

# Newsletter for Servas Korea



Bulletin 10, July, 2018



# Discover Korea 2018 in *Changwon*, the Beautiful Southern City

Discover Korea, the nationwide meeting for Servas Korea during every first half of the year, was held from April 14<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> in Changwon, the first planned city in Korean history, located in the southeast of Korea.

The venue for the event was Jinhae Youth Trainin Center. It is placed at the foot of Jangbok Mountain, facing the Jinhae bay. Jinhae is one of the five counties in Changwon city and is the biggest naval port of Korea where the Naval Academy and the Navy Headquarters are positioned.



**Welcome to Changwon!**

Before the official meeting began, we took a walk along the trail in the mountain, absorbing the fresh green air while the board members had a consultation of their own. The Servas event began after dinner with all 77 participants from all over Korea present. First we observed a moment of silence in honor of the deceased Servas member, Mr. Eum, Jaeryang. Then there was the presentation of lifetime membership certificates to three Servas members, Mr. Song, Donghwan, Mr. Rhyu, Taegil, and Mr. Moon, Gunjoo. In order to be qualified for this honor, we have to be active and devoted to Servas for consecutive fifteen years at least.



**The presentation of lifetime membership certificate to Mr. Song, Donghwan**

Next, Mrs. Lee, Sooncheon was awarded a letter of gratitude from the national secretary for her two years of commitment and hard working as a regional coordinator. After that, each director of the board made an account of their activities, especially what they have been doing for the upcoming SICOGA 2018 of October. The enthusiastic and weariless effort of those who are in charge of preparing the event was impressive. We all vowed to do our best to make the historic event a great success.



**In the middle of the general meeting**

Then came the socializing time; each Servas district introduced its members, followed by singing and dancing, entertaining the audience.



**The performance by Chungnam District**

The next morning after breakfast, we were separated into two teams; one for the trekking to Sirubong mountain and the other to Jinhae Marine Park and the birthplace of Youngsam Kim, one of Korea's former presidents.



**Walking along the coast at Jinhae Marine Park**



**A relaxing and bonding moment with Servas friends**



# MOU with Korea Heritage Society

Servas Korea and Korea Heritage Society agreed on Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate and promote international events, especially SICOGA 2018, which will take place in Seoul in October.

Korea Heritage Society is also a nongovernmental organization of which the purpose is preserving the legacy of Korean culture and spreading it across foreigners as well as Koreans. This civic group is going to support SICOGA 2018 with hosting and presenting Korean traditional performances to the participants from abroad.



Mr.Choi, Byungwan, the national secretary of Servas Korea & Mr.Choi, Hagyoung, the president of Korea Heritage Society are signing



Members of two organizations posing for the photo

# Preparing for the upcoming SICOGA 2018

Ever since Korea was chosen to be the host country for SICOGA 2018, executive members of Servas Korea and Servas International have been working very hard to prepare for this global event for Servas people. They have had numerous Skype meetings and huge amounts of email exchanges. They have been and will be working nonstop until the international event is fulfilled successfully. We hope this conference will become a memorable and delightful event to every participant thanks to all the commitment and endless effort from these volunteering Servas people.



- One of the monthly Skype meetings; participants are as follows, including those unseen:
- Mr. Jonny Sagnager -president of Servas International (Sweden)
  - Mrs. Danielle Serres-Peace secretary (France)
  - Mr. Amir Levy-Registration and Website manager (Israel)
  - Mrs. Penny Pattison-Project Manager (Canada)
  - Mr. Radha Krishna- Treasurer (U.S.A)
  - Ms. Gulsen Elyak-Treasurer (Turkey)
  - Mr. Byungwan Choi - National secretary of Servas Korea
  - Mrs. Namhee Kim- Venue manager (Korea)
  - Mr. Kyuok Kim- Communication (Korea)
  - Mrs. Junghee Park- Registration (Korea)



# Servas Traveling

The world is a book, and those who do not travel  
read only a page.

-Saint Augustine -



Junghee shared life and cultures in Japan, hosted by Suwako



Inja and Youngran visited Nashim and his family in Lahore, Pakistan



Mr.Rhyu joined the Russian Servas meeting in Kransoufimsk of Ural



Mr.Rhyu enjoyed the unique local spirit and rich culture of Ural



## International Biking Events

### Goodwill Cycling in **Saga, Kyushu**

Seven Korean ladies were invited to join a slow and easy riding along the beautiful and quiet country road along the Topsis river in Saga, Kyushu, a southern island of Japan. The Escargot Wheeling Club of 50 years of history, with Mr.Nishiyama, a longtime Servas member, being one of the founding members, reached their hand to Servas Korean ladies for this friendly sports event from April 14<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>..

