

# The Ajou Globe



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## Hot Summer with Cool Ajou International Summer School



The Ajou International Summer School (AISS) 2023 ended successfully. This time, *The Ajou Globe* (*The AG*) conducted interviews with Oh Dong-woo who works in the Office of International Affairs (OIA) and oversees the AISS and the participant of this year's AISS for the readers interested in the AISS.

### Interview with Mr. Oh from OIA

**Q. Hello, could you tell us something about the AISS?**

A. The Summer School program has been held 17 times between 2000 and 2016 as a short-term program. Although, the program was on a hiatus for 3 years since 2017, we resumed the program by conducting the International Winter School online due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The program marks its 20th anniversary this year. Many students participated in the AISS this year, including students from Taiwan, Germany, Lithuania, Malaysia, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Thailand, Tunisia, Finland, and the United States (U.S.). The duration of the activities being 17 days from July 24 to August 9, 2023. Only those students who earned nomination from Ajou's sister school and received high scores based on their cover letters including the purpose of participating in the International Summer School were selected for the program.

**Q. Could you tell us about the special programs conducted during the AISS 2023?**

A. Yes, we designed various programs like experiencing K-Culture with various hands-on training activities only for the participants.

Students could enroll in classes to learn about Korean traditional food, K-pop dance, and Calligraphy. We also tried to deliver the excellence of Korean culture by taking the students to Suwon famous sites and various tourist attractions. The students of the Summer School watched the football match of K-League at

Suwon World Cup Stadium, went to a movie at the Suwon Media Center, and visited the Bukchon Hanok Village and SEOUL SKY of LOTTE WORLD.

**Q. Is there a reason that Ajou university does not run the program during the winter season?**

A. The OIA conducts the program mainly in the summer season. This is due to some restrictions related to conducting this program arising because of the differences in the academic schedule between foreign universities and Ajou.

**Q. Could you tell us about some advantages of the AISS that the foreign students studying in Korea can benefit from?**

A. First, Ajou University has a geographical advantage because it is in a metropolitan area. Also, Ajou University provides students with good opportunities to experience K-pop, K-Drama, and K-Culture because of its convenience of accessibility to Seoul. In fact, many foreign students have gone on a trip to Seoul spontaneously with Korean Buddy students when they had no schedule for the Summer School.

**Q. What would you like to tell the present as well as the future participants of the Summer School?**

A. The AISS consists of programs that mainly focus on satisfying the needs of foreign students, and the responses of this year's program have been great. Furthermore, foreign students can quickly adapt to Korean culture thanks to the Buddy and working scholars. I think the AISS is a good opportunity for the foreign students to learn more about Korea during their visit. We are planning to conduct this program on a bigger scale next year. Do show us your support. If you have further queries about our program, feel free to get in touch with me.

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### Interview with student who worked as a Buddy

**Q. Could you share with us your wonderful experience as a Buddy in the AISS?**

A. Lee Yu-jung (4th grade, the Department of History)  
Most of all, going out with foreign friends during the day when there were no classes was the most exciting thing. Going to café and some attractions that I liked made me feel like they were my real friends who can empathize with each other, not just a Buddy only valid for this program. Also, I was fascinated by the students who eagerly studied Korean

because of their interest in Korea. They made me think that I could learn from them, although we were maybe of the similar age.

**Q. What influence did being a Buddy in the AISS have on you?**

A. I became confident in speaking English. Before this program, I used to be nervous about speaking perfect English, such as using correct grammar and pronunciation while conversing. However, now, I can speak English confidently without these worries. Furthermore, I have become confident to be friends with foreigners, regardless of their nationality, whoever shares similar interests like me.

**Q. Would you like to say something to the future Buddy students?**

A. I was so worried about befriending foreign students openly whose nationality, race and, culture were different. However, I was able to participate in the program happily thanks to other Buddy students, people in charge, and foreign students. I can say that I am so proud of myself and have no regrets. If you have ever thought about having friends from foreign countries during your school life, I strongly recommend you to apply for the Buddy program of the AISS!

If you are curious about the program and want more information, you can visit their website operated by the OIA through QR code. It explains in detail about the selection process, cost of the program, and provides a brochure related to this program.

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## Wish to Convey The AG to Tashkent: AUT Meeting



Ajou University in Tashkent (AUT) was founded in 2021 through the education agreement between Ajou University and the Uzbekistan government. *Civil systems Engineering, Architecture, and Electrical and Computer Engineering* are the courses available in AUT. Furthermore, *the Department of English Philology & Management, the Department of Korean Philology & Management, and the Department of IT Business* will soon be available in AUT. This means that the number of students at AUT will increase, and AUT will need several student organizations like the student council, school club, and school press.

However, there is no Student council in AUT. Although the clubs exist, the volume, numbers, and types of clubs are few. AUT also does not have a school press. Therefore, Amanlikov Valijon, who is AUT's head of Youth Affairs department, conducted a meeting with the head of the Student Support center team, staff which oversee the club, Student council, Student press, and *The Ajou Globe (The AG)* reporter, who participated in this meeting on behalf of *The AG* editor-in-chief. He asked a lot of questions regarding Ajou University's student's organization to make AUT's student organizations better. Thanks to the translator who came from Uzbekistan, both sides could communicate without any difficulty and exchanged useful information.

