



FOOTPRINTS

The Official Newsletter of Adventist International Mission School
195 Moo 3, Muaklek, Saraburi, Thailand 18180

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Loading ...

2021  2022



"We don't just teach,
we build character."



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	The Year That Was
4	Tracking Global Conflicts Myanmar Coup, US Afghan Withdrawal
6	2020 Olympics Success
8	The Rise of K-Culture
10	What's Next Grade 12 Future Plans
12	The Future of Space Exploration
14	Reversible Damage
16	Howdy Café
18	Thriving on Change
19	AIMS Vaccination Drive
20	COMIC-True Meaning of Christmas

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18: Naiwen Chang
19: Kritsadaporn Lekasuwan
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AIMS VACCINATION DRIVE

PREPARING FOR FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES

- Leslie Hayden Gara

Students are among the most affected by the pandemic. They were not able to physically go to school for many months, and they had to immediately adapt to online learning. The internet became their portal into virtual classrooms. Online learning has allowed schools to run and provide education. There have been many problems with online learning, and many await the day face-to-face classes resume. In Thailand, there are requirements set for schools to open for on-site learning.



Requirements

AIMS hopes to open the school by January 10, 2022. The Ministry of Health and Education requires 85% of the school's teachers and staff to be vaccinated. As of December 2021, about 86% of them are vaccinated. Out of 160 students within the range of 12-18 years old, 129 were recorded to have been vaccinated, that is about 80.63%.

To stop Covid 19 from spreading on campus, the school will be divided into different zones. Some zones can only be accessed by teachers and staff. This limits the areas where students and parents are allowed. There will also be regular screening to prevent any further spread. The following are the different zones and their functions:

- Safety Zone:** A sterile environment where school activities can take place. In other words, a clean and safe classroom.
- Screening Zone:** An area used to screen and classify students, teachers, and personnel. This will prevent any unauthorized person from entering the school premises without any authorization.
- Quarantine Zone:** This area that will be used to observe students, teachers, and personnel who are showing Covid-19 infection symptoms. Antigen test kits (ATK) will be provided in this area, to test possible infected people.

Experiences in taking the vaccine

From October to November 2021, AIMS students ranging from 12-18 years old were vaccinated with Pfizer mRNA vaccine, at Muak Lek Technical College. The number of students who came for vaccination was encouraging. I asked some of the students about what they felt after the vaccination, and these are some of the replies:

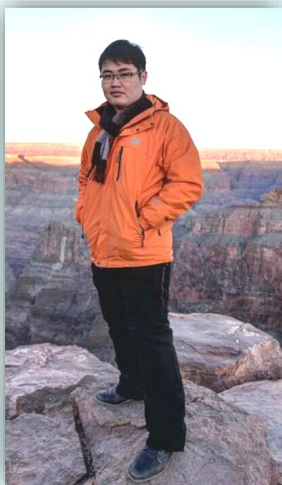
- ⊗ When I had the 1st dose, I didn't feel any side effects. I only had soreness on my arm. On the third day I had a mild headache. The 2nd dose was way worse than the 1st dose.
- ⊗ I had fever and chills for three days. The 2nd dose was much worse for me. On the other hand, my friends that didn't feel many side effects on their 1st dose suffered much more on their 2nd dose.
- ⊗ It was not the most comfortable experience, but it was bearable.
- ⊗ Many of us had fever, chills, and headache.



Thriving on Change

- Paphangkorn Sirijanya

"What's next?" Is a question that frequently comes up after finishing high school. The most common answer to that question would be to prepare for the university/college a path to a future career. In high school, students prepare for their college/university life. Recently, I have contacted a



graduate of AIMS, batch of 2011 and interviewed him about his life before and after AIMS. Naiwen Chang (Mike Payoon) had been to at least three different schools before moving to AIMS. After finishing at AIMS, he studied and graduated from Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology, which was established in Thammasat University. Now he is married and has his own family.

Was it difficult for you to look for new friends after you moved to AIMS?

"Only for a few weeks. Before I moved to AIMS, I had been to three different schools so it was around every 1-2 years in a class then I would move. So I stopped making many friends because I knew that I would just be moved anyway. When I came to AIMS, I made quite a lot of friends after a few months."

Are any of your friends at AIMS still in frequent contact with you?

"Yes I have five to six of them that I contact frequently and my relationship with them is much stronger."

How did you imagine your future would be back then?

"I actually didn't know what my goal was. Back then I just thought that I would graduate high school, finish college, then find a steady job. I think that was pretty much it."

How were you as a student and how did you perform academically?

"I was a quiet student. My previous school didn't focus too much on English so when I finished grade 6 there, I had to take ESL classes at AIMS then finish grade 6 here. To be honest, I didn't perform too well when I first came in grade 6. I was getting mostly C's and D's. After some time, it was around grade 8, I realized that I have to get my grades up to get into the university I wanted. I believe one of the main reasons of this improvement actually came from Mrs. Foster. She opened a special class for us. She taught me different ways to study so that I could stand on my own."



What was the hardest obstacle you experienced while you were studying at AIMS?

"Well, I was from a Thai school, and when I moved to AIMS, all the subjects required for me to study in English. In class, I would sometimes read the dictionary. Despite this, I got through it and that obstacle actually has helped me in the present."

