Korea Community Care into Global Humanity

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Abstract

We want to have an opportunity to learn in a global context why GAN is so important to Jeju as Korea's largest Island in a multi-cultural society. Politically, Jeju Island succeeds have to survive ordeal from Jeju 4.3 Grand Tragedy. Geologically, as Jeju Island is located at center of East Asia, it has benefits from easy access to main cities to the island such as Beijing, Shanghai, Tokyo, Osaka, Seoul, Busan, Hong Kong, Taipei and so on. Environmentally, as Jeju was designated UNESCO Biosphere, World Natural Heritage and Geo parks, we want to keep it as a longevity island. Culturally, as we recognize it as a specialized in Western countries by human peace, Jeju as a World Peace Island tries to integrate aging human life agenda into part of a human life one. As the result, we suggest "Korea Care into Global Humanity in the Asia Pacific Context" as integrated policy agenda of both Korea and Peace Island villages for the 2021 GAN Biennial Conference from September 26 to 30, 2021 in Jeju Island Korea. As it based on village healing by villagers, Jeju island is small, as there is strong solidarity between, we believe it can revive Korea communities.

Key words:
Global Aging Network, Jeju Island, Jeju 4.3 Grand Tragedy, a World Peace Island, Korea Community Care, Global Humanity, Asia Pacific Context.

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Introduction

On February 22, 2019, GAN Korea (World Environment and Island Institute of Jeju Nat’l University, World Association for Island Studies, Lindenbaum Festival Orchestra, Chungsoo Welfare Association) applied the 2021 Biannual Global Aging Network (GAN) conference held on Jeju Island with the assistance of Philadelphia Asian Senior Service institute (PASSi) in Philadelphia and East Rock Institute (ERI) in New Haven, USA.

We want to have an opportunity to learn in a global context why GAN is so important to Jeju as Korea’s largest Island in a multi-cultural society. Politically, Jeju Island succeeds have survived the ordeal 4.3 Grand Tragedy (Lee & Ko, 2018). Geologically, as Jeju Island is located at the center of East Asia, it has benefits from easy access to main cities to the island such as Beijing, Shanghai, Tokyo, Osaka, Seoul, Busan, Hong Kong, Taipei etc... Environmentally, as Jeju was designated UNESCO Biosphere, World Natural Heritage and Geo parks, we want to keep it as a longevity island. Culturally, as we recognize it was specialized in Western countries from human peace, Jeju as a World Peace Island tries to integrate aging human life one into a part of human life agenda. As the result, we try to suggest “Korea Care into Global Humanity in the Asia Pacific Context” as integrated policy agenda of both Korea and Peace Island villages for the 2021 GAN Biennial Conference from September 26 to 30, 2021 in Jeju Island Korea. As it is based on village healing by villagers, even though it is small but strong solidarities with neighbors, we believe, it can revive Korea communities.

We hope to trace brief history of some processes on why and how Jeju islanders create contents of ‘Korea Peace Island Care,’ as policy agenda for the 2021 GAN Biennial Conference from October of 2015 to present. Back to memories of accumulation of components for Korea Care, it starts to find ‘Peace Island Bulteok healing through cultural exchange programs,’ from July, 2010 to “Islands–20 Plus Six Culture Exploration in October of 2015. It extends to Jeju World Peace Academy (JWPA) plus Global Peace Bulteok Assembly in August, 2016. We tried to invite Jeju 4.3 survivor into Jeju 4.3 Testimony in May of 2017. In April of 2018, we tried to find healing method of Jeju 4.3 Grand Tragedy through musical performances. In March of 2019, we created “Jeju King Cherry Trees Eco-Exploration.”

Korea Community Care Through Culture

We suggest our whole idea of Jeju Woman Divers as Korea Peace Island Care or Healing to the world through article of Asian Women Studies titled as abstract of “A New Look at Korean Gender Roles: Jeju(Cheju) Women as a World Cultural Heritage.”(Ko, 2007).

"The Haenyeos (Jamnyeo or Jamsu), who have harvested shellfish, abalone, and seaweed with their original diving skills at offshore, and in the deep sea for over 1,700 years, have created and accumulated their achievements and challenges along the way. They were generally disregarded and the Haenyeos worked as alienated groups in the small island societies. They have dominated their profession because they are more physically suited for it than men. They can dive as deep as 15 to 20 meters and stay under water for around three minutes without the aid of breathing equipment.

