



GLOBAL RESIDENCE  
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- Citizen DMZ -  
**JANG Yeong-jin**

North Korea's only gay  
defector finds love in  
America ... pages 8 and 9

**The hero who crawled through DMZ**  
**CHANGE OF LIFE**



# Queer Koreans fear victimization by the coronavirus

**In Korea, same-sex marriage is not legal and there is no constitutional protection for those who are discriminated against due to their sexual orientation.**

As of May 25, 2020, a total of 246 confirmed cases of COVID-19 associated with nightclubs had been reported; Infections linked to the nightclub outbreak continued to spread in the community; in Seoul, cases of COVID-19 were identified in 9 different workplaces (several companies, military base and hospital) and 6 multi-purpose facilities (pubs, karaoke and fitness center). During the holidays from April 30 to May 5, many young adults from across the country who visited nightclubs in Seoul contracted COVID-19 and dispersed nationwide.

Nightclubs that had been closed as part of the social distancing policy reopened on April 30, ahead of the Golden Week holiday from April 30 to May 5. Many locals have visited the Itaewon (Itaewon-dong) area in downtown Seoul during this holiday period. Itaewon is known for its diversity and contains a US military base, several embassies, and some well-known nightclubs. After the media published that the location at the epicenter of the outbreak were gay nightclubs, a rumor spread that this outbreak of COVID-19 originated from gay men. Authorities feared that this rumor would negatively affect the willingness of nightclub visitors to get tested. Due to prejudices against homosexuality, gay men in South Korea tend to experience discrimination and stigma and are therefore often reluctant to reveal their gender identity. For example, the Seoul Metropolitan Government has consulted with sexual minority groups to discuss ways to encourage testing of gay men. Sexual minority groups have recommended anonymous testing. Therefore, the Seoul Metropolitan

Government introduced anonymous testing and said the only information patients would need to provide was their cell phone number. Through the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, Seoul has announced that testing clinics at public health centers are performing anonymous testing for COVID-19.

**Homosexuality is not illegal in South Korea, but it is still a taboo subject in this socially conservative country. Many gay and lesbian Koreans choose to keep their sexuality a secret for fear of the negative effects it could have on their professional and personal lives.**

*“Sexual minorities are concerned about exposure to domestic violence and discrimination in the workplace once their identity would be revealed during self-quarantine or after test results turn positive,”* said the seven Korean LGBT groups and the human rights group in a press release. South Korea's first openly gay TV host Hong Seok-cheon urged LGBTQ Koreans to get tested for COVID-19 *“I know the worry of going out better than anyone. But the priority now is the health and safety of ourselves, our families and society”*

On the afternoon of May 26 in Seoul, local gay activists and young expatriates who live in the capital gathered at The Link, a crowded bar in a patchwork international neighborhood known for its nightlife gay. Nestled in the Itaewon Hills, iced coffees and rainbow paper fans in hand, the crowd prepared to march for LGBTQ + awareness at the country's first-ever drag parade.

Even though it was revealed that the epidemics were happening all over town at the same time, including straight clubs, infections in gay clubs were reported first, so the blame went to the gays. It doesn't help that the media took note of pre-existing prejudices against the Korean gay community and used it to tear up the names of those communities at every opportunity. As a result, gays have been to blame for a while. Drag Queens have always been known to be passionate spokespersons on these topics. Dragging as an art form has come to a point where everyone who participates in it is considered radically Queer.

# “HOMO-HILL” ITAEWON DRAG QUEENS

For the organizer of this small but groundbreaking Seoul Drag Parade 2018, Korean Queer activist Heezy Yang, there was no better setting than the culturally diverse streets of Itaewon to make a bold political statement. After months of planning, Yang decided that drag artists would feel most at home in the Queer-Friendly Zone dubbed “Homo Hill”, where many have launched their artistic projects.

**"The parade is not about entertainment, we try to focus on what drag is and what role it can play against gender and social stereotypes"**

Yang hosted the drag parade with Ali Zahoor, a 23-year-old graduate student from the UK studying Queer migration in Asia, who notes that the purpose of the parade was to give more visibility to LGBTQ + people in Korea. *"Often the Queer community is ignored by the government. The purpose of this walk is to show that the community exists and that it is here. It's very hard to ignore a Drag Queen"*

South Korea still has a long way to go to recognize gay rights. Although the current administration is historically the most liberal, gay rights are often sidelined. The president, Moon Jae-In, a former human rights lawyer, said he opposed homosexuality during a presidential debate. He has yet to address anything regarding LGBTQ + rights during his presidency. Meanwhile, trans-Koreans can change their gender on forensic identification without surgery, but it's a complicated process that involves discriminatory requirements including proof to a judge that they are sterile and celibate without children.

Anti-LGBTQ + protesters are vocal and active across the country. During the pride festival in Seoul, thousands of Christians protested against the Queer community. These protesters were mostly aligned with Korea's influential Protestant Church and are well organized on social media. So, to ensure the safety of those participating in the drag march, Yang and Zahoor spoke to a small group of police officers outside The Link. The route of the parade was only disclosed to police in order to avoid any potential intimidation from fundamentalist Christian counter-protesters. Even those who walked were unaware of the route, only that it would end where it started.

Yang, trailing as Hurricane Kimchi, led the march in heels. Her fiery red braid swayed under a traditional Korean hat tied under her chin. Hundreds of people followed behind Yang, some in Drag, others in cosplay, and many casually dressed, waving their fans in rainbow colors. During the parade, there were no counter-protests, hateful signs or even insults from passers-

by. Instead, residents and tourists alike watched with glee. Yang's plan to hold the parade in a Gay-Friendly area and to keep the route a secret has proved successful.

*"It was great to see a large group of Queer people taking up space on the streets, without aggression or negativity. It was a great kick-off to the pride season",* said Hayden Royalty, a Korean trans activist who participated in the march. The Vloggers Royalties on the fact of being non-binary in Korea gathered a huge fan base of over 14,000 people. *"Trans visibility is almost non-existent in Korea. Heterosexual and queer people are not as exposed to trans women, trans men and gender people as they are to LGB",* adds Royalties. This makes events like the Seoul Drag Parade, widely supported by gay men and women, necessary to raise awareness in Korea's genderqueer community.



