

English Only Policy

About Our English Only Policy

<http://www.vec.ca/english/1/english-only-policy.cfm>

At Vancouver English Centre, we believe that it is important for our students to speak English at all times in our school. Being immersed in an English-speaking environment will give you the opportunity to improve your English skills. This is why we actively enforce an "English Only Policy" on our campus.

English Only Please!



We reward students who observe our English Only Policy

If a staff member hears you speaking English outside of class time, they may give you a "green ticket". If you receive a green ticket, please write your name and student number on it and put it in the green ticket container in the Director of Studies' office (Room #1). Green ticket prize draws happen regularly (like a lottery) and the winning students will receive rewards for speaking English.

Enforcing the VEC English Only Policy

If a staff member hears you speaking any language other than English, they will ask you for your name and student number. The staff member will write your name and student number on a "yellow ticket" and will give the yellow ticket to the Directors of Studies.

The consequences of receiving Yellow Tickets are:

- **FIRST YELLOW TICKET** - A meeting with a Director of Studies.
- **SECOND YELLOW TICKET** - Loss of one week from final certificate.
- **THIRD YELLOW TICKET** - 5-day (one week) suspension from school; loss of one week from final certificate.
- **FOURTH YELLOW TICKET** - Expulsion from school; complete loss of final certificate.

Maximise your English

Viva College's **English-Only Policy** has been established to help you maximise your English language practice during your studies in Australia.

To help you really improve your English proficiency level, you will be expected to communicate in English Only at all times while at Viva College.

The only time when you will be allowed to read or write your emails in your own language will be during class breaks, lunch times and before and after class. However, you must still speak English during these times.

Penalties

If a student breaks the rules of the English-Only Policy, s/he will receive a penalty:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Penalty #1 | The student will receive a Warning Card. |
| Penalty #2 | The student will have their computer access cancelled for one week. |
| Penalty #3 | The student will be suspended from the college for one day and will be recorded as absent. The student will need to meet with the Director of Studies. |
| Penalty #4 | The student will not be permitted to remain at Viva College. The student will need to meet with the Principal of the College. |

Rewards

You may earn Reward Cards by choosing to speak English when you don't have to. For example, if you and another student of the same language group choose to speak English outside of the college. You will receive a Reward Card.

If you earn three Reward Cards, you will receive a prize and your photo will be displayed on the notice board in the Student Lunch Room. In addition to improving your English, you will become an English Super Star!

http://www.vivacollege.com/page/Viva/ENGLISH_Only_Policy/

Adoption of English as Official Language Proposed

By Oh Young-jin
Staff Reporter

After three years as the leader of "Invest Korea," aimed at drawing foreigners here to do business, Chung Tong-soo has one message — make English an official language.

"Everything comes down to language barriers," said Chung, a Harvard Law School graduate who joined Korea's globalization effort after a stint as a civil servant in the Clinton administration.

Chung mentioned the Netherlands, whose citizens can speak an average of three or four languages and provides home to companies whose combined investments makes the land of daffodils and windmills the world's third largest destination for investors.

"It's no coincidence that Dutchmen are doing well on the international stage," Chung said, citing the country's low corporate taxes and individuals' readiness to accommodate foreign businesses.

It was not long ago that Koreans were worried about being sandwiched between the advanced economy of Japan and the vast emerging market of China. The country was described as being the nut in the nutcrackers. "The situation has not changed," he pointed out.

"What choice do we have?" he asked himself, answering, "We should convert our difficulty into an advantage. The key is bringing down exorbitant corporate tax rates and giving foreign firms an atmosphere they can easily work in.

"Language barriers make life for foreigners more difficult, so let's remove them," he added.

He said that he even tried to persuade Jeju Island, which is aspiring to be a destination not just for foreign tourists but for businesses, to teach residents English and make them competitive.

Obviously, he understands the difficulty in adopting English as an official language.

"We are different from Singapore or Ireland," he said, saying that they are desperate to attract foreign investment but Korea has a strong industrial base," he said.

"Years from now, we may look back on a lost chance with regret," he said.

Acknowledging the difficulties the government would face in adopting English as an official language, Chung said, "That is what the government is for."

Korea's chief investment relations (IR) official also pointed to the failed KEB sale, now under the control of Lone Star, a Dallas-based equity fund that bought Korea's fifth largest bank at a time when nobody wanted it.

"President Lee Myung-bak expressed his regret," he said, pointing out Lee's official comment when British bank HSBC withdrew its bid for the Korean bank.

