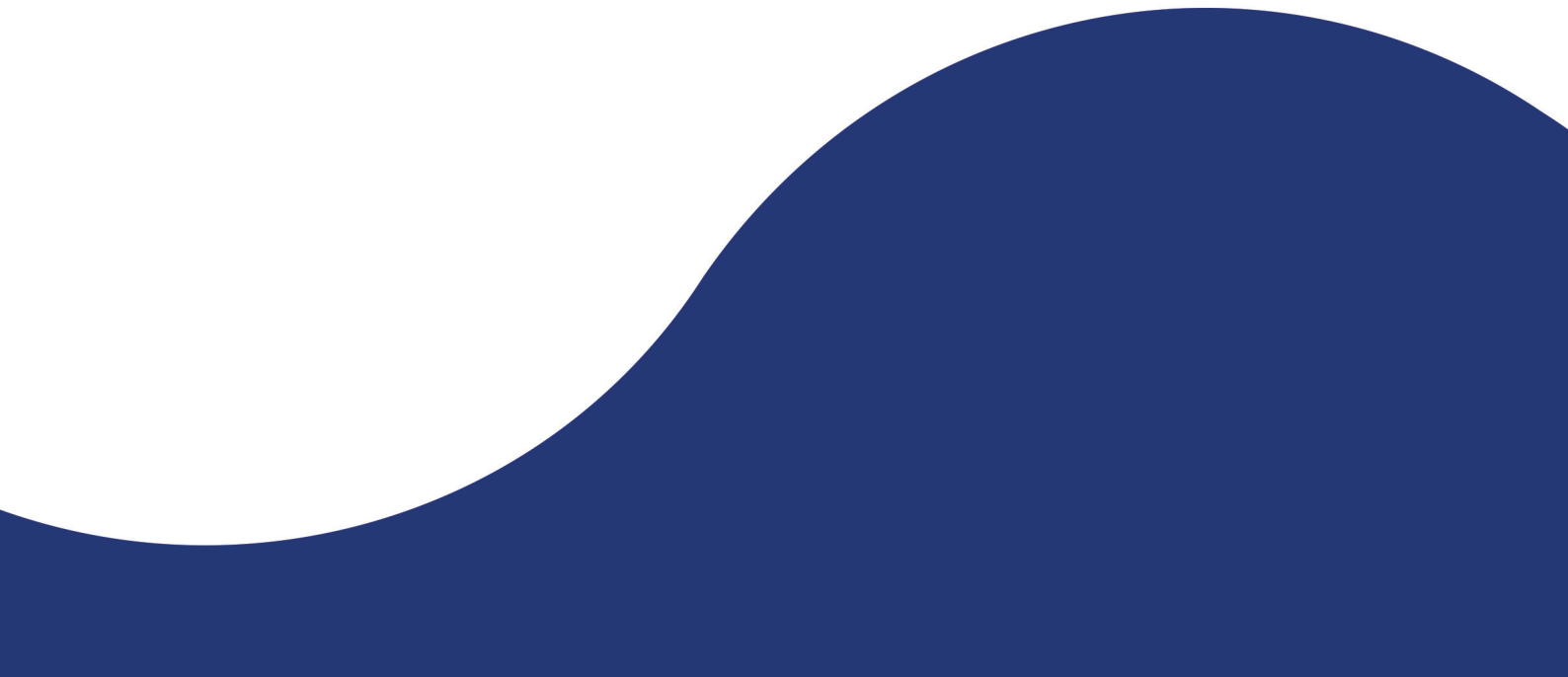




Kim Jung-sook

FIRST LADY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA





An unprecedented type of First Lady: Kim Jung-sook

In 2017, a beautiful Korean poem suddenly began trending on Korean and Chinese social media. It started when a China-based platform for reciting poems uploaded a video clip of First Lady Kim Jung-sook reciting Chung Hyun-jong's "The Visitor." Appearing around the time of President Moon's state visit to Beijing, the video garnered positive reviews for the way it described forward-looking relations between Korea and China in a metaphorical way.

