



FISM Newsletter

No. 130 – AUGUST 2nd, 2023

To all Presidents of the FISM member societies
and Delegates in the General Assembly


Dear President, Dear Friend in Magic,

It's a pleasure to keep you informed on the latest developments and projects.

FISM WCM 2028

The application of BUSAN, South Korea, to organize the FISM World Championships of Magic in 2028 gave rise to a site inspection. I am sending you the report of the inspection as a supplement to this Newsletter.

Best regards,


Andrea Baioni

International President



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Site Inspection Report

Busan, South Korea, June 30th, 2023

Inspector: **Andrea Baioni**, FISM International President.

Attending: **Peter Din**, FISM International Vice President
Domenico Dante, FISM International Advisor
Priska Walther, FISM International Secretary
Xavier Tapias, FISM Europe Vice President.
Kenneth Chan, FISM Asia Acting General Secretary
Albert Tam, FISM Asia Board member
John Teo, FISM Asia Board member
Junichiro Sejima, FISM Asia Board member
Trarasansombat Pairuch, FISM Asia Board member
May Closa, GENI President (Spain)

Purpose: Inspection of the feasibility of South Korea as the host country for the 2028 FISM World Championships of Magic.

At the request of: **Mr. Kang, Yeol---woo**, President of the BIMF Magic Club.

Hosts: During the visit, the delegation was hosted by Mr. Kang Yeol-woo, President of the BIMF Magic Club and Chairman of the Organizing Committee. They were also joined by:

- Wonil Kim – Mr. Kang's Assistant
- Areum Ku - A Professional Translator.

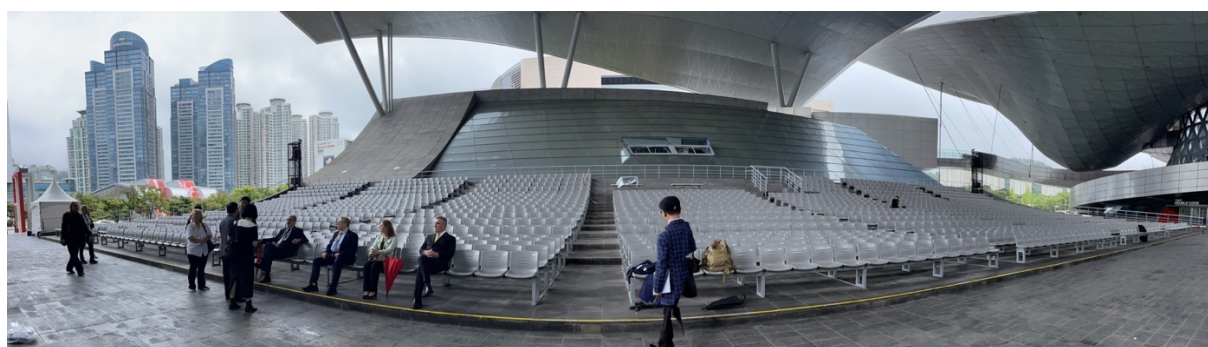
The site inspection was well-organized. We visited the Busan Cinema Center as an alternative venue of BEXCO where FISM WCM 2018 was organized (you can find the site inspection of BEXCO in FISM Newsletter 31.)

Busan Cinema Center and Sohyang Theater

Busan Cinema Center is a cutting-edge architectural marvel designed by renowned architect Wolf D. Prix. Located in the bustling Centum City district, the center boasts excellent accessibility and infrastructure.

A large space, well-covered outside the main auditorium, will be prepared with a stage, professional lighting, and sound equipment for the Gala, with seats for an audience of up to 3.000 people.

Under the same roof, adjacent to the space for the Gala, an area for the Dealers will be prepared.



Sohyang Theater is a state-of-the-art venue known for its elegant design situated in the city center of Busan, close to Busan Cinema Center. The Main Auditorium is the centerpiece of the Sohyang Theater and will host the FISM World Championship Stage Competition with an audience of up to 1.500 people. The stage is spacious and versatile, equipped with advanced lighting and sound systems. The backstage area is fully equipped with dressing rooms, storage space for props, and rehearsal spaces.

In addition to the Main Auditorium, offers multiple screening rooms equipped with high-quality projection equipment and comfortable seating.



BUSAN

With a population of four million inhabitants, is Korea's second-largest city, situated in the southeastern part of the country. It is also the richest region in South Korea in terms of tourist resources. In addition to several historic Buddhist temples, there are numerous attractive and interesting places worth visiting.

Busan boasts its top beach destination, Haeundae, which attracts over 500,000 tourists daily during the peak summer period. It is one of the most visited places in Korea.

