

KOREA

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National toy library association	Korea Toy Library Association (KTLA)
Web link	Dormant
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Services offered by the Association	Disseminate information from ITLA and other related bodies to toy libraries in Korea. Organise training courses. Promote World Play Day Each toy library is different and adjusts to its clientele and facilities. Some toy libraries have programs for parent education and special therapies; others just lend toys and provide a play space while others base their activities on the five senses.
Networking	Member of ITLA; Member of the Asian Toy Library group
Toy Library Information	
Number of known toy libraries	100
Administration	Welfare facilities, schools, hospitals, metropolitan and local governments, churches welfare centres, foundations, companies and so on.
Communities served (clients)	Special schools serve their own students and where there is integration with other children in the neighbourhood those children also use the toy Library. Welfare centres usually open their facilities to the whole neighbourhood. Hospitals keep their toy libraries only for in patients fearing more infections coming in from outside. Companies tend to serve only their own staff and families. If the toy library is in a shopping mall, the road to the metro, in the centre of an open market, in a converted church then anyone who is passing by is welcome as long as they can show their official ID card which everyone Korean or foreign has to have. The last group is students and teachers who need toys for their studies or teaching or playing.
Qualifications of toy librarians	No information at this time
Conferences	Regular attendance at ITLA Conferences and the Asian Group Conferences. AGM of KTLA and WPD activities
Meetings	No information at this time
Training	Our original training course had five days of lectures and practical activities: lectures covering a number of disabilities from doctors and therapists, toy making, relationship workshops, counselling method sessions and observation of play of children with and without special challenges. After this there would be two weeks "internship" in a toy library. We gave a certificate of attendance and completion. However, since there was no legislation or attachment to a university at that time it could not be considered as a qualification. To offer similar courses now, and for them to be useful, they would have to be offered in cooperation with a government department.
Specific courses offered are: N/A	

<p>Brief history</p>	<p>Doctor Freda Kim opened the first toy library in Korea in 1983 at St. Peter’s School of the Anglican Church of Korea, to serve disabled pre-school children and their families. In 1985 the toy library was opened to any children and their families. From 1983 to the mid 1990’s 11 toy libraries and a mobile toy library were opened in response to the outreach of the first toy library including one for long stay children in a major hospital. Toy libraries were springing up in day care centres and local governments were converting and/or renting un-used premises in their area for toy libraries serving the local communities.</p> <p>There have been 3 major landmarks in the history of toy libraries in Korea.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 1986 we were introduced to the Lekotek concept and the International Toy Library Association. We changed our name to LEKOTEK KOREA. Korea has been represented at every ITLA conference since 1987. We published our first Newsletter in 1987 and founded KTLA in 1989. 2. After the introduction of new pre-school special education legislation Dr. Freda Kim built a special pre-school, Huimang School which opened in 2000 and culminated much of the Anglican Toy Library work. 3. The involvement of the Seoul Metropolitan Government and other local governments gave an extra boost to the toy library movement. The numbers of toy libraries has risen from 11 to 100 over the last ten years and there is now a movement to have toy libraries in all government assisted day care facilities
<p>Vision and mission</p>	<p>Vision: A Korea where EVERYONE plays, knows play, can play and does play, enjoys play and feels better and is better!</p> <p>Mission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To continue to stress that play is good, necessary, powerful and valuable. To continue to open our doors to all children, families and include old people as much as possible 2. To expand our boundaries to include the many children and families who are multi-cultural 3. To keep up activities which can integrate marginal groups – the disabled, disadvantaged, multi-racial, aged - into the main body of the community 4. Training for toy library workers: to offer comprehensive, relevant courses to any who needs them 5. To collect and distribute information about international activities and events – ITLA conferences, Newsletter and website
<p>Events</p>	<p>Special meeting in October 2010 of key people in toy libraries in Korea to discuss: 1) Asian Conferences – Singapore (2010) and Japan in 2013, 2) International Conferences – Brazil (2011) and Korea 2014, 3) World Play Day celebration in Korea this year (2011)</p> <p>4) How to start toy libraries on Kangwha Island off the west coast of Korea where so far there are no toy libraries.</p>
<p>More historical information</p>	<p>Until the early 1990’s there was no legislation covering pre-school education for disabled children so we became the fore runner of special schools for pre-schoolers and made our own curriculum or programme of daily activities. Each year we had a five day training course, a large fund raiser and a making toys from junk contest and exhibition.</p> <p>The toy library toys were arranged under the headings: small motor co-ordination, cognitive, tactile, pre-number and pre-language. We employed one teacher especially for the toy library who could also do individual work with the children and counselling with parents.</p>