

KDI School of Public Policy and  
Management

Summer 2011

# THE GLOBE

## THE GLOBE

KDI School of Public Policy and Management  
87 Hoegiro Dongdaemun Gu, Seoul 130-868, Korea  
Phone (02)3299-1114 / [www.kdischool.ac.kr](http://www.kdischool.ac.kr)





# Students Welcomed at the Blue House

Reported by Julius John Lwenje (2011 MPP, Tanzania)



On the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, about 65 KDI School students left the campus for the May Field Trip. Coinciding with a spring break, the trip attracted many students who chose to stay in Korea during the holidays. Everyone was well at ease with no academic deadlines to meet. The bus was full of students chatting, chuckling and making funny gestures.

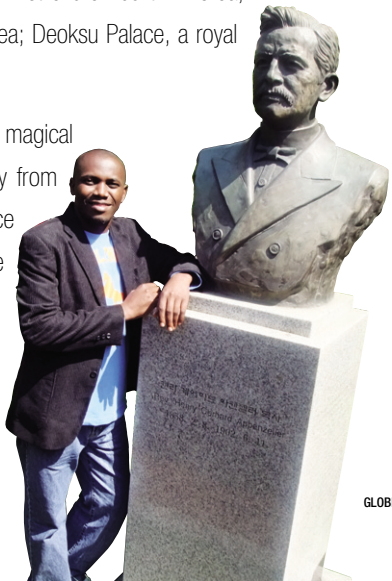
Few minutes after the journey started, a short announcement was made: *This trip is going to expose you to the essence of Korean culture. I hope you will enjoy the trip.* The final words of an accompanying staff were interrupted by a boisterous cheer of the enthusiastic students.

On arriving at the Blue House, we underwent security checkups before we were led to the entrance. Security guards at the gate were in their tidy blue uniforms adorned with glittering insignias. Their commitment to the job was evident from their serious faces. We were then guided to a reception area, where we were given brief details about the presidential residence. The oral briefing was followed by a short movie depicting President LEE Myung-bak's life at the Blue House. The movie ended with welcoming words from the President and the first lady.

Students were then ushered inside the Blue House compound. The Blue House stands on the flanks of Mt. Bugak. It takes its name after the blue roof of the main building, the design of which claims a clear heritage from traditional Korean architecture. Grassy environment, a stream that houses fishes of varying colors, and a large garden covered with beautiful flowers qualify the Blue House as one of the most popular tourist attractions in Seoul. By the time we vacated the compound many students were still thirsty for more pictures.

After bites of tasty pizzas at a Pizzeria in Myeongdong, we head to Chongdong Theater in downtown Seoul. While waiting for the performance, we were free to visit some other attractions in the vicinity. The attractions included: Chongdong Church, the first church built in Korea; Bae-Jae School's History Museum, a glimpse into a student life at one of the first modern schools in Korea; Deoksu Palace, a royal palace of scenic beauty; and Seoul Museum of Art where many gorgeous paintings were on exhibit.

Once inside the Chongdong Theater, whose interior was designed to capture the ancient Korea, we felt a magical sense of being transported back in time. A combination of outstanding performance and sweet melody from traditional instruments led the joyous spectators to constantly applause in satisfaction. While the audience were glued to the ever lively performers, one hour and twenty minutes went by like a fleeting instant. The students left the theater in a pleasant aftertaste, as if shaken out of a lovely dream.



## Contents



08

Campus Life	
Students Welcomed at the Blue House	03
Sports Day Reveals Unheralded Talents	04
Building Cultural Briggdes	06
A Visit to the Demilitarized Zone	08
Partying for a Cause	09
Dishnu Farewell Party	10
KDI School's Got Talent	11



16

Special News	
KDI School Launches the Development Research and Learning Network	12
Who are the People That Help Us the Most?	14

School News	
Korea-IDB Scholarship Program	16
The Evans School is Waiting for You	16
Showcasing KDI School to the World	17
Gradual Transition to Modern Economy	18

Faculty News	
Faculty News Updates	19



30

Alumni	
Life after the KDI School - Todd Sample	20
Life after the KDI School - Janet Chin Shuk Henn	22
Alumni Lecture Series for Career Development III	24
Alumni Lecture Series for Career Development IV	26
Alumni Lecture Series for Career Development V	28
LG Electronics Comes to the KDI School	29
Alumni News Updates	30






# Sports Day

## Reveals Unheralded Talents

Reported by Julius John Lwenje (2011 MPP, Tanzania)

Ever since heavy rain cancelled our Spring Hiking, apprehension continued that it might rain again on the next big event: the KDI School Sports Day. The news that the Sports Day was to proceed as scheduled was therefore received by a glee of triumph by many. Students' eagerness led to a strong turnout in the morning of May 20. Even a drizzle could not dispirit them who were determined to enjoy the day with or without umbrellas. Four buses were waiting to shuttle each group, as participants were divided into four teams wearing T-shirts of different colors: the Reds (MPP 1), the Blues (MPP ED/PM), the Whites (MPP 2) and the Yellows (staff).

The event took place at the KOBACO stadium in Yang-Pyeong, Gyeong-Gi Province. It took us about one hour or so to reach the stadium, which offered a view of a beautiful lake and perfectly arranged flowerbeds.

Participants gathered by their respective teams. With massive applause and ululations, the MC welcomed the Associate Dean Park, Hun Joo for opening remarks. Boosting the morale of all the participants who showed up despite the damp weather, Professor Park emphasized that the event was not about winning but rather about having fun and enjoying each other's company.



And enjoy we did. All social gaps disappeared for a while. Professors, students and staff were mixed to play each game, which revealed a number of hidden talents within the KDI School community. During the dodge ball, we witnessed talented dodgers who could no doubt dodge bullets with ease. The dexterity they boasted in dodging the balls made even their opponents applaud in awe. Though it was a new game to most players, everyone was able to cope with the rules and tricks within minutes. Football was even more interesting. There were some players for whom it was obviously the first time not only to play football but also to kick a ball at all. On encountering the ball they often hesitated as if questioning themselves which leg to use, inducing a collective burst of laughter. In contrast, a few participants showed all the potential of a

professional player if only they made it their career. Their nimble control of the ball and razor-sharp passes fascinated the crowd immediately. The relay race, too, unveiled a bank of sprinters that nobody could have imagined we had. Each team vigorously cheered their athletes who struggled to take the lead. Energy and enthusiasm from every participant would fill up the stadium long after the race was over.

Finally the MC welcomed the Associate Dean again for closing remarks. Professor Park acknowledged the staff's efforts in successfully organising the event, and extended his appreciation for the faculty participants for their friendly support. He concluded by celebrating the fellowship and togetherness borne by students' earnest participation. In the award ceremony, the Reds emerged an overall winner with a total of 270 points, followed by the Yellows, the Whites and finally the Blues. The stadium was in total commotion for a while as each team was busy dividing prizes. A raffle draw finalized the day whereby more than ten luckiest participants received a gift certificate worth of 10,000 KRW.

Though most participants were empty-handed in the morning, everyone was carrying something on the way back whether it being a prize, drinks or leftover snacks. Everybody was tired but fully satisfied and happy. The cheerful spirit and lingering excitement on the ride home made it more than apparent that everyone came out a winner.





## Home Visiting Program

## Building Cultural Bridges

Reported by Julius John Lwenje (2011 MPP, Tanzania)



Mr Park's farm is located in Ulsan City, about eighty minutes drive from the KDI School. My friend Boo Kyong John (2009 MFDI, Korea) arranged everything with her friend Betty Park, Mr Park's daughter. On the morning of May 15 Severin Kapinga (2011 MPP, Tanzania), Rauhiya Gharib (2011 MPP, Tanzania) and I left our dormitory together.

At our destination we were kindly welcomed by Betty, who introduced us to her parents, Mr and Mrs Park, and her elder brother Hong. Their two dogs, Pok and One, kept on barking at us as if we were hijacking their masters. This charming family led us to a tent, made especially for our visit.

As the table was being prepared for lunch, Mr Park took us around his farm. Although it was dominantly a plum farm, he was raising a variety of vegetables as well, ranging from onions, sweet potatoes, pumpkins and chicory to Sangchu, Kkennip and Sukkat. The family has owned the farm for three years now since Mr. Park retired as a chemist. Rather ironically, the ex-chemist proudly informed us that he only uses organic fertilizer.

By the time we finished touring the farm, the dining table was flooded with so many plates of varying sizes that one could have interpreted the scene as the family hosting a King. Hong was still busy barbequing beef. We happily feasted our eyes, noses and stomachs with juicy chunks of meat, raw vegetables and gourmet soup. Probably the best way to express how delicious everything was is that it was *Mashisayo*.

