PSPS 영남대학교

PSPS NEWSLETTER

2026 Spring

Park Chung Hee School of Policy and Saemaul



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New Year's Reception for PSPS Students (02/01/2026)

On January 2, 2026, approximately 100 PSPS students gathered with the university president, the PSPS dean, and faculty members for a New Year's reception at Yeungnam University.

The event featured a shared meal of traditional Korean rice cake soup (tteokguk) and an opportunity to reflect on goals for the year ahead.

Toby, the 2025 student representative, remarked that "it was very meaningful to bring together the president, professors, and PSPS students studying in Korea in one place."

Another student, Soe Si Thu Min, shared that eating tteokguk together made the event especially significant, as it helped students feel more connected to Korean culture.

The gathering served as a warm and memorable way to welcome the new year as a community.











Gumi City Scholarship Recipients Visit Gumi City Hall (19/02/2026)

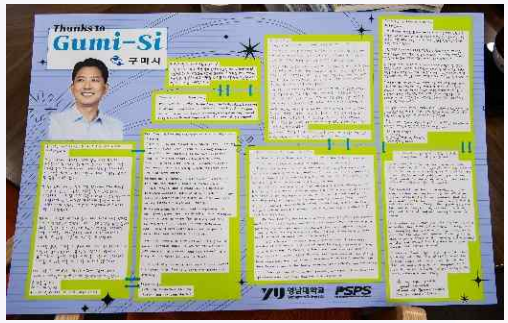
On February 19, 2026, four PSPS students who received scholarships from Gumi City visited Gumi City Hall.

The students—Nadia Zulfa and Adriesti Reicha Santiana Jesca from Indonesia, Hsu Htoo Nandar Aung from Myanmar, and Sangashar Lkhamkhorol from Mongolia—are professionals working in government and the private sector in their home countries. They prepared letters of appreciation in both Korean and English for the mayor and the chair of the city council. The visit was attended by the PSPS dean, associate dean, department chair, and administrative staff.

During the meeting, participants discussed the spirit of the Saemaul Undong inspired by Park Chung-hee and South Korea's development process. The students expressed strong interest in applying what they have learned at PSPS—particularly the values of community development and leadership—to policymaking in their home countries. The visit provided a meaningful opportunity to exchange ideas and strengthen international connections with local government leaders.











Spring 2026 Freshman Orientation Held for New PSPS Students (27/02/2026)

On February 27, 2026, a freshman orientation for 28 new students of the Spring 2026 semester was held in Room 307 of the Grand Hall at Chunma Arts Center.
The event aimed to support students' adjustment to life in South Korea and on campus, while fostering a sense of belonging and connection. In addition to the new students, the PSPS dean, associate dean, department chair, administrative staff, and 2025 student council members attended the event.

The incoming class represents 19 countries, including four newly participating nations—Bhutan, the Central African Republic, Namibia, and Trinidad and Tobago. The program began with welcoming remarks from the dean, followed by introductions of faculty members, the student council, and the administrative office.

New students also received welcome packages, including a campus guidebook, an eco-bag, and stationery. The orientation created a warm and friendly atmosphere, helping students feel welcomed despite being in a new and unfamiliar environment.



PSPS Students Participate in the Park Chung-hee Marathon in Gumi City (01/03/2026)

On March 1, 2026, the Park Chung-hee Marathon was held at Nakdong River Sports Park in Gumi City. A total of 15 PSPS students, including three Gumi City scholarship recipients, participated alongside the PSPS associate dean and administrative staff.

The event also provided an opportunity to represent PSPS to local leaders, including the mayor, and to engage with the Saemaul community carrying forward the legacy of Park Chung-hee.

Participants completed the 5 km course with enthusiasm, embracing the spirit of the Saemaul Undong from early in the morning.

To support students—many of whom were experiencing a Korean marathon for the first time—PSPS prepared gimbap and snacks, while booths at the venue offered traditional Korean tea and yakbap, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Although many students felt nervous at the start, they encouraged one another throughout the race. By the end, participants expressed a strong sense of accomplishment and eagerness to join again in the future.









PSPS Students Participate in Arbor Day Event (20/03/2026)

On March 20, 2026, ahead of Korea's Arbor Day, more than 60 PSPS students participated in a tree-planting event at the Academical Forest on campus.

Working alongside Forest and Environmental Policy students, participants gained hands-on experience planting trees while learning about South Korea's development through the Saemaul Undong movement.

The event highlighted the country's achievements in reforestation and forest restoration, as well as the role of forests as carbon sinks. It also aligned with the university's ESG initiatives and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly carbon neutrality and climate action.

Through this activity, students deepened their understanding of sustainable forest management, making the event both educational and meaningful.







