

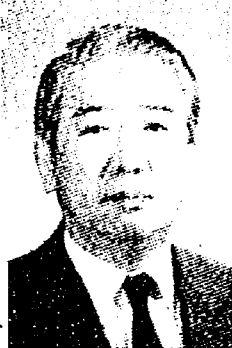


The seventh contingent of Korean Overseas Volunteers take the oath in a dispatch ceremony at the Korea International Cooperation Agency Thursday. Ninety-three volunteers including 57 women will be sent to 23 developing countries for a period of two years. Yonhap

New Hoteliers' Body to Work for Sound Development of Tourism

By Hong Sun-hee
Staff Reporter

The new Korea Hotel Association will help further develop the hotel industry in parallel with the travel industry and will not spare any efforts to this effect, said Lee Il-kyu, president of the body.



Lee Il-kyu

"Various kinds of government regulations and unfavorable financing and taxation have impeded the construction of new hotels over the past years. My association will work to reverse this trend to help Korea prepare to play host to international events," the inaugural president said.

"It is expected that the tourism industry will take big strides with the turn of the century the same way it did after the 1988 Seoul Olympics. We will do our best to establish tourism as strategic export industry taking advantage of these opportunities," he added.

Korea will host the third ASEM meeting in 2000 and the 2001 World Tourism Organization Congress. And in 2002, the Asian

will be held in Pusan and hopefully the World Cup.

Lee envisions the association disseminating advanced management software to member hotels.

The Korea Hotel Association is a breakaway organization from the Korea Tourist Association which embraces 11 interest groups in the hospitality sector such as the suppliers to hotels, restaurants, casinos, and travel photographers.

KHA will maintain a routine consultative channel with the KTA and continue to subsidize it for the development of the hospitality sector, Lee said.

Among 436 members of the KTA subcommittee, 286 hotels including the 10 royal class hotels took part in the new organization. The rest are likely to follow suit in the near future.

Asked about the shortage of manpower in the mid-market hotels, Lee, president of the Seoul Garden Hotel, strongly recommended that well-trained hotel crew from the Philippines be brought in.

"They will help improve the hotel's English skills and servicemanship of Korean counterparts and will impart cuisine and other Western hotel knowledge to Koreans," he explained.

Police Ready to Stop Walkout of Unionized MBC Workers

The Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office (SPPO) intends to mobilize police troops to break up the "illegal strike" by unionists of the Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC).

The unionized workers of the broadcasting company went on strike early yesterday morning, demanding that the reelection of president Kang Sung-koo be rescinded.

Police troops will be sent to the MBC studios sooner or later, informed SPPO sources said yesterday.

Prosecutors termed the strike "illegal" because the MBC union failed to observe the 10-day cooling-off period required by the Labor Dispute Arbitration Law before collective action is taken.

A SPPO spokesman said, "The walkout by the MBC trade union is clearly illegal because neither it did report it to the relevant authorities nor did it observe the requirements for the cooling-off period. More seriously however, the reelection of a broadcasting company president is not an issue which labor can dispute."

He added that riot police will be dispatched to the site of the strike sooner or later, saying, "We cannot let the illegal strike go on long."

Unionists at the 19 provincial MBCs did not join the strike but are likely to follow suit next week after their new presidents are named.

The company said that the strike was illegal but decided to hold talks with the union to settle the dispute.

Int'l Kite Festival Tomorrow Draws 450 Competitors From 16 Countries

Colorful kites flown in an international festival will decorate the skies at the threshold of spring at the EXPO Science Park in Taejon tomorrow and Sunday.

A total of 450 participants from 16 countries, including Japan, the United States, Australia, Hong Kong, Germany, France and Austria will demonstrate their native country's unique style of kites.

Japan is sending the largest contingent of 60 entrants, followed by 10-odd each from Taiwan, Hong Kong and China.

