

Pg. 1: Korea-US
Journalists' Exchange
2005 Program

Pg. 1-4: Project Bridge
Update

Pg. 4-5: Vietnam after
Three Decades of Change

The PCI News



Korea-US journalists' Exchange 2005 Program "Bridging the Gaps in Understanding"



Ray Burghardt addresses journalists and guests

In collaboration with the East-West Center and the Korea Society, the Pacific Century Institute supported a journalist exchange program between the United States and South Korea. "Bridging the Gaps in Understanding" was a two-week professional development program for Korean and American senior and mid-career journalists. It offered opportunities for six Korean journalists to visit the U.S. and six U.S. journalists to visit Korea before all twelve journalists gathered at a two-day colloquium at the East-West Center. Two weeks were spent in professional development experience visiting each other's country. Upon conclusion, the journalists summarized their learning experience at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Korean journalists began on the East Coast in New York City and Washington D.C., and continued on to Los Angeles.

The Korean Fellows included: Mi Ja Choi, Producer at the Korean Educational Broadcast System in Seoul; Joon Soo Ha, Reporter for the Korean Broadcasting System in Seoul; Shin Mo Lew, Staff Writer for the *Kyunghyang Daily News* in Kyungki; Hyang Mi Lee, Reporter for the *Buan Independent Times*; Aery Oh, Reporter for the *Munhwa Ilbo* in Seoul; and Suk Kyoo Lim, Reporter for the *Hankyoreh Daily* in Seoul.

The American and Korean participants in the Korea-US Journalists' Exchange departed Honolulu on Aug 3rd after completing a very successful first program. This program has made real progress toward its goal of "bridging the gaps in understanding" between Koreans and Americans. The

East-West Center and the Korea Press Foundation plan to continue this wonderful exchange program next year and in the years ahead.



Exchange participants at White Eagle gathering

The web site for the program is:

http://www.eastwestcenter.org/semiduprogram.asp?program_ID=30&Topic=Meida%2.com

Project Bridge Update

Project Bridge is a collaboration between the Korea Society and PCI. Participants are high school juniors and seniors from New York and Los Angeles. The primary goal is to create relationships between Americans of diverse ethnic backgrounds and foster mutual understanding between different cultures. Activities during the yearlong program include: monthly workshops on multicultural youth leadership issues and relations; seminars covering the history, language, and culture of Korea; field trips; community service; and, for the students which complete the program, a ten day educational study tour of Korea.



This first piece is from an article published in the Torrance High School Newspaper on Friday, June 17, 2005 by Joe Fernicola, one of the 2004-2005 Project Bridge Members, and is entitled "American Ignorance of Korea."

(Reprinted here with permission)



In April, I had the opportunity to go as a youth ambassador to Korea with 15 other high school students (8 (continued on page 2)



Project Bridge

(continued from page 1)

from the Los Angeles area and 8 from the New York City area). The trip was part of a program I was involved with for all of the school year. It is called Project Bridge and yearly sixteen students (all of different backgrounds) are picked for the all-expenses-paid program after many people apply. (Only juniors can apply in LA.) It is sponsored by many Korean companies and organized by the Korea Society and the Pacific Century Institute. Part of the program includes, writing papers, giving presentations, and having lectures on Korean history and culture prior to the trip. The purpose of the youth ambassador program is to help "build relationships and promote mutual understanding among Americans of diverse backgrounds."



As part of the 2005 team I had a great time and the program truly changed my life. Even after the meetings before the trip to Korea, I did not anticipate the trip to change my life as much as it did. In Korea, I had one of the best times of my life and fell in love with the country and its people. I now have a desire for two things: one is to tell any American I know about Korea, and two is to have a Korean kid.

Now, why would I set those odd goals? Well, for one task that is easy to answer—I would like a Korean kid because they're so darn cute! The other one is a little harder to answer...

The reason I want to tell everyone about Korea is because, that through Project Bridge I learned how ignorant Americans are. I have become convinced that it is the largest downfall of America today and the reason as to why some countries hate us. I have witnessed this ignorance first had since my return to America. When people learn that I went to Korea some ask me, what I find to be, the most crazy questions. For example, one person asked me, "Did you see the Great Wall of China while in Korea?" I also was asked, "How was Japan?" Other youth ambassadors told me they had people tell them before the trip, "I can't believe you're going to a communist country!"