Politically, they organized voluntary associations, called Jamsuhoi, that decide local village issues through democratic voting and decision-making. Through their power, they were able to maintain a four-month long uprising (January–April 1932) against Japanese Imperialism’s illegal management of marine products of their sea villages. Economically, they were able to support their households and educate their family members through income gained by selling products to the markets. It was evaluated that they greatly contributed to improving the prosperity of villages and the island economy as a whole. Since 1895, the Haenyeos regularly went abroad seasonally, to earn money at sea in such regions as China, Japan and the Korean peninsula. Their migration and settlements, especially on the Korean peninsula and Japan, are highly accepted
for their special skills, and the higher economic value of the products they catch in those areas. It is possibly explained by the economic gap between and developed their folklore, traditional rituals, and festivals that commemorate their hard work and wandering, Gypsy–like life in the deep sea: a little different from the mode of Korean p’ansori music. The Haenyeos also have a gender component that has contributed to developing Jeju Island family value system as an integrated family model upon the combination of big and nexus family systems in their home. Through the discussions, this paper argues the Jeju Haenyeos serve as an example of equitable gender roles in small island societies, different from or beyond the scope of traditional Korean Confucian stereotypes.”

Dr. Chang Hoon Ko and Dr. Richard Herr started their collaborative works through Jeju Bulteok, the name of the traditional space at Gapa Island in Jeju Island Korea for Haenyeos Bulteok on July 31, 2010.

“…The Bulteok is made by stacking stones by the seaside near the village… Here they decide all issue srelating to their diving activities by voting democratically and prepare for their diving. After their diving activities, Jeju’s Haenyeos distribute their product according to their contributions at sea. They have kept their dream of Jeju community alive, where all islanders live freely and peacefully and have equitable rights.” (Ko. 2010, Jeju Haenyeo Project to Illuminate Their Life.)

They develop their idea into a kind of “Building the Bridge : Implementing the Jeju I–20 Initiative,” was world at the 1st Jeju I–20 Initiative on 1st of October, 2015 as below:

“Korea has 16 small island developing states (SIDS) in the neighbouring Asia–Pacific region. These states have all the rights of statehood but with only limited capacity to meet the needs of their people as well as their obligations to the international community. If they are to play their part appropriately as states, they require a sympathetic international environment.

...The International Year came culminated at the September 2014 SIDS Conference in Apia with the SAMOA Pathway outcomes document. This action plan found that “there is a need for a more integrated approach to the sustainable development of small island developing States, with the support of the international community and all stakeholders”.

The Jeju I–20 Initiative seeks to contribute to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway by building a more effective bridge between two of the critical stakeholders in the development process – the G–20 states and the SIDS.

The G–20 has shown a willingness to embrace inclusiveness in setting the G–20 agenda through such initiatives as the B–20 to provide a channel for business perspectives: the L–20 for labor inputs and the Y–20 for generational aspirations. In the same vein, the I–20 has the potential to play an important role in helping the G–20 deliver meaningful implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

The Jeju Initiative to create an I–20 can promote a parity of esteem or mutual respect by providing a more equal arena for meeting the interests of both the G–20 states and the SIDS just previous initiatives such as the B–20, L–20 and Y–20 have done in their policy areas for their stakeholders. (WEIS. Ko. 2015. Introduction. PP. 146–147).

Okkyung Pak supports the argument that Jeju Jamnyeo’s Bultuk provides “A Healing Culture” to the world (Pak. 2018.) It has become a cornerstone of 6 Party Talks Plus (6+1) Culture Forum :

“We are happy to invite 6 Party Talks Plus (6+1) Culture Forum into Jeju Island as the 1st annual meeting of 6+1, which was discussed among participants of Jeju Peace Island for Korea session of Jeju Forum (June 28, 2018), Jeju World Peace Academy Summer session (August 4–7, 2018) and Fall session (October 8–December 5, 2018) programs and Human Rights and Reparation Justice in the Jeju 4·3 Grand Tragedy (October 8, 2018), Jeju
4.3 Social Healing Initiatives Through Human Rights and Peace Education (October 10, 2018) and Jeju 4.3 Social Healing Initiative for Korea Through Peace Music (October 30, 2018). We can try to find another reason from some discussions about launching 6+1 Culture Forum through activating peace concept based on everyday life happiness of ordinary people at the grass roots level on their way for accumulating their city’s peace-tradition globally such as Jeju, Okinawa, Osaka, Vladivostok, Paris and so on. Launching 6+1 forum will stimulate ‘people to people democracy’, initiate ‘people to people dialogue’, and connect ‘people to people diplomacy’ in many local and alienated areas of Asia Pacific, different from customs of West European countries but as same as sharing democratic value among people, group and institutions.” (Ko. 2018, the 18th Peace Island Forum.)

