



2009 GLOBAL FORUM ON MODERN DIRECT DEMOCRACY

ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY 2009



SEPTEMBER 13TH~16TH 2009
IN SEOUL & NAMHAE, KOREA

You are cordially invited to participate in
2009 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy
on International Day of Democracy 2009

September 13-16, in Seoul & Namhae, Korea

Dear fellow citizen,

The Korea Democracy Foundation (KDF) and the Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe (IRI-Europe) are hosting the “2009 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy” in Seoul/Namhae, Korea on September 13-16 and we would like to ask for your participation and concern.

In recent years, many states around the world have introduced some forms of direct-democratic procedures – such as initiatives, referendums and popular votes on substantive issues. In many places these have become key elements of modern representative democracy. But it took a profound global financial crisis to bring about a large-scale awakening to the growing need to make our democracies more democratic, both within individual countries and also beyond national boundaries at the transnational level.

The “Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy” will focus on the global challenge of sustainability and on the key question of how direct democracy can make our economies more stable and secure. The biggest world conference so far dedicated to modern direct democracy will gather hundreds of experts, professionals and practitioners from across the world to map and mainstream the key developments ahead on all political levels, including the transnational one as both the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have started to develop participatory concepts.

In Asia, there have been some attempts of modern direct democracy in local level, but they are still in an unsatisfied stage as institutionalization. The Forum will offer the opportunity for Asia to get more acquainted with experiences from Europe and additionally for Europe to share the development in Asia, especially Korea. Sharing the efforts from the world conference taken place in Aarau, Switzerland last year, this forum will be the room to meet the diverse agenda of modern direct democracy and also we expect this forum to encourage further democratization in Korea.

Today we wish to extend to you our cordial invitation. We are especially interested in learning your experiences with direct democracy in your working fields, which will surely contribute to fulfilling the purpose of the very Forum.

The 2009 Global Forum will be the stage for lively discussions and global communication and it will open the door to the unique features of Korea. On your first day in Korea on September 13, a one-day briefing tour to the Demilitarized Zone between the two Koreas, Peace Village preparing the ground for a reunified democratic country, as well as the Korea Democracy Foundation office

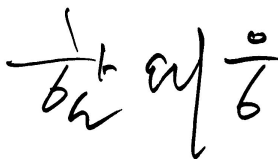
in Seoul will show you today's Korea that houses its past and future.

On September 14th, the second day, the Forum will welcome its guest at the Seoul International Press Center in its opening plenary and will transfer the venue to the Namhae County to engage in specific thematic sessions. The event will celebrate what all of us are gathered to honor – democracy - on the UN International Day of Democracy (September 15th) before its conclusion. Although all expenses within Korea will be covered by us, please make your own travel arrangements to/from Incheon International Airport with arrival on September 12th and departure on September 17th at the earliest.

Once again, we welcome you and your organization to join us for this global gathering of proactive direct democracy professionals!

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Ham Sei-Ung
President
Korea Democracy Foundation



Bruno Kaufmann
President
Initiative and Referendum Institute of Europe



Draft Agenda Overview

September 11-12 - Pre-Program, Academic Forum at Waseda University in Tokyo

- Transfers/Arrivals in Seoul

September 13: Briefing Tour

September 14–16: 2009 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy in Seoul and Namhae >see below

September 17: Transfers/Departures from Seoul

	Sunday 09/13/2009	Monday, 09/14/2009	Tuesday, 09/15/2009	Wednesday 09/16/2009
Morning	Briefing Tour - venues of relevance for the understanding of Korean history, current affairs - Gyeongbok Palace/ DMZ(Demilitarized Zone)/National Parliament, etc	Opening Plenary Keynotes Introduction to the Thematic Forums in Seoul	Plenary Session: Into the World of Modern Direct Democracy Practices	Concluding Plenary and Toward to the 2010 GFMDD
Afternoon		Transfer from Seoul to Namhae in the South of the Country	Thematic Forums: a) Education Forum b) Local DD Forum c) Activists Forum d) Transnational Democracy Forum e) infrastructure for DD	Transfer from Namhae to Seoul
Evening	Reception hosted by Swiss Embassy in Korea	Dinner	Host Country Event II: Public Event on the UN International Day of Democracy	Free Evening

AGENDA

9/12(Sat). Arrival Day

Arrival of most participants to Incheon International Airport near Seoul and transfer to downtown hotel