**Over time...  
Should same-sex marriage now be guaranteed by law? NO !**

The same-sex marriage debate has been raised since the days when human rights became a hot topic, but in May 2013, director Kim Jo Kwang-soo opened a wedding ceremony and it intensified for good. The fact that a lot of media dealing with homosexuality have recently emerged, as well as celebrities who have come forward from the outside, and the fact that the public's prejudices against homosexuality have been much lessened compared to before has played a major role in starting this discussion. However, it still remains difficult to see public opinion on same-sex marriage as favorable, and director Kim Jo Kwang-soo's marriage report has also been legally ignored, so the act of 'same-sex marriage' is not legally recognized in Korea.

Legal disapproval of same-sex marriage, or the prohibition of same-sex marriage, is an act that violates the human rights of sexual minorities, and the view that same-sex marriage should be allowed to ensure human rights is an act

that seriously violates promises of society and confuses gender identity and values. Opinions on both sides are still parallel, including the claim that it should be banned as it can give.

*a. Preventing same-sex marriage is an act of disregarding the human rights of a minority. Preventing same-sex marriage in the state violates the people's right to liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and it is nothing more than an act of ignoring human rights as a minority. In order to protect human rights, same-sex marriage should be allowed.*

*b. Same-sex marriage is a social recognition of sexual minorities. The legalization of same-sex marriage begins and ends with a change in the public perception of sexual minorities who have been socially marginalized. Those who suffer from innate problems should no longer be treated as sinners.*

Same-sex marriage causes great confusion in gender identity in Korea. In the process of positive dissemination of the perception of homosexuality, the number of cases of gender identity confusion among adolescents has increased. In addition, the number of young people affected by content related to homosexuality is increasing. There is a bigger problem in the fact that homosexuality itself is more likely to be in the way of becoming established in the youth of our society, rather than being wrong.

Unlike love, marriage is an implicit promise to society. Marriage between the opposite sex is an implicit promise of society and should not be broken. From a national perspective, marriage between the opposite sex can be a target of protection against positive effects such as population growth and social stability, but the propagation or recognition of same-sex marriage is never desirable. If such an exception is made, the norms relating to marriage will disappear and, therefore, marriages such as incest marriage or polygamy will not be prevented for reasons such as human rights and the right to seek happiness. (O: we hope to have your opinion: onomadclub@gmail.com)

Sources: HOSO magazine, CNN, KOSIS / Daejeon Metropolitan City Social Survey (Social Inclusion-Gay Acceptance 2013) / Youth Values Survey: Homosexual Acceptance (2012) / Kim Jo Kwang-soo "Should take legal action" (Union Press, 2013) / US Time "Korean Gay Awareness, Aggression" (Yonhap News 2014) / Gay Children Injured (Segye

## SEOUL

# HYUNDAI YOUIDO

Seoul's largest mall opened on February 26 with socially left behind high-tech retail experiences



Hyundai Department Store, a big company known around the world, designed the first future Nature-Friendly department store in South Korea. This new store would apply the concept of healing through shopping to provide new shopping experiences for customers. It presents a space that responds to sustainable development.

**In Seoul's island, corporate and investment banking district in Youido, the number of spaces that respond to the concept of nature has increased dramatically and allow customers to relax. Of the total area, 49% were decorated with interior landscaping and seating areas were installed. It also makes shopping easier.**

Youido Department Store offers futuristic new retail experiences inspired by recent events and developed using Amazon Web Services technology. Several stores in the mall on the upper floors are unstaffed. According to initial reports, they will allow shoppers to enter stores through QR codes and make unassisted purchases through mobile apps.

Set around an atrium with a nature installation that incorporates a waterfall and indoor botanical garden, Hyundai Seoul is also home to the new ALT.1 Museum, which will host a full-scale Andy Warhol retrospective.

*"We will develop the Hyundai Seoul as a representative landmark of the Seoul lifestyle by introducing innovative and unconventional content," said CEO Kim Hyung-jong. "We will establish ourselves as a new model for future department stores that will offer new shopping experiences and future life values that have never been experienced before."*



# Le Paradis de la Pâtisserie

By Jun Jae-young



Bean Brothers, Hyundai



Du pain et des idées, Paris

It's the equivalent of Harrods Food Hall but in Seoul. Maybe even better, because here you can really afford to buy the wonderful products and creations on display. It is extremely popular with the locals. Great variety and sumptuous displays. The food hall will make your day big. Bread dough with a scent and a rich buttery texture.

There are many kinds of delicious pastries in Korea, but when I come to France, the land of bread and dessert, pastries are a must.

Koreans who like bread with a lot of ingredients. They added various ingredients to the pastry to create a unique pastry. Lots of cream and chocolate are added to the croissant, or ketchup, cheese and sausage are placed on the baking dough, or pastry dough is used as pizza dough. In Korean culture, accustomed to constant change, pastry changes seem endless

Outside of the big cities, most bakeries still have plenty of classic pastries, but the taste is great. "My pastry life started with a brioche croissant with chocolate and almonds, which I tasted in a bakery near a hotel in Mont Saint Michel," began by explaining the pastry chef Jun Jae-young. "Escargot du pain et des Idée in Paris were also an exceptional taste."

**Indeed, most bakeries in France are full of pastries faithful to the essentials, but bakeries run by young chefs like Cédric Grolet and Boulangerie Utopie de Paris offer pastries that mark not only the taste, but also the view with its aesthetics.**

As with all foods, the essential thing in desserts and ingredients is their quality. Quality ingredients make great desserts. French butter has more flavor, well adapted to the tastes of the French and which also pleased many tourists!

Recently, more and more pastry chefs are opening their stores in Korea and selling desserts using high quality French butter. Mayae Seorae Village in Seoul presents an excellence of tasteful desserts that we can find in luxury pastry shops in Paris.



