

## Korean-American Physicist Explores Brain Connection in Acupuncture

By Hong Sun-hee  
Staff Reporter

A Korean physicist has offered some surprising evidence for those reluctant to accept the therapeutic effects of acupuncture on the body.

Cho Zang-hee, 62, a professor working in radiology at the University of California in Irvine, has revealed how a needle inserted at an acupuncture point affects the brain and, consequently, human health.

The September issue of the science magazine DISCOVER carries the findings of his study. The accompanying photograph shows Cho's face full of needles.

His professional curiosity started five years ago when pain from a hiking fall melted away immediately after he tried acupuncture.

He wondered how inserting needles into seemingly random points on the body could possibly affect human health?

In his experiments, he first stimulated the eyes of student volunteers. He flashed a light in front of them and observed their neural activity using a fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) machine.

The resulting images, as expected, showed a concentration of color (an increase in activity), in the visual cortex, the portion of the brain associat-



Cho Zang-hee

ed with the functioning of the eye. Then he had an acupuncturist stimulate the prescribed acupoint for treatment of ocular conditions, the joint of the little toe. In one person after another, the very same region of the brain - the visual cortex - lit up on the fMRI image. To eliminate the possibility of a placebo effect, he also stimulated a nonacupoint in the big toe. There was no response in the visual cortex.

For thousands of years, people noticed that when they applied a needle in one place, it would have an effect on another part of the body. But the connection through the brain was never made.

The Korean physicist has succeeded in establishing the specific response in the brain's cortex, but has yet to solve the riddle of the path followed from the stimulation point to the cortex, the area responsible for such sophisticated functions as speech, hearing and memory.

According to the article, Cho hopes to push the scientific frontier a little further by using fMRI and other imaging systems to explore connections between acupoints and the brain. He also plans to study how acupuncture might be used to increase blood flow to the visual cortex in people who have suffered vision impairment after a stroke. A handful of other researchers have, in fact, already found that acupuncture treatments can help stroke patients improve their range of movement.

Acupuncture imaging studies, Cho is quoted as saying, are "opening a new door to neuroscience."

Cho has his B.A. and M.A. from Seoul National University and obtained a doctorate degree at Upsala University of Sweden in the study of physics and electronic engineering. He has taught at Stockholm University and at Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. He is a world authority in the field of nuclear magnetic resonance imaging systems.

## Military to Get Tough On Sexual Harassment in Units

By Oh Young-jin  
Staff Reporter

The military will get tough on sexual harassment among its rank and file, reflecting the fact that an increasing number of women are serving in the institution that was once regarded as an exclusive brotherhood of men.

The Defense Ministry yesterday issued instructions to all military units that sexual harassment will not be tolerated. It was the first time that such an order has been issued since the creation of the ROK Armed Forces.

Under the instructions, soldiers are barred from publicly displaying sexually-explicit pictures, making sexual advances, and making remarks and taking actions that could be regarded as offensive to both females and males.

The soldiers are also ordered not to force female soldiers to attend after-

hours functions.

In order to leave no room for misunderstanding on the new policy, the ministry bars all physical contacts between male and female soldiers except for handshakes.

The women soldiers are also advised to notify others at functions as to how much they want to drink. Furthermore, commanding officers must see to it that colleagues do not force female soldiers to drink more than their self-set limit.

Male soldiers are barred from the female dorms after 10 p.m., except in emergencies, and the door should be left open at all times when a female soldier is alone with a male counterpart.

The military also advises female soldiers to observe a strict dress code and avoid clothes that can be regarded as provocative.

Female soldiers are required to submit any "complaint" regarding sexual harassment or abuse to an Armed Services

report center. Depending on the degree of the "offense," the perpetrators will be subject to punishment by admonition, suspension or dismissal.

At present, of the 600,000 ROK troops, 2,000 are female — most of them nurses and office clerks. But by 2010, the number is expected to double with some of them to be assigned to combat duty. The military academies, breeding grounds for junior officers, have opened their doors to females cadets.

"The military was once regarded as an all-male, cloistered society where women were forbidden," an Army officer said.

"Now, times have changed, so soon we will see male and female soldiers fighting side by side on the battlefield. The ministry's instructions have made clear its zero-tolerance policy to ensure the women's role in the military will grow unimpeded by such matters as sexual harassment."

## 'Safe School' Drive to Spread Worldwide

— Gov't to Seek Foreign Support at ICC Congress —

An anti-violence campaign led by the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office in schools will expand on a global level, it was learned yesterday.

The office will report the outcome of its campaign to end school violence and make a proposal to set up the International Federation of the Initiative for Safe Schools, at the 12th International Congress on Criminology, which will run in Seoul for six days starting today.

Over 1,500 experts on criminology are coming to the ICC to discuss crime prevention and new criminal policies.

Prosecutor General Kim Tae-jong will seek support from United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Pino Arlacchi to realize the creation of the federation during the first half of next year. About 10 countries are known to support the plan, including Japan, Canada and the United States.

Accordingly, a score of panels will be devoted to children's issues and partic-

ipants will present papers and conduct discussions on juvenile delinquency and seek ways to provide safe school surroundings under a supranational movement.

About 30 officials and scholars who deal with issues affecting teenagers will present the results of their research and suggest solutions to various problems. Participants will include Prof. Fynn-Aage Esbensen of the University of Nebraska, Takaki Kayato of the National Police Academy, Japan, Lu Zhiqiang of the NPA, China, and Vitaly Kvashin of the Interior Ministry, Russia.

The Seoul conference marks the first time that the ICC meeting will be held in an Asian country. It is being co-hosted by the Korean Institute of Criminology and the International Society of Criminology.

The ICC conference has been held every five years since its inauguration in Rome in 1938.

