



Friends of Korea

Dedicated to fostering
cultural awareness and friendship
between Americans and Koreans

2013 Annual Report

Revisit trip

Since 2008, the Korean government has hosted a total of eight 'revisit' trips to Korea for former Peace Corps volunteers and family members. Nearly 400 volunteers and over 300 family members have participated in these revisit trips.

The most recent trip was in October 2013. Once again it was a week filled with many deep emotions, renewing of friendships and, for those who had not returned in 35 or more years, astonishment at the social, economic, cultural and technological changes. The highlights of the week were receptions hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visits to the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) – Korea's version of Peace Corps -- overnight site visits to the RPCVs' former schools and health clinics, oral interviews of the RPCVs at the National Museum of Korean Contemporary History and an afternoon visit to the Korean National Assembly, hosted by Speaker H.E. Kang Chang-Hee.

Photo exhibit: "The Story of Volunteerism -- Americans in Korea, Koreans in the World"

The FOK exhibit, "Americans in Korea, Koreans in the World," was inspired by early RPCV-K revisit programs in 2008 and 2009. Returning volunteers brought with them hundreds of photos of their Peace Corps experiences. These became the basis for the book "Through Our Eyes," which has sold nearly 1500 copies. From those photos, the US Embassy in Korea culled 25 or so and mounted them in an exhibit that traveled to a dozen Korean cities in 2010. President Obama viewed the exhibit on his visit to Korea, accompanied by then-Ambassador Kathleen Stephens, an RPCV-K herself.

With the support of Korean Embassy in Washington, DC and the Korean Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Friends of Korea mounted expanded exhibit in the US, beginning in 2011 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Peace Corps. The exhibit, which

included photos contributed by KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency), has been displayed eleven times in ten US cities and twice in 2013. It continues to draw interest and new venues each year.

The first 2013 venue for the “*The Story of Volunteerism*” photo exhibit was in the Rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, DC, February 4-8. Through the efforts of RPCV-K and former board member Richard McIntyre, Senator Susan Collins of Maine sponsored the Rotunda event. The photos were prominently displayed and visited by the Korean ambassador to the US and hundreds of intentional and casual visitors. This public venue introduced a large number of influential Americans to the efforts and successes of Peace Corps programs and efforts. Members of Friends of Korea volunteered as docents throughout the exhibit to answer questions and share their experiences with visitors. The Capitol Hill newspaper [Roll Call](#) featured two articles on the exhibit, one by a reporter and another by an RPCV congressman.

FOK held an opening reception in a nearby Senate meeting room, with speeches by Nancy Kelly, FOK president, Glen Blumhorst, National Peace Corps Association president, and Eileen Conoboy, director of the Peace Corps Office of the Third Goal. In addition **Lee Kwang-cheol**, Director of the Washington, D.C. Office of the [Korea Foundation](#) and a former KOICA volunteer, spoke to the shared experience of volunteers from both countries

The second 2013 venue for the photo exhibit was in the Boston area, at Newton City Hall, November 11-15. It was sponsored by the office of the mayor and Korean Consul General Kang Ho Park, who both spoke at the opening reception. Gloria Mamokhin, FOK board member, was the driving force and organizer of the exhibit. She was well assisted and supported by the mayor's office and the Korean Consulate General in Boston. The photos were mounted and displayed in the entrance hallway to the mayor's office for maximum exposure. About 75 people from the local area attended the opening reception. RPCVs from other countries, local Korean-Americans and many city residents came by to see the exhibit.

FOK is in discussions with the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston about the possibility of an exhibit there in 2014.

Visit by President Park Geun-Hye

Last May, newly-elected President Park Geun-Hye made her first overseas trip, to the United States. She went first to New York City, then on a state visit to Washington, DC, where she met with President Obama and spoke before a joint session of Congress. On May 7, she spoke at a large dinner commemorating the 60th anniversary of the South Korea-U.S. alliance. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel was the keynote speaker.

Some 500 people attended the dinner, all of whom had connections to Korea, including Korean War veterans, U.S. Forces Korea, political figures, members of the business community and returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Forty-five Korea-RPCVs attended, including several Friends of Korea board members. In her prepared remarks, President Park emphasized the important roles Americans – missionaries, the military and Peace Corps Volunteers – have played over the

decades in the development of today's modern South Korea. She made several references to Peace Corps in Korea and specifically thanked PCVs for their service.