When we had reluctantly decided to stop eating the wickedly tempting food, it became windy outside. We moved inside the green house only to be further served with fruit. Even though every one of us claimed to be full, no one had the audacity to resist the temptation of the mouth-watering, freshly picked fruit. As we ate, we chatted on various issues concerning Korea and Tanzania. Our hosts were eager to know more about Tanzania, for whom we were ready to provide detailed information.

At 4:40 pm we agreed that it was time we started our journey back. We thanked our host for their genuine generosity. They were kind enough to tell us we were welcome anytime. We bade them farewell as they saw us off with the two dogs in their arms. With the whole family waving at us, the vehicle gradually picked up speed. It was the best of our days!



#### Chanida Inpa (2011 MPP/ED, Thailand)

I went on home visiting with Sopheak Chhim (2011 MPP/PM, Cambodia) on May 14. Our host was Juhee Park, an intern at the Academic Affairs Division. She took us on a tour to Seoul World Cup Stadium and Namsan Tower before heading for her home.

I was touched by the kindness of our host. The hospitality was not only present in the nice places Juhee took us around but also abundant in the delicious Korean food her mother prepared for us. Since the three of us are from three different countries, the visit gave us an opportunity to share our life experiences and cultures. It was full of fun.

What made another lasting impression was to learn that the Koreans are very social and unreserved. We saw a lot of young couples openly express their love by publicly holding and cuddling each other, something I am not used to see in Thailand.

#### Oygula Shuhratovna Ashurova (2011 MPP/PM, Uzbekistan)

I took part in the program with Anthony Volimirovich Tsoy (2011 MPP, Kyrgyzstan). Our host was Ms Sujin Kang from the Student Affairs Division. The moment I set foot on Ms Kang's place, I realized the image I had of a Korean home was seriously misleading. I was expecting to see traditionally decorated home with a short and small table in the middle of the living room, but we were ushered into a modern, amazingly designed apartment. Ms Kang's mother had us experience fabulous Korean cuisine. We really felt at home.

Later on, Ms Kang played a piano for us. She was such a wonderful

pianist. The sweet melody reminded me of the music school I attended during my childhood. Although I had not played the instrument since I graduated, at Ms Kang's insistence I laid my hands on the piano. It turned out that my fingers are not that dusty after all!

After enjoying a wonderful time with Ms Kang's family, we went out to the international food festival that was taking place near the City Hall. We took our host to the places where our countries, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyz, were exhibiting traditional food and souvenirs. Suddenly the day has turned itself into a cultural exchange day.

#### Jeanne d'Arc Umulisa (2011 MPP/ED, Rwanda)

My home visiting partners were Nailia Ismayilova (2011 MPP, Azerbaijan) and Waode Diah Anjani (2011 MPP, Indonesia). We were hosted by Mikyung Song (2011 MPP, Korea), who guided us to the Korea National Assembly, Sky Museum and many other places. We also visited the home of our host where we chatted, ate Korean food, and shared our little daily stories. It was a stimulating, refreshing day; we enjoyed every single moment of it.

Before participating in the program I had very limited knowledge about Korean family life, as well as Korean people's hospitality, generosity and friendliness. Some may think that living a busy life here in a big city where everything is PALLI PALLI tends to undermine social values. The truth is, busy as they might be, people can still be brilliantly social. It was a nice surprise to learn that they find as great a pleasure in each other's society as any rural villagers would.



# A Visit to a Demilitarized Zone

Reported by Natasa Vujovic (2011 MPP, Serbia)

A planned visit to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) has been almost a fixation for many international students. How does the place look like? How is it governed? How big is it? Can we take photos? The curiosity continued as our daily life in Seoul made it hard to imagine that this seemingly perfect country is struggling with separation from its twin state.

On June 11, 2011 two full buses of international students have embarked on this long awaited tour. The tour guide explained the history behind the DMZ installment and its current governance. While still on the road to the border we were able to catch glimpses of bare North Korean mountains stretched across the verdant South Korean counterparts.

The schedule for the day was to visit Park of Peace, Dorasan Station, Dora Observatory, and lastly the Third Tunnel. The Park of Peace was built upon the hope for peace and reconciliation on the Korean peninsula. This park is placed right next to the fences of the demilitarized zone and is overlooking the military posts, as well as some houses of South Korean families who chose to live behind these military gates. At the center of the park was a rusted locomotive full of bullet holes, depicting the severity of the Korean War and its magnitude of destruction. It also embodies a yearning that one day trains would be able to operate across both countries. This park is visited by Korean people of all ages, to remember their long lost relatives who happened to be on the other side of the country at the time of division.

Dorasan Station is a railroad station that used to connect North and South Korea; from December 2007 to December 2008, trains transported raw materials to the North and brought back manufactured goods to the South. Unfortunately, after only a year in function the station was shut down by a political dispute between the two. Open only for tourism purposes today, it remains as an indication of the South Korea's endeavor to establish a connection with its other half.

After visiting the station we moved on to the Dora observatory. Being the closest point to the North Korean territory, the observatory offers a rare glimpse of North Korea through large glass windows. The students were very excited to be able to look at the country that has long been closed to the international public. The excitement grew even greater as the

soldiers strictly kept every camera out of use. The view at the observatory helped us visualize our upcoming exploration underground.

The Third Tunnel served as a real reminder of how seriously dangerous relations the two countries have carried on. Located only 44 km from Seoul, it was the third tunnel to be discovered running under the border between the two Koreas. Lying about 73km below the ground, the tunnel is 1.7 km long, 2 m high and 2 m wide. It was designed for a surprise attack on Seoul by the North Korean forces and can easily accommodate 30,000 men per hour with light weaponry. Since the tunnel was very crowded with tourists, it was challenging to really explore the site. At the end of an allowed route were three barricades set up by the military, only the first two of which were visible to the tourists.

The visit has been a real eye opener for international students to see the distress the modern Korea has been subject to. Knowing that these are the same people separated by the will of fate has awakened a sense of sadness on our way back. Another thing we will always remember is the young soldiers who guarded us that day. They were extremely friendly, waving at us whenever we would pass by and willing to take photos with everyone; but they were exceedingly diligent in maintaining our safety and that was never compromised.



# Partying for a Cause

Reported by Fouz Khalid Khan (2011 MPP, Pakistan)



Empathy is a universal trait and youth, in its idealist fashion, is especially sensitive to the plight of others less fortunate than they are. The recent Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan demonstrated that amply when people from all over the world united to help their brethren in their hours of distress. It was therefore befitting that KDI School students, representing

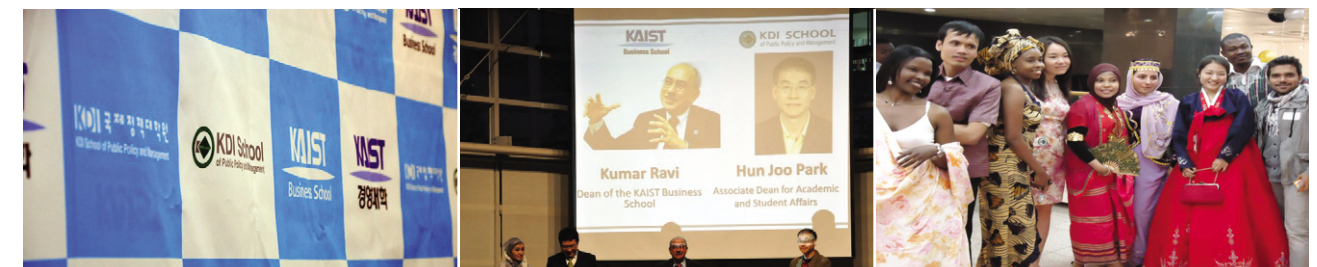
many nations of the world, also decided to contribute to charity that begins at home. In a joint effort with neighboring KAIST, we are set out to help Migrant Workers Hospital located at Guro Digital Complex Station in Seoul which is run by an NGO called 'Global Love Sharing.'

The first (aptly titled) Global Fund Raising Party was initiated by two of our very enterprising and energetic students, Jihye Lee (2010 MPP/ED, Korea) and Cholpon Charynova (2010 MPP/PM, Uzbekistan) with many other volunteers. The idea behind was not just to raise awareness about the plight of migrant workers but to establish an effective network with KAIST students as well, since it was the first student-level collaboration between the two institutions. The cooperation was further endorsed by the presence of Dr. Ravi Kumar, Dean of KAIST Business School, and our own Associate Dean, Dr. Park, Hun Joo. The occasion was also graced by two honorable guests from the South African and Algerian Embassies.

