



Proposal:

Asian Championship 2020 in Seoul, Republic of Korea

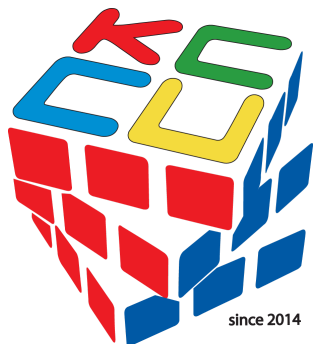
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This is a proposal to hold Asian Championship 2020 (AC 2020) in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

When: August 14 to 16 (Friday to Sunday)

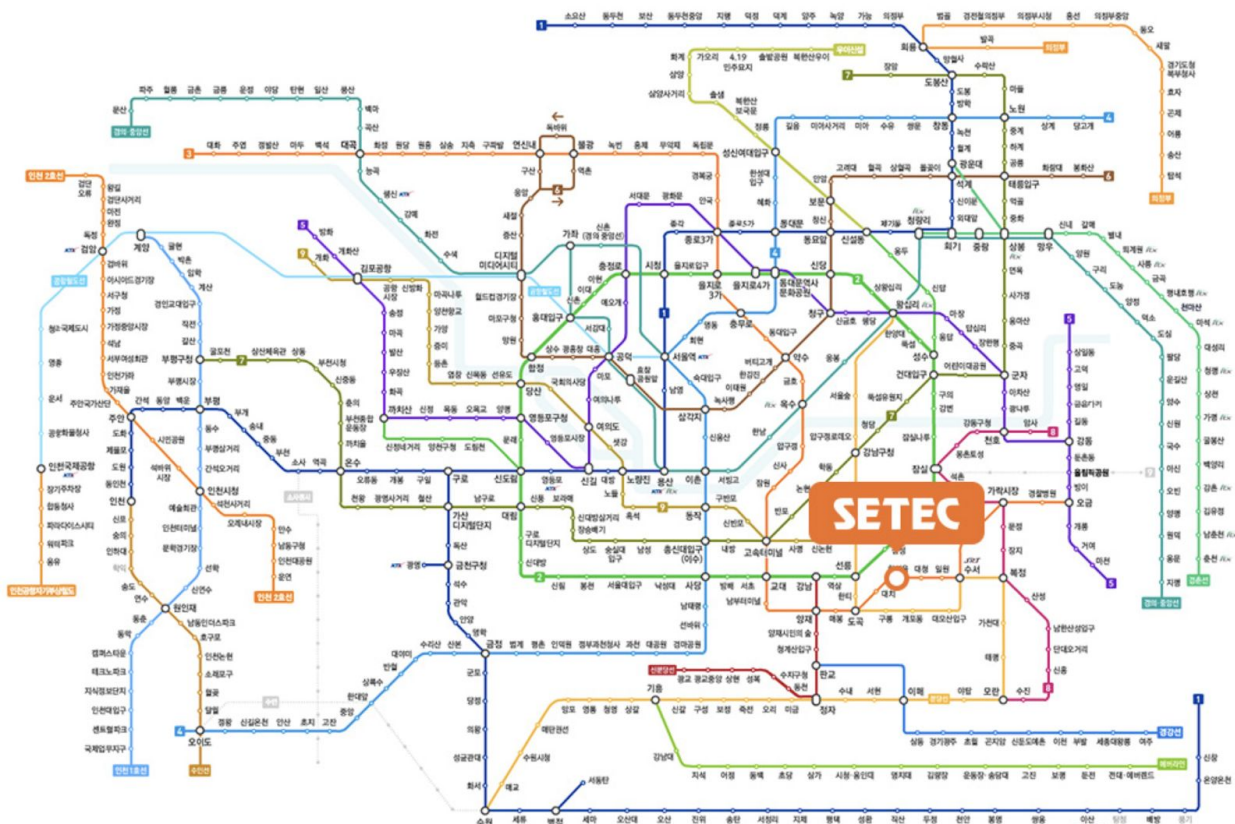
1. Independence day is August 15, which is around when Korean Championship is usually held. If Korea organizes AC 2020, then we will not organize Korean Championship 2020.
2. Three day competition, with a possibility of a four day competition, subject to sponsorship deals.
3. These dates are usually summer break for students and summer vacation time for non-students.

