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**The 2025 Warsaw International Book Fair presents**

**the programme of Korea, the Guest of Honour:**

***Bridging Worlds Through Words***

**The Republic of Korea, a country with fascinating history and vibrant culture, has become a global trendsetter that offers an alluring mix of ancient traditions and cutting-edge innovations. Global audience has been captivated by Korean art, music, dance and, above all, the literature. We are proud to announce that the Republic of Korea will be the Guest of Honour at Warsaw International Book Fair, held on May 15-18 at the Palace of Culture and Science, the adjacent Parade Sq. and, for the first time, at the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw. True to its tagline, *“Bridging Worlds Through Words*”, the rich and varied programme offers is a unique opportunity to explore contemporary Korean literature, culture and art, and discover how much we have in common.**

*“It is a great pleasure and honour to have the opportunity to attend the 2025 Warsaw International Book Fair as the Guest of Honour, especially following last year's fantastic news that Han Kang won the Nobel Prize in Literature. The Korean Cultural Center in Poland will host a variety of exhibitions and events like meetings with prominent Korean authors, film screenings, musical concerts, and other cultural activities. These programs will help Polish book lovers experience the essence of the current 'Korean Wave' as Korean literature and books are the foundation of vibrant Korean Culture”,* said LEE Dangkweon, Director of the Korean Cultural Center in Poland.

The Korean pavilion, located at the Marmurowa Hall (No. 135) in the Palace of Culture and Science, will host authors, experts, publishers and public officials representing the institutions responsible for international promotion of Koran literature, including Korean Literary Translation Institute (LTI Korea), Korean Manhwa Promotion Agency (KOMACON) and the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA). Visitors will be impressed with exhibitions designed especially for the occasion, including an immersive exhibition symbolizing a literary bridge connecting Poland and Korea, built with quotes from Polish literature published in Korea and Korean literary works published in Poland. Literary ties between Poland and Korea have also inspired the logo of our Guest of Honour: it features an open book with our venue, the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw, and Gwanghwamun, the main gate of Gyeongbokgung Palace in Korea. The pavilion will also display the Hunminjeongeum exhibition, dedicated to Hangeul, Korean alphabet, officially established in 1443 and a unique exhibition of Korean design – everyday products inspired by the Korean alphabet. We should also mention the webtoon exhibition. Korea, known as a country of digital innovation, is the birthplace of digital comic format, designed to be read vertically on mobile phones. Selected publications by Korean authors will be available for purchase in the pavilion.

The four-day programme of Korean literature and culture promotion offers several dozen events for the general public, including meetings with authors, literary and expert discussions, and the much-loved book signing sessions. There will be no shortage of artistic events and cooking shows with delicious Korean cuisine. Meetings with authors, experts on Korean history and culture, and a contemporary music concert "Lyric Echoes: Polish Poem, Korean Timbre" will be held in the Kisielewski Hall. For book signing sessions, make sure to visit the Korean pavilion and the stands of Polish publishers. Cooking shows and tasting of Korean cuisine will be organized on May 17th in the outdoor area in front of the Palace (pavilion No. 29). Additional attractions have been planned in other venues, for example, Korean movie screenings are scheduled at Muranów Cinema from May 15th to 18th (in the evenings).

The visitors at the upcoming Warsaw International Book Fair will have a unique opportunity to meet and greet true literary icons – the authors loved in Korea and beyond. The following authors were invited to meet with the public and talk about their bestsellers and new releases: PARK Sangyoung, CHUNG Bora, JEON Heyjin, KIM Boyoung, Dr Victor D. Cha, Prof. Ramon Pacheco Pardo, KIM Hoyeon, YEON Somin, SHIN Kyungsook and YUN Jungeun. Prof. Justyna Najbar-Miller, a translator, will talk about “Greek Lessons”, the new novel by HAN Kang, winner of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature. The youngest visitors will enjoy “Magical fun with books: little feet and little fingers”, a children’s workshop designed by Filip Danecki.

