



Newsletter 15-1

January 31, 2015

Dear Colleagues in Higher Education in North America,

I trust that you had a wonderful holiday season.

As you may already know, the Korean-American University Professors Association (KAUPA) was established in 1986, and is a comprehensive and interdisciplinary organization whose membership includes professors, research scientists, post-docs, academic administrators of Korean origin working at a higher education institution in the U.S. and Canada. KAUPA is a non-profit, non-partisan, and non-sectarian organization. Its main purpose is to facilitate cooperation and participation among its members to share mutual interests in scholarly, professional and social activities related to higher education in and between North America and Korea as stated in the attached By-Law.

Through the strong leadership of past presidents and officers, and more importantly the passion of dedicated members, KAUPA has become one of the most versatile professional organizations. Among our activities, we have promoted our goals by encouraging and facilitating education, research and services among members including academic exchanges of scholars and scholarly works between North America and Korea. During my tenure thus far, I visited Presidents of several Korean universities, among whom were Dr. Sungmo Kang of Korean Advanced institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Dr. Youngjoon Kim of Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST), Dr. Youngsik Kim of Kumoh Institute of Technology (KIT), Dr. Mujae Cho of Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST), Dr. Dukho Im of Hanyang University and Provost Sungjae Doh of Korea University to name a few. Topics of discussion included exchange programs, housing for KAUPA members, and Winter January term courses among other relevant topics. In fact, KAUPA was able to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with KAIST on October 1, 2014, and I was able to teach a University of Rhode Island (URI) course at KAIST from December 27, 2014 to January 9, 2015 as a pilot project. With thoughtful support from KAIST, my course went very smoothly. I highly recommend our members to develop his or her course not only to teach students in respective U.S. universities but also for your prospective KAIST students in January, 2016. If you need any further information and/or assistance regarding this matter, please contact me any time.

In 2014, we successfully held following events. Our Secretary General, Prof. Jongsung Kim delivered a lecture, entitled “Korean Unification: An Inevitable Challenge for Prosperity” at the Forum with Scholars at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island on March 15. The Forum was held at Saloman Hall and sponsored by the National Unification Advisory Council (NUAC) Boston Chapter and Korean-American Association of Rhode Island (KAARI) and organized by Brown University’s Korean International Students Association (KISA) and Liberty in North Korea (LINK). I also had served as a reviewer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dokdo Essay Contest organized by TGT Newspaper in April and May. Upon the invitation of the Dokdo Foundation, 17 KAUPA members and 3 family members made a successful study trip to the Ulleungdo and Dokdo islands between from July 22 to 25. From December 7 to 13, KAUPA successfully held a special conference on Dokdo in Seoul with 12 experts to form a network and to uplift the understanding of Dokdo Island and East Sea issues. On behalf of KAUPA I appreciated the sponsorship of Dokdo Foundation, Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and Northeast History Foundation (NEHF). Finally, KAUPA provided a financial support to Korea-America Association for Geospatial and Environmental Sciences (KAGES). A recent issue of KAGES newsletter is available in the following link: <http://www.kages.org/season2/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/KAGES-Newsletter-11-1.pdf>.

As to news regarding our members the past year, I had the honor of receiving a Republic of Korea (ROK) Presidential Citation which recognized my lifelong achievements in education, research and services to the professional and Korean-American communities. Our 7<sup>th</sup> KAUPA President, Prof. Emeritus Hang Yul Rhee of Shepherd University moved to North Carolina. However, his wife needed a series of operation, and has been recovering slowly. Our 5<sup>th</sup> President, Prof. Emeritus and Mrs. Ki Hyun Kim visited her hospital, and provided a flower vase on behalf of KAUPA. We wish her continuous and smooth recovery. The 8<sup>th</sup> KAUPA President, Distinguished Research Prof. H. Thomas Hahn of UCLA successfully finished his assignment as a World Class Faculty at the Seoul National University, and returned to Los Angeles. The 10<sup>th</sup> KAUPA President, Prof. Nakho Sung retired from Tufts University and has been spending his winters as a retiree in his new Florida home.

Following the Dokdo conference in Seoul, experts from the areas of International Law (Maritime or Ocean Law), History, International Politics and Geography have been writing their academic (or technical) papers to the appropriate journals. To put into effect the positive outcomes, findings and proposed recommendations of the Seoul Forum and to protect our Dokdo from unjustified Japanese claim, we are currently preparing a comprehensive conference in Providence, RI on March 21, 2015. If any of you are interested in attending this conference, please contact our SG Prof. Jongsung Kim and/or myself. Once we confirm that the conference will be taking place, we will have a Board of Directors meeting and General Assembly on Friday, March 20, 2015. Our members from Music Colleges are also planning an appreciation recital at

Carnegie Hall in New York City for 1,000 Korean War Veterans and their spouses on June 25, 2015. If you need any further information, you may contact the Organizing Committee (Prof. Youngsuk Kim, Prof. Indal Choi and Prof. Myungjong Lee) and/or me. Should we be unable to secure enough funds (\$150,000), we may want to use the United Nation (UN) hall as an alternate venue to hold the recital. If any of you have good contacts at UN, please assist us in securing this alternate site.

KAUPA has been maintaining the online directory of Korean and Korean-American professionals in higher education in North America. The information in the database has been collected mainly through online search of published material. We tried to be accurate and up-to-date. However, should any of the information entered in the database is incorrect, you can assist us by filling out the attached membership application and/or renewal form or by contacting us with additional information. We encourage you to become a member of KAUPA, if you have not joined yet. In order to become a member, you need to register and pay the annual membership fee of \$25 to Prof. Woonsup Choi, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, P.O.Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201-0413, USA. All paid members will receive a [printed copy of the 2012 directory](#). For further inquiry, please contact Prof, Choi at [choiw@uwm.edu](mailto:choiw@uwm.edu) or 414-229-2671.

Thank you and looking forward to working with you more closely in the near future. I hope you will have much fortune in this sheep year, and wishing you and your family joyful celebration in the upcoming Lunar New Year day.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kang-Won Lee', written in dark ink.

Kang-Won Wayne Lee, Ph.D., P.E., F. ASCE  
President of KAUPA  
1 Lippitt Road  
Kingston, RI 02881