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Environment at a Glance

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AI-based Digital Textbooks?

Technology



A LIQUID WASTE AND FOOD WASTE BIN, SUNGKYUNKWAN UNIVERSITY  
AUGUST 1, 2024 [NOH HYUN-JIN]

## Is Ajou University Left Behind?

### on the Food Waste Disposal System

The Ajou Globe (The AG) discovered that a significant portion of the surveyed students consider the absence of food waste disposers or bins urgent, as highlighted in Issue No. 170. In response, The AG conducted a follow-up survey focused specifically on the school's food waste disposal system and investigated implementing practices from other universities. Based on these findings, The AG submitted a proposal to the General Affairs Team to implement a sustainable food waste disposal system, aiming to enhance environmental sustainability on campus as well as student welfare.

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#### Ongoing food waste disposal systems at other universities

At Ajou University, each building's garbage is collected by the sanitation workers and transported to an on-campus waste site. The waste is then sent to a third-party company for sorting work. Yet, due to the school's lack of attention to food waste management, there are no specific guidelines or dedicated bins, leading to campus pollution and distress for students.



A SINK AND HIGH PRESSURE WASHER, CHUNG-ANG UNIVERSITY,  
AUGUST 1, 2024 [NOH HYUN-JIN]

Reporters investigated food waste management practices at other universities. First, at the Seoul Campus of Chung-Ang University (CAU), Seorabeol Hall has a sink in the hallway equipped with strainers, dishwashing detergent, scrubbers, and a high-pressure washer. Recycling bins are placed with posters explaining how to sort waste, as well as a designated box for disposing of disposable cups and straws. In other areas without the sink facility, liquid waste bins are provided. According to the General Affairs Team at CAU, the school only manages the liquid waste bins, not food waste. The team mentioned that although CAU headquarters had considered

introducing food waste bins several times, they ultimately decided against it due to concerns about the limited human and material resources required to manage conditions such as foul odors, insects, and the cleaning process. However, sanitation workers placed food waste bins in some buildings.



FOOD WASTE BIN, SUNGKYUNKWAN UNIVERSITY,  
AUGUST 1, 2024 [NOH HYUN-JIN]

In the case of Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU), the Office of Facilities Management said that the school took the initiative in installing both liquid and food waste bins in each building. When reporters visited the Student Union Hall of the Humanities & Social Sciences Campus, a liquid waste bin was placed alongside other recycling bins. Furthermore, there was a food waste bin, similar to those found in convenience stores along with plastic bags. A notice was posted on the wall instructing students to pour food into the strainer, then place the food in a bag, tie it, and collect it.

The table on the right provides broader information of other universities' food waste disposal system, selected based on the 2023 JoongAng Ilbo University Rankings and QS Index Rankings. Although more universities than listed were

contacted, some declined to be included and are therefore not listed. While Ajou University is not alone in lacking food or liquid waste bins, it is important to note that some universities have recognized the issue

and taken proactive measures the need to improve food waste management to enhance environmental sustainability and student welfare on campus.

By Noh Hyun-jin, Choi Ji-hyun, AG Reporters  
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| University  | Presence of Food Waste Bins | Presence of Liquid Waste Bins  | Remarks  |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Chung-Ang University                                      | Yes                         | Yes (in all buildings)         | - Food Waste Disposal Manual distributed<br>- High-pressure washer installed in some buildings   |
| Dongguk University  | No                          | Considering pilot installation |  |
| Ewha Womans University                                    | Yes                         | Yes                            | - Implements strict separation and disposal procedures for effective management  |
| Handong Global University                                 | Yes                         | No                             |  |
| Hongik University   | Yes                         | Yes                            | - Liquid waste bins managed by campus cafes  |
| Jeonbuk National University                               | Yes                         | No                             | - Managed by individual colleges through contracts with service providers, specifically in buildings with high food waste.   |
| Korea Advance Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) | Yes                         | No                             | - Varies by building; some have food waste bins<br>- Availability depends on the age and condition of the buildings.   |
| Konkuk University   | No                          | Pilot program in progress      | - The sink pilot program is also in progress.  |
| Korea University  | No                          | No                             |  |
| Kyung Hee University                                      | Yes (in all buildings)      | Yes (in all buildings)         | - Students are instructed to seal food waste before disposal to prevent odor and management issues.  |
| Kookmin University  | Yes                         | No                             | - Primarily located in lobbies where stores and cafes are located.   |
| Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH)     | Yes                         | No                             | - Food waste disposers are installed in some buildings.  |
| Seoul National University                                 | Yes                         | No                             | - Despite a policy discouraging food delivery, food waste bins are installed to handle unavoidable waste.<br>- Only food waste from club rooms is handled in collaboration with SNU Cooperative. |
| Sungkyunkwan University                                   | Yes (in all buildings)      | Yes (in all buildings)         | - Plastic bags are provided in some buildings  |
| Sookmyung Women's University                              | Yes                         | Yes                            | - Placed near restrooms or trash bins on most buildings.   |
| Yonsei University   | Yes                         | No                             | - Despite a policy discouraging food delivery, food waste bins are installed to handle unavoidable waste   |

Note: The universities are listed in alphabetical order



## Upcoming Changes to University Admissions in 2025



2025 UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS PRESENTATION, JUNE 5, 2024 [KANG ZEE-WOO]

On June 5, Ajou University's Center for University Innovation held a presentation about upcoming changes in university admissions. Previously, the Ministry of Education (MOE) announced various changes for the 2025 university admissions process. In response, Ajou University introduced its own educational innovation model to align with these changes. The MOE has requested two major changes from universities: ensuring opportunities for students to choose their majors and promoting interdisciplinary education. Ajou University's educational innovation model reflects these requests in the following ways. The following changes will only apply to freshmen in 2025.

First, the university will establish the Division of Liberal Studies (name subject to change) for freshmen, which will guarantee students the opportunity to choose their major without being assigned to a specific one from the start. Students in the Division of Liberal Studies will have the freedom to choose from a wide range of majors, except those in the School of Medicine, the Advanced College of Bio-convergence Engineering, and the Department of Sports and Leisure Studies will be excluded from this option. Freshmen in the Division of Liberal Studies will be able to choose any major regardless of their year. To accommodate future choices by students in the Division of Liberal Studies, enrollment in other majors will be capped. Second, because of interdisciplinary education, several departments will be merged. For example, in the College of Social Sciences, the Department of Political Science and Diplomacy, the Department of Economics, and the Department of Sociology will be merged into the School of Economic, Political and Social Studies. Similarly, in the College of Natural Science, the Department of Physics, the Department of Chemistry, and the Department of Biological Science will be merged into the School of Frontier Science.