On May 16<sup>th</sup> at the KAIST Supex Auditorium, the event went off to a flying start. After the introduction, the two guests appreciated the effort to bring together two prestigious institutions in a joint quest for a noble cause. After that the signature activity was undertaken which was the auction of miscellaneous items contributed by the KDI School students and faculty. It was enthusiastically participated by all and raised a substantial donation. In order to enliven the proceedings, a colorful fashion show were specially organized and met with adoring cheers, comprising of almost a dozen of the KDI School international students in their traditional costumes. Then musical performances by KAIST students, a group of singers called 'Tropica' and a professional B-boying team 'Addiction Crew', brought the crowd to their feet.

The event went on to raise more than 5 million KRW through the ticket sales, auction and donations both from individuals and the schools—a heartening result to all participating students, who prepared meals for the guests, donated auction artifacts, bought more than 300 tickets, and above all, proved that they stand ready to help people in need.

In a simple ceremony on June 15<sup>th</sup>, Jihye Lee, on behalf of all the students of KDI School and KAIST, presented the raised donation to Chairman of Global Love Sharing as a token of our care and empathy for the needy children. So what are the future plans? Jihye is happy with the outcome and hopes to continue this trend. "We are not stopping here," she said with an assuring smile. "We look forward to organizing yet another event next year with students of Korea University & KAIST for children of migrant workers," she added. Kudos for that spirit, and here's hoping this becomes a regular feature of the KDI School life, year after year.





# Bye Bye Dishnu

Reported by Fouz Khalid Khan (2011 MPP, Pakistan)



At first he was baffled. Over the noise of people drinking and being merry, Dishnu Jagmohan wondered aloud. "Why me, man! You must have something better to fill in the Globe." He was only partly right; for if we had a mid-year contest of the most popular student or a certified "character" in the KDI School 2011, he would have won hands down.

He came to Korea on an exchange program set up between the KDI School and the ISCID Business School, France. As it happens in every multicultural setting, we were all a bit shy in immediately making friends; only after the initial hesitation had run its course would we open up to people from different backgrounds. But not this

guy. With his jovial persona combined with the fact that he only had a couple of months to stay here, Dishnu geared up his friendship drive right from the start, and had everyone like him in no time. Affable, jolly and ever ready to go out, Dishnu could be counted on for joining in a rain-drenched tour-de-Yoeido cycling or showing up for a boys' night out at two in the morning in Itaewon.

The fact that during all this he took 7 courses, completed all of them, attended to all the group projects and kept up his spirits in the classroom speaks volumes of his boundless energy. We all celebrated the birthday of our Korean Language teacher Ms Lee, Sunja in class, but it was Dishnu who went out an hour before the final exam, had the group photograph printed, framed and presented to Professor Lee much to her surprised and joy.

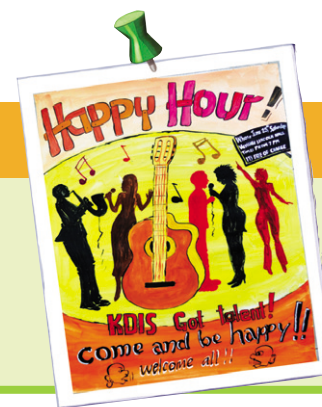
He chose Korea because he had never went out of Europe and wanted time to 'go around the world and fulfill himself.' He termed his whole experience at the KDI School as being enjoyable and rewarding. He was especially appreciative of the Professors from whom he sought to learn leadership skills. Dishnu is currently on an internship and has plans to do an MBA after he completes his Masters in International Trade. This bubbly party-animal also loves to play chess and unexpectedly, lists mythology and antiquities among his favorite subjects.

He has left the KDI School but not without a bang. We all put up a huge poster for him to take along, wishing him well and signing our names. And a large party was organized to bid him adieu. As he asked "why me?" once more, I simply pointed to the huge number of people who came to attend that happy, exuberant party. He smiled and went away to have his pictures taken one last time. Dishnu may have flown to Rotterdam but his quips and quotes stay with us 24/7. On Facebook.

## Happy Hour

# KDI School's Got Talent

Reported by Julius John Lwenje (2011 MPP, Tanzania)



As the 4<sup>th</sup> Happy Hour of 2011, KDI School's Got Talent took place on June 25 at the Lincoln Hall. More than sixty participants attended this lively event. Organized by students with the support of the Student Affairs Division, the event was prepared for students to have fun together and commence a new semester with fresh vigor.

The evening involved singing, balloon bursting, a beer drinking competition and dancing performances. With the lead of our MC Chan Ju Lee (2011 MPP, Korea) and DJ Nilufar Murtazaeva (2011 MPP/ED, Uzbekistan), the event started around 7 pm. Lincoln Hall was no longer the same place; the platform had been beautifully adorned by Naila Ismayilova (2011 MPP, Azerbaijan); tables on two sides of the hall were flooded with drinks, pizzas, nachos, candies and fruit so that participants could start right off by serving themselves to their liking. By the time the performance began everyone had a slice of pizza or a drink in hand. The ambience was perfectly relaxing for everyone; a sense of freedom at the end of a demanding semester seemed to allow an unearthly delight.

The singing competition initiated the event. One group was led by Sampa Saha (2011 MPP/ED, India) and the other by Joseph Owusu-Ansah (2011 MPP, Ghana). Singers of each group took turns to sing a song that starts with the last alphabet of a preceding song. Sana Ehsan (2011 MPP/ED, Pakistan) and Ashanni Sharma (2011 MPP/ED, India) rescued their groups several times by constantly coming up with a right song just before the countdown. Their Indian melodies tugged at our heartstrings even though we did not understand a single word. Both groups featured terrific voices.

The second game, balloon bursting, required one to pop other

players' balloon while struggling to guard one's own. Nine participants were competing to burst each other's balloon. The winner who remained with the only un-popped balloon turned out to be Mahinda Gunaratna (2011 MPP/ED, Sri Lanka).

Beer drinking competition drew a lot of attention. A circle of spectators engulfed the contestants as everyone wanted to watch the game up close. Two teams had six members each. The competition was a relay, wherein each member of a group starts drinking as soon as the preceding member finishes his or her beer. While the participants emptied their bottle by turns, we saw Phyrith Nou (2011 MPP/ED, Cambodia), Hyun-Ju Kim (External Relations and Development Division) and Mahinda Gunaratna (2011 MPP/ED, Sri Lanka) eliciting many cheers with their non-stop gulping.

Martin Okwir (2011 MPP, Uganda) and Severin Kapinga (2011 MPP, Tanzania) were next to lead the happy hour, with the help of African students performing African songs. The pronounced rhythms of the songs and the way these guys were shaking their waists invited all participants onto the floor, dancing in their own unique style. This festive scene was a testament to the power of music in uniting people.

Until Amita Pramasufi (2011 MPP, Indonesia) wrapped up the event with her sweet pop song, most participants were still immersed in dancing. More than twenty-five winners and outstanding performers were awarded prizes. The night was growing but there was not a single sign of fatigue on the jovial faces in the Lincoln Hall, where the event was concluded with a suggestion that such occasions be routinely organised.



# KDI School Launches the Development Research and Learning Network

Reported by Julius John Lwenje (2011, MPP, Tanzania)

In its continued commitment to promoting knowledge partnership in development between Korean and its partner countries in the developing world, the KDI School has recently launched Development Research and Learning Network (DRLN). Collaborating with the partner countries, DRLN carries out research in development policy and provide capacity-building training for mid-career officials from the developing world. Informed by Korea's own development experience, the DRLN intends to facilitate Official Development Assistance (ODA) and development policy implementation. Joint efforts with international organizations in the process will help disseminate development know-how, thereby levelling the information gap in the global community.



The Development Research and Learning Network consists of four teams that operate diverse knowledge sharing programs:

**Capacity Building Team** is responsible for coordinating Development Knowledge Sharing Workshops, capacity building for International Development Cooperation, Korean Knowledge Partnership Program, and Korea Global Leader's Fellowship Program. Korean Knowledge Partnership Program will be managed in cooperation with the World Bank. Capacity building for developing countries will range from providing policy workshops and seminars for senior officials to offering scholarships to students from developing countries.

**Development Research Team** coordinates the case study projects of Korea's development policy and organizes Korea Development Forum. The team endeavors to share practical policy lessons that may lead to future policy actions in the potential partner country. In-depth research in specific policy issues and regional workshops with development policy experts will enhance the knowledge sharing. KDI's accumulated policy consultation expertise plays a vital role in this initiative.

**Impact Evaluation Lab** aims at improving ODA projects through rigorous real-time impact evaluation. Applying to its evaluation scheme the lessons from Korea's past experience as a former recipient of development aid, the Lab will cooperate with various organizations to conduct impact evaluation studies in the following research programs: Seoul-Lee Jong Wook Project Impact Evaluation, World Bank-KDI ODA Impact Evaluation Joint Research, World Bank-KDI ODA Impact Evaluation Regional Workshop, and Research Program for De-worming in Korea and Overseas.

