

HAEUNDAE HOLDS RESIDENT PROMISE DAY

■ Citizens gave their input on October 8th at the Haeundae Cultural Complex Center

The vision moving forward for the Haeundae District Office continues to be "People First!" Communicating with city residents has been at the center of this philosophy, and the city government has continued to take steps to make resident communication a priority. That is why the Haeundae District Office was proud to announce the "Resident Promise Day" held on the second floor of the Haeundae Cultural Complex Center on October 8th at 3:00 p.m.

This event was organized as a way for Haeundae citizens to have their voices heard, and to further develop the bond between the city government and the people who live and work here.

The event featured a presentation by the city about the Haeundae District's vision, an open conversation about issues that affect the city, a question and answer period, as well as a special performance arranged by the Haeundae District Office.

Everyone was welcome to attend the event, and participants were eagerly encouraged to participate in the conversation. Some topics that the city saw addressed during the event were concerns about city traffic, development and sustainability, ways to improve the visibility of Haeundae as a tourism destination to increase the flow of tourism into the Haeundae area, as well as various other ideas centered upon improving the lives of Haeundae citizens.

Haeundae District President says, "I was pleased to see many Haeundae residents attend this event and communicate their ideas to help build this community. We want to develop a relationship of trust and faith with our residents, and this was a step towards that."

For more information, please contact the Office for Planning and Coordination at 051 749-4013.



CHECK THE RELIABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL MARRIAGE AGENCIES

■ Make sure that your agency complies with the legal aspects of your international marriage arrangements!

The foreign population has been steadily increasing, having crossed the 1,000,000 mark back in 2008, and international marriages have been a big part of that.

However, there has also been an increase in international marriages 'gone wrong' as international marriage agencies have been having problems with their match-making, leaving many couples unhappy with the process.

Some common occurrences include:

- 1) Non-issuance of the agency contract.
 - 2) Awareness that a contract exists.
 - 3) Ignorance about the content of the contract.
 - 4) The omission of important personal details about the international spouse
- In all of the above cases, the international marriage agency is at fault and bears legal responsibility. According to law, international marriage agencies must make a contract with the spouses. This contract must be notarized by each country. The agencies must also supply personal information about the respective spouses, which must also be notarized.

Agencies who are found to be in violation of these rules may lose their license, pay a fine, or even face jail time.

Most people who engage in international marriages do so on their own, without the aid of an agency. However, when couples are made through the use of an agency, spouses often don't receive the necessary counseling and information. They are also often in such a hurry that they don't educate themselves about the details of the arrangement. This can create some for some major problems later on.

Recently, it has been discovered that some agencies recommend that prospective clients travel on their own to find a spouse and sign the contract at the foreign agency. For their part, many foreign marriage agencies claim to offer exclusive

paperwork that does not require the involvement of a Korean agency.

However, the Korean Supreme Court has recently ruled that any international marriage utilizing a matchmaking agency must include both the foreign and a Korean agency to ensure the process follows the letter of the law. Anyone who goes to a foreign country to find a spouse, and is asked to sign paperwork by a foreign agency should refuse to do so.

In order to prevent future problems, prospective clients for international marriage agencies should visit the Female Family Department website (www.mogef.go.kr) and check to see if the agency is registered. Agency records for the past three years will also be displayed, including any penalties for breaking the law or malfeasance.

Anyone who has a problem or legal issue with an international marriage agency can get help from the Korean Consumer Agency.

Go Eun Sul
Haeundae Legal Home Doctor

The "Legal Home Doctor" program supplies lawyers from the Department of Justice Human Rights Division to local governments in order to help disadvantaged residents, recipients of public assistance, the disabled, multicultural families, military veterans and others who have served their country, and single-parent families. These residents are offered one free legal consultation. To make a reservation, call 051 749-5698.

INTRODUCING THE GALPO HAPPY VILLAGE BUILDING

■ A new multi-purpose facility for Songjeong residents

The Galpo Happy Village building has been operating since April in Songjeong. It is located one street back from the beach next to the Songjeong Kwangoe Valley KT building, and it has all kinds of facilities for the people of Songjeong to use. The six-story facility is operated by 16 volunteers who have generously donated their time for the improvement of the Songjeong community.

The first floor consists of a parking lot and the "Studio Cafe Ara." "Ara" is the Korean word for "Sea," which makes it a suitable name since it sits so close to Songjeong Beach.

The second floor is also part of the cafe and provides a relaxing atmosphere to enjoy your beverages and snacks. Visitors are encouraged to use the facility to take some pictures using the photography equipment on hand, as well as some funny hats and stuffed animals.

From October 15th to the 31st, there will be an exhibition taking place to display winning photos from a contest held to highlight the beautiful village of Songjeong. Songjeong has long been a favorite place in Haeundae for tourism, and visitors are encouraged to submit their photos from their visits to Songjeong.

The third floor has a multi-purpose room that can be rented for 10,000 won per hour. This room can be used to host various programs, hold birthday parties, conferences, meetings, or school reunions.

The fourth floor has a "Labor Room" where senior citizens can work in paid programs to make some pocket money.

The fifth floor has a free fitness center that is becoming very popular. Every three months, a draw is held to select fitness enthusiasts who will have access to the gym three times per day. The fitness center can be used by 12 people at a time.

The sixth floor is a rest area with a little flower garden and places for visitors to relax and enjoy their day.

Resident Yi Eon Yeon said, "It's wonderful that I can exercise and take in the beautiful sights of Songjeong, and it's so close to my house."

Reporter,
Hwang Hee Eun