I think that this obvious ignorance is intolerable, especially in relation to a country that is one of the United State's strongest allies and one of our largest trading partners. Did you know Korea has the second largest number of troops in Iraq? You should! I will admit it is also the media's fault for keeping you in the dark, but you must strive to know this knowledge. Torrance has a large Korean population. Why don't you know anything about the cultures that surround you? Know your neighbor, build a bridge, conquer a gap of ignorance!

In this next piece by Joe Fernicola, taken from his own ten day diary on his trip to Korea, details his experiences during the trip and how it has changed his life. It is entitled "Bridging the Gap of Ignorance in the World." (Portions reprinted here with permission)

When, I arrived in Korea about 14 hours after departure from LA, I didn't know what to expect. The hours of studying with Project Bridge could not have prepared me for the actual study tour. Little did I know upon arrival in the country that it would change my life and outlook on the world.

The first thing I saw when I stepped out of the terminal was 11 New Yorkers waiting for us, the LA group. They were there waiting with signs, hugs, and smiles. 8 of them were YA's (youth ambassadors), one was the NY group leader, Francisco, one was the Program Coordinator, Rebecca, and one was our translator, Mr. Kwak. We (the LA group) were scared that we might not get along with the New Yorkers, but right from the start we bonded really quickly.

DAY 10

Our last day in Korea started out with a private cooking lesson at the Institute of Korean Royal Cuisine. We learned how to make Bulgogi with a side of salad and cooked zucchini. We ate the food we made at the institute, as a team we bonded more than ever and we all commented how we had become a "giant family."

Post Korea Reflections

My stay in Korea was on of the best experiences in my life. I will always remember all the friends I made and my home stay friend, Jin Dong. I did not expect to fall in love with Korea as much as I did. I now want to return badly and I also am considering an occupation that deals with Korea—maybe I'll be a future ambassador for the U.S. I do not know exactly where Project Bridge will lead me after high school, but I can guarantee that it will be somewhere great and I can't wait to see where I end up in life because of the program.

I recommend the program to any junior who has an open mind to learn about other cultures and want to "bridge the gap" of ignorance in the world.



Denice with two new Korean friends

This next article was written by our new Project Bridge intern Denice Gonzalez and explains her experience as a Korea Youth Ambassador Alumni and how it completely changed her life for the better, what she learned, what she has done and what she plans to do in the future.

(continued on page 4)





Pacific Century Institute
 21300 Victory Blvd., Suite 800
 Woodland Hills, CA 91367-2525
 Tel: 818 227-6620 Fax: 818 704-4336
 www.pacificcenturyinst.org

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

COMPANY: _____

TEL. NO.: _____ FAX NO.: _____

E-MAIL: _____ WEBSITE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

MEMBER SINCE: _____ REFERRED BY: _____

MEMBERSHIP: A) CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP \$500.00
 B) INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$250.00
 C) ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (STUDENTS) \$ 25.00

I would like to receive the Pacific Century Institute newsletters and other PCI updates electronically through email. *(Please include email address above.)*

If you would like to be removed from the Pacific Century Institute mailing list, please do one of the following:

- E-mail your request: rijin@cbol.com
- Telephone your request: 818-337-1630
- Mail your request at the above address

For current members: Please contact us with any person(s) who may be interested in PCI membership.

Please make checks payable to **Pacific Century Institute**.

PCI is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation according to the Internal Revenue Code, and all donations are tax-deductible.
 Corporate identification number: 95-4461286.



Project Bridge

(continued from page 2)

A couple of years ago I had the privilege of being chosen as one of the Korea youth ambassadors. It changed my perspective not only on the world itself but also in me about me and about what I was going to be doing with my life. I learned about a completely different culture and it was great. The reason it was great is that my whole life I had lived in South Los Angeles and I grew up not knowing what else was out in the world. I mean I knew there were other continents, countries, and states however it never really



sunk in till I went on this trip because I had never traveled outside of the US and I was oblivious to the fact that different cultures existed. Growing up I began to learn about other cultures starting with one of my best friends Dean Lee. He and I had a couple of quarrels in the beginning but we then realized that we were pretty cool people and we learned to get along, now I make some "salsa" for him and he makes me some "kimchi" for me.

