

## **ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE NORWEGIAN-KOREAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION**

**The Annual report covers the period from the General Assembly 18. September 2023 to the General Assembly 16. September 2024**

**There are more than 800 members in the Association by August 2024**

**There were about 300 members when the Association was started in 2009.**

### **BOARD-MEETINGS.**

There have been 5 Board-meetings.

The Embassy representative to the Board is Third Secretary Chaieun Lee.

The veteran Arvid Fjære is included as a Board member to secure a continued contact with the veterans.

### **ACTIVITIES**

#### **1. 18. September 2023. General Assembly.**

The General Assembly took place at Bakkekroen.

The annual report was presented and was approved.

Lucie Paus Falck and Karina Castberg were reelected for two years. New member David Bauger was elected for two years.

After the formal procedures, there was a program to commemorate the 70 years of armistice of the Korean War.

The veteran Arvid Fjære gave a lecture about his period as a young soldier at NORMASH, the Norwegian Mobile Army Surgical Hospital.

Lieutenant Colonel Harald-David Meum from the Veteran Service of the Defense Forces told how the experience from NORMASH has influenced the Norwegian health service.

Erling Eikli, former editor of Forsvarets Forum, showed several series of pictures from NORMASH and from veteran revisits to Korea.

Finally Mira Aspeli, former secretary for the Korean ambassador to Norway, showed a sequence which was recently shown on Korean television, about NORMASH and its importance in Korea after the war.

A Korean meal was served.

About 70 people were present.

#### **2. 9. December. Christmas party at Bakkekroen.**

The party was highly appreciated. A Norwegian “juletallerken” was served.

There were about 50 guests present.

**3. Monday 4. March 2024. Membership meeting at Bakkekroen,**

**The program was about the work of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in North-East Asia with weight on South -Korea.**

Jørn Eugene Gjelstad who is Senior Advisor in the Foreign Ministry in the section for East-Asia and Oceania gave an interesting lecture on the situation and work in the area, and the cooperation between Korea and Norway.

About 70 people were present.

**4. The Friendship Association 15 years. Birthday-party and Social event with a Korean festive menu.**

The program was a classical piano-concert with pianist Sophia Mina Friedensburg, and a short lecture on wine and Korean food.

This was also a farewell party for Ambassador Kim and his wife. They got gifts from the Norwegian-Korean Friendship Association and were thanked warmly for their support during the years. Ambassador Kim gave some final remarks.

About 70 people were present.

**5. 16. September 2024. General Assembly at Bakkekroen.**

**6. Website.**

The website “norsk-koreansk.no” has been renewed and updated by Elias N. Pedersen Falck.

**FINANCES.**

The Norwegian-Korean Friendship Association is an organization with no membership fee. The Association was given a start capital from the former Norwegian Korean Forum in 2009. From 1. January 2022 the Norwegian Korean War Veterans Association ended its activities, and the amount on the association’s account was given as a gift to the Norwegian-Korean Friendship Association. This was a generous donation.

The expenses for 2023 was for the website, for renting localities for the meetings, and for fees and gifts to lecturers at the meetings.

We thank the Korean Embassy for its generous economical contributions to the meetings of the Friendship Association.

**Other information**

Website: [norsk-koreansk.no](http://norsk-koreansk.no)

Facebook: [facebook.com/norskkoreansk](https://facebook.com/norskkoreansk)

Info from Korea: [www.korea.net](http://www.korea.net) and [www.arirang.com](http://www.arirang.com)

The Norwegian Embassy in Seoul: [www.norway.no/south-korea](http://www.norway.no/south-korea)

The Korean Embassy in Oslo: <http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/no-en/index.do>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/koreanembassyinnorway>