*The AG* believes that it would take some time to establish student organizations in the AUT since there is no proper system regarding student organizations now. After the concerned organizations are formed in AUT, *The AG* hopes to share convey the news between AUT and *The AG* soon.

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## Ajou University Volunteer Work in Mongolia's Suwon Citizen's Forest



Ajou University volunteer group participated in the "Suwon Citizen's Forest" creation event held in Mongolia. The event was held in Erdene Sum, Mongolia, from July 17 to 21, 2023. About 60 people, including Suwon-si officials, the students of Ajou University, and civic volunteers, participated. Since it was the first event to be held after the COVID-19 pandemic, a volunteer group at our school was formed on a smaller scale unlike before. Director Kim Heung-sik and other officials from the Graduate School of Public Affairs, faculty members of the College of Social Sciences, and the students participated.

This volunteer group conducted volunteer activities by investigating the status of the forest, the growth status of the trees, and managing the afforestation. They also visited the НАЛАЙХ (Nalahh) District Office and the Korean Embassy to continue discussions on exchanges between Mongolia and Korea. Suwon-si signed an agreement with the Mongolian government and Blue Asia company in 2011 to prevent the spread of deserts in Mongolia and reduce yellow dust and began to create a "Suwon Citizen's Forest". At that time, Suwon-si decided to plant 10,000 trees on 10ha of land every year by 2020 and plant 100,000 trees on 100ha of land for 10 years. This goal was achieved early in 2016 thanks to the efforts of Suwon citizens and volunteers, who have been steadily participating for five years. Ajou University has also participated in forest restoration work in Mongolia since 2015. Ajou University volunteer group has participated in volunteer activities, tree-planting events, and exchanges with local residents and college students.

During the visit, the Ajou University volunteer group participated in exchange events at Ulaanbaatar University to inform the global environment and share the need for overseas relief projects. An official from Suwon-si said, "We would like to thank the students of Ajou University for always cooperating in the 'Suwon Citizen's Forest' project," adding, "Please show us a lot of support so that the 'Suwon Citizen's Forest' can be maintained well." The "Suwon Citizen's Forest" in Mongolia will be a great hope for the drying earth, in that we are in an era where the earth is boiling, beyond the era of global warming.

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## Have You Heard of Interdisciplinary Capstone Design?

There are a lot of capstone design classes in Ajou University these days. Capstone design is a program to encourage talented students who have the ability of creative overall design. Therefore, Ajou University conducts several capstone design classes. The subject named interdisciplinary capstone design is one of Ajou University's capstone design classes. This subject was introduced in 2016. However, many students are not aware that this subject exists. Interdisciplinary capstone design performs a role as a qualification when students try to get a job. Thus, *The Ajou Globe (The AG)* is trying to introduce this subject now.

This subject comes under the liberal arts and the convergent education program, whose attendee who takes this class can experience communication and cooperation among other students who attend the same class. Furthermore, this subject aims for students to work as a team to help build leadership qualities, creativity, and business skills by planning and solving the assignment, which society and industry require. Therefore, this class attendee forms a team with other students who are from different majors. Thus, when the team is formed, team members cannot be from a single major. Only college juniors and seniors can take this class.

Although this subject was introduced, only one team completed this project because no promotion was done regarding this subject. Therefore, *The AG* introduced the aforementioned team and named them Archive. The team members consist of majors from *the Department of Korean language and literature, the Department of English Language and Literature, the Department of history, and the Department of digital media.* They published an electronic book named "A Guide to Korean Life for International Students" in the Korean bookstore. They shared useful information regarding the life of an international student in the university in English and Korean versions.

Through this article, *The AG* hopes for many students to enroll in this class and come up with something creative like the Archive. *The AG* thinks that if they do that, it will have a significant influence in the Korean Society. Therefore, we recommend this subject to many Ajou University students.

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## Engrave the True Meaning of Sweat: Rural Volunteer Activity

Rural volunteer activity is for college students to help with insufficient work in rural areas during vacation. This is part of an activity to understand the situation in rural areas, and its origin can be found in rural enlightenment activities in the 1920s. During the summer vacation, the Ajou University 42nd Student Council "We:A" and Club Union "ONDO" organized 2023 rural volunteer activity together. Rural volunteer activity was conducted from August 16 to 19, 2023, and 26 students were recruited on a first-come, first-served basis from Ajou University. Students paid 70,000 won per person to participate and were able to receive 30 hours of volunteer work or one credit for "Community Service Practice" as a benefit for participating in the rural volunteer activity.



Students went to Yeongdong-gun, Chungcheongbuk-do for volunteer work in rural areas. As grapes and peaches are famous in Yeongdong-gun, the students helped with the arrangement of the grape greenhouse and the wine farm run by the village's senior citizens next to the village hall and went to a chili pepper and sesame farm to help. While the students were staying at the village hall, rural residents talked to them a lot as they walked by the hall; they were very curious about the students and praised them for their good work. In addition, when the students prepared meals outside, they sometimes came to taste the food and gave them feedback and a lot of food, such as corn and wine.

Most of the volunteer work in rural areas happens during the summer vacation, and the most worrisome and difficult things for students during the summer vacation were probably the weather, scorching heat, and heat wave. Heat stroke management was the most worrisome, and a heat wave warning was issued on the second day, but fortunately, no participant was injured during the activities. Kim Sung-bin, a staff member of the rural volunteer work, said, "In addition to the biggest purpose of the service, there are various benefits to it, and personally, it is a valuable and meaningful activity that helps build good interpersonal relationships. Therefore, I hope many students participate and volunteer."

