

# Daisy Yang

"You must have a dream and the perseverance to see it through. If you set your mind to something and work hard, there is nothing you cannot achieve. Dream big and go for it!"



## About Daisy Yang

Daisy Yang is the former visiting associate professor at the English Literature Department in Korea University. She wrote a historical fiction set in the times of Joseon Dynasty. With her husband, Sung Chul Yang, who was a former ambassador of the US, Daisy Yang donated huge sums of money in 2018 to the Center for Korean Studies at the University of Hawaii.

Her grandparents were the first-generation immigrants who left Hamhung for Hawaii in 1904. Daisy Yang was born in Hamgyeong Province and grew up in Hawaii.

## Historical Information

1. How is Incheon significant in the history of Korean immigrants?

- The Incheon area, especially around the port of Jemulpo, served as Korea's first point of contact with Western civilizations. The beginning point of Korean immigration to Hawaii and the U.S. mainland. Among the 121 souls who departed for the exotic and far-away land of Hawaii, 86 were from the towns and communities in Incheon, such as Jemulpo, Bupyeong and Ganghwa.

- Incheon, which was then a small port city, emerged as a world-class international city within a century. Incheon International Airport, a hub airport of Northeast Asia, Songdo Central Park, a park within a city with pristine sea water, and Chinatown Incheon, Korea's first ChinaTown is also a major landmark here.



- With this special relationship, Incheon and Honolulu entered into a sisterhood relationship at the 100th anniversary of Korean immigration to the U.S.
- In 2008, the Museum of Korea Emigration History was opened in Incheon. This museum exhibits the history of Korean immigration across various generations, not only to Hawaii but also to the U.S., China, Russia, and other regions. It displays the traces of the Korean diaspora and provides a comprehensive view of their migration experiences.

2. How was Inha University established?

- Inha University is a private university well known in Korea. In its name 'Inha,' In comes from Incheon and ha comes from Hawaii. With the money from selling off the site of the Korean Christian Institute, which was established and run in Hawaii by Syngman Rhee in the early 1900s, as well as the funds raised by Hawaiian residents, City of Incheon and the private sector, Inha Institute of Technology was established in 1954.

3. How did religion play a role in the start of Korean emigration?

- Many of the first Korean immigrants were Christians because missionaries such as Horace Allen and George Herbert Jones played a crucial role in recruiting them. More than half of the first 102 immigrants who boarded the ship were from Naeri Methodist Church, the oldest Methodist church in Korean history. Reverend Jones of this church encouraged many of his parishioners to immigrate to Hawaii, and the Methodist mission in Hawaii ministered to the Korean immigrants.
- The first immigrants established the first Korean Methodist Church in Honolulu. This church provided cultural and religious comfort to the Korean immigrants, who faced isolation due to language and cultural barriers in Hawaii.