Foundation Day	October 3
Christmas	December 25

ICYE South Korea

Brief History

ICYE South Korea is one of the Seoul YMCA International Fellowship Projects. It was officially accepted as an Associate Member of ICYE in November 1986 at the General Assembly in Ghana. Then, in 1988, it was granted Full Member status at the General Assembly in Austria. Thus, ICYE South Korea is a very young committee and is continually striving to enhance the program for all people connected with ICYE.

The ICYE South Korea program functions as an integral part of the Seoul YMCA. It is not a separate entity. The Seoul YMCA handles all financial matters and operates ICYE.

National Committee

The ICYE South Korea National Committee as a whole will be responsible for the receiving and dispatching of exchangees. These responsibilities include the following; promotion of the program, screening selecting candidates, organizing conferences and other meetings. The members also serve as consultants to the exchangees, host families, and work placement projects.

The office of ICYE South Korea is in the Seoul YMCA. It has one full-time staff with several co-workers. Most of the co-workers are volunteers who have

been –exchangees themselves through ICYE program.

The office is open at 9:30am and closed at 6:30pm from Monday to Friday. Saturday and Sunday are off days.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR AN EXCHANGEE?

- Age 19–26 years

(Exchangees can` t attend high school in Korea, they must be at least 19)

- Interest and Open mind to Korean culture and life style

- Willing to work voluntarily and regularly

- Mature enough to get along with others

- Willing to learn Korean

- Positive attitude to know and experience new things

Annual Programs

Orientation and camp

There is an orientation for 3 weeks from the middle of August. During orientation, you learn and experience from Korean tradition to practical things to live in Korea. You also have Korean lesson everyday. At the end of orientation, there is a camp out of Seoul for 2 or 3 days. All exchangees and many of returnees flock together, enjoy themselves, and have unforgettable time.

Language course

As it is referred above, you have Korean lesson for 3 weeks. (30 hours)

Mid-evaluation camp

During camp, All of exchangees, returnees and staff gather somewhere to able to enjoy beautiful Korean winter. You evaluate your half of a year in Korea-working, staying, ICYE and etc.- and find the way to enjoy rest of the year.

Final evaluation camp

This camp takes place just before departure in mid-June. It is an opportunity for exchangees to evaluate their experiences throughout the year and to make suggestions for the improvement of the program in the future. It lasts for 3 days and 2 night.

Monthly meeting

Exchangees, volunteers and staff meet each other to talk about present situation and happening every months. Then, Have fun together!!!

What do we expect from you?

Three goals for exchange program-

The first goal is an easy one to make friends and experience fellowship in a foreign society. The second is more difficult and complex to develop international understanding. To do this, it is basic that the exchangees work to overcome the language and cultural barriers, then they may begin to learn what human issues are important to Korean society and how they are dealt with here. Further, they can learn what international cooperation can do for all human issues. The third responsibility involves putting ideas into action, whether it be during their exchange year abroad or when they return home.

Work Placement for Exchangees

All exchangees will be involved in volunteer work on full time basis.

Many exchangees will work at social welfare organizations. Sometimes they will assist English language teaching. The required working hours for exchangees is at most 35 hours / 5days a week. Exchangees should work their workplace at least 6 months. ICYE Korea does not change placements unless it is really necessary. This is because the Korean immigration law states that exchangees have to stay at the placement that has sponsored them in the beginning, in order to obtain their visas. In work placement, the exchangees are recommended to speak in Korean.

Once you come to Korea, you will begin your volunteer work from September to the end of June of the following year. Vacation month is July for 4 weeks.

The followings are the voluntary work places in ICYE Korea ;

* Ahyun Children's House(Kindergarten)

- Assist or Teach English(6-7 year-old children)
- Play with Children(6-7 year-old children)

* Banghwa 11 Welfare Center

- Children's programs(camps etc.)
- Assist or Teach English(8-12 years) - After School Program
- Taking care of physically disabled people
- Taking care of old people

* Angel's Heaven(integrated welfare center)

- Assisting or Teaching English(middle and high school)

- Taking care of physically disabled people

* Local YMCA(Anyang, Jeju)

- Physical education programs for children
- Assisting or Teaching English for children

* INKAS(International Korean Adoptee Service)

- counselling for the overseas adoptee.