The highlight of the weekend event will be a kite show featuring formation flights with huge kites and traditional Oriental kites which have 20-meter-long tails.

Visitors will have the chance to fly kites that will be provided by the organizing committee, free of charge.

Programs going on at the same time as the contest will include an exhibition of traditional kites from participating countries, kite clinic, kite auction, stunt kite demonstration and paragliding demonstration.

Further information may be available at 729-9602/4.

Holders of Others' Tickets Not to Be Admitted to Chun, Boh Trial

The Seoul District Court will only allow those who personally receive tickets to witness the trial of former presidents Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo, charged of corruption and treason, from the next hearing on Monday, a court official announced yesterday.

When tickets are distributed hours before the opening of the hearing, their serial numbers and the names of those who receive the tickets will be recorded so that they may be identified before being admitted into the courtroom.

Those who get or buy tickets from others will not be allowed into the

Number of Four-Star Generals to Be Reduced From Nine to Eight

The Defense Ministry has decided to revise the related law to reduce the number of four-star generals from nine to eight, ministry sources said yesterday.

A revision bill of the Law on Military Personnel Management to that effect will be forwarded to the regular National Assembly session of the year that opens in September.

The sources said that the ministry decided to downgrade the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to a lieutenant general rank, judging that there are more full-star general positions in the military's table of organization than actually needed given the size of the Armed Forces.

The positions that call for the rank of general under the current law are chairman and vice chairman of the

Medical Students Protest High Failure Rate in Qualification Exam, Boycott Classes

By Kim Min-jeong
Staff Reporter

Medical students from around the nation are organizing rallies or boycotting classes to protest the high failure rate for the medical board exam this year.

Over 1,500 seniors at medical colleges and those who failed the exam came from all over the country and staged a protest at Yoido Plaza yesterday.

At the rally, the students demanded the holding of another exam offered by the Korea Medical Qualification Exam Board and reorganization of the board.

They also called for the revival of the medical military officer system and reform of the conscription system for medical students.

In a statement, they claimed that "the medical board had lost its impartiality and objectivity due to the intervention of doctors who, in looking out for their own interests, fear a glut of MDs."

They cited this year's 30 percent failure rate as something "incom-

prehensible."

Some 900 students out of a total of 3,000 did not pass the board exam this year. The normal rate of failure in the past has been about 10 percent except in 1994 when less than 70 percent passed the exam.

The students also asked for a review of the Military Service Law to set back the enlistment age for medical school graduates. Until 1990, the conscription age for medical students had been 28 years, giving them ample time to pass the board exam. Individuals with an MD are commissioned automatically upon entering military service.

A change in the law now requires all those who haven't passed the board exam to be enlisted immediately as privates, giving them none of the benefits their predecessors had enjoyed, they claimed.

Representatives of 29 medical colleges nationwide met March 2 and announced they would boycott classes unless the Health-Welfare Ministry, Education Ministry, Defense Ministry and other related government bodies acted to rectify the disputed issues.

Following up on their threat, medical students from Kyongbuk, Yongnam and Kaemyung Universities in Taegu began boycotting classes Monday while their counterparts at other universities are taking votes to decide if they will join the boycott.

Meanwhile, a doctor in Seoul, who wished to remain anonymous, criticized the students' actions saying if they are prepared they wouldn't have to worry about failing the board exam.

The female physician went on to say that with the recent easing of regulations for the establishment of new medical colleges, there is a need for the board exam to become more stringent in order to screen out unqualified persons.

Debates raged over the government's decision to allow more medical schools to be set up with critics saying that more doctors do not mean that areas currently in need of them will get them. Since Korea does not have a national health welfare system, the majority of Korean doctors prefer to go into lucrative private practice in urban areas.

US Refuses to Move Camp Hialeah in Pusan Without Korean Gov't Funding for Relocation

PUSAN — The United States made it clear that it will not relocate U.S. military installations elsewhere unless the South Korean government provides new lands as well as moving expenses.