Are you successful or living an ideal life now?

"I would say that I have a great life right now, but probably not ideal. At the moment, I don't have any major problems, but if I am to name one obstacle it would probably be on the side of my job. There are a lot of business problems going on right now but I think that everything will eventually calm down."

The Year That Was

- Sherik Kavira Kazimoto

2021 has been a rollercoaster of a year. Sometimes, it feels like you're on top of the world, and other times, you feel like the world crushes you. Somehow through it all, we are surviving. We might have gone through a lot of setbacks and losses, but we should not always focus on the negative things. Instead, we should look at the positive things that happened to us so far.

This year might have taught some of us to do things we didn't know we could do. In last quarter's footprints, we have learned about some of the skills that a few AIMS students learned during the lockdown. You may know some of those skills already, but what I'm trying to emphasize is that we should take this pandemic as a time to learn and try new things. Who knows where life will lead us next. This year should be taken as a new beginning rather than a tragic ending.

In this quarter's footprint, we have included global issues such as the Olympics, the future of space exploration, the role of arts & music during the pandemic, environmental concerns, and the hardships of the people of in some of the conflict areas in the world.

The Olympics had to be postponed due to the pandemic. Strict health and safety regulations had to be followed, and the Olympics Committee also took the environmental conservation to another level.

Space exploration is deemed as one of humankind's greatest achievements, considering that humans developed this technology in less than a hundred years. Staying at home led people to turn towards art and music, specifically those that come from the famous K-Pop Culture.

Some countries are going through internal conflicts, and many families are caught in the middle of these ongoing disputes.

In the midst of all these things that are happening in the world, there is something that we can all look forward to - Christmas. It is a season of spending time with family and friends. Have you ever asked yourself if there is bad side of Christmas? If this piques your interest, a mini-comic about Christmas is on the back cover of this issue.

This year may have had some ups and downs but that doesn't mean that we should end the year thinking about all the bad things that happened.

Cheers to a new year and a new beginning. With or without the pandemic, we should look forward and look at the silver lining and look forward to the year 2022.

From the staff of **FOOTPRINTS**, we wish you health and happiness in the coming 2022.



TRACKING GLO

-Phurin

Myanmar Coup



On the 1st of February, the military took control over Myanmar's government. Many people were affected. People needed to find a new way to live and adapt. Some people started protesting in a peaceful way, but the new government felt challenged. The government snapped and worsened the situation in the country.

I interviewed a former teacher of AIMS, Mr. Arkar Brown who is from Yangon, Myanmar. He used to be the school's science lab assistant from 2017 -2019. At the time of the takeover, he was in Yangon with his uncle and aunt. When he heard about the news for the first time, he got scared. He was worried about his friends.

According to him, the first two months after the coup was really awful. The military took over the banks, which created commercial problems. Cash flow was limited, and citizens could no longer withdraw money 24/7 from ATMs around the country. Citizens were only allowed to withdraw 4000 kyats per day, which is equivalent to 73.99 Baht or \$2.25. This caused the collapse of Myanmar's currency.

Apart from taking control of the banks, the government also blocked the internet so that the citizens would not be able to send messages to those who are in the other countries. This caused fear and worry for all citizens of Myanmar, and

including those who are outside of the country. Afraid of any retaliation from the citizens, the new government enacted laws that restricted the movement of people. Only women are allowed to go outside, and men have to stay at home. During a patrol, the soldiers are allowed to shoot men who are outside of their houses.

In the middle of the night, soldiers barged into a civilian's home and did whatever they wanted to do. Mr. Arkar Brown said that it was comparable to the movie, "The Purge". On top of locking the doors and windows, citizens blocked them with chairs and tables. It made the people unhappy, and they began protesting on the streets. The people's reaction led to the shooting of protesters and innocent civilians. It did not intimidate the protesters, it even made them want to continue fighting for their rights.

The situation united the people, and they looked out and cared for each other. After four months, the tensions slightly calmed and the law which forbids men from going out was lifted. Despite the easing of hostilities, the harassments remain. Neighboring Asian countries sent donations to give relief for the citizens of Myanmar, especially during the pandemic.

Source:

irrawaddy.com

Do your friends from high school support your business?

Yeah, they do. They come and even help in promoting my café on social media.

Did you ever think you'll be owning a business?

Yes, because I love doing business ever since I was studying at AIMS. I would usually sell things to my friends or even at AIMS-Mart. My family owns a restaurant, so I grew up wanting to do business. I always told myself that I'll do better than what my parents did or what my brother did. When I did it on my own, I realized that it's a lot of work. It's fun though. Waking up each day knowing I own a business, makes me happy.



What advice would you give to anyone who wants to start a business?

Plan ahead before starting a business. You need to plan every detail. You also need to put your time into it. The beginning might be hard, but you need to give it your best. Consider having a back-up plan. If you plan well, your business will go smoothly. Don't lower your standards until you're sure that the people you're working with matches your level of expectations, only then can you relax.

Location: 189 Moo 10, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province
(inside of BIG JOEY Country Resort)

Opens: 09.00 - 18.00 (closes every Wednesday)

Phone #: 094 795 4656

Facebook: Howdy Cafe&Bistro

Instagram: howdycafeandbistro

- continued from page 18

What are you doing now and how far – if at all – did you stray from your planned career path?

