



U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Far East District

# East Gate Edition

March 1998

Volume 8, Number 2

## FED hosts first Contractor Certification Course

by David McCracken

As part of its desire to revolutionize effectiveness, seek growth opportunities, and invest in people, the Far East District (FED) hosted its first Contractor Construction Safety Certification Course on February 11-12, 1998. This course was a complete success and represented weeks of hard work and cooperation between FED and the Korean Military Contractors Association (KMCA).

Under the direction of COL James Hickey, commander, FED, the principals who were involved in this initiative and the people to whom its success can be attributed are: Mr. Sam Barnes, Chief, Safety & Occupational Health, FED;

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Mr. Sam Barnes, FED Safety Officer, teaches a session of FED's first contractor certification course.



Mr. Kim, Nak-In, Tongduchon Resident Office, teaches electrical safety session.



Mr. O, Sung-Sik, Uijongbu Project Office, teaches session on scaffolding and fall protection.



Mr. Dave McCracken, FED Industrial Hygienist, instructs attendees on respirator use.

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# From the Commander



All issues of the East Gate Edition are dedicated to members of our team, past and present, who have toiled on freedom's frontiers for over forty years. When you hold our coin, you are holding the spirit of adventure as well as the heart and soul of those pioneers who daily deter the aggression of those people committed to the demise of the Republic of Korea.

This issue is dedicated to Mr. Choe, Kwang Son, mechanical engineer, who died in February. Each of us is struggling in our own way with the stark reality of death. Death is part of the rhythm of life. As we struggle, we recall the last time we spoke with Mr. Choe. For many of us, it was too long ago. We must dedicate ourselves to reaching out today, NOW, to tell those with whom we work and, especially those we love, that we appreciate them. We should look them in the eyes and state, "Who you ARE makes a difference!"

Mr. Choe captured the spirit of our vision. Recently, he dedicated himself to mastering CADD. He revolutionized his effectiveness as he reached out for the growth opportunity offered by CADD. He knew instinctively that our investment in him with new equipment and training would blossom into a motivated man ready to deal with the challenges of working on the frontiers of freedom.

Barbara and I offered our prayers for the proper repose of the soul of Mr. Choe and may the hand of God rest upon his family.

Please keep Mr. Chang, Tok Chu, and Ms. Choe, Si Cha, in your prayers.

Building for peace on the frontiers of freedom!

**COL James L. Hickey**

## Do It Now

**If you intend to speak a kind word, speak it now.**

**If you intend to do a kind deed, do it now.**

**If you intend to write a letter to your friend, write it today.**

**If you intend to send flowers to your loved one, send them today.**

**Tomorrow may be too late. You may not be here tomorrow.**

**Your friend may not be here tomorrow.**

*Paul S. Osumi*

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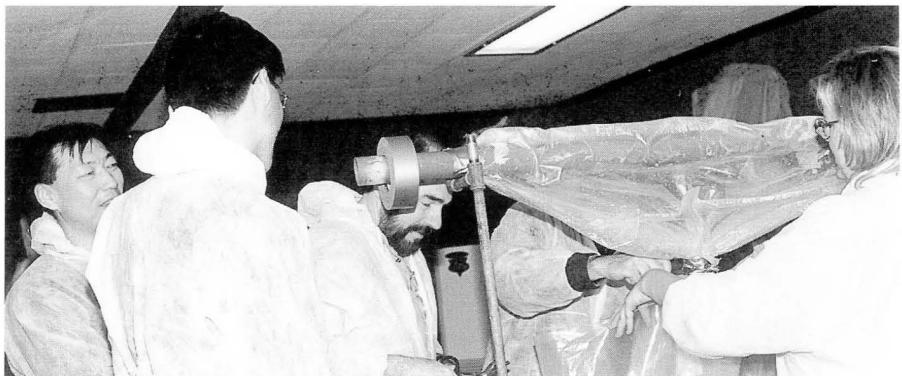
# Safety

During the first two weeks of March 98, the Far East District (FED) compound became a center for safety training in the Republic of Korea. Mr. Jim Thomsen and his team from Failsafe Risk Management Alternatives accepted the challenge of conducting 11 days of training in a 12 day period for a total of 100 students.



abatement containment and decontamination (decon) chamber.

