



The Debater—Special Edition

Latest News

June 2007

Announcements from the World Convenor—Joshua Park

1. Please send in the debater blurbs for your teams ASAP if you have not already done so.
2. We have received partial sponsorship for the Optional Tour on July 7. Currently, the rate for the tours are at 38,000 won per person, which is about 25% lower than the lowest rate available elsewhere. We will continue to look for ways to lower this further or provide it for free. In the meantime, we need to gauge numbers for each of the available tours. Each team should provide information on how many individuals would be interested in Option 1 (DMZ tour), Option 2 (Yongin Folk Village), or Option 3 (Lotte World), at the current rate. Please send this information to tourland@paran.com by June 25. Please put in the subject line: “WSDC Optional Tour (Country Name)”.
3. For those of you arriving on July 2, there will be a welcoming committee to greet you at the gates at the airport. They will guide you to the bus, which will bring you to the hotel. Transportation may also be arranged for those arriving early. Please make sure you have confirmed your flight schedule with Maritza Leach at maritsam@telusplanet.net.
4. Schools in Korea tend to be more formal than most countries, with most schools requiring their students to wear uniforms. Therefore, it would be good to bring semi-formal (for debates) to formal (for opening and closing ceremonies) attire—this applies to debaters, coaches and adjudicators.

Weather in Seoul

Summer in Seoul is hot and humid, with temperatures reaching up into the mid 30's Celcius. Early July may also be in the middle of the rainy season. Therefore, you may want to pack a large umbrella along with some light clothing (or purchase one upon arrival). However, because you will be transported to and from the venues in air-conditioned buses and most, if not all, your venues will be air-conditioned, you will also want to have something to put on in case it gets too cold inside the buildings.

Laundry

Laundry and dry cleaning are available at the hotel, but at standard top-class hotel rates (i.e. very expensive). We will arrange for one day of laundry pickup for an affordable rate on July 7 or July 8. More details will be provided during the orientation meeting on July 2.

Internet Access

Korea is one of the world's best wired nations in the world. Internet is widely accessible in Seoul, and you can use your notebook to connect to wireless Internet in many parts of the city.

Internet access will also be available on each floor at assigned lab rooms. If you bring your own notebook computer, you will be able to plug in at these hubs and have access to the Internet. Wireless Internet access is also available on the first and second floors of the hotel.

The transportation system in Seoul

During your free time, you may wish to travel around Seoul. Here are the following transportation options.

-Subway

Seoul provides one of the world's finest subway service in the world. The hotel is located very close to Hakdong Station on Line 7. You can get more information about the subway at the Korea Tourism Bureau website:

(http://english.tour2korea.com/01TripPlanner/Transportation/subway_main.asp?kosm=m1_4&konum=4).

-Bus

While buses are very well connected, they are considerably less convenient for foreigners. English service is not provided except for some famous stations, so it is rather difficult for non-Korean speakers to ride the bus in Seoul.

- Taxi

Taxi fare in Seoul is relatively inexpensive. The basic fare is 1,900 KRW. You should be able to get around to almost anywhere in the city for less than 10,000 KRW, unless you run into very heavy traffic, which may be likely especially during rush hours. Under no circumstances should you be paying more than 20,000 KRW for travel within Seoul. Taxi drivers are usually unable to speak English. However, free interpretation service is always offered—you can find instructions on the window of the cab.

Useful Korean phrases

Here are some useful Korean phrases that you may want to learn. Even though many Koreans can carry basic conversations in English, knowing and using some Korean will always get you a better response.

Romanization	Korean	Definition
Neh	?	Yes
Ah-nee-oh	???	No
Bu-tak-hab-ni-da	?????	Please
Gahm-sah-hahm-ni-da	?????	Thank you
Sil-le-hahm-ni-da	?????	Excuse me
Ahn-nyong-ha-se-yo	?????	Hello
Ahn-nyong-hee-ga-se-yo	??????	Good bye
Chun-mahn-e-yo	????	You're welcome
Mahn-na-seo-bahn-gap-sup-ni-da	?????????	Nice to meet you
To-ron-dae-hwae	????	Debating Championships

If you're interested, you may want to visit Busan Digital University's *Survival Korean Course* (<http://www.bdu.ac.kr/survival%20korean/index.html#>) (You have to install Active X control to view the video).

Also, you can hear listen to and practice basic Korean Expressions in the Official Site of Korea Tourism Organization. (http://english.tour2korea.com/02Culture/KoreanLanguage/handy_korean_phrases01.asp?kosm=m2_9&konum=subm2_1).