

Munhwa Ilbo, Feb-23-2015

## Talented Students Attracted to World-class Learning Environment

① Songdo, Incheon Metropolitan City Rising as 'Special Education Zone'



▲ Pre-kindergarten students play a game of moving a large ball with the teacher's instruction in the gymnasium of Chadwick International, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon Metropolitan City on Feb. 16.

Making a thunderstorm and discussing English poetry  
An education environment that outcompetes most universities

Yearly tuition of 30 million won for primary education  
Cheaper than studying abroad...Easier adaptation

We witness many who choose local cities instead of overseas destinations for education. Following new high schools in local cities that are famous for their good performance, with more students entering highly recognized universities, world-class education providers such as international schools, schools for gifted children and the National University of Science and Technology were established in local cities such as Incheon and Jeju, rapidly increasing the number of students coming from Gangnam-gu, Seoul in their search for better education. Some of them have developed into a "Special International Education Zone," resulting in an influx of foreign students from China and other countries. The Munhwa Ilbo will explore the sites of locally promoted educational innovation that put the old saying into the shade, "Humans to Seoul and Horses to Jeju" in five consecutive feature articles which will also look into the dark side of the polarization of education.

"It was very difficult for me to adapt when I was sent overseas as an elementary school kid. But now I can live with my family and I love it." "I persuaded my parents that I wanted to enter this school believing that I could benefit from international education right here in Korea."

These are comments from "Seoulites" attending Chadwick International, located in Songdo-dong, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon during an afternoon meeting with the reporter on Feb. 16. Chadwick is an American private school that takes pride in its 80-year history as well as having a great swimming

pool, 3.5m deep, and a five-story building located on an exclusive site of 71,405㎡, with an indoor gym large enough to hold nine basketball courts (1,500 people), a theater for 700 people, a TV studio that provides eight channels and a Tele-Presence room equipped with two video communication systems. The education environment outcompetes that of most of universities.

Whole regions of Songdo International City arose as a “special education zone” representing the western areas of the capital territory. Internationally renowned schools like Chadwick International and State University of New York, Korea established in Songdo since 2011 are attracting many students from all over the country with their high-class education and creative and free learning environment.

More eye-catching than the facilities at Chadwick International, the first international school established in Songdo, is its teaching style, which is completely different from that of domestic schools. At 1 p.m. in a classroom of 18 second-grade kids guided by two teachers, there was an experiment to conduct a “How to make a thunderstorm”. They placed sand and paint into a transparent glass box and were trying to make tidal waves in the way that they occur under the sea. As they asked questions and gave answers, it was hard to distinguish the students from the teachers.

At 2 p.m. in a nearby classroom, fifth-grade students were discussing the “measurement of changes in Korea.” Ten students were helped by four teachers to apply an automatic sensor to a measuring machine, measure social and natural changes in Korea, and connect the results to a computer program. One student used Legos and sensors to develop a machine to automatically measure the number of eggs produced by a hen and connected it to a computer for demonstration. Lee, age 10, said “the class is so much fun and we don’t even notice how time passes.”

In a class for tenth-grade students (first graders by Korean high school standards) at 3 p.m. on the second floor, 15 students sat together with two teachers to review the poetry in Victorian period and discuss them with classmates. Most of the Korean students here are those who chose Chadwick instead of overseas destinations.

Lim, age 17, in an interview at the TV studio said, “Although it was difficult for me to adapt in the beginning since I had to work on my project as a self starter and be able to present my work in front of everyone. I enjoyed being respected as a responsible person. I guess I was rather introverted before, but having spent time at Chadwick, I feel that I am more proactive now.”

The Chadwick students mostly want to study overseas after graduation, but many would like to remain in the country. Park, age 17, said “I applied to this school believing that I could benefit from an international education and become an internationally competitive person. I would like to be a pilot after graduating from domestic university.”

The school is currently attended by about 870 students. The first- and fifth-grade competition rates to admission are mostly around 2~3 to 1. But there was the highest competitive ratio which recorded as 7 to 1. Also, about a half of them commute from Seoul and other metropolitan areas, and the rest reside in areas in Songdo. However, a significant number of them are transfer students from all over the country, such as Seoul, Busan and Daegu.

The school representative said, “The yearly tuition fees for primary and secondary education are about 30 million won and 40 million won, respectively. It is not inexpensive. But compared with the costs necessary for overseas study accompanied by parents, it is much more affordable.”