Where: Seoul, Republic of Korea

Seoul is the capital of the country, which hosted the Olympics in 1988. The city is by far the largest city in Korea, with a population of over 10 million, and the metropolitan area includes over 25 million.

1. **Tourism:** Needless to say, Seoul has everything a tourist will ever want to see or do. You name it, we have it. The following is just some places that come to mind at the moment.
 - a. *Historic:* palaces (Gyeongbok, 경복궁), Korean traditional district (Bukchon, 북촌), Korean traditional markets (Namdaemun, 남대문 시장), temples/shrines (Johngmyo, 종묘)
 - b. *Nature:* mountains (Bukhan, 북한산), parks (Olympic Park, 올림픽 공원), Han river (한강), a popular walking area alongside a stream (청계천)
 - c. *Landmarks:* shopping complexes (COEX, 코엑스), an observation tower (N seoul tower, 남산타워), amusement parks (Lotte World, 롯데월드)
2. **Travel:** Easy-peasy! Most signs (and definitely the important ones) are in both Korean and English, the newer ones, also Chinese and Japanese.
 - a. *Getting in:* International travel is easy, as one of the largest airport hubs, Incheon International Airport (ICN), of Asia is just a train-ride away. A quick google search with "direct flights icn" says there are 156 cities with non-stop flight from ICN. There are plenty of trains and buses into Seoul. Within Seoul, there is Gimpo International Airport (GMP), which also serves a significant number of flights to nearby Asian countries such as China, Taiwan, and Japan. Domestic travel is easy as well, as basically all trains (fast and slow) and buses in Korea have stops in Seoul.

- b. *Getting around*: Seoul is well-known for its quick, cheap, and extensive public transportation system. Seoul's subway system has 18 lines, and a ton of busses. See the below figure.