"Right now I am a project engineer in a manufacturing company. My job now is related to the field of my career plan. I did not steer into another



direction. My parents were already into business, so I wanted to do it too."

What is your most memorable memory at AIMS?

"That would be when we were able to go and compete in basketball tournaments outside of AIMS. That was a rare opportunity. I'm uncertain if the school still competes in sports outside the area. I can remember that AIMS was not that good in basketball before. I also liked the science fairs because we learned some new things while making the project."

What did you learn from AIMS that got stuck with you?

"I guess it would be the way I tackle my problems. I am not sure if they still do this but when I was studying there, they taught things like critical thinking and I still do it unconsciously."

Do you have anything to say to AIMS students?

"Hmm, all I can say is...you have to be ready. You may not be able to use every knowledge that the school is teaching you now, and certain things may have to be relearned, but I believe that what you get from AIMS are the ways you think critically, and the way you perform your assigned tasks. They teach you fundamental skills to prepare you for the future. I'm not sure if they still teach the five essential things (referring to the ESLGs). If you already have a strong foundation, everything you do in the future will be easier."

**To improve is to change;
to be perfect is to change often.**

-Winston Churchill

Howdy Café

- Sherik Kavira Kazimoto

Preeyaphat Pongsakorn,

or more commonly known as Kowhom among her family and friends, is a graduate of AIMS Class of 2014. She now runs a business in Muaklek, Thailand. To know a bit more about her, read the excerpt of our interview.



How was your experience as a student at AIMS?

It was great. The teachers, the environment, the people, the classes, everything was good.

How many languages do you speak before and after you attended AIMS?

I can only speak two languages. Before, I could only speak Thai. After attending AIMS, I learned to speak English as well.

Where did you study and what's your major?

I took up Business Marketing at Mahidol University International College (MUIC).

Was that what you always wanted to take?

No, I wanted to take up mass media and work with tv producers, but since my family is running a business, I decided to take up business. Well, it's better than doing mathematics or physics.

What is your job currently?

I own a café in Muaklek. It's called Howdy Café.

What inspired you to start a business?

I was a member of a cabin crew before. Due to the pandemic, I had to come back home. I thought of working as a cabin crew member and see the world for 1 or 2 years. Having a café was the last thing I wanted to do after exploring and going around the world. The pandemic made me rethink my plans. I have always loved baking and creating things ever since I was at AIMS, it came out very handy when I started the café.

Was owning a café your only option or did you have other options?

I had other options, but having a café was what I wanted most. I still want to work as a cabin crew member and see the world, or work with advertising companies in Bangkok, but the pandemic makes it hard for me to do these things now. Being at home is safer, and I think that opening a café was the best choice for me.

What challenges do you face in your business?

To become known in the business is one of the hardest. Promoting my place so people will come is the most challenging. Secondly, the food and everything else must be satisfying. Every dish has to be perfect. These days, social media is one of the pin points. One bad comment can destroy the reputation of my café. So, I have to be here to make sure everything is perfect and on point.

What gave you hope in your business?

Weekends are very busy days. I love to see the people come to my café, enjoying the food, and leaving good reviews. Sometimes, I get TV interviews. It motivates me to work harder. These are the things that make me happy and have hope in the future for my business.

Do you plan to expand to other countries?

Not yet in the plan, but I'll take that idea into consideration once my business is stable.



BAL CONFLICTS

Siloh

US Afghan Withdrawal



Since October 7, 2001, the United States of America has been waging war against terrorism in Afghanistan.

It was in retaliation for the 9/11 attack of the World Trade Center in New York, USA. It was confirmed that the Islamist militant group known as Al-Qaeda was responsible for the attack. The Taliban refused to surrender Al-Qaeda's founder, Osama Bin Laden. As a result, the Taliban was labeled as a terrorist group by the United States.

The American presence in Afghanistan lasted for 20 years. Under President Obama, the American troops helped push the Taliban back for a short while. In February 2020, the United States, under Joe Biden's presidency, signed an agreement for peace with the Taliban.

It is difficult to accurately calculate the cost and losses of this war. For only one year, more than 46,000 civilians were killed and more than 558,000 people left their country to flee to the neighboring countries like India, Iran, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Pakistan.

The withdrawal of the US troops from Afghanistan began with the initial reduction of the US forces from 13,000 to 8,600 troops in July 2020, and it was followed by their complete withdrawal from Afghanistan on the 30th of August 2021.

Right after the last US military plane left Afghanistan, the Taliban established themselves as the new government. With the Taliban in power, new tension is brewing between Afghanistan and India. India is worried about the Taliban's influence in the region.

Mr. Jayaraj Chinniah, AIMS' history and government teacher stated that, "Before this conflict, India's government had a healthy relationship with Afghanistan." In 1976, India started the construction of the Salma Dam, also known as the Afghan-India Friendship Dam on the Hari River in the Herat Province of Western Afghanistan. India spent \$290 million for its construction. It was built to help supply water and electricity in that region. The dam was heavily damaged by mortars from the Taliban, and India was not happy about what the Taliban did.



Despite what happened, India still continues to offer asylum to Afghan refugees, which they have been doing since 1979. India did not provide the Afghans refuge only because of the mandate of the refugee convention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), they are doing it out of goodwill. As of July 2021, there are 15,467 Afghan refugees and asylum seekers who are registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of India. This signifies India's commitment in helping the displaced people of Afghanistan.