For more specific information relevant to all Ajou University students, please visit the Ajou University's website.

By Kang Zee-woo, AG Reporter  
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## Reading Room 4F Renovation Delayed to End of September

Remodeling work is currently underway on the fourth floor of Ajou University's Central Library Reading Room as the second project for building a complex learning lounge to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the school's opening. The construction, which began on June 24, was initially scheduled to be completed by September 10. However, an interview with the head of the library team revealed that ongoing design selection and modifications have extended the completion date

to the end of September.

Despite the construction, the Central Library continues to operate normally, with the exception of the fourth-floor reading room. Students are advised to note the delay in the reopening of this area. Further details regarding the library's remodeling will be provided in the upcoming issue.

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## Kim Dong-yeon Speaks "Be a Connecting Mind"



GOVERNOR KIM DONG-YEON'S SPEECH, MAY 30, 2024 [LEE HYUNG-JU]

Gyeonggi-do Governor Kim Dong-yeon, who served as the 15th president of Ajou University, visited our university on May 30 as a speaker. He began his lecture with affinity, stating that he would come whenever Ajou University called, and explaining his philosophy based on a rough early life. "Dots come together to form a line, and lines come together to form a plane"—Kim emphasized the importance of having a variety of experiences, which together shape one's career path, and ultimately unite to form one's dreams. Based on this philosophy, during his incumbency, he launched activities such as the President's Book Club and the Global Frontier program, which is a sequel to the program called "After You," offering Ajou University students many enriching experiences. Even after the lecture, questions and answers continued for about 40 minutes, showing active engagement.

By Lee Hyung-ju, AG Reporter  
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## TEDxAjouU, Long Time No See



TEDXAJOUU, JUNE 5, 2024 [KANG ZEE-WOO]

On June 5, Ajou University again hosted a TED talk after 10 years of absence. TEDxAjouU was organized by undergraduate students who came together voluntarily and featured four speakers: Shin Kyung-cheol, CEO of TaeguKdang; Park Jun-su, self-development brander; Lee Sang-eun, International Olympic Committee (IOC) Young Leader; and Won Chae-rin, Public Diplomacy Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Korea.

Interview with Lee Tae-min, the organizing team leader of TEDxAjouU

**Q1. What motivated you and other members to organize TEDxAjouU?**

**A.** We wanted students to interact with the speakers and gain new insights. Personally, I have always been a big fan of TED talks, and organizing such a huge event was something I really wanted to do during my time at the university.

**Q2. Why did you choose "Riptide" as the title for this TEDxAjouU?**

**A.** Lately, I have been feeling like the world is changing incredibly fast. However, we have become so accustomed to these rapid changes that we sometimes fail to take action or adapt properly. This led us to choose the theme of "Riptide," which is a sudden and unexpected current that can sweep you away. I entered Ajou University in 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic, when in-person classes suddenly became impossible. As a freshman, I was really disappointed by online classes, but now it is hard to imagine life without online conference tools. This is just one example of a riptide—an unexpected change that ultimately propelled us in a new direction.

**Q3. How did you select the speakers for this TEDxAjouU?**

**A.** The common theme among our speakers is that they all have experience dealing with change in the world, or they have insights on how to navigate such changes. We used this idea to reach out to people from various fields. Fortunately, four speakers joined us and shared their stories on stage. One memorable line was when Won Chae-rin, the Diplomacy Officer, said during her talk, "Don't be afraid to get your shoes dirty!"

**Q4. What was your biggest regret about this TEDxAjouU?**

**A.** One thing I regret is not being able to provide more time for interaction between the speakers and students. If I were to organize another TEDxAjouU, I would ensure there is more time for the speakers and students to engage with each other.

**Q5. Could you share your future plans for TEDxAjouU?**

**A.** TEDxAjouU is open to all possibilities. Currently, I hold the director's license for TEDxAjouU, but I am willing to pass it on to other students or groups who want to organize a future TEDxAjouU. If anyone is interested, please feel free to reach out to me.

By Kang Zee-woo, AG Reporter  
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Travel Journalism

## Reporter Kang Zee-woo's Shanghai Gourmet Review

Through The Global Frontier program\*, I got the opportunity to study at Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), one of the top ten universities in Asia, located in Shanghai, China. At SJTU, we learned basic Chinese language skills, including Pinyin and simple communication phrases. After study hours, we had free time to explore Shanghai. I mostly spent this time visiting various restaurants and compiling a list of recommended dishes for students studying at SJTU or in China.

dumplings filled with a delicious mix of meat, shrimp, mushrooms, and a burst of savory soup with each bite. Whenever we could not decide what to eat, these were our go-to. Remarkably, one of us managed to eat 40 in one sitting!



CONG YOU BAN MIAN, JULY 14, 2024 [KANG ZEE-WOO]

The final dish is Cōng Yóu Bàn Miàn (Scallion Oil Noodles). Although I do not prefer noodle dishes, this one was an exception. It was an excellent appetizer, and you might find yourself finishing it before the main dish even arrives.

I also enjoyed other Chinese dishes, including Kǎo Yú (Grilled Fish Simmer Pot), Niú Ròu Miàn (Beef Noodles), and Má Là Tàng (Spicy Hot Pot). China is truly a paradise for food, especially spice lovers, with countless delicious dishes to discover.

By Kang Zee-woo, AG Reporter  
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\*The Global Frontier program provides short-term overseas experiences during summer break to students with little overseas experience.



