Dear COMPMEDers:

Nowadays, we could watch strong interests about Asian laws of Animal experiment or Animal welfare and IACUC. Here, I want to let you know the recent situation of Korea.

In Korea, we have the regulations for animal experiments of Korean Food and Drug Administration, but it is not compulsory to other institutions. However, some institutions have their own regulations or guides for animal experiments. On 1998, the Korean Association of Laboratory Animal Science (KALAS) declared the very simple guideline for animal experiments. It is posted on the homepage(http://www.kriet.re.kr/~kalas/) in Korean.

And The Korean Academy of Medical Sciences published the book titled "Guide for Animal Experiments(in Korean)" this month and had a seminar to explain the Guide in Yonsei University School of Medicine on March 22nd. The Korean Guide may be applied to the all Journals of Medical Science in Korea from now on. The Committee for publishing this Guide included the Medical Doctors, DVMs, Proffessionals of Lab Animal Science, and Proffessors of Medical College.

In addition to this, KALAS, Sang Seop Han, the President, are preparing to establish the laws for Animal Experiment including animal welfare with Korean FDA.

KALAS had started the certification of Korean Laboratory Animal Technician and 86 technicians had been certified last year. Examination for certification of this year will be held on May 13th. Many people have an interesting to this certification. We will perform the certification of Laboratory Animal Technologist next year. And a technician in my facility is trying to win a Technologist certification of JALAS as a first foreigner in Japan. I'm also doing my best to help our members of KALAS getting a certification of LAT of AALAS in Korea.

Not only these! The Toxicology Research Center, Korean Research Institution of Chemical Technology, Dr. Sang Seop Han, Director, had a certification of AAALAC International last year. It was a first case in Asia. Now, we, Samsung Biomedical Research Institute and Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine, have submitted the application for certification of AAALAC International and Korean FDA will apply soon. Many institutions are now have a strong concerns about AAALAC and therefore, KALAS planed to have a Symposium concerning "International Standards for Animal Care and Use in Laboratory Animal Experiments" including a presentation about the AAALAC on June 2nd. About 15 people from JALAS will attend this symposium. And 5 people from KALAS will attend and have an oral presentations on JALAS Meeting on May 21-23, Tokushima. We have strong relationships with JALAS and JVMA. From now on, we will make a strong relationship with JCLAM.

Besides, Korean Research Institution of Biology and Biotechnology, KRIIBB will hold an ICLAS Governing Board Meeting and Workshop for ICLAS monitoring as a Sub-monitoring Center of ICLAS on June 12th - 18th in Seoul and Daejon. And KRIIBB have started the breeding of Rhesus monkeys and Marmosets. So, the experiments of Non-human primates may be increased soon in Korea.

We have two commercial breeders of SPF rodents, Daehan and Samryuk. Samryuk received seed animals from Harlan Co. Recently, the new animal farm has been built up in the suburb of Seoul city. C&H Korea will produce the animals of Charles River Japan. Now we have got many opportunities to choose good animals in Korea.

Anyway, KALAS will do its best to establish animal welfare and for the good animal experiments and 3R Movement, Refinement, Reduction, and Replacement in Korea. Lastly, I'd like to ask all Compmeders having strong concerns and supports to this energetic movement of lab animal science and animal welfare in Korea.
I attached below an old article about Korean culture for animal welfare already you Compmeders have read on COMPMED.

I really appreciate Dr. Ken Boschert for his endeavor to COMPMED. Thanks to all COMPMEDers.

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Koreans Honor Dead Lab Animals (Who Knows—They May Return)
By HAE WON CHOI
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
SEOUL, South Korea—Korean tradition demands homage be paid to the dead -- whether they are human or lab rats.

Saturday, about 100 staffers from government laboratories gathered at a specially built pagoda here to pacify the spirits of 51,051 mice, guinea pigs, rabbits and other animals killed during the past 10 months in laboratory experiments.

"Please bear no grudge against neither God nor man, and we pray that you will have an everlasting life," said Cho Jung Sik, head of research at the Korean Food & Drug Administration, who presided over the service.

Without the agency’s annual ceremony, some researchers fear, the animals’ angry spirits could take out vengeance on the living and wreak havoc on Earth. One researcher who attended, Chung Jong Sung, claimed that before the government started holding the ceremonies 15 years ago, lab machines mysteriously broke, and the staff experienced strange illnesses and work-related nightmares.

The practice and beliefs are rooted in Korea’s centuries-old shamanistic traditions, which have persisted despite the country’s rapid modernization. Spirits are believed to inhabit all aspects of nature. If they aren’t treated well, they can hurt the living.

At Saturday’s ceremony, which resembled a funeral for people, researchers and technicians from government laboratories gathered in front of a gray stone pagoda on the quiet grounds of a spacious government complex in Seoul.

Spread out before the pagoda were anchovies, peanuts, cabbages and an arrangement of fruit as offerings to the spirits of the animals. Incense and candles were lit; in the background, a Buddhist chant played on a portable tape player. In a reading, Dr. Cho said the lives of animals are precious but sacrificed for mankind’s health and welfare.

"I feel sad about the animals," said Cho Dae Hyun, a researcher who has killed thousands of rats and white mice during his 20 years at the Korea Food & Drug Administration. "But attending this service appeases my conscience."
Not all of the scientists, however, hold to traditional beliefs. "I don't think this sort of ceremony is necessary," said Lee Ki Hong, wearing a white laboratory gown. "It all comes from the Buddhist belief of reincarnation. For a non-Buddhist like me, it makes me feel uneasy."

Nonetheless, Dr. Lee attended the service, he said, out of "respect for the animals."

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