

Staff from MU (Business Faculty) takes part at the " International Symposium on Cooperative Education and Governance" in Seoul, South Korea.

Apr 15, 2013

Fred Freundlich from MIK and Juanjo Martin from Enpresagintza were invited by the **Seodaemun Distric** of Seoul City and **Sungkonghoe University** (<http://eng.skhu.ac.kr/>) to participate in the "International Symposium on Cooperative Education and Governance" on March 25th , 26th and 27th. The **Cooperative College of Manchester** (www.co-op.ac.uk) and the Italian Association of Social Cooperatives **Cadiai** (www.cadiai.it) were also present at this Symposium.

Among local guests to attend this Symposium were the Mayor of the Metropolitan City of Seoul Mr. Won- soon Park, the Mayor of the Seodaemun District Mr. Mun Seok Jin, who hosted the opening ceremony of the Symposium at the Conference Hall of Seodaemun. Mr. Park, Kyung-seo, former Ambassador at Large for Human Rights for Korea and current President of Korean Center for UN Human Rights Policy was also a guest of the opening ceremony.

South Korea has recently introduced new legislation to simplify the process of setting up co-operatives. Only five members are needed to establish a co-op and capital requirements are light-touch. Following 30 years of highly successful industrialization and a rapid rise in living standards, the country is now keen to develop a social economy alongside its capitalist one. It is remarkable the great interest of Korean society about cooperativism and the involvement of the Korean Administration sector in the development of the co-op sector. It is believed that this Symposium is just the seed to start identifying projects to collaborate between MUEG and different Korean Organisations with which some agreements have already been signed. Sungkonghoe University, a small higher educational institution established originally by the Anglican church in Korea, already runs post-graduate courses in co-operative management and its faculty members are keen to be at the centre of the potential development. With only the experience of a small established co-op sector, they have looked to Europe for inspiration.

korean webs and newspapers:

http://m.hani.co.kr/arti/economy/economy_general/580230.html

<http://www.co-op.ac.uk/blog-posts/co-operative-spring-gangnam-style/>

<http://blog.naver.com/sounlove?Redirect=Log&logNo=90169282161>

More photo-s:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/enpresagintza/sets/72157633215638283/>