Saemaul Spirit Monthly Cleaning Campaign & New Country Flag Raising Ceremony (30/03/2026)

On March 30, 2026, PSPS held the Saemaul Spirit Practice Day and New Country Flag Installation Ceremony to promote the values of the Saemaul Spirit and foster a sense of belonging among students. Beginning at 7:00 a.m., approximately 100 freshmen and current students gathered wearing Saemaul vests and equipped with cleaning tools. As part of the Social Contribution Day activities, students cleaned the campus, embodying the principles of diligence, self-help, and cooperation. On the same day, the flags of four new countries—Bhutan, the Central African Republic, Namibia, and Trinidad and Tobago—were officially installed to welcome new PSPS students. The ceremony was attended by the university president, PSPS dean, faculty members, students, and administrative staff, celebrating the expansion of the PSPS global community. The event concluded with participants sharing gimbap and beverages, creating a warm and communal atmosphere.













Campus Tour for Spring 2026 PSPS Freshmen (18/03/2026), (19/03/2026), (08/04/2026)

PSPS organized a campus tour for new students of the Spring 2026 semester from its three departments— Saemaul and International Development, Public Policy and Leadership and Forest and Environmental Policy —to help them adjust to their new environment.

Starting from the PSPS building, participants visited key locations such as the Science Library, the University Main Administration Building, Chunma Honors Park, and the Central Library—essential facilities for academic and campus life.

PSPS professors and administrative staff joined the tour, providing friendly and informative guidance throughout the program.

The tour offered a welcoming introduction to campus life, helping new students feel more comfortable and connected in their new surroundings











PSPS Spring 2026 Field Trip Program (03/04/2026)

On April 3, 2026, the PSPS Spring 2026 semester students participated in field trip program at ~~the~~ Cheongdo Saemaul Movement Origin Memorial Museum. The event was organized to study the historical significance of the Saemaul ~~Movement~~ Undong and to observe and experience exemplary local development initiatives.

The program included 96 new students, along with the PSPS Vice Deans, Department Chair, faculty members, and administrative staff. At the museum, students learned how ~~South~~ Korea achieved significant growth during President Park Chung Hee's administration through the principles of the Saemaul Spirit. Participants also experienced modern Korean history firsthand and deepened their understanding of Korean culture while sharing a traditional Korean meal.

After the field trip, students shared their experiences on social media, including Instagram, which provided an opportunity for deeper interaction and connection among the students.











2026 Presidential Special Lecture (16/04/2026)

On April 16th, 2026, PSPS students had the meaningful opportunity to attend a special lecture delivered by President CHOI Oe-chool of Yeungnam University. Drawing from his firsthand experience in the Saemaul Undong, President explained its core values of diligence, self-help, and cooperation, while also emphasizing the importance of trust and a grateful mindset. In particular, the lecture led students to reflect deeply on the importance of gratitude, helping them realize that the opportunity to study at PSPS with scholarships and living support is not something to be taken for granted. Furthermore, students reaffirmed their commitment to actively participate in the PSPS program and to maintain a considerate and respectful attitude toward others. To make the occasion even more memorable, President Choi thoughtfully prepared gifts for the students, offering warm encouragement and support This lecture was not only an educational experience but also an inspiring moment that strengthened students' motivation to practice the Saemaul spirit in their future endeavors.











PSPS Saemaul Spirit Practice and Social Contribution Day (04/05/2026)

On May 4, 2026, the “Saemaul Spirit Practice and Social Contribution Day” event was successfully held, beginning at 7:00 a.m. Despite the early morning hour, 100 PSPS students enthusiastically participated in the event, wearing Saemaul vests and carrying cleaning equipment as they joined the community service activities. The main purpose of the event was to strengthen students’ sense of belonging to the graduate school while putting into practice the core values of the Saemaul Spirit: diligence, cooperation, and self-help. Through active participation in environmental cleanup and volunteer activities, the students demonstrated their commitment to these important values. All participating students attended the event with great sincerity and dedication, embodying the Saemaul Spirit through their actions. Their passion and willingness to serve the community reflected the strong unity and responsibility shared among the students. The President of the university also personally participated in the cleaning activities, setting an inspiring example for the students through his leadership and dedication. His active involvement encouraged students and highlighted the importance of practicing service and community spirit together. The event served as a meaningful opportunity for PSPS students to strengthen solidarity, cultivate social responsibility, and experience the true values of the Saemaul Spirit firsthand.