The first course, presented to 33 students, was the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Asbestos Abatement Contractor/ Supervisor Course. This course provided the graduates with EPA accredited training and the credentials to acquire state certifications. The course covered topics such as asbestos related regulations, health affects, abatement tech-



Practicing working with a glovebag was one of many class activities during a full two weeks of training.

niques, and decontamination procedures.

A 1-day refresher course was conducted for approximately 12 additional individuals who previously completed the 40-hour AHERA Asbestos Contractor/Supervisor Course so they could maintain their credentials. As a bonus, Mr. Thomsen agreed to teach the Asbestos Abatement Project Monitor Course which was an add-on to the Contractor/ Supervisor Course. The additional training was conducted on Saturday and approximately 30 students sought this growth opportunity. The Project Monitor Course introduced the students to procedures such as personal, environmental, and final clearance air monitoring. The second accredited course, which was presented to approximately 38 students, was the 40-hour OSHA/EPA Hazardous Waste Operations & Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) Course. Approximately 10 of the students were carryovers

from the preceding week's training. The course covered topics such as hazardous waste site operations and emergency response procedures for hazardous substance release episodes. A one-day refresher course was conducted for 20 additional individuals who previously completed the 40-hour HAZWOPER Course in order for them to maintain their credentials. In addition to FED team members, other organizations represented during the two weeks of training included the 18th MEDCOM, U.S. Army Environmental and DPW personnel, U.S. Air Force Environmental and BCE personnel, and contractors. All benefited from Mr. Thomsen's knowledge and expert instruction.

Once again, FED's dedication to making our Safety & Occupational Health (SOH) programs, and that of others, better through investing in people will have a positive impact throughout the Republic of Korea.



# Military Corner

by LTC Dale Knieriem



*The real function of an army is to fight and win!  
A soldier's destiny is to suffer and if need be to die!*

The newest military addition to the FED team is Captain John Parrott. He will be here for one year and is assigned to the Kunsan Project Office. There won't be any more military coming in until the end of May.

You will finally be seeing me leave. Just the other day I got my orders assigning me as the Deputy Commander of the New Orleans District. I will be leaving FED and Korea on July 30, 1998 and report to my new place of duty on August 4, 1998. I will have spent more than four years and three months here in the Republic of Korea and have enjoyed every day of it. I'm not ready to leave, but I must. *Don't be surprised, though, if you see me back in Korea again.*

The District is going through a period of intense change with the realignment taking place within PPMD. This has caused a series of actual personnel and organizational moves to take place. RM will be where Cost Engineering was, Cost Engineering is moving into the second floor of the Engineering Building, all of PPMD will be moving downstairs in S-62. PAO is on the second floor of S-67. Mr. Yo (IM Graphics) has moved into T-115 (old classroom), and the Executive Office will move upstairs in S-62. All of this will happen by about April 10th.

I know that people don't like to pick up and move, but it is necessary to realign the various offices so that in the long run they will be more productive and efficient. After we get people and organizations where they need to be, we will begin to upgrade those offices with furniture and improved facilities. That won't happen overnight, but between the rest of this FY and next, fixes should be made. I urge you all to be patient and keep your spirits up.

That's all for this month. *I wonder if they will ever change my picture!*



Smile at each other, smile at your wife,  
smile at your husband, smile at your children  
- it does not matter who it is -  
and that will help you grow up in greater love for each other.

*Mother Teresa*

## FED hosts first Contractor Certification Course

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Mr. David McCracken, Industrial Hygienist, FED; Mr. O, Sung-Sik, Project Engineer, Uijongbu Project Office, FED; Mr. Kim, Nak-In, Quality Assurance Representative, Tongduchon Resident Office, FED; Mr. Kim, Chi-Han, President, Seong Bo Construction & Industry Company (officer of KMCA); and Mr. Hong, Sung-Chan, translator/editor, KMCA.