**Development Knowledge Bank** has two primary projects; one is Korean Development Experience and ODA Database, the other is Global Development Learning Network (GDLN). Both projects aim to ensure that the knowledge and case studies on Korea's economic growth and ODA projects are effectively documented and imparted to partner countries.

## Phase IV Mid-Career Training Program for IAS Officers : Korea Exposure Visit

From May 8<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, Capacity Building Team hosted a development team consisting of 100 elite officers from India. The Team visited Korea as part of the largest mid-career education project undertaken by the Government of India for its elite public service, the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

The purpose of this visit was to have Indian officers in contact with Korean culture as well as witnessing the Miracle of the Han River, the fast and vast post-war development in Korea. The visit is expected to reinforce short and long term economic cooperation between the two countries, since the participants are positioned to become major decision-makers in the Indian government. Focused on the development policymaking and infrastructure investments, the visit included several field trips to leading industrial sites and miscellaneous cultural activities.





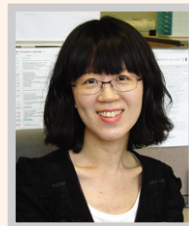
## Staff Interview

# Who Are the People That Help Us the Most?

Reported by Natasa Vujovic (2011 MPP, Serbia)

**The Academic and Student Affairs Divisions are basically where students go to complain. However, did you ever stop to wonder who these people are that we complain to? What they do for fun and what we might have in common?**

**Sometimes they may feel like a group of faceless individuals who are only there to send out announcements and attend to our administrative needs, but they are the ones who make sure our stay on campus is safe and enjoyable. Let us introduce you the people behind those desks.**



**Kang, Su-Jin**

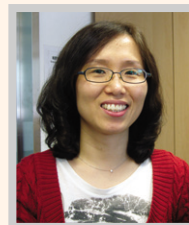
I love to sing and that is my hobby. I have been publicly singing since the elementary school when I was a member of the school choir. Nowadays, I sing in my church choir. My favorite genre is ballad and my favorite singer is Si-Kyung Sung!



**Han, Hae-Won**

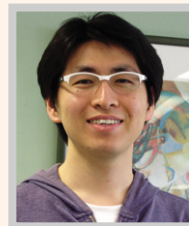
I was born and raised in Seoul; maybe that is why I love to go to traditional villages! My favorites are Samcheong-dong and Gahoe-dong. I visit those places whenever I need to relax and contemplate. I usually go with my best friend and enjoy the serenity of traditional surroundings. It fills me with the right kind of energy and allows time to reflect on myself.

## Student Affairs Division



**Lee, Jae-Soon (Head)**

I try to go out every weekend and ride a bicycle. I am a novice, but I keep getting better! I live right next to the Joongnang-cheon stream which is a perfect place to enjoy the nature. In the old days Korean people used to bike a lot. It has become obsolete for some time, but as Seoul streets are growing bicycle-friendly, an increasing number of people are getting on their bike again. Though having fallen quite hard 2 weeks ago, I will not give up and will continue with my bicycle passion!



**Hahm, Tae-Sik**

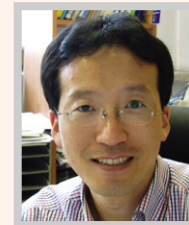
My name is Plant BIG. In Korea, siblings often share one syllable of their given name; "plant" part is the shared syllable in my case, so my brother's name is "Plant a Star" because he was born on Christmas. My family name Hahm means "together", Tae means "big" and Sik means "plant", BUT you can simply call me Joe!



**Kim, Mo-A**

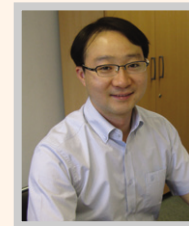
I love to go to the Seoul Arts Center. There is a fountain in the middle that rotates at the rhythm of music played in the background. This is a very popular place among Korean people. Many come just to sit and enjoy the music while watching a spout of water dance and step. The Center also offers various musical performances such as operas and classical music concerts.

## Academic Affairs Division



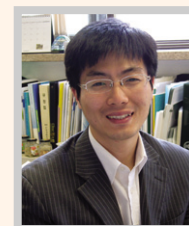
**Kim, Gi-Sang (Head)**

From all the places I've been to, my favorite was Mt. Baekdu. It is located right in between China and North Korea. As you know we are not allowed to enter North Korea and we do not know how the country looks like inside. Once you stand on top of that mountain you can see a part of the North Korean territory through the forest. This was really fascinating to me because I'm very interested in North Korean people and human rights.



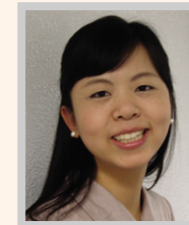
**Lee, Byung-Kwon**

I like to go hiking on weekends. Hiking revitalizes me whenever I'm stressed out or have many things on my mind. It often provides me with a refreshing outlook to rediscover what I need to concentrate on. If hiking is too heavy for you, you may want to try some trekking courses around Mt. Bukhan, Jeju Island or Kangwha where you can relish beautiful scenery. If you'd like we can try it together!



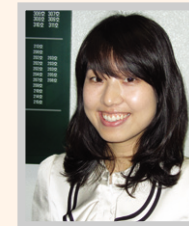
**Jung, Gu-Min**

I love to watch Korean comedies! Recently I have seen a very funny Korean movie "Take the Money and Run" and I really recommend it. The storyline is really exciting and you can see two very famous Korean actors starring: Cha Tae-Hyun and Ahn Seong-Gi.



**Lee, Hea-Young**

I love to visit new places and meet new people. I visited more than 20 countries in the world as a teacher, volunteer or traveler. Working as a KOICA volunteer in Uzbekistan, I taught Korean for 2 years at the Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages. Also, I used to teach traditional Korean drums (Samulnori) and I was a drama coach on Korean Culture Day!



**Lee, Dan-Ah**

I spent a year in Belgium doing a Master's in International education. While being in Belgium I started an NGO with some of my fellow students, whereby we traveled to the northern part of Ethiopia and trained the local teachers and students. Locals did not speak good English and living conditions were extremely difficult, but the challenge made the experience all the more memorable! My favorite part in working at the KDI School is helping international students, because I can pay back for the kindness I received when I was living abroad.



**Park, Ju-Hee**

I lived in Columbia for a year to study Spanish. I was in the city of Medellin, also called the Eternal Spring City that is famous for beautiful women, great weather and amazing night life! Also, I got to visit other places like Bogota, Boyaca, Iptales and Ecuador. I actually took a 20 hour bus ride to Ecuador. The trip was really adventurous and physically demanding, but so much fun altogether!



# KOREA-IDB Scholarship Program

Good News for Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic

Reported by Julius John Lwenje (2011, MPP, Tanzania)



The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will offer scholarships for mid-career public officials from Central America to pursue postgraduate studies in Korea. Under the name of the KOREA-IDB Scholarship Program, it will be operational from the 2012 Academic year.

The program is designed to strengthen the finance ministries and central banks of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic, with a view of raising the standards of their macroeconomic management. It also aspires to assist in building technical foundations in those countries to create a favourable climate for harmonizing macroeconomic policies at the sub-regional level. The program targets mid-career public sector officials in the region who have attained a certain degree of expertise and experience in public administration in their respective countries.

The project will be coordinated by the Council of Treasury Secretaries and Finance Ministers of Central American Countries (COSEFIN) and the Central American Monetary Council (CMCA). Each country will be required to send two qualified mid-career officials, one from the Central Bank and one from the Ministry of Finance, to pursue a Master's degree at one of the two widely recognized academic institutions in Korea: the KDI School and the Graduate School of International Studies, Seoul National University.

The program is expected to enrich the sub-region by providing a pool of specialists who will be able to coordinate, negotiate and monitor various economic activities and achievements within the region. Furthermore, the program aims to help standardize technical basis of macroeconomic policies and facilitate policy coordination.

Many countries embark on the task of regional economic integration to improve their competitiveness in the international market. In the ongoing context of globalization, there is no doubt that the role of the scholarship beneficiaries will be imperative in orchestrating macroeconomic policies in the sub-region.

# The Evans School is Waiting for You

Reported by Natasa Vujovic (2011 MPP, Serbia)



Starting next year, GMP students will be able to study at the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington. It is a renowned graduate school of public policy and management in the Northwest, and ranks nationally in the top tier of graduate schools in its field. The Evans School boasts excellent faculty members who are active in public affairs, while the curriculum integrates both policy and management. In addition, it offers an opportunity to

combine the students' research interests and degree requirements. This highly regarded institution is committed to improving the public and non-profit service, educating future leaders in the field of public policy and management. Evans is located in the city of Seattle, the birthplace of Jimi Hendrix and grunge music, nowadays known for indie rock, progressive arts scene and Starbucks!

