Aug 20, 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope you are surviving our hot and humid mid-west weather! Korean people call these days *Bok-Nal* (복날), or “dog days” and eat special foods such as Ginseng Chicken Soup and Redbean Porridge to overcome the heat. However, nothing seems to be more challenging than the ongoing pandemic situation.

As we approach the 75th anniversary of the Korea Liberation (August 15, 1945), we think about the hardship, resilience and fight for justice that all Koreans embraced during the Japanese Occupation. We remember and will learn from their experience to help us overcome the current injustices of our country.

Though our *DanO* event in June was postponed, we successfully came up with a new online program: our **GKF Webinar Series**. We deliver these on the third Thursday each month at 7 pm. Launched in May with a discussion on how South Korea did successfully manage the COVID-19 crisis, this Webinar Series greatly broadens our audience base not only into the U.S. east and west Coasts but also to other locations around the world. Especially, we are excited to have partnership with the Asian Affairs Center and Institute for Korean Studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia who are co-hosting this series and the providing the online platform. Our popular *Chuseok* Festival in September (Sep 17-19) will also be an online celebration this year; we’ll send you more information about it later.

This year GKF was able to make a smooth transition in leadership. On November 19, 2019, at its Annual Meeting, the GKF Board of Directors elected me as its new chairperson. I am honored and humbled to serve GKF and its constituents. We are now entering into a process of strategic planning, to assure GKF will serve its mission well for years to come. With this planning and our expanding collaborations with American heartland’s cultural and educational institutions, we anticipate many good things to come from GKF.

GKF needs your support to sustain its programs and events. We would very much appreciate your thoughts about our programs, the gifts of your precious time as we plan and deliver these programs, as well as your continued generous financial support. Your donations go entirely toward delivering our wonderful programs.

I truly look forward to meeting you all in person and thank individually soon.

With sincere appreciation and best wishes,

Seungkwon You, Ph.D

Chairperson, Gateway Korea Foundation

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Co-Director, The Institute for Korean Studies

Director, Global Leadership Program at the Asian Affairs Center

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