Some 700 foreign experts from 70 countries and over 800 Korean specialists will take part in the congress under the theme, "Crime and Justice in a Changing World: Asian and Global Perspectives."

Twenty-three renowned scholars will speak on such sub-themes as "The Cause and Prevention of Crimes," "International Trends in Criminal Policy," and "The Future of Criminology."

The roughly 500 papers which are to be delivered cover 150 subjects, such as "Anti-Corruption Policy," "Correctional Treatment," "Organized Crime" and "The Use of Computer Science in Criminal Work and Policy," to name a few.

The site of the main congress will be the Inter-Continental Hotel Seoul. The neighboring Korea Exhibition Center will showcase a wide range of the latest safety and crime prevention devices throughout the congress period.

## 9-Day ROK-ASEAN Youth Workshop Opens Today

Over 100 youths from nine Southeast Asian countries will enter a nine-day workshop starting today in Seoul as part of an exchange program to promote cooperation between future leaders at the doorstep of the new millennium, organizers said yesterday.

A spokesman for the event's host, the National Council of Youth Organizations in Korea, said the 108 visitors and their 42 Korean counterparts will take part in a wide range of programs including lectures on Korea, outdoor activities, study tours on Korea's historical and industrial sites and home-stays in Seoul and Kosong, Kangwon-do.

The event, held under the theme of "Korea-ASEAN Youth in the 21st Century, the New Millennium," is sponsored by the Foreign Affairs-Trade and Culture-Tourism Ministries, along with the support of the Boy Scouts of Korea, the Korean National Commission for Unesco and Korea Corporation.

The participating youngsters are from Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

The opening ceremony will be held at the Seoul Olympic Parklet in southern Seoul at 11:20 a.m. tomorrow with about 250 guests and participants attending, including Culture-Tourism Minister Shin Nak-kyun and Seoul-based ambassadors from nine member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

In 1996, the Korean foreign ministry began to explore new concepts with respect to the Korea-ASEAN cooperation programs in an effort to deepen relations from both mid- and long-term perspectives.

The concept, called "the future-oriented cooperation projects," was first presented by the Korean foreign minister on the occasion of the "7 plus 1" session of the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference, held in Jakarta on July 1996.

Organizers said that the program is designed to create a regular Korea-ASEAN forum for youth exchanges in order to build a foundation for friendship and to identify the youths' roles and responsibilities for international cooperation.

Under the same program, a total of 24 Korean youths are expected to make a reciprocal visit to six ASEAN member countries in December.

## Catholic Priests Face Charges for Acts in NK

Prosecutors are making final preparations to press charges against Father Moon Kyu-hyun for violating the National Security Law by participating in a unification festival during his recent visit to North Korea.

A senior prosecutor at the Segul District Prosecutors' Office said yesterday, "We have taken over records of Father Moon's and his group's activities in the North from the Agency for National Security Planning. It is inevitable that they will face charges since it is true that they participated in the North Korea-sponsored festival held in the truce village of Panmunjom."

He said that the severity of the charges they will face will be determined after the prosecutor's office reviews a report on their activities that will be submitted this week. "They will most likely face charges of violating the National Security Law that bans, among other things, activities that benefit the enemy," he said.

Father Moon and his colleagues at the Catholic Priests' Association for Justice returned home via Beijing on Aug. 19 after their government-approved visit to Pyongyang.

The priests were released after a debriefing by the NSP Friday evening.

## Exotic Beetle Trade Bugs Japanese Quarantine Office

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese quarantine authorities say the country faces a growing threat from abroad: bootlegged beetles.

Capitalizing on Japan's traditional fascination with the bugs — which are exotic and pricey — foreign beetles are being marketed over the Internet in a trade which flouts the country's strict quarantine laws.

Authorities worry an influx of banned bugs from Southeast Asia and other tropical climes could wreak havoc on domestic crops if they escape captivity and breed.

Only three beetle species can be imported under current law.

## Weather Forecast

### TODAY

Cloudy with rain, later clear from the west. Morning lows will range 19 to 24°C (66-75°F), daytime highs 25 to 30°C (77-86°F).

Sunrise: 5:55 a.m.  
Sunset: 7:14 p.m.

Seoul: Cloudy with rain, later clear 21°C (70°F) / 29°C (84°F)  
Taejon: Cloudy with rain, later clear 22°C (72°F) / 30°C (86°F)

Chuncheon: Cloudy, later clear 20°C (68°F) / 28°C (84°F)

Kangnung: Cloudy, later clear 20°C (68°F) / 25°C (77°F)

Kwangju: Cloudy, later clear 22°C (72°F) / 30°C (86°F)

Taegu: Cloudy, later clear 24°C (75°F) / 30°C (86°F)

Pusan: Cloudy, later clear 24°C (75°F) / 29°C (84°F)

Cheju: Overcast 22°C (72°F) / 27°C (81°F)

### TOMORROW

Overcast across the country. Morning lows will range 21 to 23°C (70-73°F), daytime highs, 26 to 31°C (79-88°F).

Sunrise: 5:56 a.m.  
Sunset: 7:15 p.m.

Seoul: Overcast 23°C (73°F) / 30°C (86°F)

Taejon: Overcast 21°C (70°F) / 31°C (88°F)

Chuncheon: Overcast 21°C (70°F) / 29°C (84°F)

Kangnung: Overcast 21°C (70°F) / 26°C (79°F)

Kwangju: Overcast 22°C (72°F) / 31°C (88°F)

Taegu: Overcast 23°C (73°F) / 31°C (88°F)

Pusan: Overcast 23°C (73°F) / 30°C (86°F)

Cheju: Overcast 22°C (72°F) / 29°C (84°F)

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