Sources:

- Atlantic Council — <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/experts-react-to-the-us-withdrawal-from-afghanistan>
- BBC NEWS — <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia>
- NEWS 18 — <https://www.news18.com/news/india/as-india-mull-giving-asylum-to-afghan-nationals-a-look-at-its-refugees->

2020 Olympics Success Despite Ranging Pandemic

- Sherik Kavira Kazimoto

A lot of activities or plans were either cancelled or postponed during the pandemic, and one of them was the Olympics. The 2020 Olympics was postponed to 2021. That must have disappointed some people, but it was expected as the pandemic got worse. The Olympics had to follow strict health protocols. They also promoted recycling and even added new sports categories. There were many challenges during the 2020 Olympics, but it cannot take away the glory of the new winners' achievements that will be noted down in the history of Olympics.

Here's a little overview of the 2020 Olympics. In the 125th International Olympic Commission Session, the decision of having the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, was inked. Even though the Olympics was postponed, they still kept the name "Tokyo 2020." It was originally scheduled on the 24th of July to the 9th of August 2020, but it had to be moved to the 23rd of July to the 8th of August 2021. The Olympics lasted for 17 days. There was a total of 33 sports, with more than 11,000 athletes from 206 different countries.

Five new sports categories were added namely: 3x3 basketball, skateboarding, sports climbing, surfing, and karate. To help boost the economy of Japan, the Olympics was not cancelled. "The pandemic not only delayed the Olympics by a year, adding about \$2.8 billion to the price tag, but the alarming spread of the delta variant in Japan led authorities to ban spectators from nearly every event. Those who were shut out watched the competitions on the internet and television, and some splurged on big screens. One hot item was 65-inch organic light-emitting diode (OLED) TVs. Electronics retailer Bic Camera tells TIME it saw a 30% increase in sales of OLED TVs in July compared to the previous year."

- TIME magazine

Some of the regulations that were strictly implemented stated that at least 84% of the staff – as well as athletes – must be fully vaccinated. Not everyone was allowed in the competition venue. Athletes must arrive five days before they compete and must leave no later than two days later after their final game.

Everyone who attended the Olympic games had to be tested. Four days before the athletes and sports officials would fly to Tokyo, and then retested when they arrived at Narita airport. Athletes were tested daily. It was to ensure the safety of both the athletes and the people around them. Sadly, the sports fans were not allowed to attend the Olympic games.

The Olympics Organizers found a way to promote recycling before and during the pandemic. Below are examples of what were done to raise awareness on the importance of recycling.

Recycled Medals – 5,000 medals were made from metals taken from smartphones and other electronic devices donated by the public. Almost 80,000 tons of gadgets were collected, which includes six million phones, digital cameras, laptops, and more.

TOKYO 2020 MEDAL COMPOSITIONS



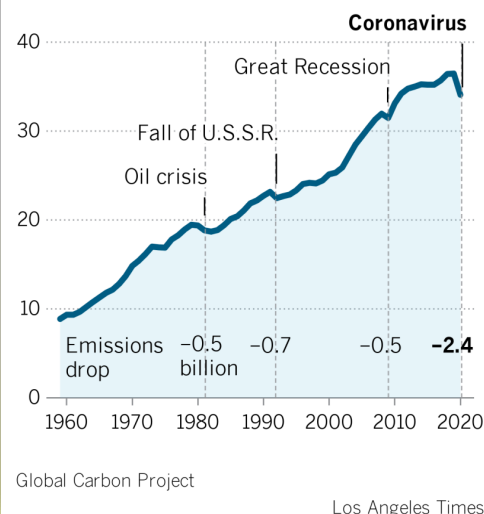
Unprecedented climate change

Many studies have shown that the pandemic has brought significant reductions in climate and water pollution. "One study found that daily global CO₂ levels dropped by 17% during the early months of the pandemic. Similarly, other research showed that levels of the pollutant nitric dioxide lowered drastically, by 20–40%, across the U.S., Western Europe, and China." Studies in the US discovered that car travel decreased by 71% and truck traffic decreased by 46%.

Pandemic brings big drop in carbon pollution

Global emissions dip during economic downturns, but never as much as in 2020.

Fossil emissions in billions of metric tons of CO₂



"These reductions reduced levels of the harmful particles present in vehicular emission, decreasing black carbon by 22–46% and ultrafine particle number concentration by 60–68%". Experts report that due to the reduction of air pollution, seasonal ozone concentrations could be reduced. They also estimate that global emissions may fall by 30–60% for the industry, energy, shipping, and by 80% for the aviation industry.

Resources:

- Los Angeles Times
- Mystique Aquarium Research
- <https://www.herworld.com/gallery/life/food/greenfluencers-singapore->

Use of plastic (Incentives) / Dangers of plastic

The use of plastic has certainly increased over the past decades. In a single day, humans produce 300 million tons of plastic waste. With the



world being online and indoors the use of plastic continues to increase. Many companies have spent roughly 150 billion dollars on food packaging. Globally, the food packaging market size is about 277.9 billion dollars. It continues to grow each year by 5%.