# Showcasing KDI School to the World



Reported by Fouz Khalid Khan (2011 MPP, Pakistan)

July saw KDI School's reinforced efforts to attract outstanding individuals around the world in the wake of an imminent expansion. With the successful conclusion of the Seoul G20 Summit and as per the government's recommendation on a focused emphasis on development, KDI School showcased its unique advantage in this field by organizing the 2011 Special Lectures for diplomats from around the world. Ambassadors from 34 countries stationed in Seoul as well as former Korean Ambassadors to other countries were invited for a lecture on Aid effectiveness in Korean development history.

After a sumptuous lunch buffet during which the diplomats had a chance to interact with students and with each other, Dean Nam opened the session by welcoming the Ambassadors and introducing the research and teaching capacity at the KDI School. Associate Dean Park then gave a brief presentation on the school including a new Master of Development Policy program. The diplomats were encouraged to nominate talented individuals from their countries to take benefit of the excellent learning experience at the KDI School.

The highlight of the afternoon, of course, was the lecture *Using Aid for Development: Korean Case Study* by Prof Joon-Kyung Kim who heads the Development Research and Learning Network at the KDI School. He took the esteemed guests through a detailed journey of Korean development history, highlighting the important policy landmarks and implications. The lecture examined how Korea utilized large-scale aid and directed various aid flows to invest in basic infrastructure and build an industrial base for development. An interesting discussion session followed, with the experienced audience making insightful remarks about various development measures adopted by the Korean government.

The apparent interest shown by the diplomats led Dean Nam to suggest that this event could be held semi-annually in the future. On this note of a continued cooperation prospect between the School and the diplomatic community, the afternoon came to its successful conclusion.



# Gradual Transition to Modern Economy



Reported by Fouz Khalid Khan (2011 MPP, Pakistan)

The transition to modern economy is a gradual process that takes place where non-traditional sectors show high productivity.

This was the essence of a paper written by Dr. Hyeok Jeong (co-authored with his colleague Yong Kim from Yonsei University), a distinguished Korean economist currently teaching at GRIPS, Japan. Dr. Jeong was recently invited to the KDI School to present a lecture, which was widely attended by the KDI School students and faculty including Dean Nam.

Although indirectly, his lecture felt like a sequel to the lecture by Dr. Younghun Park of the Asian Development Bank in May, where he talked about the slow-down of modern economies after a certain growth level. Dr. Jeong's emphasis was on distinguishing economic activities into two distinct and mutually exclusive sectors: a traditional one which is usually marked by zero or stagnant productivity growth and a modern sector which shows increasing returns to scale. He had studied the sector data of Thailand (from 1976-1996) to provide examples of these sectors. For instance, the traditional sector in agriculture is rice cultivation whereas its modern sector is fruit farming; similarly postal service constitutes a traditional sector in service business whereas accountants can be regarded as a modern sector service provider.

While there is a general expansion of capital and human skills in the modern sector, the traditional sector is exhibiting a slowdown or a downright negative growth in many countries, as in the case of Singapore where the entire economy is built around the modern sector. Since workers tend to stick to their choice of entry in either of these sectors, the transition from traditional to modern sectors is a gradual one. Dr. Jeong then introduced the concept of individual earnings equations used as a parameter for measurement and verified the partitioning of economy into traditional and modern sectors. He went on to build a model that could explain the observed data from Thailand and its concomitant transition from traditional to

modern sector. Even though the lecture primarily centered on Thai data, he showed statistical as well as empirical evidence to suggest that this model could serve as a general framework for other economies as well. Dr. Jeong was particularly interested in collating the data from sub-Saharan African countries which he believed could also present a reasonable fit for the model.

After this seminal concept, the lecture turned towards a take-off stage for developing economies and what Dr. Jeong dubbed as the Catapult Effect. Visible in many modern day economies that show miraculous growth, the Catapult Effect implies: the later a country ventures into a catch-up phase of economic development, the faster their rate of growth. He also talked about Total Factor Productivity and its importance in overall economic growth. However, his emphasis was on creation of full-time job and usage of the skill set of experienced workers as an effective instrument of Aid utilization. For instance, recently the retired workers of Toyota Motors Limited in Japan have gone to developing countries and have provided significant expertise therein. Similarly, workers from developing countries in many Busan factories have gained insight into best management practices and have successfully implemented them back home.

After such an intensive lecture there was hardly any time left for a detailed Q&A session; however Dr. Jeong managed to answer some important questions directed at his postulations and other technical matters in his paper such as the partitioning criteria for sectors. He also talked about the growth opportunities for African countries, especially the Brain-gain policies, whereby the top professionals in a particular field are invited to work for a developing country and disseminate their expertise. Before bringing his very informative lecture to a close, Dr. Jeong opined that high population countries should have their labor allocated effectively in order to optimize sector specific productivity.

# Faculty News Updates

Reported by Natasa Vujovic (2011 MPP, Serbia)

## >> New Faculty Members



### Professor Jeong, Hyeok

Research Interest: Economics / Economic Growth and Development

Education: Ph.D., University of Chicago



### Professor Robertson, Jeffrey

Research Interest: Foreign Affairs / Defense / Security

Education: Ph.D., Australian National University



**Professor Choi, Tae-Hee** stays at University of Notre Dame on his sabbatical year, from January 2011 to January 2012.



**Professor Rhee, Kieun** takes a sabbatical leave from July 2011 to June 2012. She will be staying at Stanford University.



**Professor You, Jong-Il** was a panelist at Son Seokhee's radio talk show discussing political, social and cultural civil society on July 18, 2011. The panelists presented a liberal left-wing perspective.



**Professor Shin, Jaeun** has returned from her sabbatical as of July 15, 2011.



**Professor Cho, Dongchul** presented an article *Macroeconomic Policy Normalization and the G20* at the G20 Troika Roundtable Seminar on May 25 in Paris, France. On July 1, he gave another presentation of his paper *Aggregate Demand Gap Based on a Simple Structural VAR Model* at the Western Economic Association International Conference in San Diego, USA. Professor Cho is also participating in a KSP project in Mongolia: Macro-Policy Framework for Sustainable Development.



**Professor Hsu, Victor Wan Chi** organized an international forum from May 6 to 9 to assist NGOs in providing humanitarian aid to Japan, particularly the Tohoku area. In June 2011 he invited the National Christian Council of Japan to set up its Disaster Response Office. In addition, from May 16 to 20 he was a part of the KDI delegation to Laos establishing cooperation with the University Health Services. On June 2 he was invited as a keynote speaker at Mirae Forum of Civil Organizations, where he delivered a talk titled: Opportunity and Challenges of Korean NGOs and NPOs.



**Professor Chang, Yu-sang** gave a keynote speech at the 1st conference of Korea Industry Convergence Association on July 12 about enhancing national competitiveness in the global market by way of industry convergence.



**Professor Mansury, Yuri**'s father has passed away on July 7 at a hospital in Jakarta, Indonesia, at the age of 75. Dr. Reksoprayitno Mansury was in public service his entire life, working over 30 years for Indonesian Ministry of Finance.



## Life after the KDI School-Todd Sample



# Providing Special Value to a Korean Company

Reported by Natasa Vujovic (2011 MPP, Serbia)

**Todd Sample (2007 MFDI, USA) is a 16-year resident of Korea currently employed at Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO). As the first foreign hire at KEPCO and a former consultant at Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), he tells us firsthand about his experiences of building a career in Korea.**

### Tell me about your current job.

I work as Executive Director of Overseas Strategy in the Nuclear Export Department at KEPCO. Our current priorities include emphasizing the advanced safety features of Korean reactors, undertaking R&D activities, innovating our work processes and improving communication with overseas stakeholders. The efforts I am directly involved in is to expand the brand awareness of KEPCO. I am working to improve the content of our website and the way the KEPCO's message is being conveyed. This requires a thorough analysis of the current online contents and establishment of a new strategy.

### Looking back, what was the most valuable lesson that you took from the KDI School?

Two, relatively simple pieces of advice have continued serve me well to this day. One is *be creative* and the other is *be prepared*.

Professor Kim, Hann-Earl, in his course on international business strategy, presented multiple examples of successful businesses that targeted markets which did not seem as lucrative at first. He also

taught us that new markets exist where most believe they don't. "Creativity comes from different perspectives," he used to say. I continue to discover just how crucial it is to view one's work with 'fresh eyes' to get the full picture. The professional expertise I have gained over the course of my career I owe largely to this lesson.