Korean literature and history will be discussed by experts in history, literature and translation. You do not want to miss a meeting with Prof. Ramon Pacheco Pardo and Dr Victor Cha (“Korea. A New History of South and North”); and a lecture by Prof. Ewa Rynarzewska (“The Triumph of Ideology, Friendship, and the Market: a Short Story about the Polish Translation of Korean Literature”). Dr CHOI Jeongin and Filip Danecki will unpack cultural differences expressed in language in Korean-Polish translations, and Dr LEE Seungik will present "Historical Experience: Where Korea and Poland Meet Despite the Distance". We also recommend a lecture by Dr YOU Changil on similarities and differences between Korean and Polish thinking, and a panel discussion with Prof. Ewa Rynarzewska, Prof. Anna Diniejko-Wąs, Prof. Justyna Najbar-Miller and Dr CHOI Jeongin ("Translators in Debate: On Korean Literature’s (Un)translatable Limits").

If you are interested in learning more about the official support program for Korean literature translations, you will appreciate a seminar organized by the Korean Literary Translation Institute on May 16th: “LTI Korea’s Global Initiatives: Supporting Korean Literature Abroad”. From May 15th to 17th, LTI Korea will also run a G2B (Government-to-Business) consultation desk at The Korean pavilion (No. 135). Publishers and translators interested in publishing Korean literary works with the support of the Korean government are welcome to visit the pavilion for more information.

All those who want to spark or step up cooperation with Korean publishers should definitely attend the “2025 K-Book Market Warsaw”, a two-day B2B event organized by the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA). The event will be held on May 15th-16th in the Kruczkowski Hall (Level 4) in the Palace of Culture and Science. Polish partners can look forward to meeting representatives of fifteen renowned Korean publishers with diverse profiles - from fiction, non-fiction, business and economics, history, philosophy, education, art, language learning materials, children's and young adult books to picture books, web novels and webtoons: Wisdom House, Inc., Gloyeon, BOMBYEOTT, BookGoodCome, Woongjin ThinkBig Co., Ltd., YUN EDITION, IYAGIKOT PUBLISHING, Mirae N Co., Ltd., KINDERLAND/BANDAL, Munhakdongne, Jaeum & Moeum Publishing Co., Ltd., Clayhouse inc., DARAKWON, INC., KENAZ and SEOSAWON co., Ltd. For more information, [see the link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdib1Hz5XXUquf9Mpck1IoJNezLgCBJO4OuXNTIYmncA55TnQ/viewform)

Korean programme would not be complete without artistic performance. On the opening day, the audience of the Exhibitors' Evening Gala at the Studio Theatre will enjoy a “New Pansori” concert, inspired by the fusion of Korean and Polish cultures. JANG Seoyoon, a Pansori singer, and Rafał Mazur, a renowned Polish musician, will play their concert with support from a group of artists from both countries. A classic of Polish children's literature, Maria Konopnicka's “About Dwarves and Little Orphan Mary”, has been adapted especially for the occasion. Pansori, the traditional Korean art of storytelling, will add new dynamics to the well-known tale with expressive singing, rhythmic drumming and poignant narration.

In the afternoon of Friday the 16th, the Kisielewski Hall will resound with "Lyric Echoes: Polish Poem, Korean Timbre", a contemporary music concert inspired by Polish literature and written by Korean composers: LEE Sangjun, a multiple winner of Grand Prix and other prizes in composition competitions, and GIM Youshin, a composer-in-residence of the International Festival of Contemporary Music Poznań Music Spring.

For a detailed agenda of literary, artistic and industry events, complete with the bios of participating creators, experts and artists invited by the Guest of Honour, please see the website: www.bookfairwarsaw.pl section: Republic of Korea - Guest of Honour [*Republika Korei – Gość Honorowy*].

The Korean Guest of Honour programme has been developed by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and the Korean Cultural Center in Poland.