Food deliveries use plastic containers for food packaging. Many restaurants are starting to serve delivered food in reusable containers. Some supermarkets, charge their customers extra for plastic bags forcing them to bring their bags. Star Bucks encourage customers to buy tumblers instead of using plastic cups. They offer biodegradable tissue and paper straws. We must do our part in conserving and recycling, to make a significant change.

Our final chance

During the past year, researchers urged scientists and experts to examine the impact of human activity in nature. This could potentially improve the conservation and biodiversity efforts.

Studies have shown that animals in zoos often transmit harmful diseases to humans. Experts believe that the covid 19 virus was most likely transmitted from animals to humans despite other plausible theories. By preventing close contact with certain species, we can protect wildlife and prevent another global pandemic.

This pandemic is teaching us to respect nature. By using biodegradable items and recycling, we can help protect the environment and live sustainably. Every effort matters and when everyone contributes we can make a change. Nature has restored parts of itself while human activities were restricted. The pandemic has brought hardship and conflict; however, it brought to light the effects of human interaction with nature.

Reversible Damage

- Leslie Hayden Gara

For two years the pandemic kept everyone indoors. With warnings of global warming, overpopulation, food shortage, and other man-made disasters, experts predict that the earth will no longer be able to sustain human life. However, the pandemic has shown us how we can still save the earth. Without humanity's harmful influence over nature, many species thrived, and there has been a dramatic increase in wildlife population.



Increase in wildlife

During the pandemic, most modes of transportation and human activities came to a halt. A study from March 2021 found that Hedgehog roadkill rates in Poland were more than 50% lower compared to the pre-pandemic years, saving tens of thousands of hedgehogs in Poland alone. Another study showed that road kills in 11 different countries dropped by 40% within weeks of pandemic restrictions.

Another example of the increase in wildlife is the number of reef sharks in the bay areas. The increase in sharks over the past 16 months is likely due to the lack of human presence. Tourists often use sunscreen products which damaged many corals over the past decades. Corals are home to many sea animals like the sharks.

Recent studies have shown the effects of sunscreen on coral reefs and sea life. Certain formulas contain chemicals like Oxybenzone and Octinoxate, Benzophenone-1, Benzophenone-8, which are considered harmful to the reproductive cycle of corals, which will eventually cause coral bleaching.

However, corals are showing signs of recovery from bleaching, and sea life around coastal areas has begun to increase. Reef sharks use coral areas as nursing grounds. 16 months prior Reef Sharks were rarely seen, but they're now making a comeback.

"Sharks keep ocean ecosystems in balance, coral reefs may also benefit from the protection of sharks, as a recent study shows. The removal of sharks from coral reef ecosystems has been shown to trigger an increase of smaller predators that prey on herbivorous fish. Consequently, herbivore populations decline, and without enough herbivores grazing on algae, algae can quickly overgrow a coral reef. This shift from a coral-dominated reef to an algae-dominated reef reduces biodiversity and decreases the resilience of the reef to disturbances such as coral bleaching and storms." By using reef-friendly sunscreen you can save coral reefs from bleaching, including all the sea life around them. - mysticaquarium.org

The increase of the sea turtles' population is something to be happy about. Over the past decade, humans have been disposing of trash in landfills or by burning trash. However, 70% of our trash ends up in the ocean. This has damaged sea life and its ecosystem. Sea turtles are one of the major victims of our actions. They confuse plastic as food and some get entangled with plastic. Plastic ingestion can cause blockage within a turtle's digestive system and lead to its death. They're only one out of the many species that are affected by human's negligence.

The pandemic has greatly affected the demand for commercial activities such as fishing, hunting, poaching or others that remove animals from the wild. Some people have even reported seeing wildlife in unexpected places. The increase of wildlife is likely due to the reduction of human presence and intrusion.

Plastic Podiums – were made from recycled plastic wastes taken from the oceans, and some were donated by the public. After the event, the podiums were used for educational purposes, and some were recycled into bottles by Procter & Gamble, one of the major sponsors of the 2020 Olympics.

Building Materials – Most of the buildings that were used for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics were updated and repurposed to meet the needs of the 2020 Olympics. Newer buildings such as the main stadium was built using bearable timber. The wood used for the buildings was used to build public benches and other infrastructure once the games were done.

Cardboard Beds – the athletes slept on beds made from cardboard. It was designed to hold 200 kilograms. The 18,000 cardboard single beds were then recycled into other paper products after the event.

Aluminum Torches – The Olympic torches were made using recycled construction wastes from temporary houses affected by the 2011's earthquake and tsunami. The rose gold torches looked like the national flower of Japan. Both the relay torches and cauldron holding the Olympic flame were powered by hydrogen instead of fossil gas.

Electricity and transportation for the athletes - The Olympics committee obtained renewable electricity from a biomass power plant, which was used to light the Games and to provide transportation for the Olympians and their staff to go around the Olympic village.

2020 Olympics reminded us that despite what we're going through now, we can still be thankful and hopeful. That anything is possible, and that no matter what challenges we may go through in life, there will always be something that will make us happy.

