

Lessons Learned Seoul 2016

1. Overview: some figures

Keynote speakers & special guests: 11

Presenters: ~100

Participants: 1,000 man-days

Volunteers: 45

Total expenses: ~₩80,000,000 (approximately \$72,000)

2. Preparation

- I. Formation of local organizing committee (LOC): Basic Income Korean Network (BIKN) this year gave the impetus for BIYN, Labor Party, Green Party, Cultural Action, and others to come together to form LOC in order to disseminate and gather support for the idea of basic income in Korea. Its limited influence on the wider Korean society reflects the state of affairs for the basic income movement in Korea. As the congress date approached, more organizations joined the LOC. But it seems there was a missed opportunity to expand the LOC from the outset.
- II. Keynote speakers: that prestigious speakers would have helped provide momentum to the movement and aid in dissemination of basic income idea goes without saying. With that in mind, luminaries such as Naomi Klein, Robert Wright, and Paul Mason were contacted for possible participation in the congress, but were unavailable. Acquisition of keynote speakers may be an area of improvement for future congresses.

With regards to gender balance among the speakers, there were two women out of ten keynote speakers – though there were extenuating circumstances, it is an area of improvement for future congresses. Moreover, while the congress was able to achieve a degree of regional representation, there were no keynote speakers from African region.

- III. Basic Income Korean Week: during the week the congress was taking place, various events such as concerts, exhibitions, and campaigns were instituted to enhance the congress' media presence and draw people's attention. But these events were downsized from original plans as there were difficulties in organizing the main Congress and these events concurrently. While these events were useful in their own right, better delegation of the LOC's organizational capacity would have smoothed out the functioning of the week.

3. Proceeding of the Congress

- I. Organizing the Sessions: if there was no particular reason, all presentations were organized on the day of the session – this led to lowered concentration among the participants. Moreover, some sessions had to be modified on the day as there were presenters who were unable to make it. While these instances may not be completely avoidable but receiving the applications earlier and keeping with the deadline would smooth out the process.
- II. PR and promotion: the PR leading up to the congress was one of the most outstanding features of BIKN. Promotion via mainstream media and SNS were carried out effectively partly due to BIKN's established contacts within the media. Another reason for better media presence was due to the Korean political class' heightened attention on the issue of basic income due to the Swiss referendum.
- III. Budget
 - a. Income: ₩81,000,000 (\$72,000)
 - i. Fees: ₩22,000,000 (\$19,600)
 - ii. BIKN contribution & donations: ₩18,000,000 (\$16,000)
 - iii. National Research Foundation fund: ₩41,000,000 (\$36,500)
 - b. Expenditures:
 - i. travel expenses: ₩20,000,000 (\$18,000)
 - ii. venue: ₩2,500,000 (\$2,200)
 - iii. translation: ₩14,000,000 (\$12,500)
 - iv. food: ₩5,000,000 (\$4,500)
 - v. printed material: ₩10,000,000 (\$9,000)
 - vi. associated volunteering costs: ₩3,800,000 (\$3,400)
 - vii. Basic Income Korean Week: ₩10,000,000 (\$9,000)

4. General review and acknowledgment

Overall, the 2016 BIEN Congress was a success thanks to efforts of the small but dedicated LOC and that of the network secretariat.

We would also like to thank members of BIEN EC who were crucial in expanding the international reach of the organization.

Furthermore, events such as the Swiss referendum and the Finnish basic income experiments did much to draw attention to the congress.

As mentioned above, there were areas of improvements in the running of the congress and the main issues seem to be expanding the limited organizational capability and improving the tight scheduling.