First Lady Kim Jung-sook says that the First Lady and the President make up one team. She believes that, as part of her job, the First Lady has to become an assistant who can walk alongside the President, sharing the same values and looking in the same direction, to cover areas that the President cannot get to and to affectionately embrace those in need, marginalized neighbors and the socially vulnerable.

To First Lady Kim Jung-sook, the mission of the First

Lady is to help the President in a "Kim Jung-sook style" so that he can carry out his duties well. A First Lady who can warmly connect with the people, an everyday individual who does grocery shopping herself at traditional markets and a partner contributing to policy development – this is how she sees her role as First Lady.

She met Moon Jae-in for the first time when she was a freshman in college. They have been married for 38 years after a seven-year, heart-warming courtship. Staying beside a man of principled determination, First Lady Kim Jung-sook has maintained a relationship founded on mutual respect and loving concern. As a modest but special partner for the President, she envisions a society where women, children, senior citizens and people with disabilities can all be happy together.



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
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Publication

2012	<i>Jung-sookssi, Sesanggwa Baramnada</i> (A Potential First Lady Jung-sook Hangs Out with the People); this contains her interviews with 10 arts and cultural figures
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Visiting firefighters at Hwaseong Fire Station amid a sweltering heat wave (August 8, 2018)



Assisting volunteers with recovery efforts in a flooded part of Cheongju (July 21, 2017)



Meeting with children visiting Cheong wa Dae from a nearby elementary school to celebrate Arbor Day (April 4, 2019)



Visiting the Korean School of Malaysia (March 13, 2019)

Unpretentious and uplifting approach

The Korean people have given First Lady Kim Jung-sook the endearing nicknames of “Jolly Jung-sook-ssi” and “Kind Jung-sook-ssi.” Even before President Moon took office, people often commented on her delightful and candid character. When a woman came to the future First Couple’s private residence in Seoul to vent her pent-up emotions, the First Lady took the time to serve her something to eat and listen to what she had to say. It came as a refreshing surprise to the people. Her efforts to raise the spirits of citizens continued even after she moved into Cheong Wa Dae. When she visited a senior center in a rural village, the local residents were surprised to hear her personally make a public safety announcement about the dangers of sweltering heat waves over the public address system. One summer day in 2018, she visited Hwaseong Fire Station in Gyeonggi-do Province to cheer on its firefighters.

Despite the extraordinarily high temperature that day, she suited up in 30kg of heavy firefighting gear to gain firsthand experience with a firefighters’ hard work and express her gratitude. After listening to a damage report during her visit to a flooded part of Cheongju, she quietly helped volunteers move bags of clothes and do recovery work even though she had to use a rubber band to tie a hurt finger to the adjacent one to give it support. In the spring of 2019, the First Lady invited students from a nearby elementary school to plant flowers with her on the Cheong Wa Dae compound as a way to get to know the children.

First Lady Kim Jung-sook has stood by the people through thick and thin, and her actions reveal the true colors of her unpretentious character. The amusing assessment of her as “an unprecedented type of First Lady” can be traced back to her acts of kindness.



Visiting the Inae welfare center, a place for single mothers, in Gwangju (September 6, 2018)



Visiting the Samcheong-dong senior citizens' community center in Seoul to mark International Day of Older Persons (October 2, 2018)



Visiting a dementia care center on Parents Day (May 8, 2018)



Watching "Granny Poetry Club," a documentary about elderly women learning how to read and write Hangeul (March 4, 2019)

Communication skills to relate to the stories of ordinary people

As the wife of a lifelong champion of democracy who became a human rights lawyer and President, First Lady Kim Jung-sook works hard to share the pain of the less fortunate, including unwed mothers, senior citizens and people with disabilities. Her attention to unwed mothers and their families is exceptionally noteworthy. She has frequently dropped by related support facilities and sought ways to ease their difficulties. She has also invited many unwed mothers to Cheong Wa Dae and inspired them with courage by saying, "You are not alone." During last year's inaugural day to honor single-parent families, the First Lady offered these words of encouragement: "Every child born in this land is entitled to warm hospitality. I will protect their rights."