Jun Jae-young  
à Cap Eden-Roc en 2020, Antibes

## JE VOUS POURPRE



# “I PURPLE YOU” is a new expression for “I LOVE YOU”.

From June to early August, the lavender fields of Provence in the South of France transform into a large carpet of lavender with a delicate and soothing scent. This is the ideal time to contemplate a beautiful landscape which lasts only a few weeks.

The vast Valensole plateau is located between the Verdon, Bléone and Durance valleys. In the background, you can see the foothills of the Alps and its hilltop villages. The perched village of Saint-Jurs is also a must-see for your visit to the Valensole plateau, because from there a nice panorama over the valley and the lavender fields is waiting. Not far from Riez, begins the Gorges du Verdon, the French Grand Canyon. Routes that crisscross the region from Vercors to Verdon, passing through the Baronnies and the Lubéron, to admire the pretty fields of more than 2,000 lavender growers, a culture that has been present in Provence since the Middle Ages.

At the same time, in South Korea there are several tourist spots where you can have a good time in purple nature.

Banwol and Bakji Islands are known to be covered in lavender field flowers. Popularly referred to as the Purple Islands, the Banwol and Bakji Islands are covered in flower blankets with many shades of purple. If you love to gaze at and smell the lavender blossoms, there can be no better place to plan a vacation than these beautiful islands.

From bridges, houses to the clothes people wear, you would be surrounded by different shades of purple. In fact, to match the purple flowers locals painted roads, bridges, and even houses to match the landscape. This seaside landscape contrasts with the 'Blue' paradise of the medina of Chefchaouen touristic village in Morocco.

The 'Purple Sea Garden' built in Anjwameon by Sinan-gun has become a world-class tourist spot with a mysterious purple atmosphere for the whole year.

**Sinan-gun built a purple bridge (1462m) connecting Banwoldo-Pakjido-Duri to allow visitors to go from island to island but also to hike to Banwol and Pakji Island.**

After being officially named "Purple Island", this tourist spot was mentioned in several famous Hong Kong magazines and Germany's largest satellite TV ProZiben. Thus, it has become an unspoiled tourist destination, reborn as a tourist attraction where more than two hundred thousand people visit each year.

Sinan-gun, Jeollanam-do, the photo area with the phrase "I PURPLE YOU" written on it is gaining popularity. This phrase was coined by member V of the Kpop BTS group.



If there is 'I.SEOUL.U' in Seoul, then BTS has 'I PURPLE YOU'. This word was coined by member V of BTS and it is said that I PURPLE YOU was used to mean to trust and love the other person until the end, because the last color of the rainbow seven-color sky is purple.

This word became a new word by being listed in Urban Dictionary, (an English-speaking online dictionary with definitions written by internet users registered on the site), as BTS gained popularity around the world. BTS's V is said to have used I PURPLE YOU as the last color of the seven-color rainbow, as a sign of trusting and loving the other person until the end.

## SINAN PURPLE ISLANDS



### Sinan's 'magical' purple islands have a dark, unknown history

*“Half-moon Island”, despite its popularity as a tourist destination these days, Banwoldo has a grim past that few people know about.*

*Banwoldo is part of one of the famous Sinan Islands, renowned for its K-Drama-worthy aesthetic layout with surreal views and rich mineral resources like salt and seaweed. However, according to Unreported World, these precious assets were exploited by people who were victims of abuse and forced labor whose conditions met the definition of the term “slave” given by the United Nations.*

The bus stop near Hyangho Beach in Sokcho, BTS's famous spring jacket filming location, has become a filming location where everyone wants to take pictures even if they're not really an ARMY. The concert has also gained world renown popularity. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, BTS videos are attracting more attention to people wishing to travel to domestic tourist destinations. Every time BTS makes a new appearance, a new attraction is created.

In August 2020, the Sinan (Sinan-gun) district gave the name "the purple islands" to the Banwoldo and Bakjido, and in 100 days they have become a tourist destination where 100,000 people can visit. The first gateway to these places is through the purple bridge. The Purple Bridge is a pedestrian bridge with a total length of 1462 meters (Durido-Bakjido 547 meters, Bakjido-Banwoldo 915 meters) connecting the village of Durido with Anjwa-myeon and Parkjido-Banwoldo. Parkjido Bridge is also called "the Bridge of Hope" because the hope of grandmother Kim Mae-geum who hoped to walk to Mokpo when she was alive has come true.

When we cross over the purple bridge, which is about 1 km, it is possible to walk another 7.6 km to Banwoldo, passing through Bakjido. In addition, it is possible to do a trekking route that walks 4.4 km along the trail. The Korean Tourism Organization has recommended renting a bicycle in Bakjido



so that you can visit the area well. Since the circumference of Bakjido and Banwoldo is 4.2 km and 5.7 km, it can be difficult to walk around both islands in a day. The existing cycle paths are flat and purple all around the circumference of the islands to the left after exiting the purple bridge, so even beginners can ride them easily, except for a few inclines.

When we cross the purple bridge and enter Banwoldo, it is possible to see a huge purple half moon first. It is a sculpture of a little prince and a desert fox sitting on a purple half moon and looking at Bakjido. It's prettier than the gourd sculpture at the entrance to Bakjido and has a variety of angles for taking photos, making it a must-do for a certification photo of the Purple Islands. In addition, there are a lot of purple public phone booths, which have become a photo spot. Inside the cabin, there is a small wall mounted rotary telephone instead of a square payphone, which gives it an exotic feel. It is also possible to purchase and consume Blueberry Yogurt Smoothie, the only purple drink sold on the Purple Islands, as a prop for the shoot.

