

# What is PTPI?



## People to People International – A Legacy Spanning Over 70 Years

People to People International (PTPI) was founded in 1956 by U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the 34th President of the United States. It originated as a citizen diplomacy initiative titled “People to People” (PTP), which was introduced as part of the U.S. government’s broader efforts to promote international peace and understanding

through personal and cultural exchange.

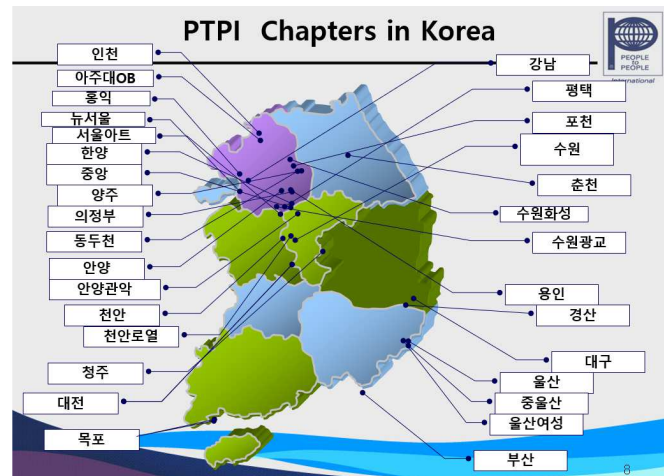
The core mission of PTPI is to foster international understanding and goodwill through direct interaction among people of different countries and cultures. The organization also seeks to contribute to global peace by encouraging community service and volunteerism.

After President Eisenhower left office, PTPI was restructured in 1961 as a non-religious, non-political, and non-profit organization. Its headquarters were relocated from Washington, D.C. to Kansas City, Missouri. Since then, PTPI has grown into a global network encompassing more than **270 chapters in 68 countries** around the world.

## PTPI Korea – Over 60 Years of Citizen Diplomacy

In Korea, PTPI was introduced during a time of great need for international exchange and leadership following the Korean War. In 1964, then-Governor of Gangwon Province, **Kyung-Won Park**, established the **Chuncheon Club**, which became PTPI’s very first overseas chapter.

Subsequently, the **PTPI Korea National Headquarters** and the **Seoul Club** were officially launched in 1972. Korea went on to host the **1st PTPI World Conference** in 1974, drawing chapters from around the globe. The **5th Asia Regional Conference** was held in Seoul in 1983, followed by the **World Headquarters Board of Directors Meeting** in 2005, also in Seoul.



In 2015, PTPI Korea celebrated its 50th anniversary. Today, PTPI Korea consists of 32 adult chapters and dozens of student chapters at the middle school, high school, and university levels, continuing its proud legacy of promoting global friendship and peace through grassroots efforts.