The welfare of senior citizens living alone is one of the First Lady's key concerns. Based on the principled

philosophy that the Government should take care of the elderly, she is living up to her promise to help build a country where the aged are happy. As part of her efforts, she is visiting senior citizens living alone as well as senior centers in step with the President's policy of the Government taking responsibility for dementia patients.

Last March, after watching a documentary about elderly women who are finally able to learn how to read and write Hangeul, the First Lady sent the women in the film, "Granny Poetry Club," bags designed to hold books as gifts. She also sent words of praise: "I applaud the grandmothers of Chilgok who are living in the present rather than in the past and memories."

By listening to and communicating with citizens, the First Lady continues to live up to her opinion that everyone should be able to live equally with dignity.



Revisiting the Seogwang daycare center (September 6, 2018)



Mufflers for the First Couple's puppies that children from Seogwang daycare center in Gwangju presented while visiting Cheong Wa Dae (December 25, 2018)



Visiting the Sorokdo National Hospital and interacting with patients (October 23, 2018)



Visiting a cultural center for ethnic Koreans in the Maritime Province of Russia (September 6, 2017)

Sincerely making relationships precious

First Lady Kim Jung-sook's undertakings are marked by her heartfelt sincerity. Her trips to the Seogwang daycare center in Gwangju offer a good example. She crocheted with children at the center during her visit in December 2016 and promised to bring them balls of yarn as a gift on a return visit – a promise fulfilled two years later. In September 2018, she visited the center again, bearing balls of yarn and saying that she could not forget the children's lovely minds. The children continued the cherished relationship by presenting President Moon and the First Lady mufflers that they had crocheted from the yarn during their visit to Cheong Wa Dae in December 2018. They also brought mufflers for the six puppies born to Gomi, a Pungsan hunting dog, given to the first couple by North Korea's Chairman Kim Jong Un.

The First Lady visited Sorokdo National Hospital – a Hansen's Disease treatment center off the South Coast – and reunited with patients who had visited Cheong Wa Dae during the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. She likes to send letters and check how people are doing after initial meetings. While campaigning, the First Lady visited the Juwol-dong senior citizens' community center in Gwangju and promised to return if her husband won the presidential election. In all, she has paid three visits to the center, confiding in the seniors there that she feels like she's visiting her parents' home. These encounters show how the First Lady sincerely looks after those in society who are in need of consolation and attention.



Watching a snowboarding event with Assistant to the U.S. President and First Daughter Ivanka Trump during the PyeongChang Olympic Winter Games (February 24, 2018)



Attending a ceremony to see off Chairman Kim Jong Un and his wife Ri Sol Ju at Panmunjeom during the inter-Korean summit (April 27, 2018)



Having a luncheon with U.S. First Lady Melania Trump during a visit to Washington D.C. on the sidelines of the Korea-U.S. summit (April 11, 2019)



Meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during her visit to India (November 5, 2018)

Reliable partner for a peacemaker

Everyone who has met First Lady Kim Jung-sook talks about her affability. They even say she can make friends with anybody in a second. Her friendliness shines especially in diplomatic settings. In November 2018, when she visited India without her husband at the official invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she attended the nation's largest Diwali festival in traditional Indian attire. Her careful consideration for the host country was highly spoken of.

The First Lady's action also shined during the PyeongChang Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in 2018. Throughout the event, she stayed in Pyeongchang almost every day and visited the Olympic and Paralympic sites with a Taegeukgi, Korea's national flag, attached to her backpack. She made a point of checking in on athletes and volunteers as she crisscrossed the sites. During the PyeongChang Olym-

pics and Paralympics, which served as a catalyst for the peace process on the Korean Peninsula, media outlets even praised her as a "special aide for the Paralympics." As the world was focused on the inter-Korean summit at Panmunjeom in April 2018, the sight of South Korea's First Lady and North Korean First Lady Ri Sol Ju holding hands added to the thrill of watching the South and North Korean leaders rise above seven decades of division and step across the border together. The two first ladies have come to personify peace on the divided Korean Peninsula as they interact in ways reminiscent of sisters or a mother and daughter.

The First Lady is a peacemaker who has created harmony through amicable exchanges with her counterparts from various countries, including Melania Trump of the United States, Peng Liyuan of China and Brigitte Macron of France.



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