The first class was attended by 34 students representing 17 different Korean construction firms. Opening remarks were given by COL Hickey, who re-emphasized the priority safety has within the Far East District. All classes were taught in English, however, the students were provided with translated manuals in order to better facilitate understanding. Topics discussed during the 2-day course were: safety program management; personal protective and safety equipment; electrical safety; hand and power tool safety; control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout); safe access and fall protection; work platform safety; excavation safety; welding and cutting safety; sanitation; and medical and first aid requirements. Mr. Seung Baek, Environmental Engineer, FED, gave a brief introduction and explanation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Environmental Plan specification.

Students were tested at the completion of the training and COL Hickey presented certificates of completion to all 34 graduates. The District plans to conduct at least five Contractor Construction Safety Certification courses during calendar year 1998.



### March Safety Slogan:

*"Drivers are like steel -- no good if they lose their temper."*

## Don't Forget to file your tax return by April 15.

Yongsan Tax Center

Yongsan Main Post

Moyer Recreation Center

Hours of Operation:

Mon, Wed, Fri - 1000-1800 hrs.

Tue, Thu - 1200-2000 hrs.

Sat - 1000-1600 hrs.



*It's Never Too Late To Learn Something New!*

## To Federal Workers from Vice President Gore

Five years ago this month, we embarked on a National Performance Review to change the way government works. It seemed an impossible task. Red tape, senseless rules, and rigid hierarchies speared us from the people we were pledged to serve. Public trust in government was at an all-time low and the budget deficit at an all-time high.

Today, the reinventing government initiative is the longest running and most successful government reform effort in history. Thanks to your partnerships in and out of government and the application of exciting new technologies, our government does work better and it does cost less. As a result, public trust is beginning to go up and the deficit is being eliminated.

The key to this success is you. We trusted you - the people on the front lines - to get the job

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## New Team Member and Engineer Week 5-K Run

CPT John V. Parrott arrived in FED to serve as a Project Engineer at the Kunsan Project Office. He attended Virginia

Military Institute and graduated with a B.A. in history in 1989. His home town is Williamsburg, Virginia and his hobbies include hunting and fishing. Parrott spent four years at Ft. Bragg with the 20th Engineer Brigade; and two-and-a-half years with the 299th Engineer Battalion at Ft. Hood, Texas. He also served as a platoon leader and company executive officer at Ft. Bragg and company commander at Ft. Hood. Parrott and his wife, Traci, have two children, Lucas, age 7; and Amber, age 4.



(Above) And they're off! Winners of the National Engineers Week 5-K Run were: male 12 yrs. & under - 1st - Ian Osborn, 2nd Brian Bliss; male 13-18 yrs. - Nathan Losey; male 19-29 yrs - 1st - Sean Walsh, 2nd - Jose Velez; male 30-39 yrs. - 1st - Don Spicer, 2nd - Brendan Vasher; male 40-49 yrs - 1st - Jerry Manning, 2nd - Clark Bean; male 50 yrs. & older - 1st-COL James Hickey, 2nd - COL Dave Spaulding; female 12 yrs & under - 1st - Sarah Dirmeyer, 2nd - Frances Kim; female 13-18 yrs. - 1st - Michele Henderson, 2nd-Kimberly Perrenot; female 19-29 yrs. - 1st Victoria Maldonado, 2nd - Tammy McCracken; female 30-39 yrs. - 1st - Leah McCarty, 2nd - Amelia Rykard; and female 40 yrs & older - 1st - Emily Bean, 2nd - Lundonlar Calahan. (Below left) Marion Ram holds up her National Engineers Week t-shirt. All the finishers received one of these special shirts. (Below right) Mr. Sam Barnes and family sign up for the 5-K run.



## Message to Federal Workers from VP Gore

(continued from page 5)

done, and you delivered. You knew the problems and how to fix them.

For the first time in history the Federal government has measurable standards for serving the American people. We have safer workplaces, less crime, easier buying practices, faster drug approvals, and faster delivery of mail. We have cut unnecessary regulations and outdated programs, trimmed our own workforce, and saved taxpayers billions of dollars.

To celebrate this success and build on what you have accomplished, we are celebrating our fifth anniversary by launching a new Conversation with America. We urge you to begin an ongoing dialogue with the American people to learn what they want and expect from their government. Our goal is to regain in fullest measure the confidence of the people we serve.