* Seoul YMCA Branches

Seocho, Gangnam, Seodaemoon, Youngdungpo,
Songpa, Yangcheon, and Yangjae.

- children's programs(camps etc.)
- physical education programs for children

Specially We are visit this project during the program. They are accept 3-4days only.

So we will have to confirm the schedule and visit, working for them.

Umsung Kkotdongne(integrated welfare center)

- Taking care of old people
- Taking care of physically challenged people
- Nursing Home
- Various volunteer work

Host Family

For a year, you could have two or three host families. You would stay with each of them for 6 months. But, in the case you work in Angel's Heaven, you will stay in dormitory.

It is not so easy to find host family. So host families are mostly the families whose son or daughter is an exchangee in the same year to you. Therefore you will be welcomed warmly.

However, you need to note several things if you want to enjoy living with host family.

You should...

- think yourself as a member of family.
- open your mind to understand Korean family.
- should have some English knowledge.
- do your duty as the other members do;
clean your room, prepare meals, wash the dishes,
- etc and help each others.

You are recommended to...

- participate in family activities.
- have conversation even though they can't speak foreign language.
- show interests for them.

And...

- there are many other little things you need to know.
- you will know more and more day by day through staying with family.
- it depends on you if you can enjoy or not. And YOU CAN!!!

Mentor System

'Mentor' means person who helps you to get on well with life in Korea. Mentor normally is returnee who has just come back after previous exchange year. One or more of them help each of you.

When you have a problem, you contact them before telling ICYE staff. Then they discuss with staff and other volunteers. It is because we have the exchangee-care-system which is carried out by volunteers and ICYE supports them.

Mentor regularly contact you once a month at least and you can contact them whenever you need. They always help you with pleasure. They could become your good friends you might enjoy the relationship with them.

Practical Advice

VISA(Type D-6) --- very important!

There is way of getting the VISA of South Korea. Like other countries, you can get your VISA issued in Korean Embassy in your country or nearest countries available with the invitation letter. Our country are change the law for Visa procedure.

1. Each NC is send us the application form and other documents(passport copy).
2. We will apply to documents to immigration office in Korea.
2. Sending NC make the 'visa documents or number' for each candidates.
3. We send the visa documents or number.
4. They have to go to the korean embassy in each country.
5. They get the visa their own country.

First, you or your ICYE send your ICYE Participation Form, photocopy of your passport(not whole passport, only the page(s) where your personal(including picture of you) and passport info. are, your personal profile and some other documents(original certificate of graduation of the your last school(educational organization), resume and etc). We will send the visa documents or number to you or your ICYE, then you can get your VISA issued with that document in

Korean Embassy in your country or nearest countries available instantly.

Exchangees' visa status makes it illegal for any exchangee to keep a paying job. So under no circumstances is he/she allowed to work for paying job during the exchange year except the voluntary work. If you do, you will lose your legal status. Like other countries, there is also a trend to reinforce the restriction on foreigners' illegal employment in Korea.

Residence Permit(Alien Identity Card)

In order to live in Korea, exchangees must obtain a residency card within 3 months of their arrival in Korea. You will need to bring 2 passport size photos, 1 letter from the sponsoring organization (ICYE South Korea). Practically, you will go to the immigration office to register during the orientation or right after that with mentor(s) or ICYE South Korea staff.

Medical Insurance

See the ICYE Handbook for the participant.

Something to Bring Along

- Some information about your country ; maps, pictures, videotapes etc.
- CD and Cassette tapes with your favorite music.
- Do not forget toothbrush(or you can buy one here)!
- A Camera or Camcorder
- Your musical instruments
- An umbrella
- Small things to present to your host and friends you will make

Luggage

Do not bring too many things with you because when you go back to your home, you will have too many things to carry. You might need a backpack in your everyday life in Korea.

Clothes

When coming to Korea, You should be prepared for all kinds of weather. Summer is pretty hot and humid in Korea(35° C hottest) and it rains much. You might need a raincoat. You might need a swimming suit, too. Do not forget. In the autumn, the temperature is still hot, but it drops down very fast in the nighttime. So it is the best to have layers of clothing – such as cotton T-shirts and warm pullovers. There are many opportunities to climb mountains. Winter is very cold(-15° C coldest). You might need a warm coat, gloves and a hat. If you are from hotter country, long under wear or parka would be essential.