The ladies took the overnight ferry boat from Busan to Hakata, Kyushu and were welcomed heartily by ten Japanese cyclists at the ferry terminal. After exchanging greetings and introductions, all of them headed for Saga castle in the rain. When they got out of the castle, a journalist from a local newspaper was waiting for them for an interview. Mr. Nishiyama had informed them of this event before and they got interested in this occurrence. Ms. Kim, Youngsoon talked with the reporter and introduced Servas to him.



On April 15<sup>th</sup>, after staying with the Japanese bikers, they rode a bike along the picturesque road by the Topsis river, stopping by Kono park, Kakurinsei for a tea ceremony, a three-hundred year-old traditional Japanese rice winery and then lastly visited a water resources corporation. The Escagot cyclists always accompanied the Korean ladies everywhere.

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, they walked along the Takeo Oleh Trail instead of bicycling, enjoying the lush green landscape. The next day's highlight was visiting Arita, the famed home of Japanese ceramics and pottery. They walked on another scenic Ureshino Oleh Trail on April 18<sup>th</sup> and were invited to an authentic Japanese dinner at Mrs. Kitajima's house. Everybody was impressed by the fancy table setting with elegant china ware as well as the palatable meal.

The Korean cycling ladies are so grateful to the Escargot Club gentlemen for what they have done for them that they have decided to invite the Japanese cyclists to Korea next spring.





Last minute checking before starting cycling



Welcoming party for Korean lady bikers



Cycling, sightseeing and bonding

### Servas International Peace Riding Club in **Tsu Shima Island**

Servas International Peace Riding Club had their 10<sup>th</sup> event in June by riding in Tsu shima Island in the far south Japan. All fourteen members joined the bicycling and rode total 156kms during June 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. It was kind of a pilot event to practice and prepare for the SIPR right after the SICOGA2018. They finished the riding successfully despite some unexpected obstacles and episodes.



Taking a break in front of a tunnel



Servas Korean Riders posing in front of Hitakatsu Ferry Terminal upon arrival





## Welcoming Servas Travelers

*If it were not for guests, all houses would be graves.*

- Khalil Gibran -



Nobert Kuhne from Holand enjoying sailing in Busan



Nobert visiting a music workshop with Busan members



Nobert with Dong-eun during school visit in Jeonju



Nobert talking with teenagers (Seungmin and his friend) in Daegu



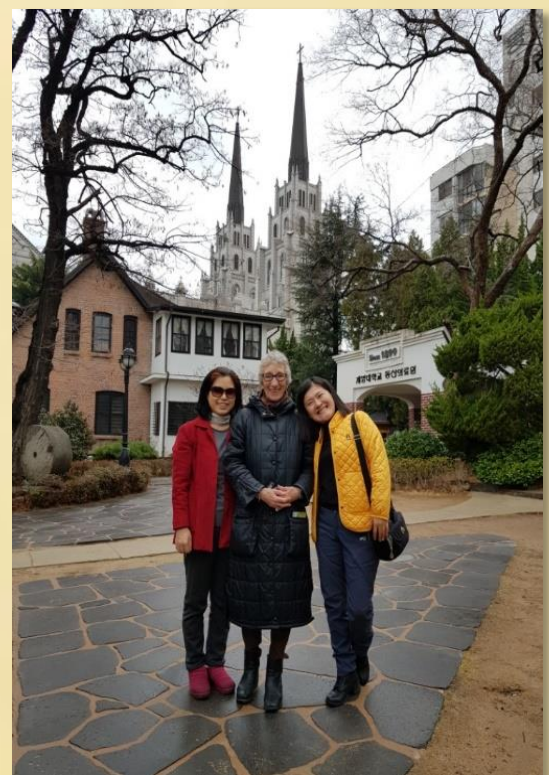
Nobert with Sungcheon and his family in Geoje Island



Marianne from France experiencing Jjimjilbang, a Korean dry sauna, wearing a uniform given by the shop



Marianne trying to make a handmade Korean delicacy dessert in Daegu



Marianne city-touring with Yunja and Eungyung in Daegu



## Regional Meetings Here and There



Seoul regional meeting attended by 37 members



Jeonbuk regional meeting looks like a family gathering



Gyeonggi regional meeting at Mr.Choi's second home in Seosan city



Daegu regional meeting at Mr.Cho, Younghae's Utopia in Andong city



Enjoying Dolmen Reserve Park by Jeonnam region



Mr.Cho, Younghae's chicken run (He's waiting for Servas travelers)



Walking in the Ungok Wetland(Jeonnam region)



# Overseas regional meeting of Servas *Busan*

**B**usan, the southern port city had its very special quarterly meeting in May. Twenty three members took an overnight ferry to Shimonoseki, Japan. After disembarking, they visited Karato fish market and had sushi for breakfast. Picking one’s favorite sushi was a pleasant torture to everyone.

