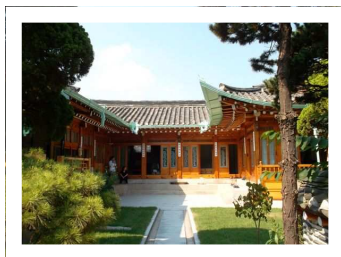


## WWOOF International Conference Korea 2011

"An-nyoung-ha-seh-yo", not really being sure what to expect when we got to Korea, but certainly having some preconceived ideas - I must say everything was completely different, in a good way!



On our arrival we found the Korean people to be very helpful and friendly. Our accommodation in Seoul was in a traditional Korean guesthouse, which was just beautiful and really stood out being surrounded by high rise buildings.

WWOOF Korea organised a traditional Korean musical performance followed by a buffet of banquet proportions. After the lunch we made a tour of Gyeongbok Palace and then learnt how to make rice cakes. That evening we went to the Kwongjang Market and saw many interesting things and exotic foods, some of which we had for dinner. This was a perfect start for the Conference as we had time to get to know each other and also sample the makgeolli (Korean rice wine) before the meetings started the following day. "Cho-a-yo!"



During the meetings a lot of progress was made and many different issues were discussed, I will highlight here what I personally feel to be the most significant outcomes were.

We spent a considerable amount of time discussing and drafting a mission statement which we hope will be adapted by all WWOOF organisations. It was felt that having a shared mission statement helps to give a firm foundation and clear understanding to what WWOOF is all about.

***"WWOOF is a worldwide movement linking volunteers with organic farmers and growers to promote cultural and educational experiences based on trust and nonmonetary exchanges helping to build a sustainable global community"***

We also discussed setting up an online platform where all groups can share information, publish documents and have access to a discussion forum. A platform like this called Basecamp is already in place for the Europe groups and the idea of having something available worldwide was supported. Options are currently being investigated. In addition to this Sue Coppard suggested it would be a good idea to include a research library to which wwoofers and hosts will have access!



Sue Coppard, founder of WWOOF here with Helen, WWOOF Korea

For me the most exciting proposal is the setting up of an international body that all groups have the option to join with equal rights. This is a major step forwards, amongst other things it will help new groups get on their feet and support members with any legal issues. The two independent host lists will be combined into one and we would all be working together and co-operating on international issues. Whilst the day to day running of each individual group remains unchanged, I think it will cement relationships formed in Korea and over the years. Having an internationally representative WWOOF body means we will be able to pool resources and show unity to the world in general. Having an international body for WWOOF may help us to grow and work along side other grass roots member based organisations such as the Slow Food movement.

**The Conference endorsed the creation of a democratic Not For profit body which all WWOOF groups could join with equal rights.**

**The Body would assume the roles and responsibilities currently performed by the IWA, WWOOF Independents/UK and wwoof.org.**

**The Domain name wwoof.org would be transferred to the new body at the earliest opportunity if available, if not wwoofinternational.org is and will be transferred. Amanda and Ian would transfer to the new body and continue their current duties.**

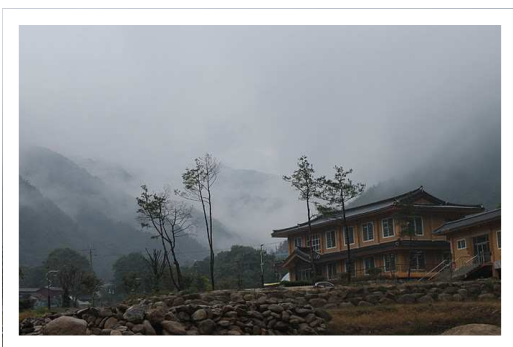
**The body would Trade mark WWOOF on behalf of all WWOOF groups internationally for all those groups who have not taken out a trade mark.**

**This proposal has the support of Sue Coppard.**



Ian Baird and Garry Ainsworth

I think conference attendees realised the value of getting together personally, face to face and it was generally felt that five year gaps were far too long! Every two to three years seemed more appropriate and WWOOF Turkey offered to host the next international conference in 2014. Thank you WWOOF Turkey.



Handemy Eco-Village school house

We had some very interesting presentations by the WWOOF organisations and Korean hosts.

During bus trips to Handemy Eco-Village and various other destinations we were entertained with stories and singing by those on board - even some laughing therapy by Fanindra, WWOOF Nepal

As WWOOF Korea had timed the conference to coincide with the IFOAM Conference, there was a WWOOF stand set up for us, a 'question and answer session' for the public to attend was organised and we were privileged to be part of the closing ceremony with the International Slow Food Association.

However, the best part of it all was to meet so many amazing people from all over the world. And whilst there are many cultural differences between countries and WWOOF groups, there are also many similarities, so working together can only be positive for all.



I hope that I will be lucky enough to be given the opportunity to attend the next international conference!

“Gam-sa-hap-ni-da” , thank you, to the WWOOF Korea team for organising this conference. We got to see some of the country, experience the culture and food, hear stories and make new friendship and cement existing ones with WWOOF organisers from many parts of the world.

Katrin  
WWOOF Independents  
On behalf of Association WWOOF International  
[www.woofinternational.org](http://www.woofinternational.org)