"I believe we sent the wrong signal to the international community and caused a great deal of doubt over this administration's willingness to become business-friendly," he said. "President Lee's aides should have known better."



Chung Tong-soo
Head of Invest Korea

South Korea is planning and building high-tech cities to remain competitive

By Seo Jee-yeon, Korea Times

21 November 2004: South Korea is expected to have more globally competitive cities like Seoul in 10 years as three free economic zones (FEZs) nationwide are developing into international cities. “Free economic zones were launched as part of South Korea’s survival strategies to cope with rising competition with other countries in the global economy,” Lee Hwan-Kyun, CEO of the Incheon Free Economic Zone Authority (IFEZA) told The Korea Times.



With neighbouring China growing fast as a global manufacturing hub, South Korea, the world’s 12th largest economy and Asia’s third largest, has encountered limits in its manufacturing-driven economic growth.

“FEZs, which will be featured with globally competitive businesses and living conditions, have tasks to develop the nation’s knowledge-based new growth engines, replacing manufacturing businesses, mainly by attracting foreign direct investment (FDI),” Lee said.

Developing FEZs in Incheon, Gwangyang and Busan-Jinhae is also one of the South Korea’s key strategies to prepare for the era of Northeast Asia, including Korea, Japan and China. The region has been emerging as a global economic powerhouse with a population of 1.5 billion, four times the population of Europe, accounting for nearly 20 per cent of global gross domestic production.

In a different aspect, the completion of the FEZ project also means South Korea will have more international cities nationwide.

Songdo City under construction in the Incheon FEZ is a model case for building a global city.

“Songdo is aimed at becoming a corporate hub in the Incheon FEZ, a bilingual English-Korean city where international schools and hospitals for foreigners are located and where international companies can obtain relief from Korean taxes and bureaucracy,” Mr Lee said.

FDI will play a key role in realizing the project. For instance, US-based Gale, partnered with local steel maker POSCO, is in charge of developing Songdo City by 2020.

The other two FEZs are also driving up to attract FDI to transform cities in their zone into globally competitive ones for international businesses.

“To ensure the success of FEZs, what is more important than FDI attraction, is to pull off negative factors that are deeply rooted in Korea, including excessive regulations, soaring labor costs, labor strikes, political instability, expensive land prices, higher tax rates and anti-business sentiment,” Lee said.

Lee advised the central government to provide the IFEZA with full support to the construction of infrastructure in the FEZ and to boldly ease regulations in areas related to living conditions such as educational and medical institutions. He said without world-class international schools and hospitals, foreigners would not invest in the IFEZ and other FEZs.

http://www.citymayors.com/development/korea_newcities.html

Title

Detailed Plans for Saemangeum Maritime Casino Project Might Come About

2-3 foreign companies have expressed much interest... KRW8 trillion investment

Provincial Governor Wan-ju Kim's report about the plan to construct the "Maritime Casino" to the new President-elect Myeong-bak Lee on February 22 revealed the province's detailed plan to the public eye. The fact that Maritime Casino Project has been pushed forward by Jeollabuk-do Province as a hidden card for the development of Saemangeum has attracted much interest.

According to the announcement made by Jeollabuk-do on February 23, 2-3 casino companies based in Utah and Las Vegas of the US have expressed much interest on the province's plan to construct the "Maritime Casino" in Saemangeum.

The province stated that 2 sites between Shinshido and Yamido Islands and the mouth of Dongjingang River enclosed by Saemangeum embankment were selected as candidate sites for the Maritime Casino Project. It is currently undergoing discussion of plans for the investment of approximately KRW8 trillion with a number of foreign companies.

In this regard, Chairman of the American Gaming Association and representatives of large casino companies from the US will visit Saemangeum before March to discuss detailed plans.

Their internal studies have concluded Saemangeum to be the optimal site for casino business in Northeast Asia to support the interest in investment.

The province will launch the project by securing the authorization for "foreigner exclusive" facility, and consider opening the facilities to Korean guests in the future.

Jeollabuk-do forecasts that it will be able to attract a large number of tourist visitors from port cities in the northeastern part of China such as Shanghai and Qingdao (est. population of 600 million), Japan, and Taiwan once Saemangeum Maritime Casino is constructed.

lc21@yna.co.kr

(Jeonju = Yeonhap News) Reporter Cheong Lim

<Copyright (c) Yeonhap News. Unauthorized reproduction or redistribution is expressly prohibited.>

2008.01.23

http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/BU/content/cms_view_495624.jsp