As of the time of writing this report, Busan is actively applying to host EXPO2030.

Time zone

Korea standard time is UTC/GMT + 9 hours.

Currency

The unit of currency is the won (KRW). In June 2023 one Euro was worth 1.420,29 KRW and one US \$, 1.300,25 KRW.

Foreign currency and traveler's checks can be converted into Korean won at banks or authorized money exchanges. Internationally recognized credit cards are accepted almost everywhere, and they can be used for cash advances in Korean won at most automated teller machines (ATMs).

Tipping is not customary in Korea. A VAT of 10% applies to most goods and services, including tourist hotels. It is also added to the bill for meals and other services.

Other information

Korea uses the international metric system, and electrical outlets for 220 volts/60 Hz are predominant.

The business hours for Government and Post Offices are from 09.00 to 18.00 (Mon.-Fri.), while Banks close at 16.00 h.

Department Stores typically operate from 10.30 to 20.00 h., but there are a few international department stores (e.g., 7-Eleven) that stay open until 11 pm.

Climate and temperature

Busan, South Korea, has a humid, subtropical hot summer climate. In July, the average maximum temperature is 27°C (81°F), and the minimum temperature is around 21°C (70°F). During the first half of the month, the relative humidity typically ranges from 70% to as high as 94%, and there is approximately a 50% chance of precipitation.

Language

The official language spoken in Busan is Korean, but many people understand and speak English. Additionally, all street names and signposts are displayed in both Korean and English.

Transportation

The flight from Europe and the USA to Busan, South Korea, is quite lengthy, and in most cases, travelers will have to change planes twice. Booking a flight that allows your luggage to go through to the destination can be a significant convenience.

Fare prices for flights are subject to change constantly, and a company that offers the best value at one time may become the most expensive option six months later.

Upon arrival at Busan Gimhae Airport, you have several transportation choices to reach the Convention Centre. Depending on the traffic, a taxi (Navi Call) will take you there in about half an hour for approximately 30.000–36.000 KRW (Euro 21,12-25,35 / US\$ 22,64 – 27,68). Alternatively, a shuttle minibus can transport you to the Convention Centre or a nearby hotel in about an hour for 126.000 KRW (Euro 88,71 / US\$ 96,90) per group of up to 7 people. Additionally, there is a reasonably priced shuttle bus service called 'Ilgwang Passenger,' available every 15 minutes, with fares around 2.000-3.000 KRW (Euro 1,40 – 2,11 / US\$ 1,53 - 2,30), which stops right next to the BEXCO that offers direct access to the subway station from the basement, with connections to 5 different subway lines (please refer to the map for details).



HOTELS

Hotels are readily available in Busan, with over 400 options listed on booking.com. The range includes luxurious and expensive seafront hotels like the 'Paradise Hotel' to more affordable hostels, with prices per night starting from KRW 14.000 (Euro 9,85 / US\$ 10,79) per bed per night, and even larger houses with four bedrooms priced at KRW 1.040.000 (Euro 732,24 / US\$ 799,84).

Most conventioners are expected to stay in one of the many hotels clustered close to Haeundae Beach, which offers an incredible capacity of accommodations.

The delegate stayed at Plea De Blanc Hotel & Residence, which includes breakfast and offers small apartments with good furniture, comfort, and cleanliness at a cost of around KRW 60.000 (Euro 42,24 / US\$ 46,14) per night. The spacious room comes with a double bed, a small couch with a coffee table, a fridge, a washing machine, air conditioning, and a television. The bathroom features a bathtub with a shower, and there are big bottles of shower gel, shampoo, and conditioner provided, along with slippers and a hairdryer. Guests have all they need to make coffee or tea.

However, there were no reading lamps by the bedside. The buffet breakfast is okay, but if you prefer breakfast on the beach, you can easily cross the road and pick up something from Starbucks. An added plus is that some of the restaurants and all 'Seven-Eleven' and similar shops in the neighborhood stay open all night.

SUPPORT

The organizers are assured of the support and sponsorship of local and national administrative and government authorities.

During the site inspection all the inspectors and delegates met authorities. Particularity:

- Mr. Sung-soo Kim, The Head of Haeundae-gu
- Mr. Byeong-yoon Ahn, Deputy Mayor of Busan City,
- Mr. Sung-min Ahn, Busan City Council President,
- A representative of the Korea Tourism Organization

Conclusion

After considering all positive aspects of our visit, the seriousness of the presented budget and the confirmed support of the local and regional authorities, we concluded that the city of Busan has given us every necessary guarantee to be considered as a worthy candidate to organize FISM 2028. The BIMF Magic Club will specify in their Bid Book to the General Assembly on July 2025 their final and best choice.