



WORLD CIVIC FORUM 2009

Through global reflections and dialogues in the areas of peace, human welfare, social justice and climate change, the WCF aims to enhance the future of humanity and their civilizations. The forum expects to produce global norms and principles, declarations, and action plans.

Organized by the United Nations
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
and Kyung Hee University

Peace, human welfare, and social justice are the aspirations of each and every citizen on the planet. These avowed goals are not only a universal ambition, but also a basic right of all citizens yearning for a better life in the future. The World Civic Forum (WCF), to be constituted by the global collaboration of higher education institutions, international organizations, civil society organizations, governments, the business sector and the media, provides a venue for global talks and practices to embody these shared goals of humanity in the 21st century. The Forum, which will be held bi-annually, unfolds the first chapter in 2009 in Seoul, Korea. It will be co-hosted by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Kyung Hee University and focus on three challenging themes: Civic Values for Social Justice; Civic Engagement in Public and Global Governance; and Civic Action for the Global Agenda, including Climate Change.

I. About the WORLD CIVIC FORUM

1. WCF as a Global Forum

The WCF is an ongoing global forum addressing the global challenges the humanity faces today. Through global reflections and dialogues in the areas of peace, human welfare, social justice and climate change, the WCF aims to enhance the future of humanity and their civilizations. The forum expects to produce global norms and principles, declarations, and action plans.

2. WCF as a Global Institution

The WCF is a global institution which fosters collaboration of academic institutions and their partners such as international organizations, civil society organizations, governments, the business sector and the media. With the ongoing interest in global collaboration, the WCF aims to institutionalize various programs on education, research and practice related to the global and civilizational challenges of making the world a better place to live.

3. WCF as a Global Practice

The WCF represents a global practice that seeks dialogue and mutual understanding, cooperation and collaboration, and change and transformation for a better future for all. The Forum strives to fulfill higher education institutions' potential for social responsibility and global eminence and to create a new knowledge community by transcending the difference in backgrounds and origins.

4. WCF 2009

Date and Venue

- Date: 5 – 8 May 2009
- Venue: COEX, Seoul, Republic of Korea

WCF 2009 Key Themes

- Civic Values for Social Justice
- Civic Engagement in Public and Global Governance
- Civic Action for the Global Agenda, including Climate Change

The theme of “Civic Values for Social Justice” will target primarily academic institutions, research institutions, human rights groups, and the media.

Civil society organizations, governments, the business sector, the media, higher education institutions and public administration training institutions will make up the majority of participants for the theme of “Civic Engagement in Public and Global Governance.”

And lastly, the theme of “Civic Action for the Global Agenda, including Climate Change” will involve consultations on value reorientation and realignment with a specific focus on advocacy for and implementation of the Bali Declaration on Climate Change (2007). The current efforts will be addressed primarily by civil society organizations, governments, the business sector and educational institutions.



II. Main Features

1. WCF 2009 and Host Organization

The first forum, “WCF 2009” will be co-organized by Kyung Hee University and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Thereafter, the WCF will be held bi-annually, hosted by a higher education institution chosen by its International Board on the principle of shared ownership.

2. Institutional Partners

To increase participation and institutional contributions, partners are encouraged to take the lead in forming the plenary sessions. Institutional partners will include higher education institutions, international organizations, civil society organizations, governments, the business sector, and the media.

Program

5 May (Tuesday)	6 May (Wednesday)			7 May (Thursday)	8 May (Friday)
Registration	Plenary Session Track 1	Plenary Session Track 2	Plenary Session Track 3	Session 3	Session 7
Opening Ceremony & Presentations of the Heads of States	Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Session 4	Session 8
University President Roundtable	Session 1			Session 5	Adoption of the Declaration & Closing Ceremony
General Plenary Session	Session 2			Session 6	
Welcoming Reception					Closing Reception (Cultural Performance)

*Program details are subject to change.

3. Built-in Programs

Before and after the WCF 2009, participating institutions will develop various education, research, and practice programs, which reflect the founding spirit of the WCF, in cooperation with the relevant institutions, organizations, and experts. All developed programs will be made available to the public worldwide through cyber means.

4. Youth Participation

The World Youth Civic Forum targeting the future global leaders of all sectors of society will be held at the same time as the WCF. This concurrent event will promote worldwide interest among young people in the current global challenges and encourage them to find new and ambitious goals, thereby laying a firm foundation for the future global community.

5. Cultural Festival

The WCF will also provide a venue for an international cultural festival as it addresses key global issues. In order to raise awareness, increase international participation, and strengthen the “Creative Foundation” of the WCF, a cultural arts festival, tentatively named 'Planetary Passion,' will be held with the participation of artists, performers, and diverse contributors to traditional and contemporary culture.

6. Global Cyber Outreach

The WCF will develop cyber programs, including Open-Course-Ware (OCW) materials, to share the content of the WCF forum events with a global audience and to promote an open sharing of various built-in programs.

III. Governance

1. Global University Network

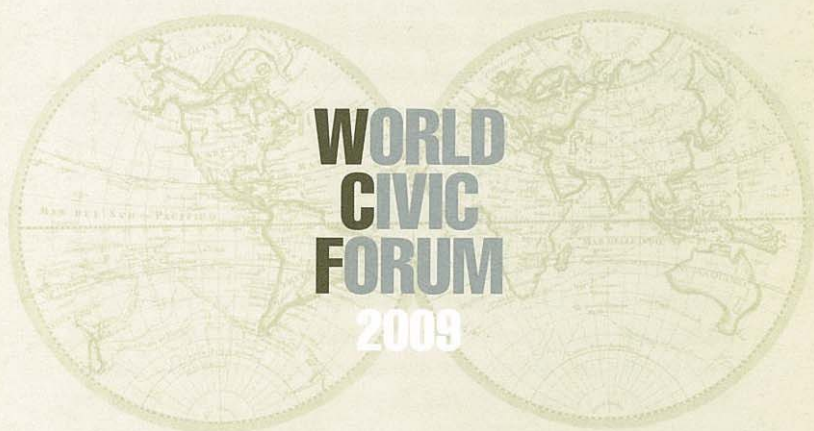
The WCF will operate on the basis of continuing partnerships among higher education institutions and other partners. For this purpose, the WCF will initiate and organize a network of higher education institutions encompassing all regions around the globe, in time for the WCF 2009. Key considerations in the selection process for the network will include each institution's traditions and history, along with its commitment and capability with regard to the WCF's mission and goals.

2. International Board

An International Board will serve as the official governing body of the WCF. It will consist of members from higher education institutions, international organizations, civil society organizations, the business sector and the media. The establishment of the International Board will be presented as an official agenda for the participants' approval during the "WCF 2009," and, upon approval, will complete its formation within six months.

3. Secretariat

The WCF Secretariat will be located on Kyung Hee University's Seoul Campus (Seoul, Korea) and in the UN Peace Park of Kyung Hee University's Global Campus (Gyeonggi Province, Korea). The Secretariat will support the WCF's events and programs, in cooperation with related organizations and institutions. The WCF portal site will also be maintained by the Secretariat.



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