

WACSO
Supplement

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SEOUL, TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1988

Debate on 'World community in postindustrial society'

Academic Olympiad draws over 260 scholars

The '88 Seoul Olympiad bears unprecedented significance as the largest-ever with the participation of over 160 countries, but the importance of Korea's hosting the World Academic Conference of the Seoul Olympiad (WACSO) is well beyond description in that it is the first attempt of its kind in the Olympic annals.

One of the featuring ulterior goals of the Olympic Games is to progressive develop more harmonious relationships between nations by eliminating the tensions caused by racial, ideological and economic disparities.

In light of the Olympic spirit, the Olympiad doesn't only promote the physical aspect through the wholesome competition of amateur sports, but also pursues the promotion of the spiritual level.

In Korea's deepest recognition of the Olympic spirit, its hosting an academic conference together with an international sporting event reflects its appropriate response to look beyond merely physical competition to incorporate the mental, intellectual, cultural and ethical ideals the Games represent.

The first worldwide academic conference, held in conjunction with the Olympics from Aug. 21 to Sept. 8, is sponsored by the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee (SLOOC) and organized by the Korea Christian Academy (KCA).

A total of 256 (foreign and domestic) scholars are participating in the international conference to discuss "The World Community in Post-Industrial Society." The number of participants break down to 106 foreign scholars and 150 domestic ones.

According to an official at the KCA, hosting the international academic conference for the Seoul Olympics was welcomed by foreign scholars, from whom the organization received an enormous number of applications, apart from its original invitation of 85 world-renowned scholars.

Among world-distinguished scholars are John Kenneth Galbraith, Fei Xiaotong, Michel Crozier,



Greetings from WACSO chairman

I would like to welcome all of you who have come from the east and west, north and south to participate in the World Academic Conference of the Seoul Olympiad '88.

Although it is being sponsored on the occasion of the Olympic Games, our academic conference is more than a celebratory activity of the Olympics and holds significance as a historical event.

Through serious debates and intense discussions, more than 260 prominent scholars from over 30 countries will have the opportunity to contribute to the progress and harmony of humanity.

I strongly believe that the World Academic Conference of the Seoul Olympiad '88 will call attention upon the problems of our Post-Industrial society and, by doing so, encourage the continual and expanded dialogue, as well as communal cooperation, among the intellectuals in pursuit of global peace and harmony.

Perhaps our ambition and expectations have not been sufficient to compensate for the limited themes and restricted time. Nonetheless, I hope that you will find a meaningful time through your encouragement and involvement.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for participating, and for the help and encouragement of all who have made this event possible.

Kang Won-yong
Chairman
Organizing
Committee of WACSO

George A DeVos, Evertte M. Rogers, James F. Larson, Virgil Gheorghiu, Fredric Williams, Chin Chuan Lee, and Russel Hardin.



Kang

Greetings from SLOOC president

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the distinguished scholars here to attend the World Academic Conference. I would also like to recognize Kang Won-Yong, director of the Christian Academy, as well as his staff for the tremendous effort they have made over the last year to prepare for this conference.

The 24th Seoul Olympiad is the largest in the history of the Olympic movement with 161 countries participating. With permanent world peace as its ideal, the Olympic movement is continuing to provide qualitative and quantitative evidence of gradual development. Evidence of this development can be seen not only in the record number of participants but also in the World Academic Conference.

Although the Olympics have always been much more than a simple sports competition, continuously attempting to harmonize the intellectual, moral, and athletic aspects of the Games, the regular World Academic Conference being convened this year is a special feature of the 24th Seoul Olympiad. Under the broad theme "The World Community in Post-Industrial Society," this conference will provide an opportunity to take a new and sincere look at the problems that mankind is now facing.

I hope that through this meeting and debate the distinguished scholars from around the world will arrive at some common understanding which will help to advance the cause of world peace and contribute to the welfare of the human race. We all sincerely pray that, through the 24th Seoul Olympic Games, the Global Community will reap some tangible benefits.

Park Seh-jik
President of the Seoul Olympic
Organizing Committee

The official languages to be used at the international academic conference are English, French and Korean.

The scholars are to discuss five sub-



Park



The Korea Academy House hosts the World Academic Conference of the Seoul Olympiad Aug. 21-Sept. 6 on the broad theme of "The World Community in Postindustrial Society."

themes under the overall theme of "The World Community in Post-Industrial Society."

They include "Changing Families in the World Perspective," "Continuity and Change in Communications in the Post-Industrial Society," "The Confusion in Ethics and Values in Contemporary Society and Possible Approaches to Redefinition," "Encounter between the East and West and the Creation of a Global Culture," and "The Human Encounter with Nature: Destruction and Reconstruction."

As the modern world is on the threshold

of a new era termed "the information society," mankind is likely to encounter a number of serious threats to survival, mainly arising from technological development and from the consequences the post-industrial society will have on human values and the social environment.

Changing Families in the World Perspective

More specifically, the first forum under the sub-theme of "Changing Families in the World Perspective" Aug. 21-24 is to feature scholarly debate on such topics as

"Economic Development and the Family," "Gender Equality and Social Change," and "Family Policy."

Presentations and group discussion sessions will be held simultaneously on three topics in three conference rooms at Academy House.

Questions that must inevitably be raised, due to the rapid changes in the post-industrial society, are what will happen to the family structure and how the changes will affect society in the future.

The conference has two kinds of scholars participating. The first is those scho-

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Academic Olympiad

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lars who have a great deal of background in the social sciences and humanities such as religion, history and culture. The second group of scholars are those who have analyzed the post-industrial phenomena and have distinctive ideas on the outlook and the directions in which these changes will take the family and, ultimately, society.

