

# Inha Seeks University Alliance for Globalization



Inha University President Hong Seoung-yong

By Kang Shin-who  
Staff Reporter

INCHEON — Inha University is seeking multilateral partnership for its globalization programs.

"Global University 8 (GU8) Consortium, an international university alliance, will be a key factor for Inha in its pursuit for substantial globalization," Hong Seoung-yong, 58, president of the school, said in an interview with The Korea Times, Tuesday.

"We need multilateral cooperation with overseas universities to meet the needs of a fast-changing world," Hong said.

Inha initiated the GU8 Consortium in April 2004 with seven universities from six countries: RMIT (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) University in Australia, Xiamen University in China, University of Haifa in Israel, University of Washington and University of Rhode Island in USA, Meiji University in Japan and The University of Le Havre in France.

Hong served as the first chairman of the consortium for three years after its foundation following which the top position went to Robert Carothers, president of the University of Rhode Island. The university alliance is now working to invite two more international schools to the consortium this year.

The member universities of the

GU8 Consortium work together on dual-degree programs, joint research and student exchange programs as well as information sharing for administration and library purposes.

Logistics, business administration, high technology and marine studies are highly featured at Inha. The Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development selected the Graduate School of Logistics as "the most distinguished and specialized school," this year.

The department was also granted 10 billion won over a five-year period by the Ministry of Construction and Transportation.

All programs at the graduate school are only offered in English. Hong aims to further develop the school so it can be among the world's top 10 schools in cooperation with Hanjin Group, its sponsoring conglomerate.

Proposed by the first President of Korea Rhee Syng-man, Inha was established in 1954 and has produced nearly 120,000 graduates, many of whom are now leaders in the nation's industries and in science and technology fields.

Financial resources of the foundation came from the proceeds of the sale of the Korea Christian Institute, an organization founded and managed by President Rhee for the purpose of educating the children of the original emigrants, donations from Korean emigrants in Hawaii and domestic supporters, and a government subsidy. Incheon City also donated a school site and construction began in February in 1954.

The Inha Institute of Technology opened in 1957, becoming the first



Hong Seoung-yong, center, poses for a picture with presidents of Global University 8 (GU8) member schools at the University of Rhode Island in the United States during the 3rd GU8 Consortium Meeting.  
Courtesy of Inha University

faculty of the university. Inha currently has some 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

Hong has constantly worked to balance the number of outbound students and incoming students at the school. He also plans to recruit more foreign students and professors until they make up more than 10 percent of the combined faculty and campus.

Mentioning a big gap between education at high schools and colleges, Hong noted that the current college admission system should be revised and the government's equalization policy for education is deterring schools from fostering talented students.

Also, the president will focus on developing additional special lectures, internship, e-learning, and overseas exchange programs to remove "skill mismatch" between colleges and industries.

Lastly, Hong categorized the requirements for being an ideal university president using words starting with the letters A, B, C, D.; Actor, Builder, Cheerleader and

Dreamer.

"Ideal presidents need to be practical actors and try to build and create many things for the development of the school as well as encourage all the members of the school and have clear vision," he said.

"Colleges are non-profit organizations and many Koreans so far believe that non-profit organizations don't need management skills, but it's not true. Non-profit organizations also need high management skills," he added.

A graduate from Korea University in 1972, Hong received his master's degree from Seoul National University in 1983 and a Ph.D. from Kyung Hee University in 1990. He served president of Korea Maritime Institute between 1997 and 1999 and vice minister of maritime affairs and fisheries between 1999 and 2002.

He was selected as the 10th president of Inha University in 2002 and reelected as 11th president in 2006.

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## Father's Love Not Outward But Strong

By Lee In-tae

Four years ago when I was in seventh grade, my music teacher told us to practice the song "Mother's Grace."

While I was singing, a question popped into my mind, "Why aren't there songs or writings about a father's love?"

When I asked one of my friends who was singing with me, she said, "I think a mother's love is stronger and more touching than a father's love."

It was true. When I think of my mother, I believe maternal love is above everything.

I think not only my mother's love but also that of almost every mother is so great and deep that it cannot be compared to anything else.

It's no doubt that a mother's love for her children is unquestionable, but I don't think a father's love is any less.

Let's look at the story of "Team Hoyt," which caused every American who heard the story to cry.

It's a about Rick Hoyt, a son, born with cerebral palsy and Dick Hoyt, his father who tried to help him overcome his son's handicap.

When Rick, at the age of 15, wrote to his father with his special computer, "Father, I want to run," Dick ran pushing his son in a wheel chair. Then they ran the whole course of a triathlon, which is a tough challenge even for normal people.

Spectators waited and gave the two thunderous applause even though they were the last



Lee In-tae

to cross the finish line because Dick was running the 226-kilometer race carrying his son on a boat, a bicycle, and in a wheelchair.

Not only the spectators in the stadium but everyone who witnessed the scene on screen were touched and cried.

