

**FUTUREtakes**

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### **From the WFS Korea Chapter**

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The WFS Korea Chapter is in a period of dynamic growth! We opened our website, [www.korea2050.net](http://www.korea2050.net). A book, ***Future Report***, written by me, was published by Random House Joongang in December 2004, which is currently a best seller in the nation's big book stores. Ed Cornish's book ***Futuring*** was also translated and published on 12 February by Lee Young-tak, former minister of the Office for Government Policy Coordination, who was appointed as chairman of the new merged Korea Financial Exchange/Stock Market launched in Busan in February 2005. In addition, we have completed translation of ***State of the Future*** written by Dr Jerome Glenn AC/UNU Millennium Project. ***Smart Mobs*** is also being looked at for translation along with several other books.

There is more good news. As the only future studies organization in Korea, Korea2050 is now recognized by the media. A radio program "Future Talks" was organized by the state-run Korea Broadcasting System (KBS Radio 1, the equivalent of the BBC in the UK), where I am inviting Korea's No1's in various sectors to talk about the future of the specific sectors. The radio program started in early January and will last for a year and is being aired at prime time on Saturdays from 1-2 pm when people travel listening to the radio programs in their cars. Koreans work until 12.30 pm on Saturdays, and that is the peak period of people traveling by cars.

I host the program inviting sector leaders and experts on demographics, governance, politics, automobile, electronics, communications, culture, sustainable development, water, democratization, rich-poor gap, threats to health, energy, science and technology, global ethics etc. There will be some 28 items that we would cover within an hour program for a year. I am wondering how to split the sectors, but will focus on where Korea is good. This will help Korea 2050 to gather top experts in each sector for them to work on future studies. I have invited so far a few ministers, CEOs of the largest conglomerates such as Samsung and KEPCO and Korea Telecom to talk about their expertise and industries, which will later become our financial support groups. WFS has been introduced to our audience during my radio programs.

I am also organizing a Future Forum "SBS Digital Forum" as one of the advisers to SBS TV, a popular private terrestrial broadcasting station in Seoul from 18-20 May 2005, where famous and familiar futurists and CEOs to take part in various sessions. Speakers invited include Al Gore, Former Vice President of the United States; Tim Mack, President, World Future Society; Jerome C. Glenn, Director, Millennium Project of the American Council for the United Nations University; Frank Catanzaro, Chair,

Cyber Futures, AC/UN University Millennium Project; Peter P. Yim, President & CEO, CIM Engineering, Inc., U.S.; Sarah McCue, Senior Partnership Advisor, World Bank Institute; and Jan Amkreutz, President, Digital Crossroads Consulting.

I will also be organizing another Future Forum in mid October called “World Knowledge Forum” financed by the Maeil Business News Daily and MBN TV in Seoul, where some of you who are interested in participating are invited. I will keep you informed on the October Future Forum to take place in Seoul in the near future.