We have recently renamed our effort the National Partnership for Reinventing Government. We ask your commitment to NPR's new vision. "America@Our Best," and its mission, in time for the 21st Century, reinvent government to work better, cost less, and get results that Americans care about.

President Clinton and I are proud of you. Thank you for your fine work.



# Noncombatant Evacuation Operation Plan Outlined

by Sgt. Antony M. C. Joseph  
USFK Public Information Division

Noncombatant Evacuation Operation is, as the name suggests, a plan to ensure that dependants and other noncombatants can be evacuated to a safe place in the event of a natural disaster, civil unrest or any likelihood of military conflict.

In order for any plan to work it is essential that the participants fully understand all aspects and stages of the plan. The Republic of Korea has the most heavily defended border in the world. Though the probability of conflict remains low, the potential of hostilities occurring on the korean peninsula is greater than in many other parts of the world, according to LTC Patrick McCarthy, the J5 Plans Officer, Joint NEO Branch.

The readiness of the participants will ensure that the process of evacuation will be achieved smoothly and without unnecessary stress. Noncombatant readiness is like buying insurance, you hope you never have to use it, but you are glad you have it if and when you need it.

Unlike other insurance this insurance only costs a bit of time and preparation for it to be successful. One of the key things to remember is that because of the limited time during a crisis, noncombatants should prepare for any contingency by having a NEO kit assembled. The kit should include a backpack; documentation of U.S. citizenship or legal residency; a three day supply of light weight, high energy, ready to eat food; a 30-day supply of prescription medication; a small transistor radio with extra batteries; bottled water; toiletries and a three-day supply of baby formula, diapers and other baby hygiene items.

In the event of a NEO situation, noncombatants should also carry with them any non-replaceable documents, about \$100 and 30,000 won in cash for any emergencies, extra seasonal clothing, a first-aid kit, a flashlight with extra batteries and a blanket or sleeping bag. More detailed information and helpful hints are available in United States Forces Korea Pamphlet 600-300, The Department of Defense Noncombatants Handbook, or the U.S. Embassy's Emergency Action Plan Handbook for other U.S. citizens.

The groups that will be covered by the NEO will include Military sponsored dependants, DOD Dependent Schools faculty and staff, U.S. Embassy non-essential staff and dependants, DOD invited contractors, who are not mission essential, and their dependants. Others covered by the plan include U.S. citizens in commerce and industry in Korea, U.S. citizens' alien spouses and or children, legal permanent residents of the U.S., non-essential diplomatic staffs, and U.S. citizen tourists.

McCarthy said that in the event of a crisis the U.S. Embassy will monitor the situation, and based on the seriousness of the crisis, will put the NEO plan into effect in stages. First the embassy will advise the American community through travel advisories and warnings. This is the voluntary phase of NEO. Noncombatants would be advised by the embassy about the changes to the current security situation and might be advised to consider departing the affected area or not traveling there. During this phase, the embassy would provide all possible assistance to U.S. noncombatants.

The second phase is more serious and might include an ordered departure of U.S. government and DOD noncombatant personnel. The embassy would inform all U.S. citizens about the ordered departure and would again advise U.S. citizens to depart the affected area.

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# FED Celebrates National Engineers Week