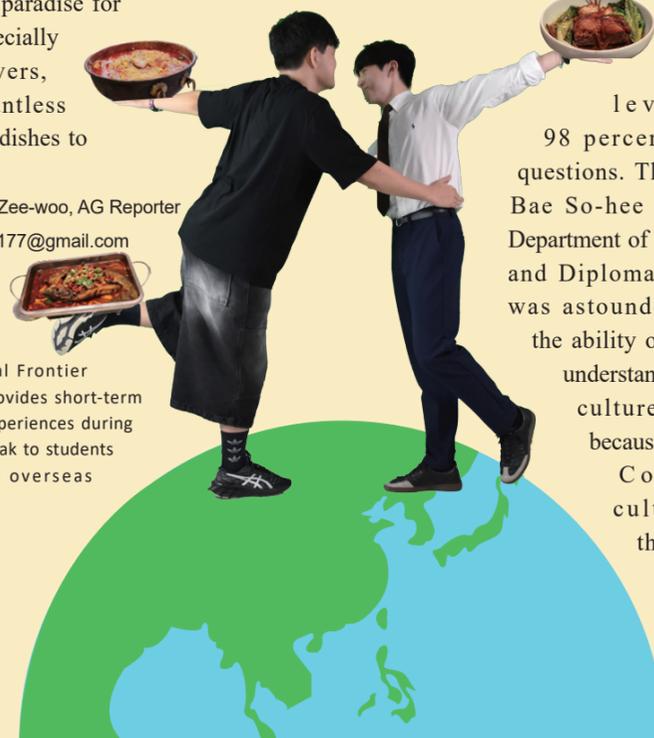
HONG SHAO ROU, JULY 8, 2024 [KANG ZEE-WOO]

The first dish is Hóng Shāo Ròu (Red Braised Pork Belly). Chinese food is well known to be greasy, and this one lives up to the reputation. It consists of tender pork braised in a thick, tasty sauce made with a variety of spices. Since this dish can be a bit greasy, I recommend it to try it with rice. Rice makes it less greasy and very delicious. As I enjoyed this dish so much, I had it more than ten times in my time in Shanghai.



XIAO LONG BAO, JULY 12, 2024 [KANG ZEE-WOO]

The second dish is Xiǎo Lóng Bāo (Soup Dumplings). Have you ever seen the animation *Kung Fu Panda*? If you have, you might remember these iconic Chinese dumplings. Xiǎo Lóng Bāo are small



Cultural Exchange

## The Ajou Globe, Landing in Hanoi, Vietnam



The Ajou Globe (*The AG*) has begun establishing exchanges with the Korea-Vietnam Culture Communication Center (KCCC) in Hanoi, Vietnam. As part of the 2024 Summer Overseas Cultural Experience organized by the Division of International Studies (tutored by professor Han Sang-kon, Division of International Studies), Reporter Lee Hyung-ju visited the KCCC to have a briefing about *The AG* and communication between the Korean-Vietnamese cultures.

Reporter Lee introduced the history of *The AG* and shared the university life through the Issue No.170. Local students from various universities responded particularly well to the Ajou Daedongje, Ajou University's annual festival, because Vietnamese universities do not hold large festivals. Students who are currently exploring careers responded that they sympathized with employment concerns discussed in the alumni mentoring articles on the second page.

After the exchange, a satisfaction survey of local participants was taken by team member Lee Geon-hwi (3rd year, the

Department of Sociology), the satisfaction level reached 98 percent across five questions. The team leader, Bae So-hee (4th year, the Department of Political Science and Diplomacy) shared, "I was astounded because of the ability of local students understanding the Korean culture. In addition, because they share a Confucianism culture with us, there were many emotional similarities. I was not interested in overseas

employment, but through this exchange, I am now interested on overseas employment and the usefulness of my major." Professor Han emphasized importance of various experiences through this cultural exchange, and in particular, he said that we have to get a deep understanding about Vietnam—Korea's third largest export market, because it is a very important economic cooperation partner in which 9,000 Korean companies have invested. Additionally, by looking at



HANOI, VIETNAM, JUNE 26, 2024 [LEE HYUNG-JU]

local students reading *The AG*'s newspapers with curious eyes, Reporter Lee, who wants to become a global journalist specialized in diplomacy, reflected on the function of the media, realizing that newspapers function as a window to see other countries. Also, as *The AG*'s reporter, it was exciting that *The AG* is going abroad. As all reporters do their best, Reporter Lee's goal has always been to secure a reader outside of the university, and now it seems that this goal is being achieved little by little. For continuous exchanges, *The AG*'s newspapers will be shared by e-mail to students at the KCCC and students of the Department of Korean Language and Culture at Vietnam National University (VNU), Hanoi. Through these exchanges, the number of foreign readers is expected to increase, which is *The AG*'s main goal, and to expand opportunities for students from both countries to mutually develop.

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## Bouncing Back: Men's Basketball In Korea Shoots For The Stars Again

Believe it or not, Korea was once among the greats in the basketball world. However, its steep drop to the 53rd place in the latest Men's World Ranking of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), the global basketball governing body, essentially portrays Korean basketball's tragic decline on the world stage and at home in recent years. Once a regional powerhouse in the sport, having won a record 25 medals in FIBA Asia Cup's history including championships in 1969 and 1997, Korea now only ranks 9th in FIBA's Asia zone (which includes Australia and New Zealand), lagging behind its then-perennial rivals Japan (ranked No. 2), China (No. 6), and Philippines (No. 7). Unlike its Asian peers, the country also failed to qualify in the FIBA Basketball World Cup in 2023, practically losing the chance to play in the Olympic Games Paris 2024. Domestically too, basketball continues

to lack the similar avid interest and viewership that Koreans afford to the more popular sports of football and baseball.

Nevertheless, the Korean Basketball League (KBL), Korea's premier men's basketball league where its national players are mostly drawn from, appears to have realized the challenges hounding the country's standing. Developments in KBL reveal how it is progressively addressing setbacks, while recognizing basketball's evolution as a global sport.

To increase its players' competitiveness, KBL introduced innovations such as the implementation of an Asian Players Quota rule starting from 2020-21 season, which allows non-naturalized Japanese athletes to play as locals. The rule expanded in 2022-23 season to include Filipino players, which at that time featured prominent Philippine national team players such as Rhenz Abando (Anyang

KGC) and RJ Abarrientos (Ulsan Hyundai Mobis Phoebus), the latter eventually winning the KBL Rookie of the Year award. Local talents such as Ulsan Hyundai's top prospect Lee Woo-seok viewed this as a welcome change, even referring to his teammate RJ as an inspiration for his professional growth in an interview with SPOTV during the Filipino cager's debut year. Considering comparable benefits on top of appealing to a wider audience, the rule is expected to expand further to include talents from Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam in future seasons.

In an effort to be at par with its Asian neighbors, KBL has also been an active participant in the up-and-coming East Asia Super League (EASL), matching up against top Asian teams from Philippine Basketball Association (Philippines), P. League+ (Chinese Taipei), and B.League (Japan). Anyang KGC,

one of the two teams that represented KBL in the past two EASL seasons, was EASL's inaugural champion and finished in third place in the last outing, showcasing the gradual but promising impact of KBL's innovations.

Indeed, there is no surefire formula that can quickly propel Korea back to the top of the basketball ladder. However, if KBL's drive towards more deliberate exposure to international competitions is any indication, Korea can bounce back to its former glory, sooner rather than later.

