



Slogan: Benefit broadly the human world (홍익인간)

Biography:

Go on a journey to the wonderful country of South Korea, one of the most high tech countries in the world with the fastest internet speed to robots working in hospitals. Experience a country with a very diverse view of culture and traditions. Go out all day to the beautiful scenery, beaches and mountains and then party all night drinking Korean liquor (Soju, alcohol made of rice), and go to the vast amount of clubs and concerts open from nightfall to dawn. Work hard, play hard people always say, but it is truly lived in this country.

Laws and Regulations:

Many laws exist today in South making sure lives are safe and every citizen is treated fairly. Many of the country's laws are written in their Constitution, last amended in October 1987. It is very important to have a brief understanding of their laws before you decide to travel there such as the legal drinking age to the judicial system. This passage will provide a brief explanation of what kind of laws exist in South Korea.

It is a law for people to give you the right to pursue happiness and Korean officials make sure this is not broken. People are equal and cannot be discriminated for the account of sex, economic status, social life, political status, or religion. Everyone must be given the right of personal liberty and cannot be interrogated, arrested, detained, or searched except if there is proof that they must be. No person can receive cruel involuntary work if punished. No person can be forced to testify or tortured in the court of law. Everyone does have the right to move if they choose to do so.

All legislative power is given to the National Assembly. All National Assembly members get a term of 4 years. All members of the National Assembly are allowed to have high standards of integrity. A regular session of the National Assembly shall be convened once every year. The National Assembly can elect one speaker and two vice-speakers.

The president as his inauguration must say the following oath: "I do solemnly swear before the people that I will faithfully execute the duties of the President by observing the Constitution, defending the State, pursuing the peaceful unification of the homeland, promoting the freedom and welfare of the people and endeavoring to develop National culture." Every president serves 5 years without any reelection. The President has the power to be the Commander-in-Chief for the Armed Forces. The President can't be charged with a criminal offense during his time in office except for insurrection or treason.

For a copy of the Constitution, go to this link:

<http://world.moleg.go.kr/World/EastAsia/KR/law/14429>

Culture:

The culture of South Korea is very unique in many more ways than one. K-Pop bands are very popular throughout the country such as f(x) and Girls' Generation. Games such as baduk (or the Japanese game "Go") are played here. Online video games like League of Legends, StarCraft, and Dota 2 are massively played. Cartoons are very much watched here and series such as Family Guy, The Simpsons and Futurama are watched by millions of Koreans nationwide. Both old and new, the culture of Korea is riveting to learn about.

Although Korea does have many traditions of its own, they have been influenced by countries such as America and Japan, even in the language. Konligsh is a term that refers to words that have derived from the English language. "Ai syopping" (아이 쇼핑) is a term that comes from eye shopping or window shopping. Foods such as pizza and coffee came from America and became very popular there. Also, all throughout the Korean history, China has influenced many of their decisions.

Flag Origins:

After the Japan-Korea Treaty of 1876, during the Joseon Period, Korea got concerned that they did not already have a national flag. The idea of Taegukgi (the Korean flag, as it is known by Koreans) was shelved until 1882 when the United States-Korea Treaty was ratified. Ma Jianzhong, a Chinese official, discussed this matter with the delegate Lee Eung-Jun. Lee's idea was to use the Flag of the Qing Dynasty, but Jianzhong argued against it and gave birth to the idea of the half-red and half-black circle in the middle with the eight black bars. On October 15, 1949 the flag was officially made and in 1997 the colors were official.

Colors of the Flag:

The flag contains a white background, a red and blue Taeguk (yin and yang symbol in the center) and the trigrams are black (the eight bars on the page). The South Korean flag in its entirety means unity. The individual colors of the flag do not mean much on their own. However in 1997, they were given specific shades by the legislation. These colors and shades were not legally settled until 2007 when the National Flag Law was passed.