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# Sons of Nation When Needed, Sons of Yours When Not



In Korea, there is a law that men who are healthy must serve in the military for a certain period. Males with obligation to serve in the military are also called "Sons of the Nation". However, as the title says, the nation does not take care of their sons when accidents happen in the military. Recently on July 19, 2023, there was a situation where marine corps was mobilized to find a missing person due to the flood. As a result, a soldier who was looking for the missing person went missing and returned as a corpse. The progress of the case is as follows.

Private first class of Korean Marine corps, Chae Su-geun was a soldier who was serving in the Korean Marine corps. He and his companions were delivered a mission to find a missing person near the river. Suddenly during the mission, Mr. Chae sunk into the water when the ground under the water collapsed. After the case was reported in the media, the fact was unveiled. Although it was certain that the flow of the river was too fast because of the flood, soldiers were unable to equip life vests. It is also reported that the First Marine Division Commander, Im Seong-geun, delivered an order to wear identical outfits without life vests. His order was to wear a functional red T-shirt with symbolizing the Marine Corps with a yellow-colored letter, "Marine Corps" written largely on its back. Furthermore, according to the order delivered by Commander Im, it is reported that he wanted the word Marine Corps to be clearly visible in the pictures and videos and the attitude of the active search operations to be broadcasted. Hence, he ordered the soldiers to dive into the water waist high without any life-saving equipment. He even said that he would go to check the operation site. Commander Im just used the mission to boast his commanding aspects by showing people his capabilities of carrying out a life-saving operation. As a result, a soldier lost his life because of the desire of the commander. There might be innumerable cases that might not have been reported to the superiors or the media. After the case of Mr. Chae, there are so many voices that wants a change in the military culture. However, this is just a meaningless infinite loop.

The Ministry of National Defense (MND) says that changes are going to be made, and they are trying to make the military culture more desirable. However, in the Netflix original drama *Deserter Pursuit (D.P.)*, there is a line that showcases the problems in the Korean military from a long time ago: "There are canteens in our military camp, and do you know what it says on the canteen? 1953. The canteens were used during the Korean War in 1953. How can the military change under the situation where even the canteens have not changed yet?" It is the main character's line conveying that it is meaningless to think that any major changes will be made in the military, with the soldiers' basic supplies unchanged. This line awakens the traditional problem of empty talk in the military among people. As accidents in the military are likely to lead to casualties, the attitude to respect all people in the military should be followed and be of most importance. Many people want the MND to prevent such cases rather than try to settle these accidents in a hurry after the incident happened.



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# Military Service Exemption Continues to Be Controversial



Republic of Korea (ROK) males before 31 years of age must fulfill military duty. Before enrolling in the army, applicants should undergo physical check-up. The Ministry of National Defense (MND) classifies the applicants into seven physical grades depending on their result of physical examination.

If the applicants are classified into grades between 1 and 3, they must choose either Republic of Korea Army (ROKA), Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF) or Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN). If the applicants receive a physical grade of 4, they are supposed to work in an official administrative post, such as school, village office and subway station. If the applicants receive the grade of 5, they cannot join the ROKA, ROKAF, and ROKN. Furthermore, they cannot work like the applicants in grade 4. However, when the war occurs, the applicants classified into physical grade 5 can support the soldiers. If the applicants are suffering from a disease or mental disability, they receive a physical grade of 6. They cannot go to the army and cannot support the soldiers in a war. If the applicant is classified into grade 7, they must undergo the physical examination again. The applicants receive their grades between 5 and 6 through re-examination and cannot enroll in the ROK military service.

The person who has won a gold, silver, or bronze medal in the Olympics and a gold medal in the Asian Games is also exempted from military service. For example, Son Heung-min, who is a famous soccer player in South

