



Friends of Korea

Dedicated to fostering cultural awareness and
friendship between Americans and Koreans

ANNUAL REPORT -2015

The Korean Transformation

Friends of Korea produced *The Korean Transformation*, a 15-minute DVD that tells, through images and text, the story of Korea's transition from a struggling, post-war country to the impressive economic, technological and cultural leader it is today. It is also the story of the Peace Corps programs in Korea and the role Peace Corps volunteers played during this critical period in the modern history of Korea.

The DVD was created to reach and help a wider segment of the U.S. population better understand the breadth and scale of the change Korea has undergone during the past 50 + years. By year's end, more than 500 copies had been distributed. Production and distribution costs were funded by a generous grant from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea.

The DVD is now available on [YouTube](#), and [copies may be ordered](#) through the Friends of Korea (FOK) website.

Annual meeting and the giving back initiative

As part of an ongoing effort to involve more members, Friends of Korea held its 2015 annual meeting in the Boston area. Nearly 70 members and friends attended - renewing old friendships and making new ones. [Click here](#) for more details on the meeting and photos of the day.

Begun in 2014 at its annual meeting in Los Angeles, FOK's giving back initiative recognizes organizations that deliver social services to the Korean American community. At its annual meeting in 2015, Friends of Korea recognized two organizations in the Boston area for their excellent social services – the National Association of Korean American Inter-Cultural Family Mission and the Korean American Senior Citizen Association – and made a \$1000 donation to each to help them further their activities.

Partnership with KOICA

Friends of Korea ended the year by welcoming Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) as our first organizational partner. With nearly 25 years of experience, [KOICA](#) is a major player in the world of international development. KOICA and FOK share a common vision - a better world through volunteerism and sharing - and will be looking for opportunities for collaboration and partnership between the two organizations.

The Museum Project

In collaboration with the National Museum Korean Contemporary History in Seoul, (대한민국역사박물관), Friends of Korea collected and shipped more than 1,000 donated items that Peace Corps volunteers collected during their years of service in Korea. Those items will serve as the basis for an exhibit commemorating the arrival in 1966 of the first Peace Corps volunteers and examining the impact of the 15 years of Peace Corps activity in Korea. The exhibit is expected to open in the fall of 2016.

A Towering Task

The FOK board approved a fundraising activity to support the production of a documentary, **A Towering Task**, by a former Peace Corps volunteer that will tell the story of the Peace Corps in a new way. FOK members and others donated more than \$1,300, which will be matched by a \$1,000 contribution from FOK. To watch a preview trailer, [click here](#).

Denver Reunion

Nearly 170 people from all parts of the globe converged on the University of Denver for a weekend devoted to all things Korean. This event, which was not an official FOK event, was organized and hosted by a group of former Korea volunteers and staff including: Martha King, Gary Hedrick, Sherri Davis, Michael Lee, Jim Haynes, Catherine and Craig Corson, Joonhee Lee and others.

Former Peace Corps volunteers, language teachers, staff, family and friends came together for 2.5 days filled with stories, reunions, wonderful food, and, of course, a few songs. [Enjoy the photos](#).

Governance

The membership approved changes to the bylaws designed to make FOK a stronger organization. These changes were successfully implemented in the fall of 2015. The first change was opening up the nominating process. The new bylaws provide for a nominating committee of three or more directors who solicit nominations of officers and directors from among FOK members, review and recommend a slate of officers and directors to the board for its approval, and coordinate the balloting for election by the voting members.

The second change to the bylaws establish staggered terms for new and incumbent board members, so that not all board slots become open every year. Two new board members joined the board – Charles Shelan and Sherrill Davis. [Click here](#) for a list of the current board members and their biographies.

Communications and membership summary

The future for Friends of Korea will be bright only if the organization can appeal to a broader audience of people with a shared interest in Korea who become members. In 2015, FOK continued to actively reach out to various communities – former Peace Corps volunteers,

Fulbright Fellows, English language teachers and members of the Korean and Korean-American community – as part of our growth and transition strategy.

Two of our primary outreach platforms are the FOK [website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Both platforms show growth in activity over the year. FOK is planning to develop a YouTube channel in 2016 as another means of sharing stories and videos about Friends of Korea and Korea.

Website	2014	2015	% change
# of sessions	5996	9379	56
# of users	3631	7922	118
# of page views	13391	15413	15

Facebook	2014	2015	% change
# of likes	922	1570	70

Membership continues to grow, with the lifetime option (a one-time donation of \$250) being the most popular option.

Membership	2014	2015	% change
Annual	89	88	-1
Lifetime	46	75	63
Student	0	1	
Lapsed	80	65	-19

Financial Statement: January 1 – December 31, 2015

(cash basis)

INCOME

Individual dues	\$10,060.00
Corporate/org. dues	\$2,000.00
Unrestricted donations	\$1,070.00
Restricted donations	\$7,129.00
Publications	\$506.00
Interest & misc.	\$10.39
Total Income:	\$20,775.39

EXPENSES

Communications and exhibit	\$1,247.80
Dues	\$100.00
Licenses & fees	\$130.00
Bank, credit card, invest. fees	\$389.68
Meetings/conferences	\$1,261.79
Office supplies & equipment	\$434.68
Postage /mail box	\$1,916.04
Printing	\$205.69
Professional fees	\$3,145.88
Special projects	
PeaceCorpsKorea.com	\$1,188.00
Giving Back	\$2,000.00
A Towering Task documentary	\$2,339.00
Telephone and fax	\$576.56
Total Expenses:	\$14,935.12

Net income **\$5,840.27**