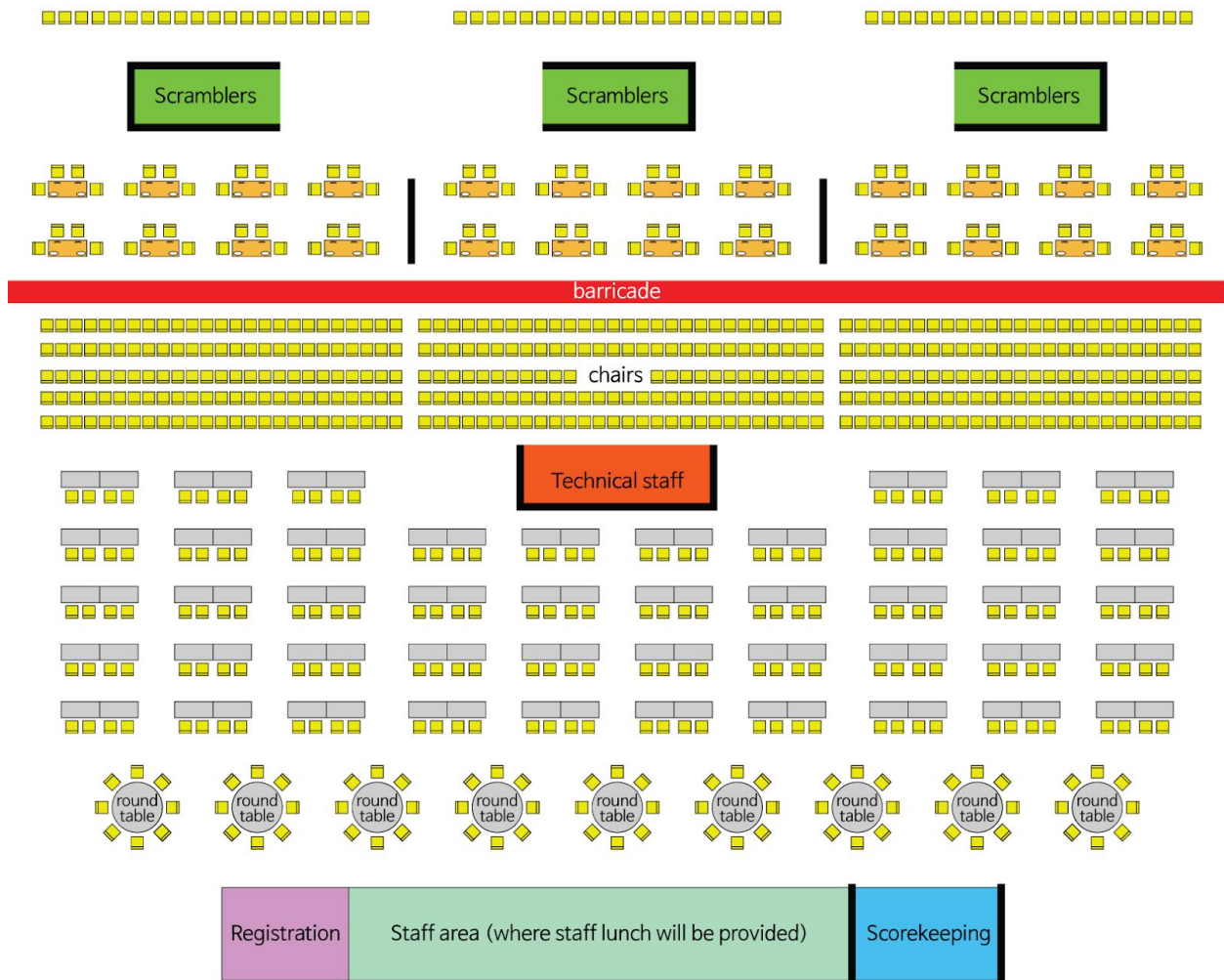


The base fare is less than 2USD, but it depends on distance and travel time; if you leave Seoul and enter the suburbs, then it may go up to 4USD. You can transfer between the subway and buses as many times as you want, each time you transfer you will pay a small fee. Taxi's are also cheap. The taxi fare rose recently, but the base fee is still less than 4USD. A link provided by SETEC, the proposed venue for AC 2020, on how to get to the venue: <http://www.setec.or.kr/dis/traffic/trafficinfo.do>

- Accommodation**: the city is huge, so there is a variety of options, from luxury hotels, low-end hotels, hostels, guesthouses, to AirBnB. A link in English to some places recommended by SETEC, the proposed venue for AC 2020: <http://setec.or.kr/eng/sub/traffic/accommodation.jsp>
- Venue**: SETEC <http://setec.or.kr/eng/>

In 2017, Seoul International Cartoon & Animation Festival (SICAF), <http://www.sicaf.org/>, was held at SETEC. We were invited to hold an event there, so we held Korean Championship 2017 for three days. We only used a portion of the smaller hall, and it was sufficient for Korean Championship 2017.

- a. For AC 2020, we plan on renting a bigger hall; the size of the hall is 3,134 m² (50mx60m). Also, for 4BLD, 5BLD, MultiBLD, and FMC, we plan on renting a separate side room, which fits up to 100 people.
- b. Unfortunately the convention center has no equipment, so we need to rent everything including chairs, tables, barricades, and so on. Yet, this is not a problem since it will be much cheaper than renting a venue with all the equipment.
- c. I think the below setup is good, but I am open to suggestions.



- d. Already looked into a live stream service and sound equipment.
- e. I suspect 800 people can be accepted, maybe even more.

Last Words

As I am grateful for what I have learned in the cubing community, I always wanted to give back to the cubing community. One contribution I made was getting on the WCA board of directors and spending a whole lot of time thinking about the structure and the future of the WCA. This was before the WCA became an officially registered non-profit organization. Now that the WCA is officially a non-profit organization, I moved back to Korea, and I am no longer on the board, I started focusing solely on my local community, which is the Korean community. With trusted members of the community, we founded Korea Cube Culture United (KCCU), and eventually started organizing the Korean Championships, which the community enjoys very much. It is with no doubt that organizing AC 2020 is a much more difficult task, but I think the Korean community will not only benefit from it, but also has grown enough to handle it. Ever since 2014, I was looking for the right time for Korea to organize an AC. I think now is an apt time: Korea is both ready and in decent shape to step up and take on a bigger responsibility for the WCA community.