*The Guardian reported that victims of this trafficking were often mentally disabled and 80% reportedly had learning disabilities. Mr Chung Jie-hong, one of hundreds who was not released from this situation until 2013, spoke with Unreported World host Marcel Theroux, his "Boss" whom Mr Chung calls "daddy" was "a very bad man" but had never beaten him.*

*In addition to allegations of human trafficking, a sexual assault case has drawn mass media attention to the southern province of Jeolla located in the Sinan Islands; a teacher was raped by three residents, two of whom are believed to be the parents of her students in 2016 according to The Korea Herald. The incident sparked backlash against the local government from residents claiming their incompetence, some even claiming they would boycott all products mined in the area.*

## CHANGE OF LIFE



photo : BBC news



Jang Yeong-Jin à Séoul

"I couldn't even dream what it's like to be gay in North Korea"

Mr. Jang Yeong-jin fled to China in 1996 but was returned to North Korea. He fled his country again in 1997, this time to South Korea as a true hero who crawled through the DMZ where there are plenty of mines, which finally made him realize what tormented him for so many years.

He was driven to leave the North by the difficulties of living there as a homosexual. Jang never loved his wife. Throughout their marriage he felt guilty and confused, ashamed of having, in his words, "ruined a woman's life". Jang did not hear the word "homosexual" for the first 37 years of his life, saying he had no idea what it meant, which is not unusual in his native North Korea.

*"When I was at Pyongyang University, I went to see a neurologist, wondering why I was so different from others. But as soon as I started talking about my feelings, I had to run out of the office because the doctor started yelling at me." Jang says he knows other people from the North who have had the same experience. "I knew I had to go"*

**Jang said he could stand the lack of food or the limited clothing of the North, but having nothing to dream of made him miserable.**

He says the closest to his dream was a childhood friend whom he later realized was in love with. Their closeness to innocent childhood spilled over into adulthood. Holding hands or sharing a bed was not unusual, he said, as their two wives knew they were close. "One day my friend came to see me," he says. "That night I got out of my wife's bed and entered his, my heart was beating so fast but he was sleeping and I couldn't understand why I felt so hurt by him"

"I got up, went out and saw a wild goose flying over my head. I knew then that I had to go"

Jang fled from the North to China in 1996,

where he struggled for 13 months to find a way to South Korea. China views North Koreans as economic migrants rather than refugees or defectors, if they are arrested they are usually sent back for punishment in the North.

**"In the North, homosexuality does not even exist as a concept"**

**Homosexuality is banned in many countries and people generally do not know the reasons which are mainly related to religious views. Maybe not everyone is familiar with Western vocabulary, as it often happens with LGBTQIA asylum seekers from sub-saharan Africa or the Indian subcontinent, but they have an idea of what makes them different.**

M. Jang made headlines in 2015 after publishing a memoir about his life as a homosexual in North Korea. He told the Guardian that the reclusive Asian nation had no concept of homosexuality and that there was no awareness of LGBT+ issues. *"In open societies people have at least an awareness of different sexualities, in North Korea there is no hope"*

He said the men in North Korea spend "a lot of time in the military." Jang himself has completed 10 years of national service, so "physical contact is frequent between people of the same sex, and people have a special emotional connection. This doesn't mean that all of these men are gay, but rather that they are linked by a special fellowship," Jang said.

There is also another reality: governments so intrusive and absolute that can even erase any concept that can be scary. This is the case with North Korea as a red mark of honor. The author, exiled in Seoul for twenty years, discovered his homosexuality at 37, after reading an article just after arriving in the South Korean capital. He is the "only gay defector" from North Korea to marry her American boyfriend after falling in love during the lockdown caused by COVID-19. Jang, 62, met the owner of Korean-American restaurant Min-su, an alias given to the man in the BBC article, in 2020 on a dating site. Only four months later, he flew to the United States to meet Min-su, and Jang told the BBC that the lockdown gave the couple the option of getting married.

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# "... my opinion and my wish ..."

## The 2 Koreas

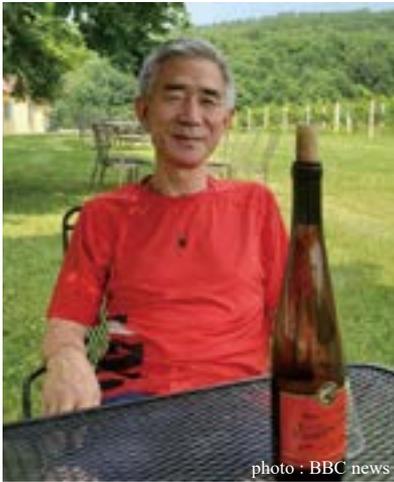


photo : BBC news

Jang Yeong-Jin à Californie en 2020



6 December 1491  
Charles VIII  
wife Anne of  
Brittany

At dawn on December 6, 1491 in Langeais near Tours, Charles VIII married Duchess Anne of Brittany. She is 14 years old and the King of France 21.

<= page 8

Although he didn't understand the meaning of his condition, which he couldn't even define, Jang saw other people who felt like him: *"When I was in the army, there was an officer superior who had the same problem as me after her marriage. There was also a man in my hometown who never married and lived alone his entire life. North Korean society considers these people to be abnormal"*, he said.

In South Korea, there were other difficulties: *"To be defector is to be a foreigner in this society [...] For all defectors, it is difficult to settle, but for me, the ordeals have doubled"*. Jang also said that a man started a relationship with him and then disappeared with all his money.

However, despite all the difficulties, he has not lost the hope of being able to live like everyone else: love and travel in hoping to start over at 60.

Sadly, there is also a powerful Christian lobby in South Korea that is preventing anti-discrimination laws. Moon Jae-in, a former human rights activist and current 12th President of South Korea, is opposed to homosexuality and would agree with Conservative Party prosecutor Hong Joon-pyo. Moon's supporters claim he used such statements to garner conservative votes. However, the LGBTQIA community has no intention of letting go: *"His words can influence people's thinking"*, activist Jung Yol said. Moon was quick to rectify his petition and apologize to the LGBT community.