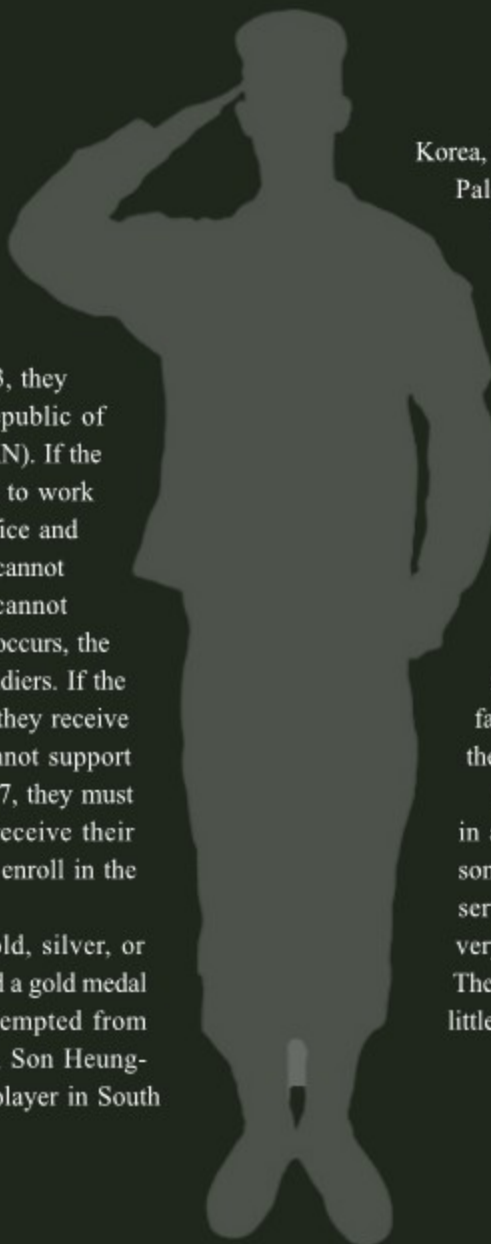


Korea, did not enroll in the army because he won a gold medal in 2018 Jakarta-Palembang Asian Games. Generally, normal young men must enroll in the army. However, a person with disability cannot enroll in the army. Besides, if a man is less than 31 years of age and lives in a region of the Military Demarcation Line, they are exempted from the ROK military service.

However, the exemption case which is applicable to Olympics is in controversy these days. When ROK was a developing country, the ROK government ruled out the sports player who received medals in the Olympics and got a gold medal in the Asian Games in ROK military service to promote ROK itself. However, some people argue not to give a military service exemption to sports players because ROK is a developed country now. This exemption makes many young men who must fulfill the military obligations avoid the army illegally. For example, a volleyball player named Cho Jae-sung issued a false diagnosis to avoid enrolling in the army. RAVI, who is a singer, used the military service evasion broker to avoid enrolling.

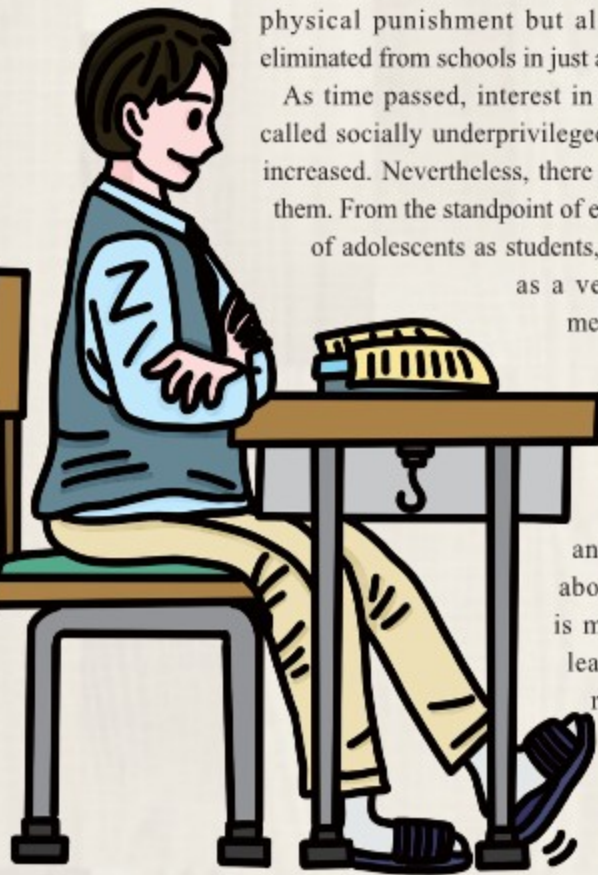
BTS is a famous K-pop group in the world. They promoted Korea in a variety of ways through their songs and music videos. Therefore, some people argue that BTS should be exempted from the ROK military service. However, the problem regarding military service exemption is very sensitive to ROK's young men who must fulfil the military duties. Therefore, the discussion regarding the exemption from military service is a little sensitive in ROK.

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# When Students Rights Entered the School Gate, Did the Teacher's Authority Get Expelled?

Teachers' status collapsed to the extent that they were reported for violating student human rights simply by imposing sanctions on students who consumed cup noodles during class. Even just a few decades ago, a punishment tool, that is, using a cane to hit students gently to lead them on the right path, was allowed in schools. There was a time when there were few students or parents who would complain of injustice to the corporal punishment for trivial reasons, such as going to school without wearing a school uniform tie or being late for school. In Korean society, why has not only unreasonable physical punishment but also teacher discipline been eliminated from schools in just a few decades?



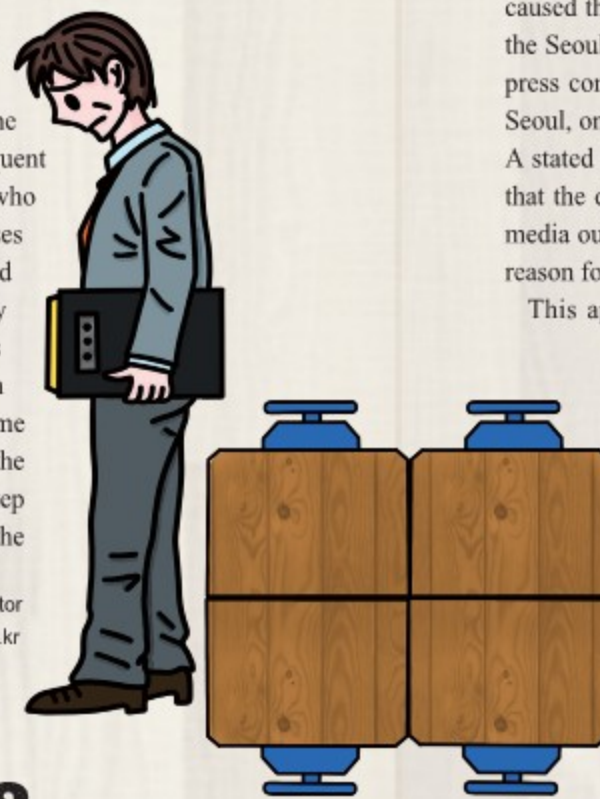
As time passed, interest in the human rights of the so-called socially underprivileged, including adolescents, has increased. Nevertheless, there are still conflicting views on them. From the standpoint of emphasizing the social position of adolescents as students, school education is regarded as a very important socialization mechanism because adolescence is a process of preparation for becoming an adult. The Framework Act on Education, which has been amended since 1998 and maintains, represents the above-mentioned viewpoint. It is mentioned that "Students, as learners, must abide by school rules, and must not interfere with teaching/research activities of teachers or disrupt order in the school." This emphasizes that certain