## 22-28 February 1998



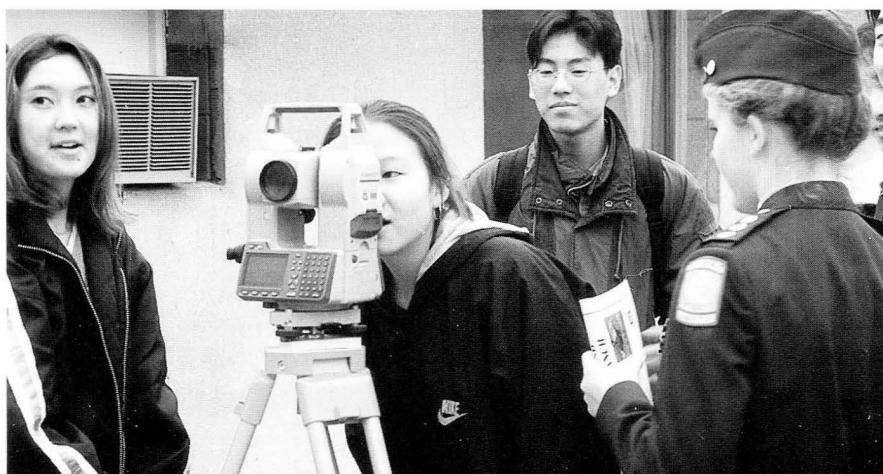
COL James Hickey, FED commander, (center) and BG Park, Jang Man, CFC Engineer,(next to COL Hickey) and other dignitaries participate in the National Engineers Week kickoff ceremony ribbon cutting at Dragon Hill Lodge.



FEDsters enjoy good food at the bake sale and chili cookoff to support the scholarship fund for the Seoul American High School.



BG Park, Jang Man (left) and COL Oleh Skrypczuk view the engineering exhibits immediately following the ceremony.



During a tour of FED, students from Seoul American High School have an opportunity to look through a total station theodolite. It is a piece of survey equipment that collects data digitally, saving a surveyor 70% of the drafting time.



Mr. Ilmar Tarikas, FED, shows students a Global Positioning Satellite receiver.



On Friday, February 27, FEDsters toured the Nangido Landfill Construction site. Construction has begun on a combination cement bentonite slurry wall and sheet pile wall which will encircle the landfill. The slurry wall will be 3,320 meters long, 800 millimeters high and approximately 3 feet thick and include 31 pumping wells and 45 gas wells.



One of the construction workers aligns one of several pieces of drill equipment being used on the Nangido Project by the contractor, Soletanche Pumyang.



FEDsters saw these heavy cranes in operation at the large Nangido Landfill construction site.

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(left) American Forces Korea Network (AFKN) interviews Tim Phillips, Northern Resident Office, about the newly completed standard design four-story, 184-person barracks at Camp Coiner, Korea. The barracks include living/sleeping rooms, shower, storage laundry, mud room, exercise room, kitchen/dining room, lounge, and game room. Supporting facilities include paving, sidewalks, storm drainage and bike racks. The project cost for the two buildings is \$9 million and the new facilities will replace 24 buildings.

(Right) A reporter from AFKN films construction work at the Child Development Center (CDC) Project at Yongsan Garrison. The CDC is the first state-of-the-art facility at Yongsan with outdoor activities space and supporting facilities adapted to meet the site conditions. The \$4.5 million dollar project includes media, music and play areas; areas for small and large group activities; food service area, fire protection and alarm systems; and playground equipment.



(left) Doug Bliss, Foundation and Materials Branch, does an on-camera interview with AFKN about the Far East District's well drilling program on the peninsula. FED constructs 5-10 new wells each year. FED currently maintains 249 water wells on 50 installations in Korea. These wells deliver 16 million gallons of drinking water each day, at a yearly savings of \$22 million over the cost of municipal or hauled water.



# Noncombatant Evacuation Plan

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If a situation develops quickly and the Department of State requires assistance in the evacuation of noncombatants then the Secretary of State will request that military assist in the evacuation. This is the third phase of NEO. During this stage, the military will assemble the noncombatants and then either relocate or evacuate them to a safer place.

Each unit has NEO wardens who are responsible for checking on his or her group of noncombatants and continuously updating the group on any new information. In the event of a developing crisis people should stay at home or a safe place, listen to American Forces Korea Network television and radio for advisories, and prepare to react to instructions from their NEO wardens.

McCarthy said that in the event of a military assisted evacuation USFK would establish 18 assembly points on the Korean peninsula where noncombatants will assemble. Once the noncombatants are screened for eligibility, the military will move the noncombatants to an evacuation port or relocate them to a safe place on the peninsula until they can be evacuated.

To make the whole process work successfully requires practice. Noncombatant readiness exercises called "Courageous Channel" are conducted semi-annually, usually during the spring and fall each year. During these exercises a full dress rehearsal of NEO is conducted. The purpose of this exercise is to train all participants in the procedures to follow during the alert and assembly phases to instill realistic expectations.

