Sung-Joo Kim

Sung-Joo Kim is the Founder of Sungjoo Group, consisting of Sungjoo International Ltd. (SJI), Sungjoo Merchandising Inc. (SMI) and Sungjoo Design Tech & Distribution Inc. (SDD). She is also Chairperson of MCM Products AG.

Internationally known and respected for her achievements in business, she has been involved in the fashion industry for more than 20 years, beginning her career at Bloomingdale’s in 1985 under the direct supervision of Mr. Marvin Traub, the legendary retailer and ex-Chairman of Bloomingdale’s. Since 1990, she has successfully launched and acquired exclusive franchise rights for several globally renowned brands such as Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent, Sonia Rykiel, Marks & Spencer and MCM for the Korean market. Sungjoo Group currently operates more than 90 retail stores for MCM, Marks & Spencer, Lulu Guinness and Billy Bag. It also recently acquired MCM’s global business based in Munich, Germany. Its gross annual sales in 2005 amounted to approximately $100 million.

Ms. Kim holds degrees from Amherst College (BA in Sociology), London School of Economics (MSc in International Relations) and Harvard University (MTS in Business Ethics & Economics). She was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree by Amherst College.

As one of the most celebrated businesswomen in Asia, she has received wide recognition and was featured in numerous publications and media broadcasts including Forbes, Asiaweek, BBC, CNN and CNBC. She was selected as one of the “1997 Global Leaders of Tomorrow” by the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and was chosen to represent one of “The 20 Most Powerful International Businesswomen” by Working Woman (New York, 1999). Asiaweek also picked her as one of the “7 Most Powerful Women in Asia” (Hong Kong, 2001), while CNN nominated her as one of the “New Century Leaders” for its The Best of Asia news feature. In addition, she was counted among the “Top 50 Women to Watch” by The Wall Street Journal (Global Edition on Nov. 8, 2004).

As a successful businesswoman with a strong sense of corporate social responsibility, Ms. Kim considers serving society as one of her most important duties in life. This is reflected in her active involvement in many non-profit and charity organizations including Save the Children and Asia House UK. In addition, she firmly believes in the power of women to improve global society and is an International Planning Committee Member for the Global Summit of Women, which supports the works and advancement of women worldwide.

A short collection of autobiographical essays (the English title being “Beautiful Outcast/Wake-Up Call”) was published in Korea in May 2000. It quickly became a bestseller.