MOU signed with National Museum of Korean Contemporary History

During the October revisit trip, Nancy Kelly, President of Friends of Korea, and Kim, Wong-sik, director of the National Museum of Korean Contemporary History in Seoul signed an memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding the establishment of a collection of objects and publications related to the Peace Corps experience in Korea.

The museum is planning an exhibit in 2016 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps arrival in Korea. The collection will include histories of Peace Corps volunteers in Korea, photographs and objects, accompanied by personal stories from daily life and work as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Throughout the later part of 2013, members of the Friends of Korea were encouraged to identify objects suitable for donation to the Museum. Museum curators will be reviewing the items submitted and will make the final determination as to which items to accept as part of the permanent collection.

Peace Corps Korea Archive Project

There have been several attempts over the years to create a Peace Corps Korea-related memorabilia archive site. RPCV-Korea and board member Gary Hedrick took the lead in identifying a web-based platform that would be suitable for such an archive of electronic versions of the bio books, photos, news articles, and other items of interest.

Friends of Korea will underwrite the expenses for the site beginning in 2014. Users will need to obtain a user name and set up a log-in for the site but will no longer be asked to contribute to the costs of maintaining the site. This will allow this dedicated group of volunteers to focus on maintaining the quality of the webpage and adding to the archived collection, without being concerned for the fund-raising needed to keep the site operational. Access to this site will be a Friends of Korea member benefit.

Annual meeting

Approximately 45 members of Friends of Korea gathered in Falls Church, Virginia, on November 16th for the annual membership meeting and general meeting. Business transacted during the membership meeting included the adoption of an updated set of bylaws, election of officers and directors of the Board of Directors, and treasurer James Mayer's report on the financial health of FOK. He also reminded all attendees to renew their memberships.

The officers for the 2013-2014 term are Nancy Kelly, President; Suzanne Crowder Han, Vice President; Gerard Krzic, Vice President; Gloria Mamokhin, Secretary; and James Mayer,

Treasurer. New directors are Ben Bryan, Paula Ness Speers and Linda Tobash. A full list of the board members is available at <http://www.friendsofkorea.net>.

After the conclusion of the business section of the meeting, there was a panel discussion led by Gerry Krzic, Jim Tielsch, and Dennis Halpin. All panelists had been on the October 2013 revisit and shared their thoughts on the many transformations in Korea they saw. The program concluded with a moving presentation by Meleia Eggers, of the Peace Corps Office of the Third Goal, on the meaning and impact of service with the Peace Corps. The attendees were also had the opportunity to see FOK's well-traveled photo exhibit, *A Story of Volunteerism: Americans in Korea, Koreans in the World*, which was displayed around the meeting room.

Communications and outreach

The Friends of Korea website was totally revamped in early 2013 and went 'live' in May. By the end of 2013, more than 1680 unique visitors had accessed the site and viewed more than 8,260 pages. The new site uses the Weebly platform, which has more functionality than the previous platform and can be easily updated on a regular basis.

One of the new features of the site is a blog, written by Gerry Krzic, which has proven to be quite a draw. Guest bloggers are welcome, and to date there have been two guest blogs on the site.

FOK created a Facebook page in November of 2012. It continued to grow slowly but surely during the year; by the end of 2013, the page had 369 'likes'.

New Dues Structure

The Board of Directors approved a revised dues structure, effective January 1, 2014. Two new categories were created: students (\$10/year) and lifetime (\$250). In addition, annual dues were increased from \$15 to \$25.

February 25, 2014

Friends of Korea
2013 Financial Report

Income

Dues	\$	2,410.00
Unrestricted donations	\$	2,550.00
Restricted donations	\$	6,369.52
Program service fees	\$	3,120.00
Publications	\$	2,418.00
Interest and Misc	\$	633.93
Total Income	\$	17,501.45

Expenses

Communications & website	\$	949.80
Dues, NPCA	\$	80.00
Licenses & fees	\$	80.00
Bank & credit card fees	\$	137.86
Meetings	\$	1,152.47
Postage	\$	753.55
Printing	\$	420.00
Photo exhibit	\$	1,833.07
Professional fees	\$	561.00
Travel	\$	1,579.90
Total expenses	\$	7,547.65

Net income \$ **9,953.80**

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cash basis