By Xavier Roel Alvaran, Guest Contributor  
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# Is Ajou University Left Behind?

As explained on page 1, a follow-up survey specifically about Ajou University's food waste disposal system was conducted. *The AG* surveyed 1,000 Ajou University members through Google Forms across three periods: from June 26 to July 2, July 8 to 15, and July 24, for 16 days.

### Key findings from the last survey

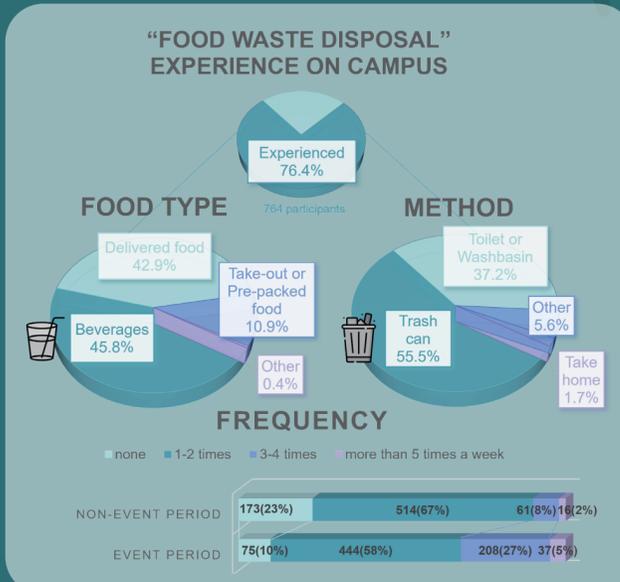
Previously, on May 23, 24, and 27, *The AG* conducted a three-day survey focused on the "entire school's garbage management system (covering both waste sorting and food waste disposal)" through Google Forms, with 1,000 Ajou University members participating. Among the 736 respondents who sought improvements, 41.8 percent identified the absence of food waste disposers or bins as the most urgent issue, while 46.5 percent suggested installing such facilities as the best solution.

### Summary of follow-up survey results

#### - Food waste disposal experiences: food type, disposal methods, and frequency

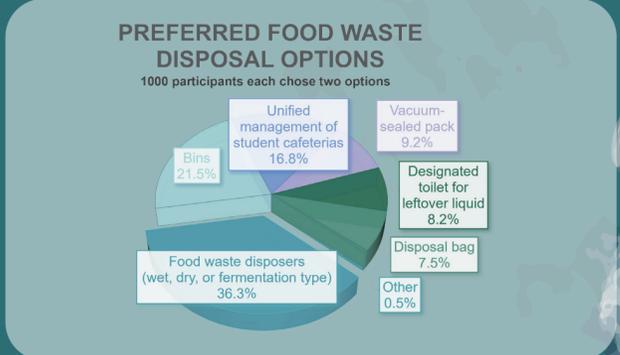
At Ajou University, 76.4 percent of participants experienced disposing of food waste (except for the leftovers thrown away at the student cafeterias) on campus. Among those, 764 participants with food waste disposal experience indicated that the food types they threw away the most were as follows: 1. Beverages (45.8 percent); 2. Delivered food except beverages (42.9 percent); 3. Food bought from a convenience store or takeout from outside or packed from home (10.9 percent); 4. Other (0.4 percent). The disposal methods they used the most were as follows: 1. Trash can (55.5 percent); 2. Toilet or washbasin (37.2 percent); 3. Other (5.6 percent); 4. Take home (1.7 percent). For the "Other" category, respondents provided additional written answers, including bins found in convenience stores to dispose of leftover cup ramen and the dormitory kitchen's food waste bins.

Regarding the frequency of discarding food waste, the number of people who discarded food waste from three to four times a week more than tripled from 61 to 208 during event periods (festival or exam period) compared to other times. Meanwhile, the number of people who did not discard food waste decreased from 173 to 75. This suggests that additional facilities are needed during event periods.



#### - Improvement of food waste disposal system: preferred disposal options and places

Regarding improving the school's food waste disposal system, 93.9 percent of 1,000 participants recognized the need. Some of the 6.1 percent of 1,000 participants cited that students must change their mindset first, not the system. Furthermore, sanitation worker A mentioned, "Students often dispose of leftover drinks improperly by throwing both the liquid and the container into the trash together. Installing liquid waste bins would make our work easier, but more importantly, students need to understand that proper disposal is essential to reduce environmental pollution." Regarding preferred facilities, participants were required to select two options. Their responses were as follows: 1. Food waste disposers (wet, dry, or fermentation type) (36.3 percent); 2. Food waste bins (21.5 percent); 3. Unified management of student cafeterias (16.8 percent); 4. Vacuum-sealed pack (9.2 percent); 5. Designated toilet for leftover liquid in the restroom (8.2 percent); 6. Food waste disposal bag (7.5 percent); 7. Other (0.5 percent).



After selecting their two preferred food waste disposal options, participants were asked two follow-up questions: "Would you use the facility you chose if it were introduced?" and "Even if a facility other than the one you chose was introduced, would you use it?" In response to the first question, 98.5 percent answered that they would use the facilities if installed, while 1.5 percent said they would not. For the second question, 88.4 percent stated they would still use the facilities even if it was not their preferred option, while 1.7 percent said they would not, and 9.9 percent were uncertain. When asked which places should have pilot facilities first, top 5 preferred places were as follows: 1. Student Union 1&2 (30.2 percent); 2. Outdoor terraces near Seongho Hall or Central Library (29.6 percent); 3. Seongho Hall (15 percent); 4. Dormitory (10.8 percent); 5. Central Library (4.1 percent). Finally, 90.1 percent of 1,000 participants felt specialist advice for adopting a specific approach is needed, while 9.9 percent did not.



The descriptive questions of concerns related to food waste disposal options included foul odors, bugs, financial budgeting and management, and disuse. Measures suggested by participants to address concerns included placing wet wipes, insect repellents, and disinfectants next to food waste disposal bins; sending a report to Suwon City Hall to attract subsidies; attaching a capacity overload notification device; selecting student volunteers; and installing CCTV and a device with voice guidance, among other suggestions.

#### -Survey conclusion

Students typically disposed of liquids and delivered food and most of this food waste ended up in trash cans. Additionally, during events like exams or festivals, the number of students disposing of food waste three to four times a week more than triples, indicating a need for special disposal measures during these periods, with priority given to liquids. To implement a sustainable food waste disposal system, the school should consider food waste disposers, bins, and the unified management of student cafeterias—in that order—based on student preferences. Pilot programs should first be launched at the Student Union 1&2, outdoor terraces, and Seongho Hall. Expert consultation will be essential to addressing these challenges effectively.

