



CITY OF LA PALMA NEWSRELEASE

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La Palma to Host Korean Cultural Training for Employees

LA PALMA, Calif. – On Monday, May 11, 2009, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Royal Palm Room at the La Palma Community Center at 7821 Walker St., La Palma, the City of La Palma will be conducting a Korean cultural training for all City employees. The training will be provided by the Korea Academy for Educators and will include renowned speakers from around the Southland, who will give an overview of Korean culture and history as well as provide first-hand stories about what it's like to grow up as a Korean in Southern California. Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Speakers will include Mary Connor, author of *Asia in Focus: The Koreas* (June 2009) and recipient of the Peace Corps Association's Global Educator Award; Helie Lee, Bestselling author of *Still Life With Rice*, a memoir chronicling her experience in war-torn Korea from the 1930's to 1997; and Edward J.W. Park, Fulbright Scholar and Director of the Asian Pacific American Studies Program at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Mr. Park received his Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies and a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning, both at the University of California at Berkeley.

As a bestselling author, Ms. Lee has been featured on Nightline, CNN, The Today Show, and The Oprah Winfrey Show and has spoken at leading universities throughout the U.S. on her bicultural heritage and human rights issues for North Korea refugees. In June of 2002, she was invited by Senator Ted Kennedy to testify at the Senate Subcommittee Hearing on Immigration.

The City of La Palma was originally a Dutch farming community that has transformed over the years into a bedroom community with a majority Asian population. Today, Koreans represent

the largest cultural group in the City. City Manager Dominic Lazzaretto said, "As an organization, we strive to provide the best service possible and the only way to do that is to understand the community that we serve. This training will help our employees to better appreciate a significant portion of our residential and business population."

About the Korea Academy for Educators

The Korea Academy for Educators is a non-profit organization that was co-founded in 2004 by Mary Connor. It has organized 16 workshops on Korean history and culture and nearly 1,000 educators have participated in these programs. This coming August 20 educators from throughout the U.S. will be receiving fellowships to participate in their seminar on Korean history and culture.

About the City of La Palma

The City of La Palma is a 1.9 square mile general law city in northwest Orange County, consisting of 16,081 residents and 482 commercial and industrial businesses. The City was incorporated in 1955 under the name of Dairyland and has 65 full-time and 53 part-time employees.

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