9/13(Sun) Day1. MODERN DEMOCRACY IN KOREA

- **Briefing Tour** to Gyeongbok Palace/ DMZ(Demilitarized Zone)/ National Parliament and other venues of relevance for the understanding of Korean history, current affairs and future prospects of modern democracy.
- **The Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy arrives in Seoul:** “(in)formal” handing-over from Switzerland to Korea at a Reception hosted by the Swiss Embassy in Korea

9/14(Mon) Day 2. OPENING PLANERY AND TRANSFER

- 09:00 **Registration at Seoul International Press Centre start**
- 10:00 **Welcome addresses by** Fr. Sei-ung Ham(President of KDF)/Mr. Hyun-tae Jeong(Governor of Namhae County) and Representatives of the Korean Government and Parliament, the Swiss Government, the California Government and the European Union
- 10:40 **Introduction statement** by Bruno Kaufmann(IRI-Europe) on “The Democratization of Democracy - a global task”
- 10:55 **World Tour to Modern Direct Democracy Assessments and Outlooks by**
Ramon Casiple, Institute for Political and Electoral Reform in Manila on Asia
Theo Schiller, IRI Europe at Marburg University on Europe
Joe Mathews, New America Foundation on North America
David Altman, Universidad Catolica in Santiago de Chile on Latin America
- 11:40 **Opening Keynote** on Modern Direct Democracy in times of financial turmoil by Representative of Economiesuisse
- 12:00 **Plenary Feedback Session**
- 12:20 **Into new democratic territory:** The Korean democratization movement in Korea as an inspiration for the world by former Senator in USA , Mike Gravel
- 12:30 **The Global Forum Working Program:** Introduction to the Thematic Workshops and the Global Forum Concluding Note.
- 12:45 End
- 13:00 Back to Hotel
- 14:00 Departure to Namhae, Lunch on the go
- 18:30 ca. Arrival at Namhae County Conference and Hotel Venue
- 20:00 Dinner

9/15(Tue) Day 3 UN DAY OF DEMOCRACY

- 09:00 **Into the World of Modern Direct Democracy Practice**
Short Stories and brief inputs from across the globe
- 10:45 **Forum Feedback Session**
- 11:15 **Direct and Participatory Democracy in Korea** by Seung-su Ha(Jeju University) for an overview and Namhae Governor for a local insight
- 11:45 End of morning session
- 12:00 Lunch(One big table for each thematic workshop group)
- 13:30 **Thematic Workshops** on a)Education b)Local DD c) Activist Forum d) Transnational democracy e) Administration and Infrastructure of Modern DD
- 17:30 End

18:30 Transfer to nearby costal village for event(and optional as overnight-stay in private guest rooms)

19:00 **Public Event** on International Day of Democracy

9/16(Wed) Day 4. CONCLUDING PLENARY

08:30 Transfer back to the Venue

09:00 **Reports and Feedbacks from the Thematic Workshops**

11:00 **Concluding plenary keynote** on “the future of transnational politics and popular sovereignty” by Adam Lupel from the International Peace Institute in New York

11:30 Into the future of (the Global Forum on) Modern Direct Democracy in Asia

a) Working Plan for Asia, by Raj Liberhan(India Habitat Center/Delhi)

b) Bringing the process back to people in the US by Rob Stern(Center for Governmental Studies/San Francisco)

c) Conclusion Note and next steps by Jung-ok Lee and Bruno Kaufmann

12:30 End

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Transfer Bus back to Seoul(option 1) or Briefing tour to Namhae County and later return to Seoul

9/17(Thu). DEPARTURE DAY

Departure of most international participants from Incheon Airport

The Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy is hosted by

IRI Europe - Europe's global direct democracy think-tank

The Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe (IRI Europe) is a transnational think-tank dedicated to research and education on the procedures and practices of modern direct democracy.

Modern direct democracy facilitates popular sovereignty within the framework of a representative system by giving every citizen the right to initiate new proposals (e.g. new laws or constitutional amendments) and to take part in the final decision-making. As modern direct democracy has become much more common in Europe and worldwide, IRI Europe conducts research activities, offers educational programmes and is involved in analytical and consultancy work.

IRI Europe is a non-partisan, non profit-making association with headquarters in Marburg/Germany and brings together some of the best experts and practitioners of the initiative and referendum process across Europe and the world. IRI Europe is part of the emerging global network of IRI think-tanks, which also includes the US-based Initiative & Referendum Institute and IRI Asia.

Korea Democracy Foundation

Korea Democracy Foundation (KDF) was created with the legislation of Korea Foundation Act on June 28, 2001, which was passed by National Assembly with the belief that the spirit of democracy movement should be extended, developed and acknowledged as a critical factor in bringing democracy to Korea.