Hello,

I read the article M.K.Yung (n.March p.7) on the DMZ separating the Korean peninsula in 2 and 'my opinion and my hope' is that a rapprochement of the 2 Koreas should take place hopefully in the near future. There have been a lot of families separated since the 1950s and I know some of them here in France and Korea. I hope that since the reunification of Germany was done quite suddenly, it will be possible for the Korean peninsula, the Koreans have not decided this division. It was during the Treaty of Yalta that the great powers, not France, decided that.

At the end of World War II Japan was almost divided if McArthur had not prevented this act from Russia, and the result is a united and prosperous country.

**I myself am Breton and also we were not French then it is the marriage of Anne of Brittany which stopped the conflicts between France and Brittany, also a peninsula. We keep our language and culture traditions and have an international influence also economically.**

The situation of the Korean people, the whole peninsula, is for some to still have their families separated today without being able to travel and visit them; for some, many, on the north side a precarious

life. The history of this peninsula testifies that it has been invaded so many times and dominated by foreign powers. And today we can see the imbalance on both sides of the 38th parallel, no co-prosperity, yet there is a common history as well as deeply rooted traditions and culture.

If we love this country and are concerned for the people of this nation we should work for a rapprochement and why not its reunification, which I think would ensure better security and promote interdependence in the North-East region of Asia Pacific.

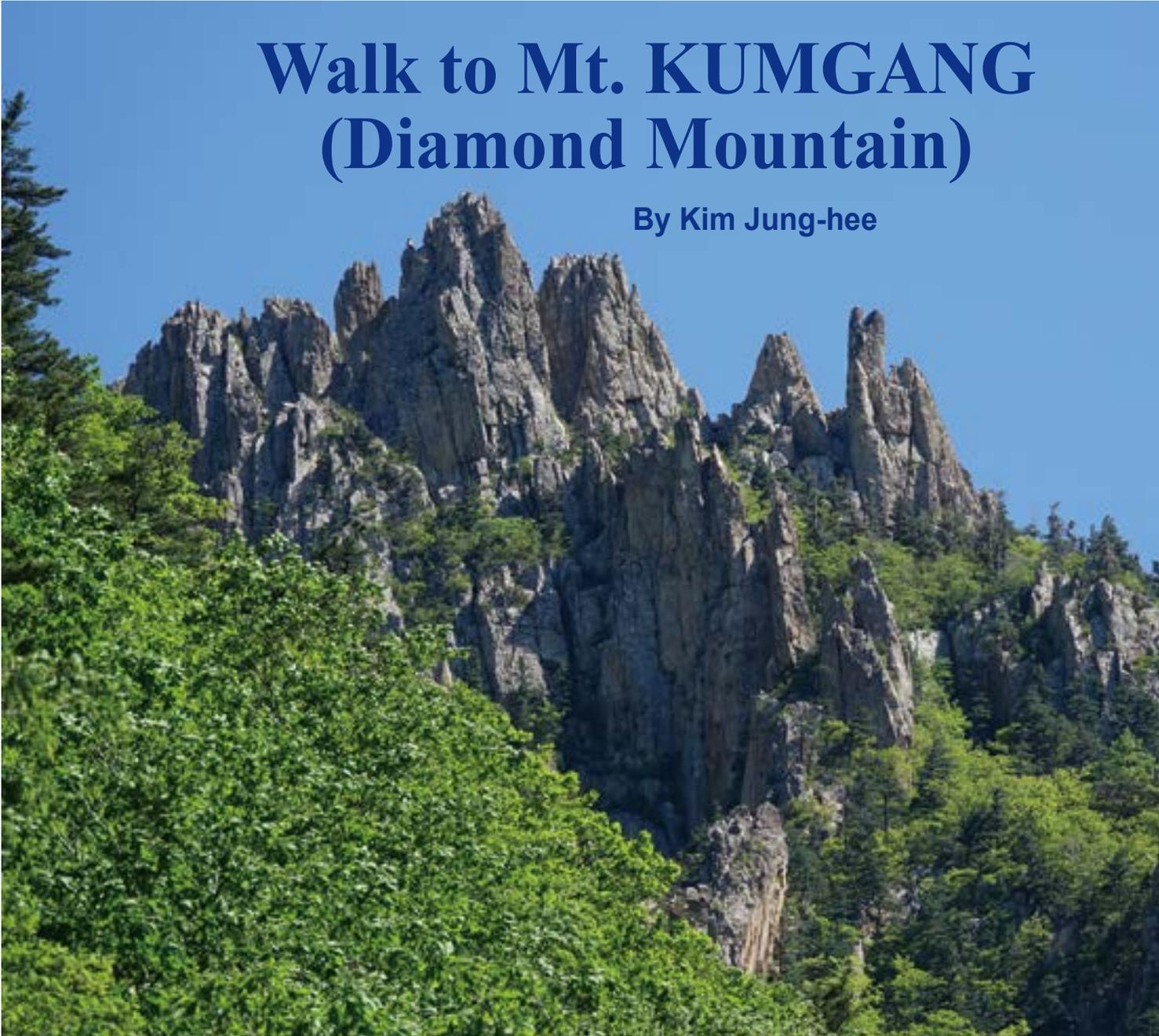
I am in relation with some Korean War veterans, who fought for democracy, free will, peace and development to exist in this part of the world and it is still their sincere wishes as it was hope of the soldiers who gave their heart to see families and their people united. Let us not let political and economic interests once again decide on individual freedom and the interests of an entire people. I am an international public relations advisor and cooperate with NGOs and associations.



Patrick Jouan.  
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# Walk to Mt. KUMGANG (Diamond Mountain)

By Kim Jung-hee



## - Episode 3 -

After a few nights at the Pyongyang Hotel, we got to know the surroundings well. Every morning we took a walk on the bank of the Taedong River which crosses from east to west the middle of the capital city of North Korea like the Seine in Paris. Around the Taedong River is the historical and cultural cradle of Korean ancestors. When visiting North Korea I realize that I am facing the story of my ancient Korean ancestors.