The forum is expected to be a good opportunity for scholars to exchange ideas and to discuss future changes in traditional roles of men and women.

It will also give scholars the opportunity to discuss the likelihood of society's acceptance of women in traditionally male roles.

Still, the main question focuses on what the possibilities of bringing about this equality are and how the equalization of women will affect the society.

The problems and changes wrought in the family structure due to industrialization cannot be easily solved on the individual family level. Discussions, however, will help to bring into light how other cultures have approached these problems and how their political, economical and cultural structures have adapted to the changes.

Through the critical analysis of past experiences, the forum shows how effectively past policies have worked and forecast the direction in which the family is headed in the future.

Group discussion sessions under the first sub-theme will be followed by the keynote speeches of George A. De Vos from the USA and Lee Kwang-kyu from Korea.

A total of 25 foreign and domestic speakers are available for group discussion sessions.

Continuity and change in communications in post-industrial society

With the second sub-theme of "Continuity and Change in Communications in Post-Industrial Society," a forum will be held Aug. 24-27 featuring presentations and group discussion sessions on three topics in each separate conference room.

The three topics are "New Communication Technology and Society," "Communication Issues in the Third World," and "The Role of Mass Media in World Community."

Discussions under the second sub-theme will specify those matters of participatory communication and democracy, recent trends in communication policy, communication technology and individual rights (human rights), the transfer of knowledge, beyond cultural dependency, international information flow and after McBride (North-South Communication Dialogue).

Some problems are probed lingering around how to effectively adjust to the changes caused by the rapid development of communication technology, how the

encroachment on the individual's privacy and the over-abundance of information lead humankind to an unbalanced extreme and how to solve the unbalanced development of East and West, and North and South.

Prior to each group discussion session, five speakers including Richard F. Carter, Choe Chung-ho and Herbert Schiller will deliver keynote speeches with the topic of "World Communications Philosophy."

Twenty-three scholars join the group discussion sessions on the above three topics.

Confusion in ethics and values in contemporary society and possibly approaches to redefinitions

The third forum is available under the conference sub-theme of "The Confusion in Ethics and Values in Contemporary Society and Possible Approaches to Redefinitions."

The conference will be conducted with two group sessions dealing with "The Confusion of Values in Contemporary Society" and "New Definitions of Ethics and the Role of Religion."

What are the fundamental causes of this confusion in values and what direction should society take? What are the criteria that will determine the problems to confront mankind? These are the questions that are posed to scholars from various backgrounds in philosophy, ethics and religion.

A total of 28 speakers will attend the forum for scholarly debate.

Encounter between East and West and creation of a global culture

The fourth forum with its sub-theme of "Encounter between the East and West Meet the Challenge of Acculturation in Global Industrialization," and "How the Arts of the East and West Influence Each Other."

As the first conference to feature the encounter between the East and West as its theme, it brings together scholars from the Eastern and Western hemispheres in order to confront this problem of galvanizing elements of the two cultures into a new global culture, while at the same time retaining a mutual appreciation for one another's cultures.

The forward propulsion created by the industrial era and its effects on the Asian culture are the focal points of the conference, while exploring ways to restore the basic cultural substance of the East and West and the assimilation that takes place as the two cultures increase contact and communication with one another.

Right after keynote speeches are delivered by three speakers, 25 speakers will engage in group discussion sessions with the three specific topics.

The human encounter with nature: destruction and reconstruction

The last forum under the sub-theme of

"The Human Encounter with Nature: Destruction and Reconstruction" is to be held Sept. 3-6.

In this conference, the best way will be sought to approach this problem from the experiences of the Eastern and Western cultures in the post-industrial society.

Beginning with the fundamental question of what direction the continuing technological development will take, the forum will examine a means by which development will be possible without the destruction of nature.

Since the beginning of industrialization, the association of life and death and their relationship has been a vast problem — too vast to be undertaken in this conference. Still, it can be no longer ignored indeed, it is high time mankind grouped for scientific solutions in a new dimension and redefined the relationship of man and nature through the conference.

The forum will bring three topics into light: "Man and Nature," "Development and Environment," and "Technology, Energy and Economics."

Following the delivery of keynote speeches by two speakers from the United States, a total of 19 scholars will take part in group discussion sessions with the three topics.

Congress

A general congress with approximately 600 interested scholars participating will be held at the Seoul Hilton International during Sept. 7-8.

Participation will not be limited to those scholars of the outlined five forums, but will also include persons who are interested in areas related to academia, religion, journalism, and social services.

For the opening ceremony of the congress, Professor J.K. Galbraith of the United States and Professor Fei Xiaotong from the People's Republic of China will deliver the keynote speeches.

On the second day, the 600 participants of the congress will be divided into the aforementioned five categories and will participate in separate seminars in the morning, coming together for a mass meeting of the entire congress in the afternoon to share notes on the seminars.

At the closing ceremony, Professor Michael Crozier from France and Tchinguiz Aitmatov of the USSR (Gorbachev's philosophy adviser) will provide the closing remarks.

Additional programs

Translated transcripts of the conferences, congress reports and papers in English and French will be distributed to university libraries worldwide as well as to scholastic academies.

In addition, those transcripts will be offered to the United Nations and other international organizations.

The organizer, KCA, will arrange interviews with universities, academies, TV stations, newspapers and other organizations, along with seminars.

Field trips to historic and cultural sites in Korea will be available for participating scholars.