Korea Peace Island Care or Healing Through Peace Education and Jeju 4.3 Village Testimony

On August 5–7, 2018, at the 3rd Jeju World Peace Academy, we try to set up a Jeju 4.3 Social Healing Model at the grass roots level:

At the field trip to Bukchon 4.3 village at the outskirts of Jeju city, around 30 students stop at Bukchon-ri, which is famous for Jeju 4.3 novel titled as “Uncle Soonee,” by novelist Gi-young Hyun. One female survivor, Ms. Ko Wansoon witnesses about villagers’ meeting with USA soldier at the school ground in Fall of 1947 under American military rule to meet teacher who speaks English well to hire him as one of translators at USA military local government.

On 2nd day, they go to DongKwang 4.3 village at the western mountain village. Ms. Hong, Choon-ho witnesses students her life: “In December of 1948, villagers hide them into cave for their survival. Some of them were caught by police because their footsteps on the snow at the front of cave. Everybody were killed with bamboo spears at the Seogwipo Jeongbang waterfall. They all died. They have lived through such a hard time of Jeju 4.3 up until now. ”

We decide to make a film focused on untold stories of two females into a video documentary, “Detained: untold stories of female survivors of two 4.3 lost villages. It is first time for students themselves to make a film by themselves. It is the result of Jeju World Peace Academy programs. We institutionalized it as Jeju World Peace Academy.

We keep in mind that, in making documentary film for both 2019 Philadelphia and Washington D.C. Conference: (1) it will focus on face to face encounter between islanders and American soldiers, (2) it will be made within 6 minutes, (3) it will be focused the situation of well known villages, (4) Jeju 4.3 female survivors will be actors. On October 10, 2018, at Jeju 4.3 Social Healing Initiative through Human Rights and Peace conference, we decide to shoot documentary film as educational one at the bottom of November at Bukchon-ri and Dongkwang-ri by Jeju World Peace Academy students, Mr. Deokhyeon Kim, Won-jae Lee, Wonseop Ko, Sejun Im and Kwangsik Kang together. At the bottom of December, 2018, we can also decide its title, “Detainees,” because we confirm that one of them, Ms. Choon-hong, had spent 5 month at Seogwipo military camp from April to August, 1949 with suggestion of researcher, Mr. Michael Saxton.

The Jeju people have come forward to tell their
We are proud that, on March 1, 2019, three students from Jeju National University (JNU) Jeju 4·3 Delegation joined in Jeju 4·3 Reconciliation Conferences held Chicago, New Haven and Washington D.C. in USA from April 17 to 20, 2018 as one part of Jeju 4·3 70th Anniversary Memorial international events with recommendation of the Student Council of the College of Social Sciences (SCCSS) of JNU 2018. Those was sponsored by the World Environment and Island Institute of JNU, World Association for Island Studies, Diocese of Cheju, Jeju Islanders’ Solidarity for Jeju 4·3 and the Center for East Asian Studies of University of Chicago, USA. Especially, on April 19, 2019, they had a dialogue about Jeju 4·3 with U.S. Congressman, Mr. Mark Takano. One of the JNU students asked the Congressman to raise the issue concerning enactment of so called “Jeju 4·3 Reconciliation Act” at the Capitol. In his response to the JNU student asking, he promised that if he is reelected Congress at General Election in November of 2018, he will do his best during the next term (WEIS, 2018.).

The SCCSS makes an agreement among the JNU Catholic Student Club 2019, Jeju World Peace Academy Alumni 2018 and other student groups while attending the lecture, “Jeju 4·3 and World Peace,” today that we are up to launch “10,000 Students sign for a Jeju 4·3 Petition to the U.S. Capitol” as one of 3.1 National Movements 100th Anniversary Memorial events from March 1 to April 18, 2019; at the ceremony at “Mt. Halla, an original habitat of the Jeju King Cherry Trees,” on 20th of March, 2019 in order to support the dialogue of U.S. Congressman Mr. Mark Takano. One of the JNU students asked the Congressman to raise the issue concerning enactment of so called “Jeju 4·3 Reconciliation Act” at the Capitol. In his response to the JNU student asking, he promised that if he is reelected Congress at General Election in November of 2018, he will do his best during the next term (WEIS, 2018.).