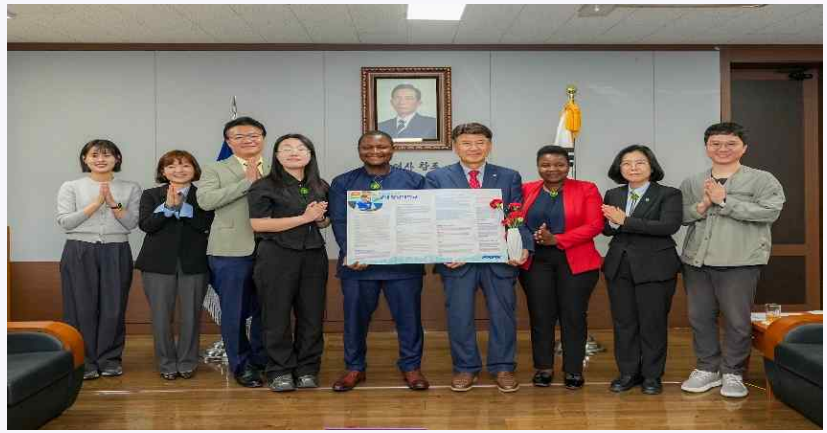


2026 Student Council Meets with the University President (08/05/2026)

On May 8, 2026, a meeting between the 2026 Student Council and the University President was held on the second floor of the university's main building. The meeting was attended by one Student Council President and two Vice Presidents, who were recently elected to represent the students of PSPS. A male student from Sierra Leone was elected as the Student Council President, while female students from Malawi and China were elected as Vice Presidents. The newly elected student leaders pledged to support the 2026 freshmen through dedication, service, and active student engagement. During the meeting, the President of the university encouraged the 2026 Student Council members to always maintain a heart of gratitude for the opportunity to study at PSPS and to practice consideration and care for others in their daily lives. The President emphasized the importance of leadership based on humility, service, and mutual respect. To express their appreciation, the 2026 Student Council students presented the President with a special panel containing letters of gratitude written in English, Chinese, and Korean. The heartfelt messages reflected the students' sincere respect and thankfulness toward the university and its leadership. The meeting served as a meaningful opportunity to strengthen communication between the university administration and student representatives while fostering a spirit of service, unity, and global friendship within the PSPS community.











PSPS Students Experience Traditional Korean Coming-of-Age Ceremony (11/05/2026)

On May 11, 2026, a traditional Korean coming-of-age ceremony was held for international students at Uiinjeongsa Hall, located inside the Yeungnam University Museum, in celebration of Korea's Coming-of-Age Day on May 18. The event featured traditional Gwallye and Gyerye ceremonies aimed at introducing Korea's ceremonial culture and deepening understanding of Korean traditions through direct participation. At PSPS, one male student from Egypt and one female student from Bhutan participated as representatives. Both students wore traditional hanbok and actively took part in the ceremony, experiencing Korean culture in a meaningful way. The participants shared, "This was our first time experiencing traditional Korean culture directly. It was a very meaningful experience." The ceremony served as a valuable cultural exchange opportunity, strengthening mutual understanding between cultures.









PSPS Students Shine at University Campus Trekking Event (16/05/2026)

On May 16, a campus trekking event was held to promote harmony and friendship among members of the university community. Students from PSPS enthusiastically participated in the event and delivered a special performance featuring the song “Heal the World” accompanied by singing and choreography. Dressed uniformly in white T-shirts and blue jeans, the PSPS students performed together in unity and demonstrated the spirit of the university’s visions: “Eyes Toward the World, Challenges Toward the Future” and “Towards a Safer and Happier World.” Their energetic and heartfelt performance received warm applause from the audience. Following a variety of performances, a lucky draw event brought even more excitement to the day. Several PSPS students won prizes, and one student, CHINYAMA MWAI, won a MacBook. Expressing her joy, she said, “In my home country, Malawi, my name means ‘Lucky.’ Today was truly a day filled with luck and happiness.” Students also participated in a tug-of-war game, where they showed teamwork, enthusiasm, and strong camaraderie while cheering each other on throughout the competition. As the event came to an end, students joined the university president in singing the university cheering song together. With pride as members of Yeungnam University, they reaffirmed their commitment to studying hard and contributing positively to the university community.











PSPS International Students Visit Daegu Agricultural Industry and Technology Centers (22/05/2026)

On May 22, the Daegu Metropolitan Government invited PSPS international students to visit local companies and agricultural technology centers in Daegu. A total of 16 PSPS students participated in the program, including seven students who are recipients of the Daegu City Scholarship. During the field trip, the students visited Daedong Industrial and the Dalseong-gun Agricultural Technology Center. At Daedong Industrial, the students toured production facilities for agricultural machinery such as tractors and combine harvesters. They were able to observe how Korea's advanced agricultural manufacturing technology has contributed to the development of modern agriculture. At the Dalseong-gun Agricultural Technology Center, the students attended presentations on Korea's rural development projects and agricultural technology information systems. They also learned about next-generation agricultural technologies that integrate science and innovative technologies into modern farming practices. Through this educational visit, the students gained valuable insight into Korea's agricultural technology and industry. They expressed their determination to apply the knowledge and experience gained from the program to contribute to the development of agricultural technology in their home countries in the future.









