
New TeX activities in Korea

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The Korean TeX Society (KTS) was founded in January 2007 to promote TeX-related academic activities in Korea, focusing on research and development on the Korean TeX environment, Korean typography, and user support. The establishment of KTS marks the creation of an official and stable organizational foundation which can take over and expand the efforts of the Korean TeX Users Group (KTUG).

KTUG was formed and maintained by a few dedicated TeX users including Kangsoo Kim (director), Jin-Hwan Cho, Koaunghi Un, and Dohyun Kim since 2002. KTUG has played a vital role in spreading TeX in Korea providing extensive user support. KTUG put its effort into implementing and improving the Korean language support in TeX and Korean typography specialized for Hangeul, the unique writing system of the Korean language. This effort has been realized as Hangeul-ucs, a LaTeX package which can typeset unlimited Korean texts encoded in Unicode including archaic Korean texts. Despite these fruitful achievements, KTUG had inherent limits as an unofficial and casual users group for effectively continuing the development activities. This, eventually, gave the motivation for establishing KTS. KTUG will keep its existence in the form of an unofficial and informal user community.

As a big initial move, KTS published the first issue of *The Asian Journal of TeX (AJT)* in April. It is the first TeX-related journal in Asia. The first issue contains seven inspiring articles written in Korean. Jin-Hwan Cho, the author of DVIPDFMx and DVlasm, is taking the role of the editor of *AJT*. The editorial board has Hong Feng (chairman of Chinese TeX Users Group), Kangsoo Kim (director of KTUG), Werner Lemberg (author of CJK package), Haruhiko Okumura (maintainer of the biggest TeX Q&A forum in Japan), C.V. Radhakrishnan (founder of Indian TeX Users Group), and Hàn Thê Thành (author of pdfTeX) as its members. The second issue of *AJT* featuring articles and notes written in English is expected to appear in October.

The society is also preparing to host the Asian TeX Conference under the general theme of “TeX in the Age of Digital Humanities” in January, 2008. This event is sponsored by the Kongju National University. KTS is inviting the members of the editorial board of *AJT* as plenary speakers of the conference. Details of the conference will be posted soon.

For more information on KTS and *AJT*, please visit the society web site at <http://kts.ktug.kr> and the journal web site at <http://ajt.ktug.kr>.