Visit by Korean delegation to Pearl S. Buck International

On March 22, 2018 an official delegation from Bucheon City, South Korea visited Pearl S. Buck International for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for future collaboration and cultural exchange between the city and the organization.

Bucheon City was designated as a UNESCO City of Literature in 2017, the first in Asia and the 21st in the world. During her lifetime, Pearl S. Buck made important contributions to Bucheon City, which today hosts an annual festival in her honor. The Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall now stands on the former site of her orphanage for war orphans and mixed-race orphans.

The day included a visit to Pearl S. Buck’s grave followed by a tour of the Pearl S. Buck House led by docents Sandra Weikel and Cindy Louden. Bucks County Commissioner, Robert G. Loughery, and Julie Henning, who was raised by Pearl S. Buck, joined the group. The group moved on to the Cultural Center where Janet L. Mintzer, the President and CEO of Pearl S. Buck International, and the Vice Mayor of Bucheon City, You-myun Song, signed the memorandum of understanding and exchanged gifts. Timothy Kwon, Executive Director of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea, served as a translator for the day. Following a catered lunch provided by Jamie Hollander Gourmet Foods & Catering, the Korean delegation moved on to Doylestown where they received a personal tour of the Mercer Museum by its director, Kyle McCoy, and a personal tour of the Michener Museum by its director, Barbara Donnelly Bentivoglio. These museums along with the Pearl S. Buck House are important cultural sites in Pennsylvania.

The Korean delegation included:

1. Mr. You-myun Song, Deputy Mayor, Supervising General Affairs of Bucheon City, South Korea
2. Mr. Ju-hyoung Lee, Director, Culture & Art Division, Bucheon City, Supervising General Affairs of Culture & Art, South Korea
3. Mr. Gyeong-ho Song, Head of Religious Team, Culture & Art Div., Bucheon City, Supervising General Affairs of Museums, South Korea
4. Mr. Min-ho Lee, Staff in Charge of Museum Affairs, Culture & Art Div., Bucheon City, South Korea
5. Mr. Yoon-su Bae, Executive Director, Head of Art Supporting Div., Bucheon Culture Foundation (a city-established culture organization which runs museums in Bucheon City), South Korea
6. Ms. Mi-hyun Jung, Head of Curator Div., Bucheon Culture Foundation (assigned to Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall, In charge of general affairs of museums of Bucheon City)
7. Mr. Timothy Kwon, Executive Director of Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea, South Korea

The Korean delegation led by You-myun Song: Timothy Kwon, Executive Director of Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea, South Korea; Janet L. Mintzer, President & CEO of Pearl S. Buck International; Bucks County Commissioner, Robert G. Loughery; and Julie Henning, who was raised by Pearl S. Buck at the Pearl S. Buck House.
Mr. You-myun Song, Deputy Mayor, Supervising General Affairs of Bucheon City, South Korea on the left with Bucks County Commissioner Robert G. Loughery at the Pearl S. Buck House
Bucks County Commissioner Robert G. Loughery on the left with Julie Henning, who was raised by Pearl S. Buck, at the Pearl S. Buck House
The Korean delegation with Janet L. Mintzer, President & CEO; Fred Schea, Chairman of the Board of Pearl S. Buck International; Gayle Goodman, Vice Chairperson of the Board; and Julie Henning, who was raised by Pearl S. Buck, at the Cultural Center.
Janet L. Mintzer, President and CEO of Pearl S. Buck International on the left receiving a gift from You-myung Song, Deputy Mayor, Supervising General Affairs of Bucheon City, South Korea
Janet L. Mintzer, President and CEO of Pearl S. Buck International receiving a gift of pictures of her husband and herself from You-myun Song, Deputy Mayor, Supervising General Affairs of Bucheon City, South Korea
Janet L. Mintzer, President and CEO of Pearl S. Buck International, giving a gift of a framed picture of the Pearl S. Buck House to You-myun Song, Deputy Mayor, Supervising General Affairs of Bucheon City, South Korea
Janet L. Mintzer, President and CEO of Pearl S. Buck International on the left with You-myun Song, Deputy Mayor, Supervising General Affairs of Bucheon City, South Korea at the ceremony for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for future collaboration and cultural exchange between the city and the organization in the Cultural Center.
Julie Henning, who was raised by Pearl S. Buck (left), speaking with Vice Chairperson of the Board, Gayle Goodman (middle) and Chairman of the Board, Fred Schea

---

Pearl S. Buck International® provides opportunities to explore and appreciate other cultures, builds better lives for children around the globe and promotes the legacy of our founder by preserving and interpreting her National Historic Landmark Home.

- END -