*On this subject: Since May, The AG has strived to enhance the campus environment and improve student welfare. It is grateful to the survey participants and the personnel from Ajou University and other universities whose contributions have allowed the schools to take the first step toward improving conditions on campus. The AG believes that small efforts can lead to significant outcomes.*

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# GLOBAL WARMING IS AN ECONOMY \$\$\$UE!!

Global warming is one of the biggest challenges humanity and the earth have faced since the 21st century. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), scientists have found that the concentration of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere, which is directly linked to the rise in the average global temperature, has increased steadily since the Industrial Revolution. However, even with all the warnings based on scientific evidence and the unusual weather experienced by over half the globe, arguments on whether efforts to resolve climate change are necessary are still ongoing as many insist environmental policies are a waste of money. Yet, it is critical to acknowledge that the climate issue is not only about the environment but is also the biggest economic threat.

The interdependence between the economy and global warming is precisely captured by the newly coined term: heatflation. It combines the words "heat" and "inflation," referencing the steeply rising costs, especially of food, caused by shortages resulting from extreme heat. Abnormal weather events across the globe have been affecting a whole range of agricultural products. Globally, staple food commodities such as olive oil and sugar have suffered heavily from the drought. Global food prices have climbed 25 percent over the past

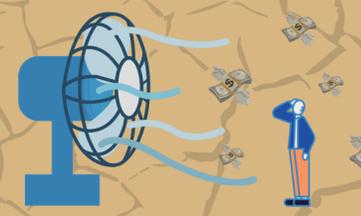
four years since 2020. The most significant price hikes in Korea are expected for kimchi, meat, fruits, and vegetables, resulting in higher dining-out costs. A Bank of Korea (BOK) survey found that weather-related supply shocks are hiking fresh food prices, impacting the cost of living for many. Cabbage and radish prices rose nearly 30 percent in one month. Watermelon prices surged 51 percent above the seasonal average. According to an inflation research team at the BOK, if a temporary temperature rise shock (a 1°C rise) occurs, the price increase rate of agricultural products will increase by 0.4 to 0.5 percent points. Agricultural prices could rise by up to 1.1 percent, which is a figure that could threaten food security, in 2040 if temperatures continue to rise.

Climate change negatively affects the economy beyond the agriculture and food security sectors. Extreme heat is causing a serious decline in labor productivity. In the United States (U.S.), heatwave-induced productivity loss accounts for monetary losses of 100 billion dollars (about 139 trillion won) per year, according to a report from the Center for American Progress, a U.S. think tank. A similar phenomenon is occurring globally. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that more than 2 percent of the world's total working hours will be lost every year by 2030 due to the heat, warning of a

loss of about 80 million full-time jobs and financial losses worth 2.4 trillion dollars. Extreme heat threatens the health of outdoor workers and causes various socioeconomic problems such as cognitive decline, lack of sleep, deterioration of mental health, increased medical costs, and difficulty in commuting.

As the climate crisis turns into an economic crisis, measures to slow down the global warming process, such as prioritizing climate-smart policies, must be seriously discussed and unyieldingly implemented to maintain global food security. Corporations should also consider management strategy and labor management variables more carefully.

By Yoon Su-hyeon, AG Reporter  
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# Insects are Appearing Earlier: Is Climate Change to Blame?

In early May, news came out that insects called "Tinkerbells" had appeared along the Han River and even in downtown Seoul. In early June, insects called "love-bugs" appeared all over Seoul. Then, on June 18, a malaria advisory was issued nationwide. These insects appear earlier each year—is this a coincidence?

#### Comparison with last year: the more global warming intensifies, the earlier insects appear

- **Tinkerbell or Oriental mayfly (Ephemera orientalis):** The Oriental mayfly, often called "Tinkerbell," is a harmless insect that usually emerges near the river and is attracted to light. They have been appearing since April this year, a week earlier compared to last

year. Lee Dong-kyu, a professor at the Department of Biological Sciences at Kosin University, said their growth rate increases with a rise in water temperature. Besides, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA), the average temperature this April was 14.5°C, the hottest on record since 1973.

- **Love-bug (Plecia neartica):** The "love-bug" is called that because the male and female fly around while mating. According to the citizen science platform "Naturing," the first Love-bug sighting this year was on June 2, about 10 days earlier than last year. Professor Lee explains, "When a long drought persists in the spring, like this year, the larvae (which grow in the ground) delay their emergence into adults. Then, when the rains finally come, they quickly emerge all at once, leading to a mass outbreak." This year, global warming has quickly created the ideal conditions of high temperature and humidity that they thrive in.

- **Malaria-carrying mosquitoes (including Anopheles gambiae):** Malaria is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes infected with malaria protozoa. Chills, high fever, sweating repeating every 48 hours with headache, vomiting, and diarrhea are suspected symptoms. The Korean regions where this year's first malaria warning was issued are Yangcheon-gu and Gangseo-gu in Seoul, Yeosu-gu and Ganghwa-gun in Incheon, Paju-si, Gimpo-si, and Goyang-si in Gyeonggi-do, and Cheorwon-gun and Yanggu-gun in Gangwon-do. The malaria-risk areas include 53 regions of Seoul, Incheon, Gyeonggi-do, and Gangwon-do. Last year,

Seoul was not included in the malaria-risk area but this year it is. The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) noted that this year's malaria advisory was issued in the 23rd week of 2024 (which includes June 3), one week earlier than in the previous year. They stated that mosquito activities have accelerated because the maximum temperature (27.3°C) in malaria-risk areas has increased by about 2°C compared to the previous year.

#### How to deal with these insects

To deal with Tinkerbells and love-bugs, reduce light brightness, use blackout curtains, and avoid wearing white clothes. Since they are not harmful insects, it is recommended to spray water rather than kill them. However, according to KDCA's 2023 report, malaria-carrying mosquitoes' occurrence density have two peaks in Korea—the density increases in June, and after a significant decrease during the rainy season, it increases again, reaching a second peak in August. In malaria-risk areas, avoid sweaty activities around water holes in the evening during these periods. Also, wear bright long sleeves and long pants, and spray mosquito repellent. Pay close attention to malaria-carrying mosquitoes that sit at an angle of 45° to the wall. In conclusion, while immediate efforts focus on controlling insects, on a larger scale, we need to prioritize slowing global warming.