Through these kinds of testimonies at grass roots villages, we have tried to make a peace education model for social healing at grass roots village level such as Buk-jon-ri, Dong-kwang-ri, Chung-soo-ri, which have provided in field trips of Jeju World Peace Academy JWPA and the Global Peace Bulteok Assembly since 2010. The number of victims was more than 30,000 people. It was argued that the “Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law” formulated by the UN Human Rights Commission in 2005 should be applied to victims of the Jeju 4·3 Tragedy. We have kept in mind that, in April 2018, President Moon Jae-in delivered a strong, more detailed apology to Jeju people at a memorial ceremony honoring the 70th Anniversary of Jeju 4·3 and its victims. President Moon offered a “profound apology” and “deepest sympathy” to the surviving victims, bereaved families and following generations stigmatized by guilt-by-association for their continued suffering. The Jeju 4·3 survivors needs enduring social healing. That’s the reason why Jeju wants to invite the 2021 Global Aging Network. Through its invitation into Korea Jeju, we want to reflect common tasks of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow of, Multi-Cultures, Social Healing, Peace Education and Longevity Island in Asia Pacific (September 26–30, 2021, Jeju Island, S. Korea).
from ‘FOR A JOINT SOUTH KOREA AND UNITED STATES JEJU 4·3 INCIDENT TASK FORCE TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOSTER COMPREHENSIVE AND ENDURING SOCIAL HEALING THROUGH JUSTICE’ (March 27, 2014) we want to deliver papers containing signatures from 109,996 people asking for appropriate responses from the U.S. Government and the United Nations by the Jeju 4·3 70th Anniversary Memorial National Committee and Jeju 4·3 Victims Family Association to U.S. Embassy on October 30, 2018.

2. We confirm that this “10,000 Student signatures for the Jeju 4·3 Petition to U.S. Capitol” was the result of a screening event of Jeju 4·3 Film “Jiseul”(Park & Kang, 2013.), in April of 2018 by the SCCSS of JNU. It dispatching 3 JNU students to Jeju 4·3 USA Reconciliation Conference in April of 2018, participating in Jeju World Peace Academy 2018 (August 4–7, 2018,) and Social Healing Initiative through Human Rights and Peace Education (October 10, 2018) and so on. We hope to keep and encourage Jeju 4·3 Globalization projects by JNU students for the development of Jeju 4·3 Peace Education both at the grass roots and global level.

3. We, JNU students are proud of the tradition relating to Jeju 4·3 truth–finding activities that JNU students have done in the past, present, and future. Starting with surveys about the Jeju 4·3 Grand Tragedy at Jeju National University campus in 1960 after April 19 Students Revolution to the establishment Jeju 4·3 Bangsa Stone Tower to give solace to Jeju 4·3 victims in April of 1989 in memory of the truth–finding movements for the Jeju 4·3 Grand Tragedy.

On January 17, 2019, eighteen Jeju 4·3 survivors were found not guilty after a retrial of their cases before a Korean court on Jeju Island. This was the first decision that, the court announced, allowed them to recover their human rights and dignity as survivors of the Jeju 4·3 Massacre which started on March 1, 1947 and lasted until August 14, 1948 under the control of the U.S. army. Those Jeju people have come forward to tell their stories of that tragedy and have demanded compensation, which leads from darkness to light of Jeju 4·3 Tragedy. We, the Student Association 2019, JNU Catholic Student Club 2019, Jeju World Peace Academy Alumni 2018 and Graduate Student groups in attendance of the lecture, “Jeju 4·3 and World Peace,” in 2018 ask for a just, collaborative problem solving processes of these past injustices. We would like to proclaim the petition to the importance of U.S. participation in the process of Jeju 4·3 reconciliation, today, marking the important Korean holiday, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the March 1st National Liberation Day.”

Conclusion: Korea Peace Island Care or Can Revive Jeju 4.3 Communities Through Village Healing?
We applied the 2021 GAN Biennial Conference September 26–30, 2021 in Jeju Island Korea titled as “Korea Care into Global Humaninity” to Global Aging Network headquarters in February of 2019. For example, as Bukchon-ri wants to invite “Bukchon-ri 4.3 Human Rights House for 27 Jeju 4.3 survivors” into their villages, which provides Jeju 4.3 survivors...
healing or care at village level symbolically, if it will be happen. As Dongkwang-ri is also invites “Dongkwang 4.3 Dark Tourism Center,” into its village, which play an educational role through its dark tourism.

We hope it will be happen. At university student level, Jeju National University students ask “Jeju 4.3 Reconciliation Act” for both Jeju 4.3 victim family and Jeju islanders,” USA Congress to enact in a nearer future. We hope it will happen. We can expect bright light rather than heavy darkness from Jeju 4.3 Grand Tragedy positively.

References


[8] World Environment and Island Institute (2018), the Jeju 4.3 Reconciliation 2017 Pamphlet


Receiving Date: March 4, 2019
Reviewing Date: March 11, 2019
Reporting Date of Article Appearance: March 18, 2019