Our hotel is very close to the Taedong River. We can take the opportunity to watch the morning scenes of Pyongyang, people walking or running, crowded buses and people on bicycles. This morning we can not go for a walk because we have planned to leave early to visit Mt. Kumgang. We are very happy to have this privileged opportunity. Mt.

Kumgang San is an emblem of our beautiful mountainous homeland with supposedly twelve thousand peaks, which lies in the east of the country, very close to the border between the two Koreas. So if there is any tension or military conflict between South Korea and North Korea, it is not allowed to go. Periodically, during joint military maneuvers by South Korean and US soldiers near the division, the North Koreans are on high alert. The South Koreans were able to visit Kumgang San a few years ago, but for ten years successive South Korean governments have banned their citizens from going there and have abandoned all their hotel investments.

We left Pyongyang very early in the morning passing by the beautiful Science-Technology Complex then crossing the Taedong River which reflects the light of the rising sun, and then passing under the Unification Arch, adorned with two Korean women symbolizing the two Koreas, on the southern

highway. Coming out through the south of Pyongyang, we see large agricultural land, plains of fruit trees, especially apple trees. On many successive hills there are trees of small sizes resulting from recent plantings.

The highway, heading south, goes in a straight line to Kaesong or may go to Seoul. But this time our car turned left towards the east coast to go to Kangwon province and towards Mt. Kumgang. From a distance, we can see continuous mountain ranges and cross many successive tunnels. We see small, fragile trees with stakes on either side of the road. Still recent plantings. Each tree with a stake is surrounded by white pebbles. I noticed right away that it is an effort of the people to take care of every tree, it is a sign that the North Koreans are not giving up on their ambition for the sake of their homeland. It is true that they do not have much means to protect or decorate these trees but their love for the motherland is immense.

# NORTH KOREA



housing near where they work and sooner or later they get it. Our North Korean guide explained to us that he is the second son but wants to live with his parents, and he got a suitable apartment in Pyongyang. He didn't spend any money to have an apartment bigger than his elder brother's. This is the North Korean social system. The state ensures that everyone has accommodation according to their needs. This is also true if you are a teacher or a scientist, you get dedicated accommodation as a priority. The North Korean system gives the teacher an important place in the social system because education is important for the development of young people who will build the future of the country.

**North Koreans know why they are so united and they are building their country despite all external obstacles. They know that their unique homeland must no longer fall into the hands of the aggressors.**

**If I ask people what is patriotism in South Korea, France or the United States, people will all answer differently. But the North Koreans will tell me to save their homeland at all costs. This is my impression looking at all the North Korean gestures in everyday life.**

From a distance we see groups of gray farmhouses with gray tiles, simple but in a typical Korean style. The villages remind me of how North Koreans are rebuilding their lives after the Korean War. They build their houses according to plans provided by the state with a given area for a certain number of members per family. The state gives each farmer their home for free according to their need. So inevitably they built a lot of houses with the same plan in the farming community.

In North Korea, a family often consists of a couple with their parents and children. If you have a large family, the state assigns you a large house. And a young couple getting married asks the social section to assign them

In the direction of Kangwon province, there is a historic rest area in the middle of the mountains called Sinhyon Kum-gang. It is located near a large water reserve with huge and magnificent peaks of rocks rising towards the sky like a huge phoenix coming out of the lake and flying towards the sky with its large wings. In the restaurant of this area, there are authentic local souvenirs, and also wild pheasant eggs, collected in these mountains.

After passing through several tunnels and light green spring mountainous landscapes, we

enter the town of Wonsan, and are surprised to see a lot of trucks driving around with construction materials. Our guide explains to us that the Kalma tourist site is under construction. Finally we arrived at the edge of Gosong Bay, at the entrance to Kumgang-san where there are tourist huts in front of the Haegumgang Hotel. This hotel is notorious for the abandonment of its maintenance by the South Koreans. This hotel reflects the deterioration of relations between the Two Koreas. The company Hyundai (conglomerate Hyundai) has installed this hotel in the form of a cruise ship anchored at the edge of the bay to receive South Korean tourists. Unfortunately this hotel is empty and deteriorating from lack of maintenance and use. We are installed opposite in a cute hut well maintained by the North Koreans. Samilpo is a lake surrounded by a multi-species forest at the entrance to Mt. Kumgang. In the center, there is an island in the shape of a lying cow. The story of this lake is that of a king who wanted to rest for a day watching this beautiful natural scene. This king forgot the passing of time and realized when he wanted to leave this place, that he had stayed there for three days. It has since been called the three-day lake ( Samilpo 삼일포 ).

Mt. Kumgang is a rocky mountain with thousands of peaks. Korean poets and painters have raved about this magnificent mountain with its waterfalls and the water of its emerald-colored rivers. Each season decorating this mountain with different colors charms all visitors. There is a famous Korean saying that 'visiting Mt. Kumgang is best after a meal'. This means that after a meal you can better appreciate the beauty of Mt. Kumgang. We went up following narrow marked paths, looking on either side at the cliffs and rock walls having fir trees painfully hanging in the cracks of the rocks, listening to the constant sound of mountain waterfalls. Each step up towards these peaks is quite difficult because the rock stairs are irregular between the woods and the plants. I am very happy to find my Korean mountains.

To be continued episode 4: Kumgang San and around  
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## CITIZEN DMZ

# « I AM THE TOOL » which the world needs.

By Choi Young-hwan



*Every year, I live in America and Europe for 6 months, including 3 months in New York and 3 months in Paris. The rest of the time, I reside in Southeast Asia and Africa for two months and in Korea for one month. In fact, in order to be able to tell the story of my travels around the world, I would first like to talk about my years which I spent at a very small university in Pohang, Gyeongsangbuk-do in South Korea.*

**“Why not change the world? Be a tool to change the world”**

*"This was the school slogan. The school was very serious about this slogan. When I went to class, this slogan was written. All the students lived in a dormitory and when ever going to the dormitory it was possible to see this slogan which was engraved in every floor, every room and stairs. Even when I was having coffee from a vending machine, I frequented that terrifying campus slogan which was even written on disposable coffee. I started to be brainwashed in my head but this slogan came to me much later after being there for four years.*

*The first destination after graduating from this college was the military. The first line DMZ, known as "GOP", which supervises the demilitarized zone of Two Koreas. When you open the base door, you may have a strange experience or feeling of seeing North Korea, and I took a picture there."*

After graduating from the Department of Press Information and Literature at Handong University, he agreed to do his military service as a press officer in 2007. He wanted to break the stereotype that an army was 'a place that killed time'. He wanted to let soldiers know that military life could be the most important life of their life.