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TINKERBELLS (GETTYIMAGES)

## How the TMON And WeMakePrice Crisis is Affecting the Economy

The e-commerce platforms TMON and WeMakePrice are on the verge of bankruptcy due to payment delays. Even before the delays, some raised suspicions about the looming TMON and WeMakePrice crisis. Several postings on social media claimed that WeMakePrice did not make their settlement payments. Then, WeMakePrice's parent company Qoo10 Group, explained that the settlement payments were partially delayed due to

a computer error. TMON confirmed that it was not related to this issue; however, after five days, it declared an indefinite delay in the settlement, and the situation escalated when store vendors, primarily travel agencies, began to leave TMON and WeMakePrice.

Qoo10 Group is at the center of this incident. Ku Young-bae, Qoo10's founder, once successfully established the e-commerce platform Gmarket, listed it on National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation (NASDAQ), and sold it to eBay. Afterwards, Ku expanded his shopping mall business started in Singapore through Qoo10, also an e-commerce platform. However, Ku disregarded the risks in pursuit of listing Qoo10's distribution company on NASDAQ, taking over lossmakers such as TMON, WeMakePrice, and AK Mall.

Qoo10's business strategy was to buy e-commerce companies to secure more sellers in the domestic market, and to establish a global open market platform that sells Korean products around the world.

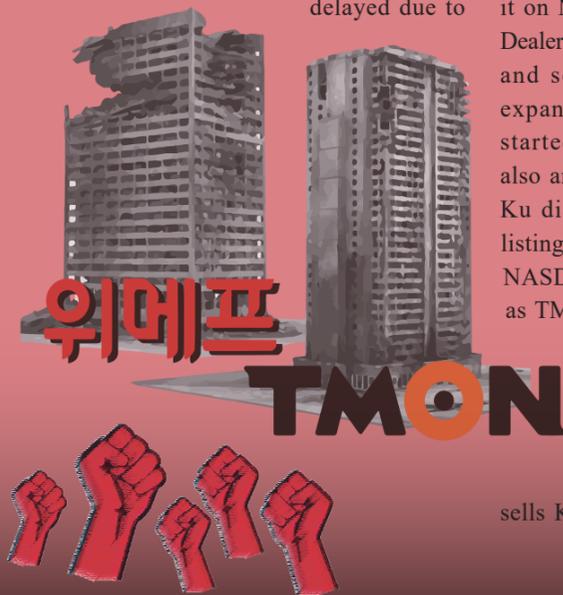
However, Chinese companies such as AliExpress and Temu dominated the global direct purchasing market, while Coupang and others dominated the domestic market. To fight against AliExpress and Temu, TMON and WeMakePrice offered discounts, but the cost burden increased too rapidly despite attracting customers.

Eventually, TMON and WeMakePrice's losses increased, leading to payment delays. As store vendors and payment agencies left the platforms, consumer refund applications were suspended. Anxious consumers rushed to the TMON and WeMakePrice headquarters, and affected sellers and consumers held a rally in front of the company. The Korea Consumer Agency (KCA) received applications from victims of TMON and WeMakePrice travel packages through its website to participate in collective dispute mediation. The incident broke the record set by the Mergepoint incident, which was one of the largest cases of collective dispute mediation organized by the KCA.

The TMON and WeMakePrice crisis has caused economic fallout for small

and medium-sized enterprises and the financial sector. Its impact is also reaching public institutions. Gongyoungshop has not received settlement payments from WeMakePrice, and Incheon Metropolitan City, which signed a contract with TMON two years ago and has operated the "Incheon Direct Purchase Section" on its website, is also investigating the damage status of 130 participating companies this year. In such cases, the government can provide emergency management stabilization funds. To prevent the recurrence of such situation, the government has introduced a settlement deadline for e-commerce companies and mandated the separate management of sales proceeds. While the damage has yet to be resolved, discussions for a solution are ongoing.

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## 2024 Election: Who Will be the Next Owner of the White House

The 2024 United States (U.S.) presidential election is the 60th U.S. presidential election and will decide the country's 47th president. The election is set to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. The election has now become a contest between the Democratic Party's presidential and vice presidential candidates Kamala Harris and Tim Walz, and those of the Republican Party, Donald Trump and J.D. Vance. The election lineup, which is clearly contrasted in terms of gender, race, and progressive and conservative politics, is finally complete. Leading to this moment, there were various incidents that occurred.

On July 13, an assassination attempt was made against Presidential Candidate of the Republican Party Donald Trump at the Butler Farm Show in Butler, Pennsylvania. While Trump was giving a campaign speech, multiple gunshot rounds were heard. Afterwards, Trump hid under the microphone stand, covering his ears. Trump, who emerged with a bloody face and right ear, pumped his fist in a defiant gesture, calming the agitated crowd. The shocking assassination attempt drastically changed the dynamics of the 2024 U.S. presidential campaign overnight. The biggest change was that the negative campaigning and framing strategies of the two major parties temporarily subsided, and "national unity" emerged as a key theme for both candidates.



VS

On July 21, Joe Biden, the current U.S. President and a member of the Democratic Party, officially withdrew from the presidential race. Biden stepped down just a month before the party convention and 107 days before the general election. The decisive moment came on June 27, during the first CNN-hosted presidential debate, when Biden exhibited concerning behavior and frequent verbal missteps. In a brief explanation, Biden stated that he believes it is in the best interest of his party and the country for him to step down from the presidential candidacy and instead focus on his duties as president until the end of his term. Just two hours after President Biden's withdrawal from the race, Vice President Harris swiftly declared her own candidacy and absorbed Biden's campaign infrastructure, effectively securing the Democratic Party's nomination. The dramatic turn of events in the 2024 U.S. presidential election has set the stage for a highly anticipated matchup between Harris and Trump.



Following Biden's withdrawal, the second debate and Harris and Trump's first debate together, is scheduled for September 10 on ABC. In addition to the major events mentioned, there have also been numerous controversies surrounding the election process. Trump made racist remarks during July 31 debate hosted by the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), targeting Harris by saying "So I don't know—Is she Indian? Or is she black?" U.S. media outlets, like *The New York Times*, reported that while these may be part of their campaign strategy, such statements could also backfire. These incidents demonstrate that the presidential election has become embroiled in race and gender conflicts. Meanwhile, on the second day of the Democratic National Convention, former President Barack Obama took the stage as the final speaker, emphasizing that the torch has been passed to Harris and that she is the right leader to guide America's future. Just a month after announcing her candidacy, Harris has surpassed Trump in polling support, which analysts attribute to her ability to capture not only Democratic voters who were wavering in their support of Biden but also the anti-Trump sentiment within the Republican Party. Some observers have suggested that Trump appears flustered as Harris's approval ratings begin to rapidly surge.