discipline is required to efficiently educate and manage many students within a limited space, and that inevitably students' rights are restricted in this process.

However, from the standpoint of emphasizing the position of adolescents as an independent human being, discipline most often was made regardless of the opinions of students who are subject to it and was used to control students. Representing this point of view is the ordinance of the students' rights, which began to be implemented at the local government level starting with Gyeonggi-do in the early 2010s. The ordinance of the students' rights raised problems with practices, such as corporal punishment, restrictions on hair and clothing, and inspection of belongings, and these practices disappeared in school. If it is an unfair practice, it is justifiable to abolish it. However, the ordinance of the students' rights should not act as an unconditional shield for students in the name of student human rights. Due to the abuse of the student human rights ordinance, the phenomenon of avoiding the position being assigned as homeroom teachers increases.

Korean teachers have no accepted means when they discipline their students. In contrast in the United States (U.S.), delinquent youth are not taught by general teachers, but by the Dean, who specializes in disciplining delinquent youth, and conducts classes in the detention room. He or she has the power of limited suspension. In the U.S., schools have the right to immediately summon parents if a student causes a problem, and if parents do not visit the school immediately, they may be charged with neglect. In order to restore teacher's authority, we must come up with practical measures like the U.S. Also, it is time for the student human rights issue to be reborn as a result of step-by-step progress through communication at the school level, not in the form of an ordinance handed down from top to bottom.

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# Special Education Instructors Always Looking Over Their Shoulder

Web cartoonist Joo Ho-min, most well-known for his work Along with the Gods, pressed charges against the teacher in charge of his autistic son at school for child abuse. This unusual affair quickly emerged as a big topic of conversation for several reasons, including the drift of public opinion on recent issues on damaged authorities of educators.

Here is what really went down. Earlier in September 2022, Joo's son, who is autistic, was separated from the rest of the students under the pretext of school violence by a special class teacher A. It was a measure taken to stop him from lowering his pants in front of a female student while the teacher was teaching a class of students without disabilities. The female student said that she was traumatized by the incident and had difficulty going to school for a while. After the separation, Joo's son refused to go to school expressing how upset he was. To uncover the reason for his strange refusal to go to school, Joo and his wife installed a recorder in their son's bag. The recording included A's frustration in the process of stopping the inappropriate behavior of their son. According to a report written by A during the investigation, she told Joo's son "It is wrong to pull down your pants in front of other female students" trying to teach her student the concept of "wrongdoings" that happened during class. She continued to scold him saying, "That is why you are not staying with your friends right now." Based on those recorded utterances, Joo filed a suit against A. The 9th Criminal Division of the Suwon District Court is conducting a trial against A on charges of violating the Special Act on the Punishment of Child Abuse Crimes. The prosecution judged that A may have been showing an uncaring and aggressive attitude toward her student. When the news got out, Joo had to face mass criticism for



his radical measure on the matter. In addition, it was revealed that other parents submitted a petition to the court asking for leniency at the teacher's request. Fellow teachers at the school also stated that Joo's son had many problematic behaviors that caused difficulty while teaching, such as hitting teachers or other students. As of July 31, 2023, A was officially reinstated in the name of the authority of the superintendent of education of Gyeonggi-do.

There are concerns that when unauthorized recording or improper intervention of school parents continues in classrooms leaving no room for mutual trust among parents, students, and teachers, teachers might not be able to provide education with enough autonomy. Some indicate that distrust and doubt will eventually draw a debasing influence on the special education field creating a meager work environment and lowering the recruitment rate of special instructors.

The debate on whether A's conduct was scolding or abusing continues. With this matter on the rise, difficulties, and limitations in the special education system in Korea are also gaining attention. Special education is a field that requires a very subtle and sophisticated approach since it should not only provide academic education but also emotional and physical care. The Special Education Act requires four students per teacher, but there are a lot of cases where a single teacher oversees more than nine students. It is not an overstatement to say this "Joo Ho-min incident" started from the segmented special education delivery systems, followed by supply dissonance.

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# Student's Right and Teacher's Right: Any Chance of Co-existing?