During some exercises selected noncombatants will be evacuated through the system to test the relocation, evacuation and safe haven phases of the plan. McCarthy said USFK full time NEO staff uses the lessons learned from these exercises and from actual evacuations around the world to continually refine the military assisted evacuation plan for Korea.

Evacuation can be made easier and less stressful by attending regularly scheduled NEO briefings, and knowing the closest assembly point and how to get there quickly. Always carry U.S. citizenship documents, a portable radio and be mentally and physically prepared to evacuate on short notice.



## Women Preserve America's Freedom

by Staff Sgt. Alicia K. Borlik, USA  
American Forces Press Service

"These women, from Korea to Kuwait and from Sarajevo to San Diego, . . . are preserving America's freedom in ways that their mothers and grandmothers could have only dreamed," Defense Secretary William S. Cohen said March 5 during DOD's Women's History Month observance.

As Cohen praised the courage and will of present military women, he didn't forget those mothers and grandmothers who broke barriers and paved the way.

"One of the proudest moments for our military in the past year occurred very close to home," Cohen said. "That was when we were gathered at the Arlington Cemetery to dedicate the women in Military Service to America Memorial, a very much overdue symbol of the nation's gratitude."

While reflecting on the triumphs of past and present military women, Cohen made a strong statement for the future. "Armed with the lessons of their leadership, we should redouble our efforts to ensure our military is fair to all people," Cohen said. "We have to be clear. We cannot tolerate and will not tolerate racism. We will not tolerate brutality. We will not

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## Women Preserve America's Freedom

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tolerate sexual harassment or abuse.

The theme for the observance is "Living the Legacy of Women's Rights," marking the 150th Anniversary of the Women's Rights Movement.

Keynote speaker Tipper Gore, wife of the vice president, shared a personal story telling how she learned about women in the military.

Ms. Gore remembered when, as a little girl, she read about a girl disguising herself as a boy so she could go to war. "It didn't occur to me that maybe there was another way," Mrs. Gore said. "She could go as a girl."

One story that is rarely told in history books is the story of military women, she continued. "Their struggle for their right to defend our nation goes back to the very beginning of this nation when women often disguised themselves as men so that they could go and fight battles and go off to war."

And what of our heroines, Mrs. Gore asked. "The names of our military heroes are very familiar, and they will always stand strong and inspire us. They should. But others' names should be added. "Names like Clara Moss, Mary Walker and Marie Rossi.

Mrs. Gore recalled Rossi, an Army helicopter pilot during the Gulf War who made the ultimate sacrifice. "In a CNN interview just days before her death she responded to the question about how was it to be a woman facing such danger. Her answer was that it was her job," Mrs. Gore said. "There was nothing peculiar about her being a woman. She was just the person called upon to do it -- the job."

In the last five years, the barriers to women's services have fallen at an incredible pace, Mrs. Gore said. Some of the firsts include, Sheila Widnall, the first woman to serve as a service secretary (the Air Force) and Air Force Lt. Col. Eileen Collins, the first woman named to command a space shuttle discovery mission.

Today women are deployed in every theater, including Somalia and Bosnia where women serve as battalion commanders, Mrs. Gore said. "Military service, historically the proving ground for women who do not believe, who will not accept life's barriers, have broken ground and paved the way for all women. And we thank you."



## Women's History Month

Moyer Activities Center  
Lounge  
Yongsan Garrison

### 19 March 98

"Stress Management"  
1200-1300 - Korean  
1300-1400 - English

### 23 March 98

"Legal Issues"  
1200-1400

### 24 March 98

"Personnel Processing Improvements"  
1200-1300

### 30 March 98

"Women's Health Overview"  
1200-1400

*Our best wishes go to Ms. Choe, Si-Cha, who is recovering from a broken leg and Mr. Chang, Tok-Chu, recently hospitalized because of stomach cancer, but is doing well and recovering at home.*

This issue of the *East Gate Edition* is dedicated to Mr. Choe, Kwang-Son, mechanical engineer in Design Branch, who recently passed away. Our sincere condolences to his family.