“*This year we are delighted to welcome the Republic of Korea as the Guest of Honour of Warsaw International Book Fair. This is a unique opportunity to immerse oneself in the fascinating world of Korean culture, literature and history, brimming with spiritual richness, deep reflection and extraordinary artistic sensitivity.* *Korean literature, rooted in centuries-old tradition, combines classical poetic forms such as sijo with modern prose that addresses contemporary social, existential and identity issues.* *HAN Kang, HWANG Sokyong, KIM Youngha and many other Korean authors have gained worldwide recognition and showed us how Korean literature can resonate with universal emotions and transcend cultural boundaries. Korean literature has been quite popular in Poland. In recent years, books such as “The Vegetarian” by HAN Kang, “The Cursed Rabbit” by CHUNG Bora and “Shoko's Smile” by CHO Eunyoung have been published in Polish translation – these poignant stories deal with the themes of memory, identity and sensitivity. Korean literature has become a mirror that reflects questions relevant to all, regardless of language or continent.*

*At the same time, Korean culture – from traditional tea ceremonies, calligraphy and gugak music to modern phenomena such as K-pop and the Korean wave in cinema – can be seen as an extraordinary example of harmony and balance between heritage and modernity. It is that inimitable harmony that helped Korean culture win the minds and the hearts of audiences all over the world. The Korean programme at the Fair opens the door for us so that we can learn more about the rich literary heritage of our Guest of Honour, promoting intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding. We hope that all visitors will enjoy inspiring encounters, fascinating discoveries and WOW moments that will be remembered and cherished for a long time. Join us on a journey through words, images and sounds of Korea”,* said Jacek Oryl, director of the Warsaw International Book Fair.

**The Warsaw International Book Fair** is a leading publishing industry event in Poland, attended by crowds of book lovers every year. The audience gets to buy the latest books, get autographs from their favourite authors, and participate in inspiring meetings with creators. Visitors can choose from a rich menu of attractions, festivals and industry events.

Crime fiction enthusiasts look forward to Warsaw Crime Story Festival. All day Saturday and Sunday, an outdoor stage will host meetings with outstanding authors of this genre. The winners of this year's Grand Prix Competition of Warsaw Crime Story Festival will be announced on May 16th (Friday).

Warsaw of Comics Festival, organized by the Polish Comics Association, will have a separate sector with sales stands and space for meetings and workshops with authors of the genre (and some great exhibitions, too). There will be a dedicated segment for book market professionals, creators and publishers.

The *Literary InfluSpace* is back for a second edition after last year's success, when it attracted many fans of literature and social media. This initiative aims to integrate social media universe with traditional book culture.

A wide range of literary attractions have been prepared with the youngest audiences in mind. There will be new releases and classical editions of books for children and young adults, plus a number of meetings with book creators: writers, translators and illustrators. The Intergenerational Children's Literature Festival will traditionally connect generations through literature and art. Children are invited to attend meetings with their favourite authors and to find a channel for creativity through various art forms. There will be time to learn more about the creative process, ask questions about your favourite characters and discover what inspired the authors of those unforgettable stories.

On Saturday, those interested in literary reportage can celebrate the Non-Fiction Day and visit the Museum of Modern Art (the Auditorium) to meet the authors shortlisted for the 16th edition of Ryszard Kapuściński Award, established by Warsaw City Council and supported by *Gazeta Wyborcza*.

There is a separate stream of meetings, debates and workshops dedicated for industry players and professionals: publishers, translators, illustrators, booksellers, librarians and teachers.

A number of award ceremonies will be held during the Fair: ICARUS Award, presented by Fair organizers and Polish Society of Book Publishers and sponsored by the Society of Authors ZAiKS; the 65th edition of the competition for Most Beautiful Books of 2024, organized by the Polish Society of Book Publishers; the 16th edition of Ryszard Kapuściński Award; Magellan Award for the Best Travel Publications; the Grand Prix of Warsaw Crime Story Festival, sponsored by the Society of Authors ZAiKS; *Nowa Fantastyka* awards; and ACADEMIA Award for the best academic and scientific book, with the Grand Prix sponsored by the Society of Authors ZAiKS.

**There is free admission for all visitors.**

**Opening hours:**

15 May 2025: from 10 am to 6 pm

16 May 2025: from 10 am to 7 pm

17 May 2025: from 10 am to 7 pm

18 May 2025: from 10 am to 5 pm

For more information, please visit: [bookfairwarsaw.pl](https://targiksiazkiwarszawa.pl/en/) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TargiKsiazkiwWarszawie) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/targiksiazkiwwarszawie/)

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**Republic of Korea – the Guest of Honour**

Korean Cultural Center in Poland

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