U.S. Embassy information officer Stephen Rounds reiterated an agreement made in 1990 in a press conference in Pusan Wednesday. The U.S. and South Korean governments agreed that any U.S. military installation in Korea could be relocated as long as comparable facilities and relocation expenses were provided.

"To date, this agreement remains valid," he said.

Rounds revealed the agreement conditions at a time when nearly half of the citizens of Pusan believe that both the Korean government and

Pusan City Hall are not pushing hard enough to relocate Camp Hialeah.

A survey conducted by the "Citizens Committee for the Regaining of Hialeah and Other Pusan Lands," revealed that many people feel that the relocation issue has made no progress due to lack of cooperation by the US Forces Korea (USFK).

Most citizens of this southern port city feel that the USFK is using SOFA regulations as a pretext for dragging its feet.

The citizens committee also complained that the city government "was leaking incorrect information about the relocation issue, apparently with the upcoming general elections in mind."

A committee official said that the city administration is feeding the rumors

that the Korea-U.S. talks over Hialeah relocation are progressing rapidly.

"However, the truth is that the talks are hardly marking any headway due to insincerity on the part of the U.S. military," he said.

"The citizens do not want the relocation of the Hialeah unit but the return of our land. We are consequently opposed to paying 5,000 billion won in relocation expenses that is being demanded by the U.S. military," he said.

Committee members held a protest rally at Pusan City Hall yesterday afternoon.

The SOFA regulations dictate that the ROK government must bear all expenses required to move a U.S. military base, and provide alternative land for the new base free of charge.

Eateries, Tearooms, Pubs in Big Buildings Not Required to Designate Smoking Area

The government is toning down its anti-smoking policy, not requiring pubs, tea rooms and eateries in big buildings to designate smoking areas.

Their limited space made it difficult to create smoking and non-smoking sections.

"The Health-Welfare Ministry will hand down this and other guidelines concerning the National Health Promotion Law, which has been criticized by smokers for its blanket ban on smoking in subway stations and other public areas.

So far, dining and drinking areas located in buildings with a floor space of 2,000 square meters prohibits smoking due to a lack of space, but larger areas had been required to designate smoking sections under the

health promotion law.

According to the new guidelines, building owners or proprietors will be encouraged to decide for themselves the size of smoking quarters inside the building and may arrange for an area on every floor to the great relief of smokers.

Early last month, smokers called out to protect their freedom to light up with a rally at Tapkol Park in downtown Seoul, having had enough of the recent anti-smoking activism in

all levels of society.

They demanded that buildings be required to designate smoking areas to provide a "pleasant atmosphere" for smokers, many of whom are forced to go outside to puff while working, as building operators have been reluctant to set aside smoking sections.

With the new guidelines, owners or proprietors may decide if their pubs, tea rooms, and dining establishments located inside buildings will be smoke-free or smokers' havens.

Census on Air Pollutants, Sources to Be Conducted Nationwide

The Environment Ministry is planning to conduct extensive research into the chemical constituents of air pollution and their sources beginning next month for use in environmental impact assessment and pollution control policy decisions.

All stationary or point sources such as industrial plants and factories and mobile or non-point sources including trains, air planes and vehicles will be subject to an "air pollutants census," a ministry spokesman said yesterday.

The amounts of the individual air pollutants and information on their sources will be collected on a national and regional basis in cooperation with local governments and local environment management offices.

The ministry will collect pollutant data and information about sources by late August and set up a database in September, the ministry spokesman

said.

Major point sources selected for the survey include the number of heating devices by region and the amount of fossil fuel they use so that the amount of air pollutants such as carbon, sulfur and nitrogen oxides can be measured.

Information will also be collected about the lengths of roads, paved and non-paved, the number of vehicles and traffic for the measurement of emission gases and suspended particles.

The number of flights by airplanes and the way they are operated will also be measured so that the amount and kinds of air pollutants they "emit can be measured."