Even though I learned about other cultures in high school because I attended Downtown Magnets High School being part of the Business Magnet myself. I didn't know full on what they consisted of; what their day was like, what they ate every day, what their whole culture was like. When I was in the eleventh grade in high school I had the opportunity to apply to become a youth ambassador to Korea. I thought it was going to be great and when I received the letter informing me that I was chosen as one as the ambassadors I was thrilled I jumped with excitement and ran to tell my parents that I was going to Korea. It was an unbelievable feeling and it was happening to me! I couldn't believe it. This happened a few years back I was part of Project Bridge 2002-2003 and I am now a sophomore at UCLA. Wow it has been a while, but I still remember those feelings like it was yesterday.

My trip was amazing even the flight to Korea was amazing thirteen hours and it was great. I got there and I had complete jet lag it was kind of weird. I loved all the filed trips we had to every cultural show and I even got to see a traditional Korean wedding which was really nice. I remember loving how they danced and the food. I'm a vegetarian so I ate a lot of "bibimbap" without meat. Yes a lot of it. Although the trip to Korea was good the mixing of the LA and New York group was a plus. I loved meeting people from New York they might be from the US but they were definitely different. We truly bonded as a team and we learned so much together it was really great. I took a lot from the culture and took a lot of pictures also.



What I took the most out of the Korea trip was that we are all alike in a weird way we are all different but we are all human beings and being different is a beauty. The world wouldn't be the world if we were all the same if we all looked the same, spoke the same language, ate the same food, or had the same beliefs. I am sure I want to travel the world after that experience I haven't traveled since but I went to Washington D.C. on another project, which I had to fundraise money. Upon my graduation from Downtown Magnets High School I decided to go to UCLA. I went in undeclared but have decided to get a double major in International Development Studies and Global Studies with a minor in Public Policy I then plan to get a masters in Public Policy. Without the Pacific Century Institute I don't know what I would be majoring in right now and I don't know where I would be. People always find it interesting that I went to Korea and they love all the stories I share with them. I just hope this program continues changing the lives of teens inspiring them for the better like it inspired me in my life. The word is different, that is beauty we should finally accept it and embrace it.

Members' Section



The following article by Tom Plate, UCLA Professor and columnist for The Straits Times (Singapore), Honolulu Advertiser and The South China Morning Post, provides a balanced view of the political and economic concerns facing the Asian Pacific, a region of great strategic and economic importance. A longtime journalist, he offers a fresh reporting style, thorough analyses and frequent, exclusive interviews with Asia's political, military and business leaders.

(Reprinted here with permission)

(continued on page 5)



Members' Section

(continued from page 4)

Vietnam after Three Decades of Change

Thirty years after the United States' final pull-out from Saigon, economic reforms make Vietnam one of the world's fastest-growing economies even as pieces of 'old' Vietnam are still in action

Los Angeles --- Do you want to know how much Vietnam has changed over the last three decades?

Let's put it this way: Would you believe that from May 5-8, the country will put on its first-ever national golf championship?

The internal aim is to narrow down the field of golfers who will go on to compete in the upcoming Southeast Asia Games, but the message to the outside world is: We're no longer that Westerner-eating, fire-breathing, guerilla-steaming, anti-American screaming, red-neck Commie nation that hews to its Marx, laps up its Lenin and insists that you're either Red or dead.

On the contrary, the people of Vietnam – celebrating the 30th anniversary of the United States' final pull-out from Saigon Saturday, April 30 – are getting with the market-oriented, rich-is-glorious, we-love-anyone-with-money (including Westerners), China-clone program of economic reform (while keeping dissidents under the party's boot) that will hope to reconcile the internal contradictions of Marxism by making the Vietnamese people too wealthy and comfortable to even bother to dissent or try to poop the party.

A prominent conveyor of this with-it message was Ambassador Ton Nu Thi Ninh, who recently completed a charm offensive in the United States, hosted here as the guest of the non-profit Pacific Century Institute. This sharp lady -- Vietnam's most internationally prominent woman diplomat -- is widely known for her Hillary Clinton smarts, Margaret Thatcher toughness and apparent ease with Westerners that makes her Vietnam's best-liked salesman abroad.

In a wide-ranging interview, Ambassador Ton Nu painted a portrait of a thoroughly reforming Vietnam (in truth, historically the scourge of Southeast Asia). Ton Nu claims there is as much raucous internal dissent and debate now in the Communist Party of Vietnam as in the U.S. Congress, adding: "The top-down format is now rare: Mostly there is a suggestion from the top for discussion, but the discussion is now bottom up."