**In order to communicate with the outside world within the frontline troops of DMZ who have no internet or cell phones, Choi has created a strange university called "Milk carton university for young people of the world with dreams". So he opened the used milk cartons distributed to the military so he could write handwritten letters to send to celebrity people from all walks of life, at home and abroad.**

*"I started to write a letter or two on the milk cartons to invite teachers, but one day all of a sudden the soldiers started avoiding me because a very high military officer had seen me when I was writing a letter. When he looked at my letter he patted me*

*on the shoulder and said 'This is cool!' in telling me not to kill myself instead and he encouraged me. Over the course of several months I used the collected milk cartons at GOP to write my manuscript letters. One letter carton then ten, then twenty and finally over a hundred. I sent all of these letters in used milk cartons!"*

Many people responded with valuable content. They were satisfied with these letters which gave vision and hope to themselves. Choi handed these letters to the soldiers. After finishing his military service in 2009, he went to meet world-class celebrities in person. There weren't many eager celebrities who wanted to meet this unknown young man. But his sincerity was able to work. It took a while, but in the end, Choi met all of those celebrity people he wanted.

He heard a valuable lesson from them. He has interviewed many executives, including famous actor Ahn Seong-gi, Park Won-soon (Former Mayor of Seoul), Pastor Joel Austin (author of 'The Power of the Positive'), Kang Woo-hyun (CEO of Nami Island) and Yoon Yoon-soo (CEO of Fila Korea). In October 2010, he published a Korean book "I'll lend you a milk carton college" (21st Century Books).

In July 2009, before the book's publication, he moved to Manhattan, New York, and he founded M-Tree, a non-profit company which means "mustard seed tree." It is a company that connects young people passionate about changing the world and ageless. Right now, it's a name that aims to connect and train young people who seem weak like mustard seeds so that they can grow into great trees enabling to inhabit nations. Four second-generation Korean-Americans born in the United States participated as board members.

# CITIZEN DMZ



North DMZ, shot at GOP by Choi Young-hwan

"I Will Lend You DMZ Milk Carton University" in Korean edition published by Choi Young-hwan

## I am the tool the world needs..

Choi left for New York with no money to start a nonprofit company in New York to help underdeveloped countries. The reason for choosing this location is that New York is easy to go to the west of United States, Europe and Africa, it is a better geographic city.

*"But there are two problems. I have to start a business but I have no money. The second is a bigger problem, it is impossible to start a nonprofit corporation in the United States without being a citizen"*

Three directors who are members of the board got together and established with their identities and acted as guarantors to create the company. From the creation of this company, the first meeting of the directors was to know who should be the representative of this company. This company must be an international company, so a foreign CEO was needed. The appropriate person was of course Mr. Choi.

**"I met a lot of artists and designers in Paris and New York to go and teach African children to paint. But I was told Why to Africans who do not even have food?"**

*"Deprived of only one meal a day, Africans have no reason not to dream. Let's give dreams and hope to the children of Africa. Make represent his heart by painting and build the muscles of the mind to dream and hope. The 21 young artists participated in this 'Brush with Hope' project in West Africa."*

*"I taught painting to 300 children. On*

*the first day to African children, I could never forget this moment. All the children started to take a look at the brush they had never seen before and finally put a brush in their nostrils. So the first class was to familiarize them with the brush, and I taught them to play with the brush and write, and the second was the color class. Instead of indicating the color yellow, if the teacher encourages them and is patient with their answer, the children say that this color recalls a heat or it reminds of his deceased mother.*

*We have a notion of a single color "yellow" but Africans in several dozen. The teachers gave only 4 colors, yellow blue white red but the children creatively mix the colors to express their own mind. An artist from New York came and confessed that African children were better at painting than New York children! As there are no educational frameworks in Africa, children begin the artistic act which is expressed in their minds freely.*



*After a week of lessons which is the last day, we had given an assignment to describe the hope in the table.*

*This is a "book" picture drawn by 12 year old Masally. "Hey, why did you draw a book? The child replied: "My dream is to be able to read. Because I had to work and I didn't know how to read this book, so I drew a book" Then the child stops for a moment. Then he talks about his hope of later becoming a teacher teaching others to read, "Learn to read and become a teacher by learning to write"*



'book' by 12 year old Masally

by 11-year-old Louis.

*A modern three-line painting of minimalism was made by an 11-year-old child named Louis. Many artists and teachers praised Louis as a talented one from day one. "The dark blue line at the top is my 11-year sad historical past. The green in the middle is my happy painting mood. The yellow color at the bottom signifies gold, the ultimate hope and the best." Louis has his dreams full of expression through this painting.*

*We have organized exhibitions of these paintings and through the sale, we continue to give courses of arts in Africa. Fashion designers from NY, Paris, London gave classes so that Africans could have the opportunity to have autonomy.*

**"I am a tool" There is no one who does not have value. Each always has a value for their need. This child named Masally, deprived of the opportunity to study by forced labor has the hope of later becoming a teacher to teach others to read. His parents died of AIDS and he dreams that his future will be bright. There was also a soldier who dreamed of creating a university that would make the hearts of young Koreans leap in a place of DMZ frontline where there is no communication of internet, smartphone. All of you, we are the tools the world desperately needs. 'So why not to us as a tool to change the world? I am the tool the world needs.**

SCULPTOR - ACTIVIST

# KIM SOU-YA



The art I think is a visual philosophy. Music impresses directly audiences with performances and vocals, but art with complete silence.