So far, the amount of pollution discharged by airplanes has been estimated from figures for the amount of gasoline they use, and individual pollutants have not been measured.

Cheju-do Requests 15-Day Visa Waiver for Visiting Chinese

CHEJU — The Cheju-do provincial government has asked the central government to allow Chinese tourists to stay on the island for up to 15 days without a visa.

It said that the no-visa system is required in anticipation of Chinese tourists rushing to the island with the scheduled opening of direct air service with Beijing.

In addition, the provincial administration is pushing for the stationing of a Chinese government official on the island to deal with Chinese fishermen taking shelter there during storms.

Catholic Church Donates W178 Mil in Flood Relief for North Koreans

The Catholic Church has donated some 178 million won (about 220,000 dollars) in flood relief for North Koreans to the Korean National Red Cross.

Two fathers from the social welfare committee of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Korea delivered the money to KNRC president Kang

Young-hoon yesterday.

The donation is the third by the Catholic Church to help North Koreans who are suffering from food shortages, partly caused by flooding last year. The church donated 40 million won in September and another 40 million in December.

Weather Forecast

TODAY

Partly cloudy skies and sporadic rain are expected across the nation. Morning temperatures will be -2 to 5°C (28-41°F), and midday highs 9 to 12°C (48-54°F).

Sunrise: 6:44 a.m.
Sunset: 6:39 p.m.

Seoul: Partly cloudy

2°C (36°F) / 10°C (50°F)

Pusan: Cloudy to clear after rain

5°C (41°F) / 12°C (54°F)

Taegu: Cloudy to clear after rain

4°C (39°F) / 12°C (54°F)

Kwangju: Clear after rain

4°C (39°F) / 10°C (50°F)

Taejeon: Cloudy to clear after rain

3°C (37°F) / 10°C (50°F)

Chuncheon: Occasionally cloudy

0°C (32°F) / 10°C (50°F)

Kangnung: Occasionally cloudy

5°C (41°F) / 11°C (52°F)

Cheju: Occasionally cloudy

6°C (43°F) / 11°C (52°F)

TOMORROW

Cloudy to clear skies are expected nationwide. Early morning lows will be -1 to 6°C (30-43°F) and daytime highs will be 8 to 16°C (46-61°F).

Sunrise: 6:43 a.m.
Sunset: 6:40 p.m.

Seoul: Clear to cloudy

1°C (34°F) / 8°C (46°F)

Pusan: Clear to cloudy

5°C (41°F) / 16°C (61°F)

Taegu: Clear to cloudy

2°C (36°F) / 16°C (61°F)

Kwangju: Clear to cloudy

1°C (34°F) / 11°C (52°F)

Taejeon: Clear to cloudy

2°C (36°F) / 9°C (48°F)

Chuncheon: Clear to cloudy

-1°C (30°F) / 8°C (46°F)

Kangnung: Clear to cloudy

3°C (37°F) / 11°C (52°F)

Cheju: Occasionally cloudy

6°C (43°F) / 10°C (50°F)



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY

The Australian Embassy seeks the services of a motivated, experienced person to fill the position of;

Office Services Co-ordinator.

The duties of the position include arranging the shipping and clearing of consignments to /from overseas, managing the Embassy's car pool and providing general office support.

The successful applicant will have:

- An excellent knowledge of customs and shipping procedures;
- A good knowledge of managing a motor pool;
- Fluency in Korean and English, both written and oral;
- Demonstrable computing skills;
- Good organisational ability

Remuneration is in the vicinity of W12,700,000 per year with three weeks paid leave per year.

Applications are to be submitted in writing, and should include a CV and a statement in which the applicant demonstrates his/her ability to perform the above duties. Applications are to be forwarded to the Senior Administrative Officer, K.P.O. Box 562, Chongro-ku, Seoul, 110-605, to reach the office no later than 22 March 1996.