Resources:

- <https://time.com/6087917/olympics-firsts-history-tokyo/>
- <https://time.com/6089274/tokyo-olympics-economic-benefits/>
- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/2162503/two-thai-medals-from-tokyo-2020-olympics>
- <https://www.insidethegames/spain-gold-tokyo-2020-shooting->
- <https://athleticsweekly.com/tokyo2020/the-challenges-faced-by-the-tokyo-olympics-teams>
- <https://www.thenationalnews.com/lifestyle/2021/07/28/eight-ways-to-the-tokyo-olympics>

First-time Olympic Participants and Winners



Panipak Wongpattanakit

Gave Thailand's its first Olympic Gold in Taekwondo



Alessandra Perilli

Won the first two medals of San Marino for Target Shooting.



Hidilyn Diaz

Won the Philippines' first Olympic gold medal for weightlifting.



Sudaporn Seesondee

First Thai female boxer to win an Olympic bronze medal.



Tamyra Mensah Stock

First U.S. Black woman to win an Olympic gold medal in wrestling.



Uche Eke

First Nigerian Olympic gymnast



Sunisa Lee

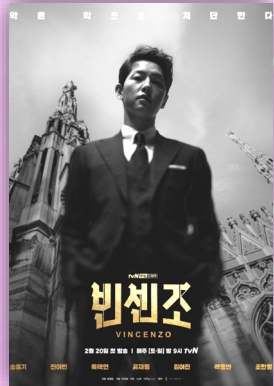
First Hmong- American Olympic gold gymnast

The Rise of K - Culture

- Panida Kanya

Korean drama and music are considered a kind of art by itself. It involves creativity, musicality, and originality, to catch the audience's attention. It impacted the lives of many people, especially during the pandemic. Some young people are inspired by the KPOP stars that they look up to, just like how the BTS group inspires their fans to love and help others who are in need.

The people who watch Korean series, and listen to Korean music ranges anywhere between 15 to 80 years old. You can see young and old people using the Korean heart sign when they're taking selfies or group pictures.



In 2021, a wide variety of Korean TV series were made available in various media platforms such as Netflix and HBO GO. On top of the charts were Vincenzo, Mr. Queen, and Squid Game. Squid Game is currently the

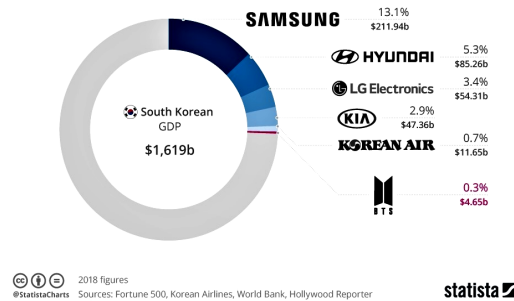
most popular Korean TV series. It is about a group of people who participated in a game of life or death over money. Squid Game had a budget of \$21.4 million, with a net profit of 41.7 times its budget. They earned nearly \$891.1 million dollars in 2021.

During the late 90s, when Asia went through a financial crisis. South Korean leaders decided to use music to improve its image and expand its cultural influence.

The Korean government spends millions of dollars to create a department just for Music and Arts. They are keen on protecting the KPOP industry as seen in their building of multimillion dollar concert auditoriums, investment in hologram technology, and the regulation of karaoke bars to protect the interest of the KPOP singers.

As KPOP gained popularity in the Western side of the world, it boosted South Korea's economy immensely. One example is the boy band group BTS. This band of seven members have taken the world with their music, and it gave South Korea's economy a boost of \$4.9 billion during the pandemic.

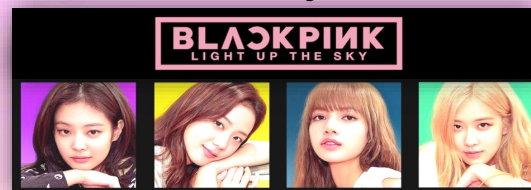
How Much Money Does BTS Make for South Korea?
Revenue of selected companies/entities as a percentage of South Korean GDP



KPOP celebrities or groups can sing and dance synchronously. However, before these KPOP stars became the big stars that they are now, they had to go through difficult trainings over many years.

Each KPOP company have different ways of training their talents. Aspiring talents must know how to dance, sing, and rap. If they do not know how to do those things yet, they'll have to train for months and even years, so they could sing and dance flawlessly.

In YG company for example, each trainee goes through extensive training for twelve hours each day and for seven days in a week. Each month, the trainees are evaluated and graded for their abilities. Those who pass the evaluation can continue training, and those who don't will have to go home and forget about their dream of becoming a star.



Lisa, from the girl group Blackpink had to go through an extensive training to become a KPOP star.

VIRGIN GALACTIC
SUBORBITAL SPACEPLANE

"I've always been a dreamer... this July, our dream will become a reality."
—Richard Branson

VSS Unity

VMS Eve/WhiteKnightTwo

Ticket price: \$250,000
Capacity: 4 passengers, 2 pilots
Launch date: July 11
Flight time: 90 minutes
Peak altitude: 53.5 miles above sea level
Launch site: Spaceport America, New Mexico

Sources: Virgin Galactic

In 2021, a space race between two billionaires Jeff Bezos and Richard Branson began. The battle to be the first was quite close with Branson beating Bezos by only by nine days. In July 11, 2021, Richard Branson and three of his company's employees, Beth Moses, Colin Bennet, and Sirisha Bandla boarded the VSS Unity. Sirisha, the vice president for government affairs and research became the third woman of Indian descent in space. Beth Moses became the first-ever civilian passenger of space flight. In July 20, 2021, Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon and Blue Origin, funded and boarded the company's rocket ship the New Shepard.