You can buy all season's clothes in here. You can get practical advice from ICYE office and mentor or your host. Usually clothes are inexpensive in here, but second hand shop is not so popular.

Food

The basic meal in Korea consists of a bowl of rice('BAB'), soups('KUK') and many side dishes('Banchan'). There are many different types of side dishes: kimchi (always!), vegetables cooked in different styles, boiled dishes flavored with soy sauce, grilled meat or fish, pan-fried meat or fish, and raw fish or seafood. Koreans use chopsticks and spoons. Knife and Fork are not usual.

Koreans are the only people in East Asia to eat their rice and soup with spoons. Neither Chinese nor Japanese use their spoons with such regularity.

No Korean meal would be complete without kimchi. Kimchi is a kind of fermented vegetable. It is preserved in a mixture of salt and other ingredients. Soon, you may realize how much Koreans love it and how often Koreans eat it. Then you will be one of two: hate it or love it.

Eating out is quite common in Korea. Normally, Koreans eat lunch and dinner outside. VEGETARIAN is not so USUAL in Korea. Probably, it is not easy to get vegetarian food. But you can tell your host beforehand not to add meat or fish to your food.

The food is just something, which you have to get used to – because it is part of the culture. There are few fatty foods in Korea. Normally food is very healthy. Welcome to Korean Cuisine. You may enjoy them!

Shopping

Shopping in Korea can be divided into 3 categories: stores; department stores; and markets. Things will be easier to find and select from in department stores, but they will also be more expensive. The stores will also be like this. So, if you have the time and energy to spare, it will be worth your while to go to any one of the several big markets to browse, pick something and haggle over the price.

	(won)	US \$	€Euro
A pair of Levis	120,000	90.09	68.88
A bus/subway ticket in a city	900	0.67	0.51
A pair of Nike	119,000	89.33	68.31
A pack of cigarettes(Esse)	2,500	1.87	1,43
Cinema	7,000	5.25	4.01
Theater	30,000	22.52	17.22

A BigMac in Mc Donalds	4,000	3.00	2.29
Newspaper	600	0.45	0.34
Stamps (in land)	250	0.18	0.14

calculated by US \$1= ₩ 1332

Euro €1 = ₩ 1,742

Banks

You can open an account in any banks, but to change money the best bank is the Korean Foreign Exchange Bank. They do not charge you for a commission and the exchange rate is usually very current and good. You also can make a cash card when you open an account to deposit or withdraw to(from) your bank account through ATM(Automated Teller Machine) anywhere.

Travelling

During your stay in Korea you will travel around Korea for camps.

You will visit many places for weekend trips with your friends and your host family. But remember, you are an exchangee not a tourist.

When you are away for a while from your hosting place or go travel, please remember following points.

- Our policy about travel is the same as that of ICYE internationally.
- You are allowed to travel freely on your own four weeks at the end of your exchange year. You can also travel during weekends. But we recommend you don't do it every weekend in order to share some of your free time with your host family.
- Always inform your hosts when you will be back and keep up with the time.
- ICYE insurance DOES NOT COVER accidents if you have been hitch hiking

or driving a motor vehicle and your travel abroad.

Agreement on Participation

Please read the following rules carefully and after you understand, please send the form with your signature to ICYE Korea.

1. I will read and understand the ICYE South Korea National Profile before the exchange year starts.
2. I am prepared to adapt to the life style and culture of South Korea.
3. I will make an effort to learn Korean.
4. I will accept any assignment and host situation provided by my host committee.
5. I agree that during my exchange year, it will not be able to change my work placement and host situation within six months only with proper reason.
6. I will attend all the conference(camps) and the meetings arranged by ICYE South Korea.
7. I will NOT DO work for any paid job.
8. I will return to my home country at the end of the exchange year.
9. I will take all responsibilities for any problem caused by my disobedience.

I hereby confirmed that I have read and accepted the above rules.

Date _____

Name _____

Home country _____

Signature

ICYE South KOREA

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Korea

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