The tragic suicide of an elementary school teacher committed on July 18, 2023, has provoked citizens' indignation. In Seo Elementary School, Seocho-gu, a homeroom teacher was found dead in her own school classroom. Allegedly the reason the 23-year-old newcomer teacher took her own life was due to the stress from verbal abuse by some parents of her students. The story rapidly spread online that the young teacher had been suffering from parent complaints while in charge of resolving school violence. The bereaved family urged to find out the truth, saying, "It should be clarified what caused the young teacher to make an extreme choice at school." A, uncle of the victim, the Seoul Teachers' Union, and the National Elementary School Teachers' Union held a press conference in front of the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education in Jongno-gu, Seoul, on July 19, 2023, and demanded that the Office of Education be held responsible. A stated that he hoped that the truth of the incident would be properly investigated so that the death of the deceased would not be in vain. He also drew a clear line to some media outlets that cited some of the deceased's diaries and raised the possibility that the reason for the suicide might be the breakup with her boyfriend.

This appalling incident has triggered the revelation of untold stories of teachers suffering from the ridiculously strict and absurd demands of parents and misbehaving students. The Korean Teachers' Association called for a complete revision or abolition of the ordinance, saying, "The fall in teaching rights was triggered by the enactment of the Student Human Rights Ordinance."

On July 20, 2023, they announced, "It is a serious issue that should be

regarded as the fall of the teaching authority, and it is tantamount to the collapse of Korea's education." The statement followed, "We need to prevent serious damage to the school authority at the school site, and the whole society should work together to solve such an unfortunate thing so that it doesn't happen anymore." They explicitly indicated that the Student Human Rights Ordinance has many side effects. In particular, because of emphasizing only the rights of students through the Student Human Rights Ordinance, it is seriously undermining teaching rights in line with the reality that accusations of child abuse are being filed.

However, some viewpoints suggest that it is never fair to blame the Student Human Rights Ordinance for everything. If all the problems are concluded to be derived from the Student Human Rights Ordinance, the educational system may as well not be able to come up with fundamental measures by dividing teachers, students, and parents. Park Geun-byung, Chairman of the Seoul Teachers' Union, also said, "The issue of the Student Human Rights Ordinance is blurring the nature of the incident," adding, "What is needed now is to find out the cause of the teacher's death and prevent a recurrence." Park Nam-ki, a professor at the Gwangju National University of Education, said, "The educational authorities' lukewarm response, the issue of low-grade teacher assignment, and malicious reports targeting teachers riding on the Child Abuse Act are at play."

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# Some Teachers Accept Only Wealthy Students as Their Students in Private Education Cartel

In Korea, before entering university, most students complete 12 years of education course: 6 years of primary education and 3 years of secondary and tertiary education each. This period can ultimately be seen as a preparation process for the College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT) named "Suncung". As an example, a total of 447,669 students, including graduates and those who passed the qualification exam, applied for the 2022 CSAT, of which 308,284 were born in 2003. This number is close to 63% of the total population of 493,500 people born in 2003. As such, entrance exams are a very sensitive and important field for Korean students and their parents. In a country with such characteristics, situation of the private education cartel was recently caught and complete enumeration investigation was launched.

So far, there have been cases where the Ministry of Education (MOE) has launched an investigation of additional job limited to specific fields, such as YouTube. However, this is the first time that a complete enumeration investigation of incumbent teachers has been undertaken in all industries. As a result of the investigation by the National Tax Service, about 130 incumbent teachers were paid for being involved in the production of private institute's workbook, prepared for school exams. More than half of them received more than 100 million won, and there was a teacher who received 930 million won. Among them, there are many teachers who have been involved in the Korea Institute for Curriculum and Evaluation (KICE), which is an organization in charge of the CSAT. Public as well as private teachers are prohibited for-profit business and an additional job under the National Public Officials Act. Most of those caught are teachers who illegally did an additional job without being permitted, which is an activity that violates the anti-request laws and can be a subject to criminal punishment. However, it is expected that there will be difficulties in imposing criminal punishment due to difficulties in proving how many exams each teacher wrote. In that case, based on the Government Officials Act's clauses, "All public officials must faithfully perform

their duties," severe punishments, such as suspension, demotion, and dismissal, may be imposed.

To achieve high scores in school tests and CSAT, teachers are also leading students to go to academy instead of schools, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Teachers need to invest more in classroom teaching so that students can trust their school teaching, and the government should also establish measures, such as minimizing teachers' unnecessary documentation work and providing financial incentives so that teachers can develop themselves. The MOE announced that breaking the private education cartel is the most important factor in restoring public education, and in response, large academies expressed a position that they sympathize with the policy stance of the MOE to reform the CSAT more fairly. In order to restore a fair education, even the president is pouring his energy through the order to exclude super high-level questions, killer questions in Korean team for the CSAT. The Ajou Globe (The AG) hopes that the restored teacher's authority and equal right to education will be realized through this reform.

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# FIFTY FIFTY, What Happened With This Group?



PLZ COME BACK...

NEVER GONNA HAPPEN



**H**ave you heard of the girl group FIFTY FIFTY? This group started from a Small and Medium-sized Agency (SMA), and their debut album "Cupid" became viral through overseas TikTok. As a result, they performed amazingly, ranking 17th on Billboard and 8th on the United Kingdom (UK) Singles Chart, and as if to prove this achievement, they were also in charge of the OST for "Barbie". However, now, this incredible group is falling apart with a sharp turn.