On the other hand, Professor Yeo, Han-Koo was adamant from day one that he expected the students to be ready to answer every question he shot their way. Moreover, he would always put strict time constraints on student presentations. I remember, in fact, being the final member of a group presentation and having him cut me off in mid-sentence. "I told you," he said with a grin, "be prepared for a 20-minute presentation." Professor Yeo's 'tough love' has taught us the importance of self-discipline, which helped bring along many new opportunities throughout my 16 years in Korea.

### How did you develop your professional path in Korea?

For foreigners to find a job in Korea outside the realm of teaching English remains a serious challenge to date. Only very recently have foreign employees been perceived as capable of adding value to a



Korean company's business model, although to a great extent, this improved perception exists only at major Korean corporations with significant overseas operations.

In my case, once I made the decision to stay in Korea, I analyzed the factors that would make me a productive member of the local workforce and applied them to the best of my ability. In other words, the secret to doing well has been to find ways of delivering special value to the company. Korean companies are often at a loss as to how to optimize the foreigner's unique perspective; foreign employees need to identify for themselves how their efforts can benefit the company.

### Could you specify the additional value you were able to provide for local companies?

Basically, the unique position I was able to create came from a combination of my foreign perspective and a strong understanding of how a Korean organization works.

At KOTRA, I began to carve my own niche in an area where the organization was lacking diverse perspectives, namely public relations. I helped the company reconsider its approach to public relations, encouraging it to place a stronger emphasis on the perspectives of the target of promotion rather than just on the message itself. I also encouraged the use of social media as a new tool for PR and eventually helped the company incorporate Twitter and YouTube into their overall PR scheme.

At KEPCO I have attempted to optimize my foreign perspective once again. I knew how a public organization operated, and I understood the potential obstacles that may stand in the way of innovation. I thus

began to lecture company employees on how I view KEPCO 'through a foreigner's eyes' and how I feel innovation can be a goal worth pursuing. So far, the message has been well-received and I continue to receive requests to visit local branches across the country as a special lecturer.

### What would be your advice to our international students who wish to work in Korea?

Take the initiative. I have been able to secure opportunities in my work because I took the first step to approach someone with an idea. Additionally, becoming familiar with the Korean corporate culture is an absolute must when you put together an innovative proposal. Because such initiative is not so common in a Korean working environment, you want to be cautious not to have your boss take your proposal for a threat or a challenge. Understanding how Koreans tend to react, address problems, interact with colleagues and perceive value are just a few of the cultural skills necessary to acclimate successfully. Working in Korea can be very rewarding if you have a flexible mindset!





## Life after the KDI School-Janet Chin Shuk Henn

# Knowing Janet

Reported by Fouz Khalid Khan (2011 MPP, Pakistan)



For someone who came to Korea mere three years ago, Janet Chin Shuk Henn (2009 MBA, Malaysia) has managed to accomplish a lot, and impressively so.

Studying as one of the last MBA students (dinosaurs, as she would call herself), getting married to a Korean, conducting English classes for Korean students, passing off level IV of Korean Language Proficiency Test (KLPT), being a Globe Reporter for the last three editions, snapping up a managerial position in a prestigious multinational company, AND being a mom all this while. Add to this an easy-going, effervescent, straightforward and somewhat aggressive yet friendly personality, and you are pretty much close to knowing who she is.

But who actually is she?

For starters, Janet is a second generation Chinese who was born, bred and honed in the scenic town of Sandakan in the Malaysian state of Sabah. As a small town girl, she retained till her youth the ideals of getting married and being done with her social aspirations. Apparently her father had a different idea; he sent her to Australia for undergraduate studies at Curtin University of Technology. Once she graduated with a bachelor's in marketing & PR, she went ahead with a bank job that would shape her life for the next eight years. "I was a bank manager at twenty-four, taking care of high-net-worth individuals," she tells me with deserving pride. She also found time to get a Certified Financial Planner certification (when relatively few

people were interested in or capable of obtaining CFP) and joined the Toastmasters Club, a regular get-together for high net-worth individuals in her town. "It was where you can improve your public speaking skills and learn how to project somebody in a positive light," she recalls. In addition to mastering the art of communication, giving speeches and MCing at several events had her bond with prospective clients far more effectively than in any formal arrangements. She closed many a million dollar deals after joining the club and got promoted after two years.

Eight years later, Janet began to hit a premature mid-life crisis, finding it a drag even to attend a school reunion. She needed a change.

And then she met someone. "We met on line and chatted for a few months. When I was supposed to go to Bangkok and the flight was cancelled, he talked me into visiting Korea instead. He said that he could be my full-time tour guide since it was Thanksgiving in Korea. So I flew in and we met in the flesh for the first time." They instantly liked each other. It was meant to be. Two months later he, too, visited Malaysia. Along came a long distance relationship. While trying to figure out ways to work things out, Janet would fly all the way to Korea for a single job interview, only to get rejected. The painfulness of it all gradually sank in. "There was no way I was going to quit my amazing job for something that might or might not blossom," she remembers.

Then her heart skipped a beat. She saw an advertisement in a Malaysian newspaper about scholarship opportunities in Korea (with only ten days left to the deadline). She went ahead to fill out the forms and... got a 3-year long scholarship as a NIIED scholar. The

scholarship included one full year support for Korean Language education, whereby she completed her KLPT levels. She chose the KDI School because "it was one of the top three MBA Schools in Seoul back then." She became the first Malaysian to enter the School's MBA program.

Janet and Ray Shin got married in June 2009 in a colorful and festive ceremony in Malaysia. She then set out upon the arduous task of simultaneously managing a newly married life and graduate studies. How does one go about being a full time student, coping with a different culture, having a baby and working at the same time? "The key is to prioritize," she answers. And smart management, too. She had her in-laws take care of the baby, stayed at the dorm for studies, met hubby on weekends and met her baby every fortnight—keeping her life, friends and individuality happy and content in the meantime.

When asked whether she has always been a risk taker, she shook her head with sanguine composure. "At the time I became a bank manager, I was about to escape from the bank and apply to be a school teacher." So teaching has always been her thing? "Oh no, I just wanted something boring and safe," she laughs. It was her father who persuaded her to continue with the bank job back then, but it must have been her own merit that shone through her career. "Maybe I am born with this all capable, professional look, but I am so lazy!" she jokes. "Once I am put on a job, though, with a dash of common sense and logic I make it work somehow."

Apparently that is good enough for prospective employers. Janet is all set to graduate and has already landed a job as Global Business Manager at SK Communications. Her job entails negotiating with international companies regarding content licensing and collaboration strategies. This means a lot of brainstorming, dealing with corporate clients, drawing up and executing new plans and, of course, adapting to the Korean corporate culture of staying up (sometimes unnecessarily) late. As her priorities now center on her baby, that is something Janet is working hard to cope with—and doing an admirable job at that.

From the comfort of a small Malaysian town to the fast paced life in Seoul, cultural adjustment has not been easy. Janet and Ray were approached by several producers of reality TV shows that deal with a life of Southeast-Asian wives in Korea. Janet's response was a simple no. "I am not your typical Asian wife," she flatly told them, "and I'm not planning on having my personal life splashed across the world like a soap-opera."

Typical or not, Janet has been a survivor throughout her life choices. As she took the last sip of her soda, I asked her if she had any particular philosophies in life. "Life is short, enjoy every moment of it," she mused. Her guiding principle in life? "Well, if you never try you'll never know," she smiled. Having her goals set and working tirelessly to achieve them, Janet Chin Shuk Henn leaves the KDI School this summer to embark on her continued voyage to career and family success.





Alumni Lecture Series for Career Development III

Becoming a Researcher

Reported by Chanju Lee (2011 MPP, Korea)



The Alumni Lecture Series continued; following the last lecture for future finance experts, the third lecture took place on April 15<sup>th</sup> for students interested in working at a research institute. Guest speaker Lee, Jong-Kyu (2001 MPP, Korea) shared his story of how he became a researcher at Samsung Economic Research Institute (SERI). A Research Fellow in the Department of Global Studies, Mr. Lee is an EU economy specialist at SERI, a growingly important topic as the issue of Korea–EU FTA is on the recent rise.

Advice for students planning to pursue Ph.D.

He started off by recalling how he got into the field. “When discharged from the army, I was interested in the power transfer of North Korea. However, due to lack of available information I began by looking into power transfer cases of Eastern European countries, which led up to a greater interest in Eastern European economy.”

While studying at the KDI School, he decided to study more on the Eastern European economy and began preparing for studying abroad. For students who wish to pursue further study overseas, he advised to spend great time and effort in writing Statement of Purpose (SOP). “Most of all, you need to ask yourself two fundamental questions: why this school should accept me and why I want to study at this specific school, not others.” He emphasized that it might take some time to find the answers, but once you are sure you have good enough reasons for both whys, 90% of your SOP would be done.