The foundation is a not-for-profit organization set up for the purpose of enhancing Korean democracy through a variety of projects aimed at inheriting the spirit of the movement.

To realize the vision "to become a model integrated service institution for democracy research and development in Asia," KDF works together with all those around the world working to develop democracy, expand human rights and spread peace. KDF is expanding diverse collaboration activities for Korean, Asian and world democracy and meeting more global citizens who are still suffering.

Namhae County

Namhae-gun is located in the center of Hallyeosudo on the southernmost Korean peninsula. The beautiful and historic district has a clean environment and is saturated with historical spirit. The people are simple-mannered, and they live harmoniously with the nature.

Namhae-gun is famous for its beautiful nature. It has breezy forests, white sand beach, various sizes of islands around the Hallyeosudo, and a mountain that has the most unusual shaped stones and rocks. When visiting, you will be able to feel the loyalty of the General Yi Sun-sin, and the filial piety of Seopo Kim Man-jung, who wrote the classical literature Guun-mong.

County Government endeavors to be a leading county in Korea based on its ecological environment and rich history. It has entered into the new age of Namhae due to the founding of the new industrial region in the circle of Jinju and Gwangyang area; opening of the freeway between Daejeon and Jinju; and the opening of the traffic bridge between Changseon and Samcheon.

Practical Information

1. All international invitees make and cover their own travel arrangement from/to Korea (mostly Incheon International Airport). All arrangements within Korea from 12th to 17th-accommodation, meals, transportation (excluding from/to airport), conference fees, and materials- are covered by the host organization excepting personal expenses. If you want to extend your staying or need to stay another hotel or room type which is different with our choices, you have to cover the extra charge by yourself.
2. We're going to ask the presentation papers by personally. But, if there're someone who wants to share your experiences and opinion as a presenter, especially in the program on 15th Sep, please let us know as soon as possible.
3. We still have room for more invitees. If there is someone who might be interested in our event around you, please let them know this event. Our d-day for registration is extended till 17th of July.
4. For registration and updates please send an email to Ms. Munjin Park (munjiny505@kdemo.or.kr) at the KDF headquarter in Seoul. We expect that the website for 2009GFMDDD will be launched by the end of July and made available for all interested parties.
5. If you have some special inquiries (regarding of your health or etc.), please let us know in advance.
6. Regarding the Pre- and Post Conferences please check out www.c2d.ch for the Academic Forums (September 11th-12th).

Registration / Contact

Korea Democracy Foundation (KDF)

Address 1st Fl. Paichai Chongdong "B" Bldg. 9 Misulgwan-gil Jung-gu, Seoul, Korea (100-785)
Telephone +82-2)3709-7632 or 7633
Fax +82-2)3709-7610
E-mail munjiny505@kdemo.or.kr or munjiny505@gmail.com
Homepage <http://www.kdemocracy.or.kr>
Person in charge Ms. Munjin Park

International Director of 2009GFMDDD

Telephone +46708234469
E-mail kaufmann@iri-europe.org
Homepage <http://www.iri-europe.org/>
Person in charge Bruno Kaufmann

Venue Details

Forum Venue

Seoul International Conference Hall, Korea Press Foundation 20th Fl.
(100-750)1-25, Korea Press Foundation, Taepyongno, Jung-gu, Seoul, Korea

Namhae Namhae Sports Park Hotel
San 178, Usan-ri, Nampyoung-eup, Naju, Jeollanam-do, Korea
1182-9 Seosang-ri, Seo-myeon, Namhae-gun, Kyoungsangnam-do
Tel : +82-55)862-8811
Fax : +82-55)862-6446
Website: <http://www.namhaehotel.co.kr/main/index.jsp> (in Korean only)

Accommodation

Seoul Vabien Suite II
25-10 Uijuro, 1-ga, Jung-gu, Seoul, Korea (100-783)
Tel: +82-2)6399-0113
Website: <http://www.vabiensuite.com/ENG/>

Namhae Namhae Sports Park Hotel(same as forum venue)

* and optionally private guesthouse in costal village(1 room for 2 participants, Korean style)

: <http://kr.blog.yahoo.com/tjawlq24/MYBLOG/yblog.html?fid=0&m=lc&p=2&tc=2&tt=1247114127&pc=1> (sample picture)

<http://darangyi.go2vil.org/> (website for the village, only in Korean)

* for more information of Namhae County, please see the <http://www.namhae.go.kr/eng/>