The idea of going to space is one of those ideas that may sound far-fetched or not a situation where an average person would be in. But these companies and people work tirelessly and are taking part in what is known as the "21st Century Space Race". This movement will, without a doubt, push space exploration to new heights. These companies are working towards making space exploration more efficient and cheaper.

A lot of people may see this and think that space exploration is currently pointless "Why invest in space now when we could invest to prevent many of earth's problems?"

BLUE ORIGIN
REUSABLE ROCKET AND CAPSULE SYSTEM

"I want to go on this flight because it's the thing I've wanted to do all my life."
—Jeff Bezos

Pressurized crew capsule

New Shepard rocket

Ticket price: TBD
Capacity: 6 passengers, no pilots. Crew will consist of the oldest and youngest people to ever go into space.
Launch date: July 20
Flight time: 10 minutes after separation
Peak altitude: 62 miles above sea level
Launch site: Corn Ranch, Van Horn, Texas

Source: Blue Origin

The earth is indeed facing problems that are nowhere close to being solved. Dust and gases released from space launches also spew toxins into the air. However, by developing space exploration, we can eliminate a few of earth's biggest problems. There is a chance that we could put highly pollutant industries into space instead of placing them here on earth. This would become one of the most remarkable achievements in human history.

Various inventions designed for space exploration are being adapted into our everyday lives as well. Inventions such as the laptop, prosthetic limbs, or land mine removers would have never been possible without the space industry. We are currently in an era where space exploration has just been introduced but thinking that we would never claim the solar system one day would be wrong. It is a bummer that most of us won't witness that day but we can hope for future generations. The brilliance of humanity shouldn't be underestimated.

SOURCES:

- <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/infographics/20-inventions-we-wouldnt-have-without-space-travel>
- <https://www.extremetech.com/extreme/268062-5-reasons-space-exploration-is-more-important-than-ever>
- <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/spacex-launches-first-astronauts-on-a-reused-rocket>

The Future of Space Exploration

- Paphangkorn Sirijanya

Have you ever wondered why there are some people or big companies who are dedicating their resources to space exploration? The truth is, the fascination with the sky and the space itself is nothing new.

It dates back to the earliest humans as seen in the Aztec calendar.



As a part of the Space Race at the time of the Cold War, the earliest space launch of an object into space was by the Soviet Union. This marked the Sputnik as earth's first satellite and thus kick-started the early space age then, four years later, the first ever human to reach space was a Russian man named Yuri Gagarin. The mission was a success and they proved that humans could survive and potentially conquer space.

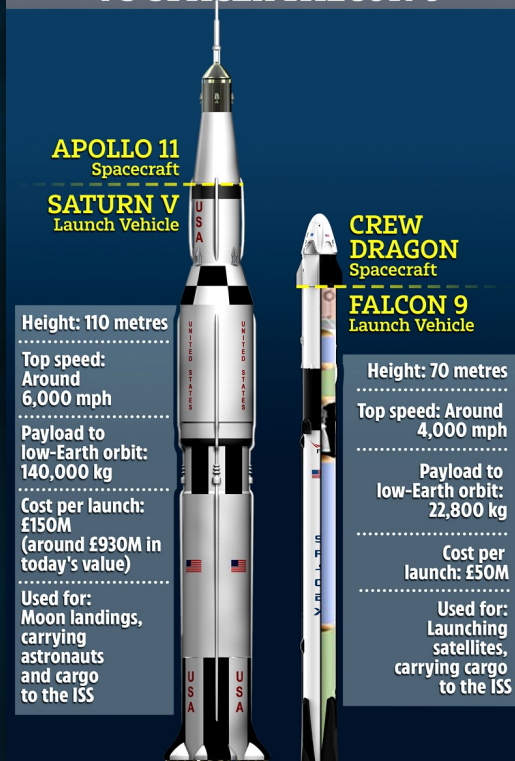
Eight years later, the United States this time achieved the legendary moon landing. The first-ever human to set foot on our neighboring moon. Since then, a rover was also sent to Mars, and satellites were launched in space.

Some of the setbacks space exploration has are technical and mostly due to human limitations. Distances between stars and planets are extremely far and the technology is not advanced enough to carry us that far. While it has been proven many times that humans can live in space, long-term effects will cause an imbalance psychologically and physically, which means that people can only stay for a year.

This did not stop the launching of almost three thousand satellites in the twenty-first century.

The satellites were launched by countries from all over the world and most of them are funded by their own governments. Space exploration have supplied us with weather reports, telecommunication, internet connections, that are now considered essential to human beings' way of life.

NASA APOLLO 11 ROCKET VS SPACEX FALCON 9



SpaceX, founded by Elon Musk, had a vision for space flight to be cheaper, more efficient, and hopefully become a means of transport. SpaceX built the Falcon-9 which holds the record of most satellites launched by a single rocket. The Falcon-9 had been in service since 2010 and is still being reused with its latest launch on November 15, 2021. This rocket embodies the vision of SpaceX of making rockets affordable and reusable.



Lisa's training was even more complicated because she's not Korean - she's Thai. She had to learn how to speak, read, and write in Korean. The company that she belongs to does not allow English to be spoken by their trainees. It's easy to say that to be a K-pop star is not for those who are weak.

