

H.THOMAS HAHN, PhD. KSEA Small/Medium Enterprises Committee

Professor Emeritus at UCLA Editor–in–Chief of Journal of Composite Materials The first KSEA STEM Fair, http://www.ksea-sc. org/main/stemfair, was held as an addition to the NMSC at the Sothern California Chapter. The main goal was to provide an opportunity for the students in grades 4-11 to have fun in STEM while challenging their mathematics and science skills at NMSC. The Fair was intended to be a community service event organized in synergistic partnership with Harvey Mudd College, and was generously supported by various organizations, businesses and individual sponsors.

The Fair mainly consisted of four STEM Labs which were offered concurrently in the afternoon after the NMSC. Lead instructors were all KSEA volunteers: Dr. Min Yang (robotics), Brian Min (drones), Dr. Injoo Hwang (3D printing), and Dr. Jeho Park (coding). Robots and drones were on loan gratis from Robolink while Zeus Tech provided both instructors and 3D printers from Korea.

In addition to the corporate sponsors mentioned above, we extend our sincere appreciation to the following sponsors for their generous monetary support for the NMSC/STEM Fair: Lee & Ro (Steve Ro, President/CEO), Ewha Womans University Alumni Association (Bo Kyoung (Lee) Chung, LA President), Seoul National University Alumni Association (Shin-Yong Kang, SoCal President), US Education Consulting (Min Yang, CEO), and Dr. Yong-Mi Kim (USC Medical School). The original target enrollment was 20 students for each of the four Labs; however, preregistration had to be closed 3 days before the event date when it exceeded 100. About 80 % of those registered for the Fair indicated their participation in NMSC as well, with a total of about 260 students signing up for NMSC and/or STEM Fair.

The demand for the Fair exceeded our expectations as the preregistration number suggests. We have heard many positive comments from the parents. One drawback of the Fair was the insufficient time allocated for the Labs: only 3 hours.

The success of the Fair was discussed at the Small/Medium Enterprise (SME) Committee, http://www.ksea-smec.org, as a possible means of helping SMEs expand their markets while strengthening KSEA's support for gamified STEM education. The Committee has decided to hold the STEM Fair as a KSEA-wide event similarly to NMSC. One difference is that the STEM Fair would be held at different times at different chapters. A plan is being developed by the SME Committee and suggestions are welcome from KSEA members. The Committee believes the KSEA STEM Fair would be an excellent way of promoting both community service and SME growth.