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# Smart Devices Instead of Books in Class?



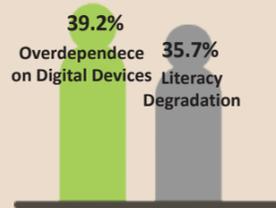
Starting next year, digital textbooks integrated with Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be fully implemented in schools. Digital textbooks will be introduced in elementary, middle, and high schools, starting with the third and fourth grades in elementary school and the first grades of middle and high schools. It applies first to mathematics, English, and computer and information subjects. Students can use digital textbooks on laptops or tablet PCs provided by each city's Office of Education. However, many people are generally negative about the use of AI-based digital textbooks.

So, why implement AI-based digital textbooks? According to the Ministry of Education (MOE), the aim is to provide "customized education" tailored to each student's level. The AI embedded in the digital textbook analyzes students' participation and correct answer rates in real time to help them quickly adapt to changes in learning progress. Another goal of AI-based digital textbooks is to help students who are falling behind to re-establish basic concepts, while helping advanced children improve their skills through challenges that are appropriate to their level. The

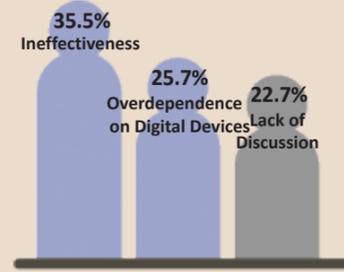
MOE explained that teachers can insert learning material links, such as videos and cartoons, in digital textbooks or reorganize educational materials to suit their class levels. While these explanations provide a positive evaluation of AI-based digital textbooks, many people are very concerned about various aspects of this technology, especially parents and teachers.

On August 7, Ko Min-jung of the Democratic Party of Korea and member of the National Assembly's Education Committee, conducted a survey through the polling organization Embrain. The survey asked 1,000 parents and 19,667 elementary, middle, and high school teachers about AI-based digital textbooks. Only 30.7 percent of parents and 12.1 percent of teachers supported their introduction. The below graphs show the reasons for opposing the implementation of AI-based digital textbooks.

Why do you disagree? (Parents)



Why do you disagree? (Teachers)



These demonstrate key concerns for parents and teachers. In fact, parents concerned about their children's overdependence on smart devices submitted a national petition to cancel the launch of the digital textbooks, receiving more than 56,000 signatures which led the Education Committee to examine the policy. In this examination, representatives of the ruling and opposition parties gave negative opinions, questioning whether the MOE properly confirmed the advantages and disadvantages of AI-based digital textbook because its introduction process took only a year. As a result, the Minister of Education Lee Ju-ho, said that they will be used in parallel with existing paper textbooks. The Minister also said that the complete replacement plan of AI-based digital textbooks will be announced after the parallel use. In other

words, the current plan will be implemented as is.

AI-based digital textbooks will be revealed in November of this year, and if everything goes to plan they will be formally introduced from the first semester of 2025. If successful, Korea will take the title of the world's first nation to fully adopt AI-based digital textbooks in public education. Nevertheless, heated debates continue about this issue. The next question is, what if AI-based digital textbooks are implemented in universities?

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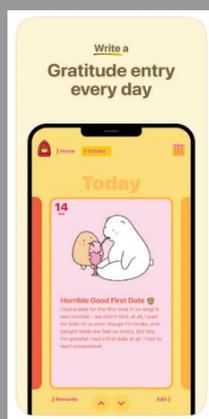
## Navigating Digital Design: Insights from UX/UI Practices



With every click, swipe, and tap—have you ever wondered what makes these actions seamless and engaging? User Experience (UX) and User Interface (UI) design are key forces that create sleek digital experiences. UX design focuses on the user's best experience throughout their interaction with the service. UI design deals with the specific visual elements such as the layout, colors, and typography that users interact directly with on the screen.

### User-Centered Designs Make Moments Memorable!

In June of this year, the "Bears Gratitude" application won the "Delight and Fun" category at the 2024 Apple Design Award (ADA). It allows users to write what they are thankful for each day by journaling, setting reminders to build the habit, and earning stickers for consistent writing. Its design stands out for providing an immersive, satisfying, and memorable experience, which is why it was selected as an award winner.



BEARS GRATITUDE [APP STORE]

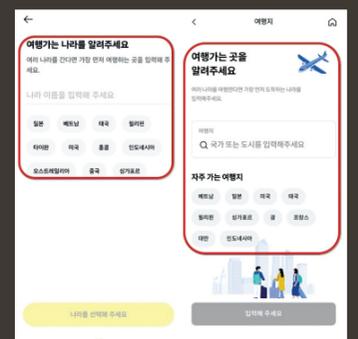
Another notable example is the "Disney+ on Apple Vision Pro" application, which was nominated for the UX Design Awards—Autumn 2024. Viewers can transform their space into one of four Disney+ environments such as Avengers Tower, and Tatooine in Star Wars, bringing them closer to the story. Each environment includes animations and sounds that make the space feel strikingly realistic, and Easter eggs from film series that will surprise and delight fans. Moreover, with 3D movies, Disney+ will offer an unprecedented in-home experience with enhanced depth and clarity, allowing viewers to enjoy a more vivid viewing experience.



DISNEY+ ON APPLE VISION PRO [UX DESIGN AWARDS—AUTUMN 2024]

### Originality vs Imitation in the UI World

On June 26, Kakao Pay Insurance launched a formal complaint against Samsung Fire & Marine Insurance (SFMI). They demanded an apology and preventive measures, claiming that SFMI's newly updated overseas travel insurance sign-up process plagiarized their mobile UI, layout, and wording. Kakao Pay Insurance emphasized that its mobile sign-up process is a carefully crafted creation to enhance customer convenience and value generation as a rising force in the insurance industry. In response, SFMI argued that the insurance sign-up process is generally similar across the industry, and they regularly update to provide a more accessible experience through customer feedback, implying no wrongdoing. The situation is especially concerning as it involves a large corporation allegedly copying the innovations of a smaller, agile competitor.