He also underscored the importance of staying on good terms with your academic advisor. He was first accepted to pursue a master’s degree in London on a scholarship, which was a one year program. Unable to support himself at the time, he needed to search for other scholarship opportunities a year later. Thanks to his academic advisor, he had a chance to get a scholarship offer provided for international students. Working as a Teaching Assistant (TA), he said,

helped him form a good relationship with his advisor. He gratefully remembered that the professor was always willing to be his reference. “I cannot tell you enough how critical human network is in the academic field. Especially in UK, recommendation from your advisor is crucial. Without his help, I would never have completed my Ph.D.”

Help from the KDI School while studying in London

He received a Ph.D. from the University College London (UCL), one of the best schools in the world in economics. It gave the audience a special sense of pride that Mr. Lee found his KDI School experience indispensable to achieving his dream degree. “What I learned at the KDI School was the best asset I had while studying at the UCL,” he declared.

First of all, he was greatly benefited by his TA experience at the KDI School. Under Professor You, Jong-Il, he assisted his research and ran a data program until, admittedly, he got sick of the job. Who could have imagined it would be of so much help in London! On the strength of this experience, he was also able to land a TA position at UCL. The job provided him with chances to communicate more with professors and students, which led him to adapt quickly to the new environment. Recounting his story, he added: “Do your best on every chance presented to you. Even if you think you are suffering at the time, one day you will gain from the pain.”

Close connection with professors at the KDI School supported him throughout his London life. He poured out his problems to Prof. You in particular, who was always there to lend a sympathetic ear. “From the beginning stage of selecting a school, Prof. You helped me a lot,” he said full of gratitude. “His encouragement guided me to complete my Ph.D. within 4 years and a half.”

How to get an opportunity

He kept on encouraging students. “I guess you already know that Ph.D. degree would not guarantee a job given the recent academic inflation. However, if you have a specific topic you want to study, no worries. Opportunities will come.”

Back to those days when he was studying Eastern European economy, he could hardly hope to get a job in his field. All attention of international companies was centering on East Asian market, and the focus was expected to last for some time. His future looked pretty bleak: “I worried a lot at the time, questioning which would be better, staying in England or returning to Korea.” After long deliberation, he decided to visit Korea for a while to allow himself some much needed rest. During this visit he came across a job opening and applied for an internship at SERI, where he got his current job after a month later.

“As Korea–Europe FTA is expected to have a huge impact on auto industry, there has been an increasing demand for experts in

European economy. The take-home message is, as long as you have a clear picture of what you want to achieve with your life and stay prepared, opportunities will present themselves at the right time.”

He concluded the lecture with very practical advice:

“If you want to work at a research institute, you would eventually need a Ph.D. But let me warn you, it is an excruciating journey. Since some positions are open to people with only a master’s degree, I recommend you to take advantage of those chances and check yourself for a year before getting your teeth into a doctoral program.”

Then he reverted back to the topic of our beloved alma mater. “Lastly, do your best at the KDI School. Just about everything you learn here would help you in most unexpected occasions. Having studied on this campus means you have the wind beneath your wings, so go take a flying leap into your future!”



Alumni Lecture Series for Career Development

Series #	Date	Speaker	Topic
1	Mar 11th	Taehwan KIM (2009 MBA, Korea)	Building Up a Professional Career
2	Mar 18th	Hyung Ho KIM (2006 MAM, Korea)	Entry Strategy to Financial Sector
3	Apr 15th	Jong Kyu LEE (2001 MPP, Korea)	Becoming a Researcher
4	May 19th	Hyung Woo HAN (2009 MBA, Korea)	Campus Recruitment & Interview
5	May 19th	LG Electronics	Campus Recruitment for International Alumni
6	July 1st	Seungjin BAEK (2008 MBA, Korea)	Different Routes to International Organizations
7	July 8th	Jun Sik HA (2011 MPP/ED, Korea)	Entry Strategy to Investment Banking
8	July 29th	Xuan LI (2001 MPP, China)	Career in International Organizations



## Alumni Lecture Series for Career Development IV

# Routes to International Organizations

Reported by Chanju Lee (2011 MPP, Korea)

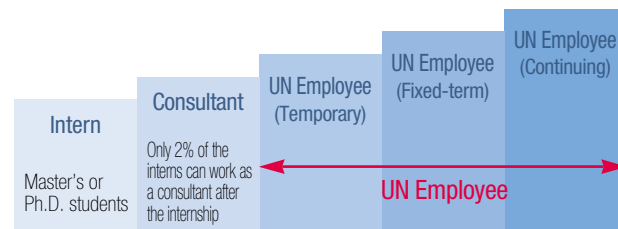


KDI School was established in 1997 with the mission of educating future leaders who can effectively meet with growing challenges of the globalizing world. Baek, Seung-Jin (2008 MBA, Korea) is one of the living legacies of the School's endeavor to fulfill this mission. Having passed the National Competitive Recruitment Examination (NCRE), he is on standby for joining the United Nations. Currently working at Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler (KPMG) Korea, he visited his alma mater on July 1st to share his know-how of how to prepare for NCRE and how to drive your career towards international organizations.

"There are four ways to get an opportunity to work at international organizations, which must sound more hopeful than you might have expected. It is true that there is only a slim chance to run into those opportunities, but it is also true that you and I are privileged enough simply by having studied at the KDI School." With the audience only half-believing his statement, Mr. Baek continued in intriguing suspense, "you will understand what I mean after the lecture."

### Four Different Routes to Get into International Organizations

For the first part of the session, he introduced four different ways to work at international organizations. The first was the most widely known: internship. Any Master's or Ph.D. students can apply for internship at the UN regardless of majors. Internship by no means guarantees a future employment, yet the experience may give you a greater chance to get hired since you will have a better access to relevant information.



To become a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) is the second route. 16 donor countries are sponsoring the JPO program. Among applicants under 32 years of age, governments of the 16 countries select those who are qualified to represent their countries and work at international organizations. To get selected, applicants should not only pass an intensive interview round but prove their knowledge, insights and writing skills regarding a given international issue. The opportunity is granted to only 15 people this year. As the public interest in international organizations continues to grow, JPO positions are becoming increasingly competitive.

If you do not want to spend all your time and effort in preparing for the JPO exam, Young Professional Program (YPP) can be your alternative. Successor to the NCRE, YPP is what led Mr. Baek to the United Nations. NCRE had an essay-type exam before an interview; in YPP, once your resume survives the 1st round, interview is the only stage you have to go through. Common to both is the fact that interview result is vital to the final decision.

There is still another path open for active, energetic people who are more prone to a field work than a desk job: United Nations Volunteers (UNV), New and Emerging Talent Initiative (NETI) and Leadership Development Programme (LEAD). If you apply through these programs, you would be placed in a field where many projects

are being executed before your eyes. Although participants of those programs do not work as a regular UN employee in the field, with excellent performance demonstrated in the evaluation at the end of a one-year contract, you would get hired by the UN. One of the advantages of this option is that you can build networks with other program participants from all over the world.

### Benefits Provided by the KDI School

The lecture changed its direction as Mr. Baek began to reflect on his KDI School experience. "Are you still listening to my story as a fairy tale of some lucky guy who happened to succeed on an off-chance? I thought the same when I was studying here, believing I had a meager chance at best. That was why I decided to pursue a Ph.D. degree rather than to spend my time applying for international organizations. In the course of my study, however, I realized that I am qualified. Let me open your eyes to see how privileged you are to be studying on this campus."

### Various School Events

The notice board on the School website shows a multitude of events hosted by the School. For instance, students are invited to attend a regional impact evaluation workshop with the World Bank from Aug. 29 to Sep. 2. In addition, major companies are willing to visit and try to recruit promising individuals. Mr. Baek persuaded us to take advantage of diverse opportunities offered at the school: "In writing a resume for an international organization, you will come across a section where you are to fill out with extra-curricular activities you have participated. If you took part in all those school events, a year at the KDI School alone would be enough fill up the space. Furthermore, networks that you develop during those events might be helpful in your career."

### Top-notch Education

"Do not overlook the value of what you are learning at the KDI School," he stressed, "because it is something more than you may now understand." For an essay type exam called specialized paper in NCRE, applicants are supposed to choose a subject they are interested in. "On the subject of my choice," he recalled, "I was able to solve every question." He said with confidence that the exam would not be difficult for any KDI School students if they have done exactly what professors asked them to do in class. He then advised to enjoy demanding classes. "You are investing time and efforts for your dream," he summed up.

