

UPF Slovakia: "Korean Evening" meets great interest

Bratislava. On March 8, 2012 the UPF secretary general Milos Klas and his wife Barbara Grabner organized in their home a cultural event about the tradition and culture of the Korean people titled "Korea in the Year of the Dragon". Their motivation was to raise interest in the homeland of our True Parents. Additionally there was a need to correct the image of the Koreans: In Slovakia there are several Korean companies (e.g. KIA) whose management methods are perceived as "very harsh" or even "merciless" (according to press reports).



Our invitation for a "Korean Evening" received positive feedback from our contacts. Nevertheless on the day before the event many cancelled their participation because of sudden sickness, work obligations, etc. As a last effort some members tried to mobilize at least one, two guests and we sent SMS to people who had promised, and called our neighbors. Just a few hours before the event it was not clear who will come - perhaps only a handful of visitors? Surprisingly around 18:00 a constant flow of people came, among them 7 neighbors and several first-time guests. Within 10 minutes the apartment was filled completely with 26 participants of which 16 were non-members; some late-comers had to stand.

The first part of the program was done by Barbara Grabner who had participated in the International Leadership Conference in Korea. She showed some pictures about her recent

experiences in Korea, including pictures of the True Family and important facilities of our movement. The audience had the opportunity to learn the folk song "Arirang" accompanied by Korean lady singers and Orchestra (from a Korean broadcast we had downloaded). We explained the deep meaning of the song, why it was so popular.



Our main speaker was Milos Prochazka, MSc. who had majored in Korean language and spent longer time in Korea; he gave a lively presentation about special features of geography, history, culture, family ties, cuisine and his own experiences with the Korean people. Our guests listened attentively. Milos Prochazka who worked for Korean companies in Slovakia, also showed and explained his Hanbok, Korean chopsticks and other items.

At the end the guests were treated to "kimchi" with rice and Ginger or Ginseng tea. We hope that we can organize more Korea-related presentations in our home/church.