

Local Information

General Information

Smoking Policy

Smoking is not allowed inside the COEX complex. Participants who wish to smoke should go outside the complex for such purpose. There are some restaurants and bars that allow smoking or that have a designated smoking area. Please check before lighting a cigarette.

Tipping

Not required in Korea.

Time Zone

Korean time is nine hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.

Useful Telephone Numbers

IFAC WC '08 Secretariat Office	02-885-3930 02-887-0040
SOS Korea	02-3140-1700
Emergency	119

Voltage, Sockets, and Plugs

The standard voltage in Korea is 220 volts, but outlets for 110 volts are available in most hotels. Please check the power supply specifications in the hotel where you intend to stay before bringing your electronic devices.

Congress Official Language

The official language for IFAC WC 2008 is English. All presentations will be presented in English, without simultaneous interpretation.

Weather

Korea has four distinct seasons. In July, the average monthly temperature ranges from 18 to 27°C (64 - 82°F), and the weather is hot and humid. Humidity peaks in July, reaching 70 - 80% nationwide. Nonetheless, it is advised that a light sweater or jacket be brought for cool evenings. For more information, please visit the Korea Meteorological Administration Web site (www.kma.go.kr).

Currency Exchange

The currency unit in Korea is the Korean won (KRW). Convertible foreign currencies can be exchanged at airports and other authorized money exchangers. The exchange rate is subject to fluctuation. For the current exchange rate, please refer to the website. (www.xe.net/ucc/)

Major international credit cards are accepted at most hotels, department stores, restaurants, and shops. Generally, restaurants and shops display the cards they honor at the entrance.

Korean Language

Hangul, the Korean alphabet, was invented in 1443, during the reign of King Sejong. It is composed of 10 vowels and 14 consonants. Hangul has 11 compound vowels and five glottal sounds. *Hunminjeongeum*, a historical document that provides instructions regarding the use of Hangul, is registered with UNESCO. UNESCO awards a “King Sejong Literacy Prize” every year in memory of the inventor of Hangul.

English	Korean	Korean Pronunciation
How are you?	안녕하세요?	Annyeong-haseyo?
Thank you.	감사합니다.	Gamsa-hamnida.
Yes.	예.	Ye.
No.	아니요.	Aniyo.
I am sorry.	미안합니다.	Mian-hamnida.
I enjoyed the meal.	잘 먹었습니다.	Jal meogeot-sseumnida.
Please give me some more of this.	이것 더 주세요.	E-geot deo juseyo.
The check, please.	계산서 주세요.	Kesanseo juseyo.
Do you take credit cards?	카드로 계산할 수 있습니까?	Kadeuro kesan halsu isseumnikka?
How much is it?	얼마입니까?	Eolma-imnikka?
It is _____ won	_____ 원 입니다.	_____ won imnida.
5,000	오천	O-chun
10,000	만	Man
15,000	만오천	Man-o-chun
20,000	이만	I-man
30,000	삼만	Sam-man
Where is the rest room?	화장실 어디입니까?	Hwajangsil oedi-imnikka?
Goodbye.	안녕히 계세요.	Annyeonghi gyeseyo.
Excuse me	실례합니다.	Silre-hapnida

"Koreans invented the solely creative and amazing alphabetic writing system called Hangul for the Korean people. Hangul is perhaps the most scientific system of writing in general use in any country."
E.O. Reischauer, 1960, Professor, Harvard University, USA, an historian in East Asian Affairs

** Korean Language Learning Website (www.interedu.go.kr)