I thought about my father while watching this. Even though I'm healthy and my father never took part in a triathlon, I believe my father would do just the same as Dick Hoyt if I were in the same predicament as Rick.

During my father's fellowship year in North Carolina in 2003, he took pains every morning to sweep our front yard.

At the time, I couldn't understand why he was doing this. There wasn't much to clean up and I wondered what caused him to perform such a tedious



limited because fathers are hard at work outside of home to make a better life for their families.

A father's silent love is as deep and great as a mother's touching love.

So I would like to urge someone to write a song about father's love for their children, which is just as great as a mother's love in the song "Mother's Grace."

If someone could compose the music I would love to write the lyrics for a song about "Father's Love."

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## Muddling Through Law School Reforms in Korean Universities

By Lee Dong-wook

As an ethnic Korean, but U.S.-trained lawyer admitted to the New York bar, I enjoy reading about the recent developments and debates about legal reforms in Korea.

Among the recent changes in the Korean judicial sector, the most revolutionary one is the passing of the bill for U.S.-style law schools on July 3, 2007 and its aftermath.

Let us look into the details of this Act first. By this newly legislated Act, U.S.-style law schools will be opened to welcome new students in March 2009. Any colleges that would like to be accredited must hire at least 20 full-time professors, and at least 20 percent of the law school faculty must be composed of those who have a minimum of five year's practical experience.

Plus, the student-to-professor ratio cannot exceed 15:1. In addition, those schools must recruit new students through a Law Education Eligibility Test (LEET) modeled after the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) of the U.S.

This act, however, does not solve all the hidden problems. One of the biggest problems is the entanglement of vested interests put forth by lawyers and scholars," according to Professor Kim Kwang-rok of Bukyung University ("Korea Needs Real US-Style Law School," Korea Times Issue today, Aug. 7).

According to Kim's description, the Korea Bar Association calls for a quota of 1,200 new students each year for the law schools. This figure is slightly above the current ceiling of 1,000, the number of new lawyers admitted each year under the present judiciary exam.

But many law professors are reportedly calling for a quota of about 3,000 students each year. Professor Kim is no exception. He also said in his article that the new system should not be used to help maintain the vested interests of the lawyers' community and grant new privileges to a limited number of universities.

To support his arguments, he used the example of the United States, more specifically New York, and said that the U.S. does not set a limit on how many lawyers enter the field every year.

I agree with his main opinion that the number of lawyers should be increased dramatically so that more people will be able to have access to legal services.

But I have no choice but to show strong concern about his approach taken to make his arguments sound more reasonable and plausible.

Through reading his article, most readers might have been misled. By saying the new system should not be used to help maintain "the vested interests of the lawyers community" and grant new privileges to a limited number of universities, Kim clandestinely concealed his ambition to maintain "the vested interest of the scholars' and law professors' community."

In order to strengthen his arguments, he revealed, perhaps in thinly concealed glee, only a one-sided partial truth about the U.S. legal education system and partially twisted facts in his favor.

First, he did not say that legal education in the United States is dominated by lawyers. For example, 90 percent of Harvard Law School and Yale Law School professors have lawyers on their faculties. On the other hand, most Korean law school professors are not lawyers themselves.

Only about 20-30 percent of law school faculties in Seoul National University, Korea University, and Yonsei University are lawyers.

Second, he misstated in the diagram of his article that law school graduates will be awarded specialized bachelor's degree in law. Although it is understandable that he may want to have his opinion sound plausible by using graphics, his argument was too far-fetched in saying that the law school graduates would be awarded specialized bachelor's degrees. I do personally believe he, hav-

ing obtained his legal degree in the U.S., intentionally coined such terms like specialized bachelor's degree. He was very wrong on this matter: they will be awarded the Korean version of a juris doctor (JD) degree.

Most Korean law schools and their faculty members do not, or reluctantly, at least at the moment, recognize JD degree holders for faculty positions. Ironically JD is the most common degree for U.S. lawyers and law school professors. I found that about 80 percent of Harvard law school and Yale law school professors are JD degree holders.

Even among professors on law school faculties, less than 5 percent hold the JSD (Doctor of Juridical Science) degree. The JSD degree instead is unrealistically and erroneously highly regarded in Korea I found out only after returning to Korea. The single biggest difference between a JD degree and a JSD degree in the U.S. is that the latter requires writing a lengthy dissertation paper while the former not always.

JD degree holders, in the U.S. at least, are not discriminated against in the legal circle. There are many cases where JD degree holders are admitted to post-doctoral programs in the U.S.

What is more ironic is that almost all Korean JSD degree holders got their degree under the teachings of JD degree holders in the U.S. But once they (JSD degree holders) return to Korea, they suddenly become enthusiastic about hypocritically disparaging JD degrees and JD degree holders.

The behavior of such Korean JSD degree holders is somewhat comparable — to borrow an old Korean saying — to spitting on their own faces and on their JD mentors. Professor Kim, a JSD degree holder himself, made similar mistakes in that sense, although not outspokenly, but in a very tactically subtle way.

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