PLAGERISM ACCUSATION [DAILY HANKOOK]



As the visual similarities between digital designs continue to blur the lines, issues of design copying are on the rise. The uniqueness of a brand's design is directly related to its identity, transcending mere creative ethics and becoming a cornerstone of fair competition. While protections like design rights and patents exist, they generally require unique elements to qualify for protection. In the case of UI design, obtaining a patent or even attempting to acquire one is uncommon due to the focus on usability and frequent updates. The government must quickly explore Intellectual Property (IP) for UI design that encourages innovation and creativity while ensuring fairness. In the absence of strict legal guidelines, fostering an ethical mindset against plagiarism is essential.

Striving to deliver outstanding customer experiences is important, but simply imitating others can result in a less satisfying experience for users. The real focus should be crafting thoughtful UX/UI designs that resonate deeply with users. Without prioritizing originality and user satisfaction, the UX/UI design field will stagnate, leading to a decline in creativity.

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## Frustration Occurred in Paris 2024



The 2024 Summer Olympics took place in none other than the city of love, Paris, France from July 26 to August 11, 2024. Along with the heightened anticipation, many controversies also emerged throughout the event. Here are some of the most gossiped-about and criticized incidents.

### Pre-game

Before the big event, calls for a “boycott” of the Olympic Games went viral on platforms like TikTok, motivated by growing frustration over several controversial decisions by the Council of Paris. The Council of Paris increased the price of metro tickets by over 85 percent and doubled the cost of bus tickets. It also announced a plan to provide visitors with college students’ dormitories, forcing students receiving government housing aid to leave their accommodations, while evicting homeless people and irregular migrants, including children, to other cities. Discriminatory

policies, such as barring women athletes from wearing the hijab, also caused complications. These tensions between citizens and the city boiled over leading to the calls for a boycott.

### Opening ceremony

The Paris Olympics’ opening ceremony on July 26 at the Seine River faced backlash for featuring a “drag queen” performance that some found offensive to Christianity, as it appeared to parody Leonardo da Vinci’s “The Last Supper.” The Catholic Church in France, Christian unions, and the Vatican criticized the event. The artistic director responded that the scene depicted Dionysus, not Jesus Christ. The opening ceremony was also condemned for its overboard directing, filled with controversial incidents including the exposure of private parts and the beheading of Marie Antoinette. Some technical issues, such as hanging the Olympic flag upside down, also garnered criticism.

### South Korea-related issues

South Korea was one of the many victims of the hosts’ mistakes—France and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The announcer at the opening ceremony mistakenly introduced the South Korean team entering the venue with the national flag flying as the “Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK).” The Korean Sport & Olympic Committee (KSOC) and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST) immediately protested, and the IOC offered an official apology on the Olympics’ South Korean Instagram account but not on the English-language one. IOC’s discourtesy towards South Korea continued by using a blurred picture of the South Korean flag and miswriting fencing gold medalist Oh Sang-uk’s name on Instagram.

### Greenwashing

A heat wave was expected during the Paris Olympics, but there was a debate over the lack of air conditioning in the apartments of the athletes’ village. The IOC announced

its aim to achieve an eco-friendly Olympics and noted that the temperature could be lowered by about six degrees by circulating underground water instead. However, with the scorching heat, many nations offered to install air conditioners at their own expense. A total of 2,500 air conditioners were eventually ordered, sparking controversy over the “poor gap” in the Olympics, as only athletes from countries that could afford the extra support were getting adequate provision not only for air conditioners but for food and other accommodations.

Despite bringing so much joy and moving performances from the fierce sportsmanship, the Paris Olympic Games left some regrettable moments as the frequent mistakes reflected a lack of preparation and superficial eco-friendly management, conflicting with France’s national motto of freedom, equality, and fraternity.

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## Sinking Down Korean Football, Soaring High Korean Archery

During the Olympic Games Paris 2024, archery garnered significant interest as Korean archers dominated the event, winning gold in every archery category. Korea has become the only country which swept all gold medals in single Olympics in archery. In contrast to the golden archery team, led by Hyundai Motor Group’s president Chung Eui-sun, dark clouds loomed over Korean football. The Korea Football Association (KFA), led by President Chung Mong-gyu, who also serves as the president of Hyundai Development Company, is facing criticism for failing to make the Olympics. Comparisons between the KFA and the Korea Archery Association (KAA) are very embarrassing because both associations are operated by presidents from the Hyundai family.

The most compared aspect is each President’s competence. As the archery athletes continued performing well, they praised President Chung Eui-sun. When asked “Why is Korea so good at archery?” Kim Woo-jin, the first male archer to win three gold medals at a single Olympics, replied, “It seems that the fair association and the interest and support of the association president have strengthened Korean archery.” Hyundai Motor Group reportedly developed shooting robots for personal training, multiple cameras for outdoor training, portable bow verification equipment, radiant cooling hats, player-specific grips, vision-based heart rate measuring devices, and high-precision shooting machines. KAA even set up a training site in Jincheon National Training Center, reflecting an accurate bird’s eye view of the stadium where the actual archery sport will be held. Furthermore, the KAA even conducted the training in French and reproduced the realistic stadium noise.

On the opposite side is the KFA, which faces

numerous controversies. Behind failing to advance to the Olympics, which disappointed football fans, the other controversy was the election of Hong Myung-bo (former Ulsan HD FC head coach and Korea national football player) as the national team’s head coach. Hong, who had given a pessimistic interview about the national team head coach position, accepted the position less than two days later. His appointment process also remains a question mark. Why did Chung Mong-gyu insist on Hong, who had refused to take the position of national team head coach? The background of Hong’s appointment is as follows. Klinsmann, whose career as a head coach was cut off, had a lot of concerns even before his appointment, and those concerns became a reality, and Klinsmann was dismissed with only billions of penalties. The KFA, which faced headwinds from Klinsmann’s appointment, said they would hurry to form a new staff. The core of the process seemed to be the appointment of a foreign coach. Even though the KFA’s executives conducted several

business trips abroad to appoint a foreign coach, Hong, who did not even have an interview, became head coach. Football fans are also angry about the appointment of Hong, but at the same time, they are envious that Chung Eui-sun, show such differences in management capabilities of the association.

Two associations showed a distinct contrast. Many have praised the operation of the KAA because it showed the strength of the association combined with the president’s interest for the sport and the corresponding administrative power. Perhaps the Paris 2024 were an opportunity for the KAA to unintentionally send a silent message to other sports associations. While the Paris 2024 have ended successfully with remarkable performances, for a more successful Olympics in the future, the Paris 2024 should be a turning point for the domestic sports community.

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