### Excellent Human Networks

KDI School is the place where competent, intelligent individuals come to study from around the globe. He reminded the audience that they already have good human networks. "Work together with friends next to you to reach your goal," he encouraged, adding that sharing useful information and difficulties together would help each other to stay focused. He also underscored the alumni network: "If you find any alumni working in the field of your interest, email them or give them a call. I am sure they'll be willing to help you. It will be their great pleasure, in fact, as it greatly pleases me to be speaking here."

Before the lecture came to a close, he advised us to make a long-term plan, since it always takes time to achieve something. "Do not give up no matter how tough it appears," he added. "Remember that you are studying in an excellent environment. Think of the resources you can get from the KDI School and take advantage of all the benefits presented to you. I do expect to see some of you in international organizations in the near future!"



## Alumni Lecture Series for Career Development V



### **ERNST & YOUNG** on the Look Out for the Right People

Reported by Chanju Lee (2011 MPP, Korea)

May 19 was marked by a recruiting session at Ambassador Hall by Ernst & Young (EY). EY is one of the largest global professional services firms in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services, ranked the 9th largest private company in US by Forbes magazine 2010.

A couple of features highlighted this recruitment. First, Business Development (BD) team visited the school instead of Human Resources (HR) team. Second, a KDI School alumnus Han, Hyung-woo (2009 MBA, Korea) in BD team gave a presentation on EY recruitment. Mr. Han opened the session with a brief introduction of the company: "EY's reputation takes rank with other professional services firms such as PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG, and Deloitte Touche." He acknowledged, however, that EY has not stepped to the fore in Korea as much as it did at the global level. To be competitive in the Korean market, they have had internal reform since 2007, developing and empowering BD team. "That is why BD team instead of HR is involved in this recruitment, looking for the right people for EY," he explained. "We want to meet our prospective co-workers face to face."

One of the students asked him to specify 'the right people for EY'. His answer to the question spun around his actual working experience. "First, we are looking for the right people who can show initiative and work unsupervised," he outlined. The DB team takes care of all necessary procedures when clients want to take their business abroad. Clients are usually able to manage the difficulties encountered in the domestic market, but they hardly know what to expect when launching an overseas business. The team identifies potential problems a foreign market might pose to the clients and develop workable solutions. "If we think that the expansion is worth trying, we suggest our idea to the clients before they make a request to us," he emphasized. He went on to prove his point with an

anecdote. While his team was gleaning information for a corporate client interested in the American market, they discovered potential challenges in the legal sector with regard to the so-called Living Will Law. They analyzed latent risk factors and came up with a strategy to fend off those risks, which enabled a successful launch of an overseas venture. Such initiative is what the BD team needs in their performance.

Second, the right person for EY is the one with a strong analytic ability. Analytic ability comes from meticulous data analysis and critical thinking. To provide their clients with a competitive strategy, the BD team has to study about their clients' field and be an expert thereof; the analysis should not only consider fast changing market trends but also address particular business concerns of the clients. Ability to properly interpret the data at hand is therefore an absolute must to work in the BD team. In addition, setting up a strategy on the basis of the analyses requires critical thinking. "I know the KDI School trains the analytic skills we expect from our employers," Mr. Han encouraged the students, "so you have nothing to worry about in that department." He added that the global, dynamic environment of the KDI School is another asset for our students who wish to work for an international company such as EY. "Branching out into a new market calls for multi-cultural understanding," he affirmed.

Twenty students had an interview on that very evening. Let us keep our fingers crossed for our students who are ready to explore their aspirations!



Campus Recruitment for International Alumni



### **LG Electronics** Comes to the **KDI School**

Reported by Fouz Khalid Khan (2011 MPP, Pakistan)

The LG Group is one of the biggest corporate groups in Korea and among the most recognizable brands in the world. Diversifying into chemicals, consumer electronics and industrial systems, LG recruits some of the best talents in the market for its core engineering R&D, sales & marketing and support groups. Since its vast global presence requires competitive local leaders, LG Electronics has decided from this year to introduce a foreign student recruiting program, which targets international students residing in Korea. Once hired, they will be trained in Korea for at least 2 years and then dispatched to their respective countries to lead a local LG subsidiary. With no dearth of talented individuals representing all around the globe, it is no wonder that the KDI School has been chosen to be among the 20 schools from which the LG decided to recruit their future executives.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, there was an introductory session to familiarize students with the LG group, its product range and market share in the global industry. Ms Olivia Lee Cho of the Talent Recruiting Group at LG started off her presentation by giving an overview of the company and its corporate philosophy. We were especially impressed by the multifaceted expansion of the LG and its commitment to environment safety and human betterment, including its sponsorship for competitive sports such as cricket and Formula One. She also explained LG's competitive edge over other brands, especially in consumer electronics. LG was a pioneer in manufacturing the country's first radio sets, color televisions and refrigerators—the three home appliances without which the modern life seems unimaginable today. With more than 200,000 employees worldwide and an easily discernible brand name since its inception in 1947, LG group is one of the foremost companies young graduates dream to work for.

Evidently the company needed little introduction. The eager participants launched Ms Lee directly into the nuts and bolts of the whole hiring process. Since this is a ground-breaking year for hiring foreign employees, a lot of details remained, understandably, a little unclear, including the initial salary range, specific requirements, job placement/enrichment plan, and most importantly the visa requirements and residency issues. Ms Lee fielded those inquiries like a veteran HR manager should. Polite, informative and totally supportive, she assured the audience that the wide range of their educational and service experience will be an asset; that the company seeks to fill in not only its R&D engineering posts but sales and support group positions as well. She went on encouraging prospective employees, saying that all subject majors with or without relevant service experience are eligible and welcome to apply. Much depends, of course, on the interview performance and the candidate's motivation, skills and work ethic — something that after two semesters at the KDI School, all of us are more than familiar with!

A comprehensive CV form available at their website was to be filled out and sent for further processing. The interview schedule was fixed for June 2nd and 3rd, after which further screening would take place. Many of our students filled out the form. Given LG's impressive credentials, the opportunity would be sure to promise a challenging, life-changing career for those who make it to the company.



# Alumni News Updates

Reported by Chanju Lee (2011 MPP, Korea)



**SEUM, Chhay (2001 MPP, Cambodia)** is a lecturer for Economics at Build Bright University, Siem Reap Campus in Angkorwat, Cambodia.



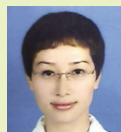
**NAM, Sang Don (2002 MBA, Korea)** is Managing Director of Alfa Laval Korea Holding in Kimhae, Kyungsang Province.



**JANG, Don-Young (2006, MBA, Korea)** is part of the United Nations Observer Group in India and Pakistan, working at the Department of Peacekeeping Operation of the United Nations (UN DPKO).



**KIM, Hyoung Kook (2006 MPP, Korea)** works at the Department of Peacekeeping Operation of the United Nations (UN DPKO) in Sudan.



**Pham, Chung Thi Hoai (2006 MBA, Vietnam)** serves as Regional Business Development Manager of the Business Development Division at CJ GLS Asis Pte., Ltd. in Singapore.



**RYU, Younsang (2006 MPP, Korea)** works at the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operation (UN DPKO), engaged in the UN Observer Group in India and Pakistan.



**Ulzii, Gantur (2006 MPP, Mongolia)** has moved to State Bank of Mongolia as Chief Operations Officer.



**Dorresteijin, Joop Johan (2008 exchange student, Sweden)** works at United Style in China. He got married to **Cho, Suna (2008 exchange student, Netherlands)**.



**KANG, Soonduck (2009 MBA, Korea)** and **KIM, Joong Mo (2009 MBA, Korea)** got married in May.



**KIM, Chang You (2009 MBA, Korea)** has been promoted to Manager of Woori Financial Group.



**Mostafa, Md. Alam (2010 MPP, Bangladesh)** serves as Senior Assistant Secretary at the Ministry of Public Administration.



**Jentzsch, Sarah (2010 exchange student, Germany)** and **Florev, Ivelina (2010 exchange student, Germany)** graduated from Leipzig Graduate School of Management on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July.

# KDI School Alumni Reunited Everywhere!

KDI School alumni members are reunited in their own regions. The school is supporting such occasions by dispatching staff or faculty members. Starting from China, alumni in Vietnam, Cambodia, Guatemala, Tanzania and Ethiopia got together under the same proud title: the KDI School Alumni Association.



1. Vietnam Alumni Gathering (April 14, 2011)
2. Chinese Alumni Gathering (March 26, 2011)
3. Cambodian Alumni Gathering (April 26, 2011)
4. Ethiopian Alumni Gathering (July 9, 2011)
5. Guatemalan Alumni Gathering (April 11, 2011)
6. Tanzanian Alumni Gathering (May 27, 2011)