This situation is the beginning of the girl group's downfall. First of all, FIFTY FIFTY's agency is ATTRAKT with Jeon Hong-jun, and in order to foster FIFTY FIFTY, ATTRAKT has entrusted the outsourcing service called The Givers with Ahn Sung-il. In the process, The Givers and outside forces are trying to move FIFTY FIFTY's agency, and they will submit evidence of the contract violation of outsourcing services. This group will file an injunction to nullify the exclusive contract, saying that the claim is ridiculous and that the trust with the agency has been broken. As a result, ATTRAKT will submit circumstantial evidence that The Givers and outside forces are trying to steal FIFTY FIFTY from the agency. The Givers has already submitted a phone recording that says it will change FIFTY FIFTY's agency from a long time ago and a phone recording that says it will buy out to Warner Music Korea. However, since The Givers and FIFTY FIFTY have not been able to present accurate evidence or the evidence that they presented was

exaggerated or rather counterproductive, they changed their position that they would no longer respond. Meanwhile, SBS Channel's *Unanswerd Question* has caught people's attention by announcing the broadcast of the situation. In particular, the broadcast received a lot of attention because it also received information on the situation, but the viewers' response was cold. The broadcast has received a lot of criticism for showing its biased stance against The Givers and FIFTY FIFTY and expressing ATTRAKT and Jeon Hong-jun as pure evil. In this situation, the Korea Entertainment Producers Association and the Korea Entertainment Management Association said, *Unanswerd Question's* broadcast was very disappointing, and they strongly criticized that it was very biased with only the emotional appeal and one-sided claims of FIFTY FIFTY, and that it severely distorted the nature of the case by revealing it without grasping the exact facts.

As a result, fans were very disappointed when the past good deeds of Jeon Hong-jun, CEO of ATTRAKT agency, and whereabouts of using watches, cars, and even old mother's savings for FIFTY FIFTY were revealed. What will happen to FIFTY FIFTY's move from a rising K-pop star to a girl group which bites the hand that feed them and how will The Givers and FIFTY FIFTY solve this situation? Let us wait and watch.

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## Bruno Mars Sings Hype Boy (AI Cover)



**R**ecently, there has been a craze for cover songs using Artificial Intelligence (AI) on YouTube and social media. AI cover song uses AI to change the vocal of an existing song into the voice of another person. The video titled "Hype Boy - Bruno Mars" posted on YouTube in April made headlines for covering Newjeans' songs with his inarticulate but accurate Korean pronunciation. The video currently has 2 million views and shows its popularity.

AI cover songs can be made so easily that even ordinary people can make them in 10 minutes. You can create a song by downloading the music that you want, separating the vocals from the accompaniment, and uploading the vocals to a professional site to select the voice of the singer you want. AI cover songs are gaining more popularity by not only imitating voices but also utilizing the singer's own musical personality. The biggest advantage of AI cover songs is that you can listen to all the songs you want to hear with the voice of your favorite singer. It can also be a great advantage to be able to listen to new songs using the voice of the deceased, which can no longer be heard. Contrary to these advantages, AI cover songs pose a great threat to

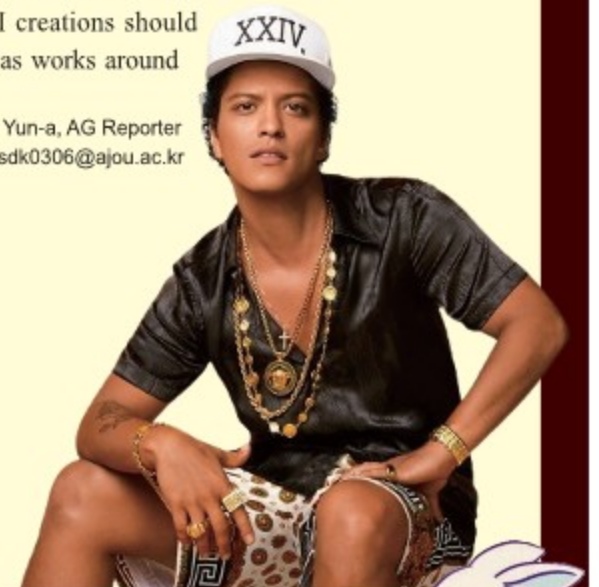
artists. In particular, the industry's opposition to the unauthorized use of voice was greater than that of the composition sector. Universal Music said, "The artist's voice is the most valuable part for their livelihood and image, and it is wrong to steal it whatever the intention is." Singer Jungkook pointed out that AI cover songs were not sincere, while singer 10cm expressed forlorn, saying that AI easily copied the voice that he had worked on for decades. However, singer Dean responded positively to AI music, asking to listen to a cover song that uses his voice.

AI cover songs that use voices without permission, is it copyright infringement? In the legal community, the prevailing view is that AI cover songs infringe on the rights of the main character of the voice and the original singer. Accordingly, it warns of infringement of publicity rights. Publicity right is the right to allow celebrities, such as singers and movie stars, to use their names or portraits for advertisement, such as products. It is different from copyright in that it gives value to a person's nature itself. Some say that AI cover songs can be copyright infringement on the original artist's side because "Reproduction" occurs. In principle, edited videos and cover song videos with sound sources inserted may constitute copyright infringement if they

do not have the permission of the copyright holder or do not constitute fair use. However, it is currently said that it is difficult to prevent the illegal theft of voice.

Currently, the "criticism" that AI cover songs are harmful creations that infringe on copyright and the "defense" that it is a new creation tailored to consumer needs coexist. As the popularity of AI cover songs and their completeness is increasing, it is necessary to discuss deeply to what extent AI use should be recognized. Experts say that legislation that can more clearly define the issue of infringement of rights is needed as there is no clear standard for whether AI creations should be viewed as works around the world.