Then we headed for Mojiko town by another ferry and strolled around the cozy city. Lunch was a famous local food, Yakikare. Taking a local train to our next destination, Kokura city, was exciting. We felt like we were high school students on a school trip.

Finishing checking in our hotel, we went out to see the Kokura castle which was surrounded by a beautiful clean river and forests. We enjoyed its unique history exhibition. Then we had dinner at a buffet style restaurant at the top of the building, enjoying the sunset and then the night view of the town.

The next day we took a train to Kawatana, a well-known onsen(hot spa) town. We stayed at a resort hotel to experience the outdoor hot spring and taste the Kawari Yakisoba served on a roof tile, the famous local food. Lunch after bathing in the hot spa was more than pleasing and yummy. Then we took the train back to Shimonoseki Ferry Terminal. Before going aboard the ferry, we walked around the city and bought gifts and food.

The ferry rolled heavily all night due to the strong wind and a few passengers got seasick severely. However, that didn’t influence our spirit and when we were saying good-byes to each other at the Busan Ferry Terminal the next morning, we began to miss our trip already and wished to go on another Servas trip soon. All this fun event was possible thanks to our regional coordinator, Mr.Goo, Jasung, his wife, Mrs.Park, Jeonsik, a Japanese expert, and lastly our devoted and competent secretary, Mrs.Kim, Geunhyang.



At Shimonoseki Ferry Terminal



Inside the Karato Fish Market: can’t decide which sushi to choose



Kokura Castle in Kokura city



## Opening Servas Home in *Namhae*, Treasure Island

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, a second home for Servas Korea opened at Namhae, one of beautiful many islands located in the south of Korea. It wasn't until 1973 when the island was linked with the mainland by a bridge. The island is well-known for its splendid scenic beauty, unique culture, and the local's strong vitality to maintain their livelihood. The natives are so proud of their island that they even call this place a 'Treasure Island'. It produces garlic, spinach, sweet potatoes not to mention lots of sea weed and different kinds of fish.



**Opening of Servas Home for Servas Korea(May 4<sup>th</sup>) in Namhae city**

Among other fish, anchovies caught in a traditional way in this island are known to have the best quality. This primitive way of traditional fishing is called 'bamboo net fishing' in which they install bamboo nets supported by oak posts between a very narrow and shallow straight with a swift current. When schools of anchovies enter the bamboo net during the flood tide, they cannot go out of it during the ebb tide as the door of the fishing ground is closed while it is open in the high tide. Then the fishers approach the fishery in a wooden boat and scoop up the fish with a net carefully two or three times a day. Those fish are very fresh and complete without any injuries on their bodies, so they are regarded as the best ones. This kind of fishing has a long history and we can find its record in a book written in 1469 during Chosun Dynasty. It is a special and gorgeous experience to watch all this special fishing activities with excited seagulls flying high above the fishing ground, anxious to taste a few of them if only they could, against the blue blue sea waters.

The Servas Home belongs to Mr. Ha, Seokjoo, a Servas member of Seoul region. He was born in this house and his family had lived there for three generations. Now he can only visit his birthplace a few times a year due to his busy life as a pharmacist, he has decided to share this place with others, especially Servas members. So Servas Korea designated his birthplace as Servas Home and any Servas Korean members can use it within four days by writing on our website and paying around \$30 per night after getting approval by the manager, Ms.Kim, Gwangsuk, secretary of Seoul region. The house has two buildings; one is a three-room typical farm house and the other is a red clay round cottage with two rooms.

The red clay cottage was built by Mr. Ha himself. He set up the cottage with red clay, seaweed and straws, traditional material for building houses. This red clay house is believed to be very healthy. Once you get up after sleeping in here, you feel very refreshed and invigorated as the walls regulate the temperatures and moisture naturally. It also has a spacious garden where you can have a campfire.



**Servas members in front of the farm house**

The village is located in the middle of the island, which gives you an easy access to the famous Silver Beach, the German Village, Cypress Forest, and Geumsansa Temple. You can also enjoy biking along a serene road of 14kms peacefully. When you go out of the house early in the morning, you will be able to see farmers working in the garlic field and the village women picking oysters in the sea. Ever since its opening, it has been very popular among Servas Koreans. Now more and more members are planning to spend their vacations or family functions at Servas Home.

Many thanks to Mr. Ha!!

*Thank you for reading!!!*

