

# International Club 'SmileRun'

*7th November 2005*

"I like a Korean marathon event. I am delighted with cheering music and people." "I think Korean runners are very kind and they like to give greetings to other runners first while running." Rowan Johnson (29, Canadian, English teacher), Samuel Volkman (33, American, US Army Major), Chong-Pin Pak (38, Chemist of USFK) and other runners gathered together near the Jamsil stadium right after the race but their race was not over yet. They are members of the international marathon club 'SmileRun' and were talking with evaluating the course and the condition of their race. An engineer Mustafa Varol (55, Turkey) also finished the race late.

The club's mottos are Fitness, Friendship and Fun (3F) and around 40 runners from various countries such as Turkey, Australia, South Africa and other countries have been a part of the club since 2001. Mr. Pak introduced the background of the reason why the club was born with saying "I realized there are lots of foreign runners who give up signing up for a race because of they don't know how to do". From 2003, their Internet site ([smilerun.com](http://smilerun.com)) was opened to share race information as well as to help foreigners who have difficulties with their registrations. They also train together at BukHan mountain, Nam mountain and Han river on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

They make one voice with saying "It doesn't matter with a nationality for changing to our limitations". "Runners have same things in any countries that they are competitive as well as positive." Major Volkman said.

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