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**Hype Boy**  
Bruno Mars

0:00



-1:51





**H**ave you heard of *Barbenheimer*? It is a new-coined word that combines two movies, <Barbie> and <Oppenheimer>. Currently, *Barbenheimer* is creating a craze in American theaters. Released in the United States (U.S.) together on July 21, 2023, <Barbie> and <Oppenheimer> have contrasting atmospheres and genres, which attract customers, and are spreading a trend, such as watching two movies in a row. The two movies are creating unprecedented popularity in American cinema, including the creation of a fictional *Barbenheimer* poster. Magazine <Variety> also called *Barbenheimer* “the Movie of the Year”.

Then, why did the two movies come out together? First, to briefly introduce the two movies, <Barbie> is a modern reinterpretation of Barbie, a world-famous doll series. It is characterized by bright pink and colorful images. On the other hand, <Oppenheimer> is a biographical movie that tells the story of Oppenheimer, a physicist who led the first nuclear weapon development project. Due to the feature of the theme, the two films are considered tempting because they show the contrast between creating and destroying the world. However, there is an inconvenient truth in the simultaneous screening of the two movies, a conflict between the film distributor and the director. <Oppenheimer>’s director is Christopher Nolan, whose work has been invested and distributed by Warner Bros (WB) since <Batman Begins>. However, during COVID-19, WB made an unconventional decision to simultaneously release the movie in the theater with HBO Max, a streaming service, and Nolan, who values the theater experience, was greatly disappointed by WB’s action. Therefore, <Oppenheimer> was distributed by Universal Pictures. The problem is, the uncomfortable conflict began when WB suddenly set <Barbie>’s release date as that of <Oppenheimer>’s. It is being said that it is revenge against Nolan. Therefore, people speculated that if the two movies were released on the same day, customer demand would be dispersed, and both movies would likely have a negative impact on box office success.

However, contrary to the worries of simultaneous releases, the popularity of *Barbenheimer* has led both films to box office success. <Barbie> was expected to earn about 80 million dollars on its first day of release, and <Oppenheimer> was also expected to earn 40 million dollars, but its first weekend earnings were 162 million and 82.5 million dollars, respectively. In other words, the two movies together earned more than 200 million dollars. Then, why did the two movies become popular? There is a trend of the aforementioned *Barbenheimer*, but it can be also seen that they touched the emotions of Americans. They have something in common, set in the mid-20th-century in the U.S. Here, <Barbie> is characterized by stimulating nostalgia: 20s to 40s women have memories of playing with Barbie dolls as children, and <Barbie> recalled their memories and recreated them with new messages. In addition, <Oppenheimer> was able to make a hit because it featured a person who shocked world history beyond 20th-century American history. Furthermore, the fact that these two movies were created by Greta Gerwick and Christopher Nolan, film masters, was also a big issue.

A craze for the two movies also helped the U.S. economy. According to Bank of America (BoFA), credit card consumption for entertainment has increased by 13.2%, speculating that the release of <Barbie> and <Oppenheimer> may have affected it. Jerome Powell, Chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve said that this situation is the overall momentum of the economy that seeks to calm inflation and restore consumer confidence. In addition, it can be seen positively because *Barbenheimer* has melted the frozen hearts of customers who were reluctant to go to the theater due to COVID-19 and revitalized the theater district, which has been stagnant for a long time.

<Barbie> was released in Korea before the U.S. on July 19, 2023. However, despite the global craze, Korea has created a rather low record of about 560,000 audiences. Why has not <Barbie> been a box office hit in Korea?

First, the movies that were screened when <Barbie> was released in Korea were relatively competitive. <Elemental> earned a high income by going viral, and customer loyalty to Tom Cruise boosted the audience for <Mission Impossible 7>. Second, there are relatively few memories of Barbie in Korea. In contrast, released a day later, <Detective Conan: Black Iron Submarine> quickly attracted audiences thanks to actions and solid scenarios that satisfied longtime fans. Finally, the rise of the feminist debate also has an impact. By defining it as a feminist movie, many people refused to watch it, and even female audiences who simply wanted to enjoy the movie avoided watching it because the word “feminism” is recognized as a stereotype in South Korean society. In fact, the movie’s intention is not to divide men and women, but to build female characters with equal positions with men to give women courage and hope.

However, <Barbie> is now leading the fashion trend. Various pink colors, such as light pink and magenta pink are applied to various items, and even collections in collaboration with Mattel, which produced Barbie dolls, are being introduced. Also, LF cited “Barbie Core” as the keyword of this summer’s fashion trend, which is leading the retro trend along with the Y2K craze in Korea.



<Oppenheimer> was released in Korea on August 15, 2023, somewhat later than <Barbie>. What is noteworthy here is the release date: August 15 is the National Liberation Day of Korea. It is doubtful that a movie about a person who contributed to the end of World War II by dropping a nuclear bomb on Japan was released on our liberation day, but Universal Pictures drew a line on an expanded interpretation, saying it was a schedule to consider competition with the masterpiece. This saying is related to a negative view of <Oppenheimer> in Japan, which is still suffering from the nuclear bomb. However, some Japanese people are actively agreeing with its release. They said that the Japanese need to watch the movie and criticize it by checking how thoroughly historical research has been made. <Oppenheimer>’s release in Japan is still under discussion.

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