PSPS Students Participate in the 2026 YU Festival (26~28/05/2026)

From May 26 to 28, PSPS students participated in the 2026 YU Festival by operating a multicultural booth. During the festival, students introduced various Asian, Chinese, and African foods while sharing their cultures with visitors. Students prepared finger foods, hot pot, cold dishes, and African-style dumplings, creating a lively and welcoming atmosphere. The booth also featured board games, karaoke activities, and a traditional fashion show where students wore their countries' traditional clothing and performed to traditional music. In addition, students presented a Taekwondo performance that was attended and praised by the university president. The festival became a meaningful opportunity for students from different countries to understand one another's cultures and strengthen friendships. Student council president Sahr expressed gratitude to all participating students and the administrative office, while vice president Wang Xiaoxia hoped for more opportunities for cultural exchange in the future.









PSPS Students Participate in Educational Field Trip to Andong (29~30/05/2026)

From May 29 to 30, a total of 28 PSPS students participated in an educational field trip to Andong, one of Korea's most historically and culturally significant cities. During the two-day program, students visited major cultural and historical sites, including Hahoe Folk Village, Korean Studies Institute, and Dosan Seowon. Through hands-on learning experiences related to UNESCO-designated heritage sites in Andong—including World Heritage, Intangible Cultural Heritage, and Memory of the World heritage—students gained valuable knowledge about Korea's globally recognized cultural assets. In particular, they learned about the UNESCO Memory of the World heritage collection, The Confucian Printing Woodblocks in Korea. On the first day, students explored Hahoe Folk Village and enjoyed a performance of the traditional Hahoe Mask Dance. They also had the opportunity to learn the dance themselves, allowing them to engage more closely with Korean culture and traditions. On the second day, students visited the Korean Studies Institute to learn about the Confucian Printing Woodblocks in Korea. They participated in cultural activities such as making traditional books and printing from wooden blocks, gaining firsthand experience with Korea's rich documentary heritage. The group also visited Dosan Seowon and Bongjeongsa Temple, where they experienced the beauty and atmosphere of traditional Korean architecture and culture. The field trip provided students with a meaningful opportunity to deepen their understanding of Korea's cultural heritage while creating unforgettable memories through immersive learning experiences.









PSPS Saemaul Spirit Practice and Social Contribution Day (01/06/2026)

On June 1, 2026, the “Saemaul Spirit Practice and Social Contribution Day” event was successfully held, beginning at 7:00 a.m. A total of 100 PSPS students actively participated in the environmental cleanup activities, wearing Saemaul vests and working together to improve the local community environment. The event was organized to strengthen students’ sense of belonging to the graduate school while putting into practice the core values of the Saemaul Spirit—diligence, cooperation, and self-help. Through their active participation, students demonstrated a strong sense of responsibility and community spirit. The university president also joined the cleanup activities, setting a positive example through his leadership and commitment to service. The event provided a valuable opportunity for students to strengthen solidarity, cultivate social responsibility, and experience the true meaning of the Saemaul Spirit through action.



PSPS Students Received Awards at AI-Based Global Saemaul-SDGs Innovation Strategy Contest (22/06/2026)

On June 22, the Award Ceremony for the AI-Based Global Saemaul-SDGs Innovation Strategy Contest was held at the AI Smart Education Center. Six students from the first cohort of the PSPS program achieved outstanding results, winning Grand Excellence Awards and Excellence Awards. The contest aimed to encourage participants to develop creative ideas that promote the values of the Saemaul Movement and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the use of AI tools. Participants selected a topic from various themes and created AI-generated prompts and videos to present their innovative strategies. Many students participated in the competition, and those with outstanding performances received certificates and prizes. The award-winning students shared that the contest was a meaningful opportunity to enhance their creativity and better prepare for the emerging AI era.



PSPS Scholarship Students Express Gratitude to Gyeongsangbuk-do (30/06/2026)

On June 30, 2026, nineteen recipients of the Gyeongsangbuk-do Scholarship from the PSPS visited the Gyeongsangbuk-do Provincial Office in Andong to meet the Vice Governor. The students expressed their sincere gratitude for the opportunity to study in Korea and presented a bouquet of flowers along with thank-you letters. A highlight of the visit was when PSPS Student President read aloud a thank-you letter that he had personally written in Korean. The students also visited the Andong Soju Museum to learn more about Korea's traditional culture. KPAKIMA SAHR MOSES C.D. said, "We sincerely promise to make the most of this opportunity and contribute to the development of our home countries in the future. Thank you for investing in our future." The visit strengthened the students' appreciation for the scholarship and their commitment to studying diligently.