For its part, America, on the whole, seems comfortable with the new image of Vietnam. Ten years ago -- and two decades after the war's end -- diplomatic relations between Washington and Hanoi were officially normalized; about four-and-a-half years ago Bill Clinton, in his waning days as president, made a ground-and-ice breaking official visit there. A year later the two countries, once so much at each other's throats, actually inked a bilateral trade agreement. How much the times have changed.

But not everyone has moved on, to be sure. Some of the more than one million ethnic Vietnamese in America don't buy Ambassador Ton Nu's offer of good will at all. They believe a Red is a Red until he's dead, that the Hanoi regime remains the proverbial wolf in sheep's clothing.

Replies madam ambassador: "Back in Vietnam after the war was over, there were so many people who lost more. People back home overcame -- why can't the Vietnamese here in the United States overcome, too?"

It's a fair question, but hard to answer sympathetically as long as one can observe pieces of the "old" Vietnam still in action. Case in point: the continuing harsh crackdown against the besieged Montagnard minority. These are the legendary mountain people of Vietnam; some are Christian and most are fiercely anti-Communist. They get to see the Vietnamese government at its absolute worse.

Explains Ken Bacon, president of Refugees International, which has been working hard to help out the Montagnards: "This may seem like a small issue. But at a time when people are marking the 30th anniversary of the fall of Saigon and commenting on the wonderful improvements in relations between Washington and Hanoi, this is one area where the Vietnamese are up their old, ethnic, Commie-control freak tricks."

When I raise this issue with Vietnamese officials, they take the view that the Montagnards are "enemies of the state" and that the question is a domestic matter, not an international one. But while refugees are fleeing into Cambodia the Cambodian government is playing a sneaky, miserable game of silent cooperation with Hanoi; and with the United States now vowing to accept many of the refugees on to its shores, the issue had become internationalized. In this age of globalization and instant communication, there are few purely domestic issues.

Undoubtedly Vietnam -- now easily one of the world's fastest-growing economies -- has indeed come a long way over the decades. What's more, many Americans appear prepared to continue to improve relations in the time-honored American spirit of forgive-and-forget. But simple human-rights sagas like the Montagnards' play precisely into the hands those who will not let go of the memory of the dark days Vietnam. Those in Vietnam who order these harsh crackdowns -- ones that inevitably get played back to the West -- are the unintentional true "enemies of the people."

The country needs more diplomats and charmers like Madame Ton Nu -- and far fewer Communist warriors who -- in apocalypse-now fashion -- see dangerous counter-revolutionaries on every mountaintop and insist on the cracked-heads approach to dissent.



Project "Vietnam Society"



In keeping with the decision of the PCI board of directors, to explore opportunities to expand its work to the country of Vietnam, PCI supported the annual board and committee retreat for the Good Samaritan Medical Ministry (GSMM), held on October 7-8 at the White Eagle Ranch. GSMM's mission is "to bring physical, emotional and spiritual healing to the people of Vietnam." Stayed tuned for more updates on the expanded work of PCI in the country of Vietnam.



Directory

Headquarters:
21300 Victory Blvd. Suite 800
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
(818) 227-6620 (Tel)
(818) 704-4336 (Fax)
pci@pacificcenturyinst.org

PCI Web site:
www.pacificcenturyinst.org
21300 Victory Blvd. Suite 800
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Regional Office:
Kenneth J. Tuggle, Esq.
Frost Brown Todd LLC
400 West Market Street, 32nd Floor
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 568-0269 (Tel)
(502) 581-1087 (Fax)
ktuggle@fbtlaw.com

Representative (Japan):
Ko Shioya
Seta 2-19-1
Setagaya-ku, Tokyo
Japan 158-0095
813-03707-0369 (Tel)(Fax)
koshioya@ybb.ne.jp

Rijin Lee
(818) 337-1630 (Tel)
(818) 337-1664 (Fax)
rijin@cbol.com

Joyce Paik
(818) 337-1621 (Tel)
(818) 704-4336 (Fax)
joyce@cbol.com

Spencer Kim
(818) 337-1600 (Tel)
spencer@cbol.com



PACIFIC CENTURY INSTITUTE
21300 Victory Blvd. Suite 800
Woodland Hills, CA 91367-2525

Board of Directors
Desaix Anderson, U.S. Foreign Service (Ret.)
Donald Evans, CPA
Ambassador Donald Gregg
Leroy Johnson, Ph.D.
Ko Shioya, Journalist
Kenneth J. Tuggle, Esq

Chung In Moon, Director of Research