



# Kim Jung-sook

FIRST LADY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



# Kim Jung-sook

First Lady of the Republic of Korea

Date of Birth November 15, 1954  
Place of Birth Seoul, Korea  
Marital Status Married to President Moon Jae-in with a son, a daughter and two grandsons

## Education

1978 BA in Vocal Music, Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Korea  
1973 Graduated from Sookmyung Girl's Middle and High School, Seoul, Korea

## Social Activities

1978-1982 Member of the Seoul Metropolitan Chorus

## Publication

2012 *Jung-sookssi, Sesanggwa Baramnada* (A Probable First Lady Jung-sook Hangs Out with the People); this contains her interviews with 10 arts and cultural figures



## First Lady Kim Jung-sook

First Lady Kim Jung-sook graduated from Sookmyung Girl's High School and obtained her BA in Vocal Music from Kyung Hee University. After graduation, she became a singer at the Seoul Metropolitan Chorus. She met the future president when she was in university and married him in 1981. They have one son and one daughter. Currently, she is travelling to every corner of the country to reach out to people through warm-hearted discussions.

The first meeting between First Lady Kim Jung-sook and President Moon Jae-in dates back to their college days. A friend of hers set her up with him one day during a university festival, but they remained just acquaintances after their first meeting. When President Moon was knocked over by tear gas during a demonstration against the dictatorial government in 1975, the future first lady cared for him and that is how their love began. At a time when the President served as a rank-and-file soldier, it was a custom for parents or friends to prepare food that their sons or friends could not find in the military. When she visited her boyfriend at his unit for the first time, however, she brought an armful of baby's breath instead of snacks. This shows how romantic she was.



## An Unpretentious and Friendly First Lady

Like the President who actively engages in interaction with people in a non-authoritative manner, the First Lady is also willing to mingle with people in an unpretentious and friendly way. During the last presidential election campaign, she visited Gwangju in Jeollanam-do Province for one night and two days every week. There she volunteered to serve food at senior citizen centers and dropped by many other welfare facilities. On top of this, she sat down together with local religious leaders, civic activists and many other citizens on behalf of her husband to listen to what they had to say.

After the inauguration, when the First Lady left her private home to move into Cheong Wa Dae, she donated bouquets and flowerpots to a community center for senior citizens nearby. The First Lady also demonstrated her friendliness and distinctively

cheerful character by offering snacks to the staff as she personally visited the site where rooms were being repapered at the official residence at Cheong Wa Dae. Because of friendly gestures like this, in which she did not stand on ceremony, the First Lady was nicknamed "delightful Jung-sook-ssi" and "kind Jung-sook-ssi."

"Like my husband who said he wanted to become a president who could have a bowl of traditional rice wine in central Seoul near Gwanghwamun Gate on his way home after work, I also want to live an ordinary life in which I go to the Namdaemun Market to buy groceries," said First Lady Kim. The people of the Republic of Korea are now seeing a First Lady who completely gives up protocol and has a people-friendly style in a favorable light and are placing high expectations on her.

