

Celebrating Finland-Korea Literature Exchange



Organized by the Finland–Republic of Korea Association
at the occasion of its 45th anniversary,
sponsored by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Finland

19 October 2026 (Mon), 13:45 – 17:00 hrs
Minerva Plaza K226, Siltavuorenpenger 5 A, Helsinki

13:45 Coffee/tea serving

14:00-14:10

Welcoming remarks, Erja Kettunen-Matilainen, Finland–Republic of Korea Association
Ambassador's greetings, HE Jaewoong Lee, Ambassador of ROK to Finland

14:10-15:00

Session 1: Finland - Korea Literary Translation

Taru Salminen interviews Jeongdo Kim on *Translating Korean poems to Finnish*, tells about her own work on *Translating Korean novels to Finnish*, and interviews Boram Jung on *Translating Finnish prose, non-fiction and children's books to Korean*

15:00-15:10 small break

15:10-16:00 Session 2: Korea through Finnish eyes

Minja Mäkilä discusses *Challenges of Working Without Precedent - On Writing the First Book About K-pop in Finnish*, Taru Salminen interviews Pauliina Lampinen on writing a *Finnish essay collection on Jeju*, and tells about her own work on *translating Han Kang's novels*

16:00-16:30 Panel Discussion

Publishing companies Gummerus and Johnny Kniga discuss *Publishing Korean Literature in Finland*
16:30 Closing

16:35 Sparkling and networking

17:00 End

The Finland – Republic of Korea Association was established on 19 October 1981 in Helsinki and is one of the oldest and most active Finnish-Asian friendship associations.

*Kirjailijat ja kääntäjät kulttuurilähettiläinä –
kirjallisuusteema juhlistaa Suomi–Korean tasavalta -yhdistyksen 45-vuotispäivää*

Suomen ja Etelä-Korean välinen kulttuuriyhteistyö on aktiivista muun muassa kirjallisuuden saralla, ja sekä käännöskirjallisuutta että suomenkielistä Etelä-Koreaa koskevaa kirjallisuutta on saatavilla yhä enemmän. Tervetuloa yhdistyksen vuosijuhlan kunniaksi järjestettävään tilaisuuteen kuulemaan näiden teosten taustalla olevia kiehtovia tarinoita ja ainutlaatuisia näkemyksiä kirjailijoilta ja kääntäjiltä, joiden työ luo uusia yhteyksiä maiden välille. Lisäksi paneelikeskustelussa suomalaiskustantamot avaavat meille sitä, miten korealaiskirjallisuutta tuodaan suomalaisille lukijoille. Tule ja nauti antoisista keskusteluista, yhteisestä vuoropuhelusta sekä lämminhenkisestä verkostoitumisesta tilaisuuden lopuksi yhdistyksen vuosipäivää juhlistavalla vastaanotolla!



Suomi – Korean tasavalta -yhdistys ry
핀란드 대한민국 협회
Finland – Republic of Korea Association



Honourary guest

HE Jaewoong Lee, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Helsinki, gives congratulatory remarks at the event.



Speakers

Taru Salminen is a University Teacher at University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies and Centre for Language and Communication Studies, where she teaches Korean language. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (East Asian Studies) from the University of Helsinki, and has a university teacher's qualification. Taru is the first and only translator of Korean literature directly into Finnish, having translated several books. In the 2000s, she was a translator and worked at the Finnish Embassy in Seoul and was also a restaurateur in Korea where she had various appearances on TV and radio as one of Korea's best known Finns.



Jeongdo Kim is a linguist holding a PhD from the University of Helsinki, majoring in Finnish language. He is the first Korean having written and defended a doctoral thesis in Finnish language. He is a freelance journalist, author, researcher, teacher and interpreter living in Finland. His recent translation *Mustetta ja kyyneleitä* (Oppian) is a collection of modern Korean poetry. Dr Kim is a regular interpreter for Korean delegations visiting Finland.

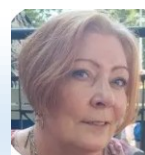


Boram Jung is a translator and holds a MSc in Economics and a BA in teaching Korean as a foreign language. She has studied translation of poetry, non-fiction, and cartoons, and has translated into Korean for example the book *Rakkaus, ilo, rohkeus* (by Raisa Cacciatore and Erja Kortenien-Poikela), the book being in the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Korea's recommended book list. She has also translated several Finnish children's picture books into Korean.

Minja Mäkilä is a Finnish K-pop author and teacher at University of Turku. She holds an MA in cultural history and has studied fan culture and South Korean popular culture. Her book *K-pop: unelma huomista* (K-pop: a dream of tomorrow) from 2021 is the first comprehensive publication of the topic in Finnish, discussing how South Korea has become a culture exporter of K-pop.



Pauliina Lampinen is cultural manager, art critic, and author, and has a painters' specialist vocational qualification. She is Vice-chairperson of Finland–Republic of Korea Association in Helsinki. Pauliina has a deep interest in Korean traditional culture and art, contemporary art, and K-culture, and has authored an essay collection on Jeju in Finnish.



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Erja Kettunen-Matilainen is Adjunct professor and Senior research fellow of Economic geography at Turku School of Economics, University of Turku. Her research and teaching focuses on EU-Asia economic relations, trade policies, and industry-government relations. She has published on sustainable development, Asian regionalism, and circular economy. Erja leads the projects "Good and bad palm oil" (2023-2028), "Global resilience" (2025-2027) and "Sustainable growth from trade" (2026-2028). She is active in societal relations and is the Chairperson of Finland–Republic of Korea Association in Helsinki.