The popularity of the Korean pop culture became an opportunity for Korea to share their culture to the world. People got to know more about their food, clothing, and way of life. For example, when a Korean mother cooks food in a movie, people learn how they prepare food for their families. That there is more than just kimchi in Korea, there are also other foods such as tteokbokki, jajangmyeon, bibimbap, and many more that are getting recognized in many parts of the world.



As people get more interested in Korea, they earn revenues through indirect advertising. When people watch TV series with appetizing food on screen, they will want to try to eat that food as well. So more people get attracted to Korean cuisine. That also includes products that are made in Korea. From clothing, cosmetics, including electronic gadgets.



Another example of KPOP's huge influence was the participation of the world's biggest boy band - the BTS, in the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

"Life Goes On, Let's Live On." was a very powerful message highlighted by BTS in their UNGA speech. Their heartfelt message was about the impact of this pandemic specifically to the young people and future generations (Haasch, 2021).

The seven members of BTS - RM, Jin, SUGA, J-hope, Jimin, V, and Jungkook shared their own struggles and feelings during the pandemic, and they wrapped it off with a message of hope through their song "Permission to Dance."

For the past few decades, the KPOP fans have spread globally. During the pandemic, when everyone had to stay at home, people started looking for something that can fill the boring gaps of their lives, and KPOP was one of those that kept their sanity in check. Some even started learning the Korean language. The most popular Korean word of course is 사랑해 (saranghae), which simply means I love you.

Basic Korean Words:

no	아니오 (a-ni-yo)
yes	네 (ne) / 예 (ye)
hello	녕하세요 (an-nyeong-ha-se-yo)
sorry	미안합니다 (mi-an-ham-ni-da) / 미안해 (mi-an-ae)
thank you	감사합니다 (gam-sa-ham-ni-da) / 고마워요 (go-ma-woy-o)
goodbye	안녕히 계세요 (an-nyeoung-hi-gye-se-yo)

Source: <https://fpcuigm.medium.com/life-goes-on-lets-live-on-impact-of-bts-on-youth-mental-health->



Pakhin Thamwiwat
Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)
Khon Kaen University

Fame

I know now that being a doctor is not only about understanding the human body, but it is also about caring for people. Through this career, I can be a small part of helping and giving information to improve the health of the people, and in helping our society too.



Siraphop Phrailuecha
Doctor of Medicine
Khon Kaen

Peace

My life goal is to provide better healthcare for people, and most importantly help raise the health standards in Thailand. Initially, I wanted to be a doctor because I wanted to earn more money. As I grew older, I realized that there's more to life than just raking in the big bucks.



Worachit Chantarawichai
Seven
Information and Communication Engineering
Chula

Seven

There's nothing more satisfying than solving a problem that's been around for a while that nobody else knows how to solve. As a developer, I will constantly provide solutions for users' problems. I would be working on the occasional quick fix as well, deal with more complex problem, and come up with strategic solutions.



Glyzel Kate Belnas
Nursing
Asia Pacific International University

Kate

I want to be able to help those in need because caring is sharing love. Taking up the Nursing degree would be a big boost for my personality, to come out of my comfort zone. It's a career that I think brings hope and happiness to sick people and I may even be able to save a life.

What's Next?

- Footprints Editorial Staff

Qian Li
Psychology
University of Macau

Sally

Psychology is a study of mind and human behavior. I want to have an in-depth understanding of psychology, and to do that I am planning to go to the University of Macau. I hope that I can help others deal with their emotional and mental health, especially the children and young people.



Edgar Walemba
Corporate/Criminal/Civil Rights Lawyer
University of Cape Town:

Edgar

I've seen social injustices everywhere and peoples' voices are not being heard. I want to be a voice for those who can't speak up for themselves, those who are falsely accused, mistreated, and those who have been discriminated against. I want to be an ally in a system that some people detest.

Nithan Panyos
Digital Engineering
Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology

Tuaw-Tiaow

Digital Engineering program is a multidisciplinary course consisting of computer, electrical, mechanical and AI engineering. I will get to study about entrepreneurship, and linguistics too. All of these in one degree! I will apply all of these skills to revolutionize innovations in the future.



Napat Chuenyoo
Economics
Chula

Gun

I believe that studying economics can provide me an understanding of the past, future, and current models of business. It can help me analyze and predict the future trends of the society and its needs, in order for me to become a leading company in the field of business.



Jongpanaporn Charoenkul
Dentistry
Mahidol

Shammee

I realized the significance that oral health plays in our daily lives. That realization inspired me to become a dentist. Through this career path, I can be a little part in helping improve oral health and hygiene of my community. I dream to be a reason for someone's smile.



Sirasit Srirueang
Design, Business & Technology Management
Thammasat University

Tontoey

Design, Business, and Technology Management, share the same perspective towards the business industry. The concept of the major I plan to take involves creativity in the business world. It will not only satisfy my dream of becoming a designer, but it will also help me become a successful entrepreneur.



Panuwat Hemthong
Nursing
Asia-Pacific International University

Big

Taking care and satisfying people might not be an easy job, but no matter how difficult it may be, I am going to be one of them. No challenge nor task will be too hard for me to do, for as long I can help my future patients feel better, I'll gladly do so.