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**'The Admission Selection Focuses on Curiosity about the World and Problem-solving Skills'**

Interview with Ms. Shelly Luke Wille, Assistant Head of Chadwick International



"We are different from other international schools. We teach Korean as hard as English."

Shelly Luke Wille (left), the Assistant Head of Chadwick International, emphasizes that the local language is taught for better learning of local culture and society, and introduced the school's "Language Shifting" skill-building program, meaning the skills of students to freely use Korean and English by easily shifting between them. The application of these skills is based on the school's belief that Korean language education will greatly help foreign students to learn more broadly about Korea, and for Korean students to live better as members of Korean society in the future. Wille maintains that the classes are based on students' independent selection and survey of

Korean culture and society, followed by discussion and improving understanding of the country and the skills to understand Korea from a global perspective. However, she added that students' consistent efforts and parents' help are really necessary because the critical and global perspectives of mature citizens will not come only from skill in specific subjects such as English.

In relation to this, the school's major assessment areas, Wille explained, include curiosity about the world's issues, problem-solving skills, creativity, interest in voluntary activities, and potential for growth in addition to English skill. She also introduced parents' baseball and soccer teams as well as conferences where parents are invited to see children demonstrate their learning at the end of each semester.

She finally added that regarding Korean parents, "Their passion for children's education is as high as that of those with children attending American private schools. But Korean parents display better skills to collect education-related information and higher education levels." Wille took office at Chadwick International School in 2011, but is expected to be promoted to Head of School from this autumn semester. She led the Primary Education Curriculum at Hillbrook School, a private school in California, for the last six years and her two sons are currently attending Chadwick.

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## Munhwa Ilbo 2015-02-23

**80% of students are Korean... Half of them commute from other areas such as Seoul**  
 Songdo Apartment House Prices Rising with POSCO Autonomous High School to Open in April

### Status of Foreign Universities, Incheon Global Campus

Division	School	Programs Available	Expected Number of Students
Established	State University of New York	Computer Science, Management of Technology (Undergraduate and Graduate)	807 (entrance quota: 350, 2014)
	George Mason University	Economics, Business Administration and International Studies (Undergraduate)	760 (entrance quota: 160, 2014)
	Ghent University (Belgium)	Bio, Environment, and Food Engineering (Undergraduate)	900
	University of Utah	Psychology, Journalism, Social Welfare, Public Health (Undergraduate and Graduate)	1,000
Entered agreement or under negotiation	Saint Petersburg State University	Piano, Orchestral Music, Vocal Music, Chorus Conducting	600
	National BOLSHOI Ballet Academy	Leadership, Dancer and Choreographer Courses	240
	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Hotel Management	Not decided

※ Criteria: The world's 200 highest university ranks (100 highest department ranks) and 100 highest U.S. university ranks (50 highest department ranks)

In addition to Chadwick International, Songdo International City is fostering the solid establishment and settlement of Incheon Global Campus, Yonsei University Songdo Campus and Incheon POSCO High School. In particular, foreign universities such as State University of New York, George Mason University Korea, Ghent University and University of Utah entered the global campus in 2013, while Saint Petersburg State University and University of Nevada, Las Vegas have entered or are preparing to enter into agreements to use the campus. Yonsei University Songdo Campus opened in 2010, and Incheon POSCO High School will be officially established in April this year.

Accordingly, there is a rapid increase in the number of households moving from the capital territory in their wish to have children enter these famous schools. As for Chadwick International, Korean students make up 80% of the students, and 50% of these students commute from Seoul and other places by school buses and the rest of them live in Songdo. However, a significant number of students living in Songdo came from other areas such as Seoul, Busan and Daegu.

Thanks to a large number of talented students from other areas, the prices of apartment houses in Songdo are skyrocketing. The real estate industry reports that the average lease for an area of 85㎡ in Songdo International City is more than 300 million won. In particular, it amounts to 310~330 million won in the area north of Central Park where Chadwick International is located. The lease prices are higher than the sale prices of apartment houses in other area in Yeonsu-gu. The general sale price in the city is more than 12 million won per 3.3㎡ while that around Chadwick International amounts to 13 million won by now.

The prices of apartment houses in Songdo International City are expected to rise even more with an

increase in the number of foreign universities entering Incheon Global Campus and the establishment of Incheon POSCO High School. A real estate dealer in the area said, "The Songdo real estate prices differ by how far they are from international or autonomous high schools. If a large number of Chinese students enter these schools, the prices for lease or sale around the schools will rise much higher than in other areas."

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