An artist creates a shape using points, lines and planes, and paints in three dimensions with color or colorless then the public appreciates this artwork without artist.

This is a communication by giving freedom to understand the intention of the artist independently without trying to understand the intention of the artist.

Life is an art. Every day of an artist who touches and lives is an art. With love, children are born, grow up and become adults with everyday life. To suffer from dying disease or to get old, unless there is evolution, does not exist twice of life in a lifetime but just once in a human life. This life is the perfect condition of art.

Life is movement, and this movement is alive, that is energy. Energy changes and grows, so there are no tools for self-actualization except like energy.

As if I lived 200 years in this life, I stop for a long time in many situations that cannot be neglected. In front of the wonders of tender petals blooming harmlessly in a harsh place, In front of the eyes of infinite childish purity, an old woman who has lived through life's bad luck, in front of a nation of bad luck, I have stopped for a long time and shake my working hand. It is a coincidence and at the same time this is inevitable that I have become a social activist against the unjust.

**After the Sewol ferry disaster of April 16, 2014, my life became completely different from what it was before. An artist is also one of the citizens.**

An artist who loves life cannot live unrelated to the lives of the others and to the justice of society either.

The artist's feet are on the swamp but, since the head is turned towards the sky, I think it is an artist who can have compassion for the less well-off as well as for the better-off.

My art breathes and speaks of life. With the solo outdoor sculpture exhibition "The White Dress Nation 1", I tried to find its identity by expressing the shock of culture that the

East has been influenced in the West. By removing the color for the work "The White Dress Nation 2", it expresses the Korean people in the midst of the difficulties and despair of the 19th century.

In the artwork "Life and Movement", the dancers express the hot and cold life of each individual.

I cannot turn away from a nation that has endured a war that should never happen, a nation that has lived with the pain of family life separation due to undesired and unjust division. A nation that has become a staple of ideology in the dictatorship that has suppressed individual freedom and acts like torture. The spirit of the artist is to say that we must not turn around.

Since 2014, the Sewol ferry tragedy which killed 304 people has created every year, commemorative events as well as related reunions and events inviting bereaved families are present.

Rally for Peace to call for the easing of sanctions in North Korea, organize performances by inviting artists for "Comfort Women", and continue with solidarity activities by organizing conferences for the reunification of the 2 Koreas in Europe, book concerts and establishing networks abroad for Korean-Americans. From this year, we will endeavor to inform the inhabitants of the peaceful reunification of the 2 Koreas, so that the declaration of the end of the war could be made.

# Life is an art.

**Every day of an  
artist who touches  
and lives is art.  
With love,  
children are born,  
grow up and  
become adults.**



# Nationalism, Mobility, and Citizenship in the Covid Era.

By Prof. Peter J. Spiro

The Covid-19 pandemic proved the first major blow to the post-globalization system of mobility. The lockdown reinforced national identities as many individuals returned to their homelands. Constraints on international travel have also temporarily reduced the value of mobility privileges for many. But the fallout from the pandemic will ultimately accelerate pre-existing trends towards citizenship acquisition as transnational elites look to insure against future shock events.

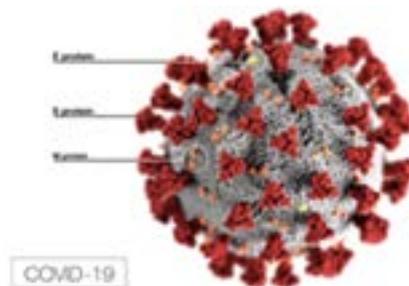
As almost all countries moved to shut down their borders in an attempt to prevent the virus from coursing its way across the world, waves of people boarded planes to return to their homelands. These were not just interrupted vacations but the interrupted lives of individuals working, studying, and otherwise living abroad. For the most part, those who traveled in these fretful circumstances were going home to places in which they had citizenship, but not just citizenship — home in the sense of their primary sentimental ties.

That shows the continuing importance of citizenship in its conventional understanding. Citizenship has historically been about where a person is 'from'. Citizenship did not concern itself much with third-country mobility privileges. Citizenship has guaranteed a right of entry into the country in which that citizenship is held. That right has perhaps been taken for granted in the wake of globalization, at least with respect to affluent individuals who have enjoyed substantial global mobility privileges. Where your passport was from was of little significance as long as it was premium class.

That changed with Covid. US passport holders, accustomed to traveling the world obstacle free, are now welcome in only a handful of states. The spectacle of a group of Americans who are not accustomed to being stopped from going anywhere being turned away from Sardinia after arrival on their private jet exemplified the shift. As Covid spread, almost all states allowed the entry of their citizens at the same time as they clamped down almost completely on the entry of others.



**So Covid is making people feel their citizenship more than before. But Covid is also giving people more reason to secure additional citizenships. Holders of premium citizenships now have an incentive to secure additional citizenships.**



The Americans barred from entering Sardinia can, for instance, follow the example of their compatriot and Google founder Eric Schmidt, who applied for Cypriot citizenship, and seek alternatives. Others will consider additional citizenships as a kind of health insurance against future pandemics. The incidence of Covid-19 in Malta has been relatively low, and New Zealand has managed the pandemic extremely well. Both countries have a pathway to citizenship for investors. Investment citizenship is restricted to the very rich, but financial mortals can also acquire other citizenships through the luck of ancestry, or marriage, or other eligibility factors, and they will now have a reason to pursue it.

States, meanwhile, will have no incentive to clamp down on instrumentalized citizenship. Before Covid, they were already far along a path towards universal acceptance of dual citizenship, a key element in instrumentalized citizenship, and there are no signs that this acceptance will be reversed.

The growing number of people who were enjoying globalized lives are probably going to want to resume those lives sooner or later. With the distribution of effective vaccines, travel restrictions will ease, and interstate mobility will return. Citizenship may still hold great meaning in its traditional conception as a marker of home, but increasing numbers will be acquiring additional citizenships to protect their global privileges in the post-Covid era.

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