

1996 Spring Meeting: Beginning of a Successful Journey

by Yun Sik Kwak, Hee Sun Jeon

The MTA-Korea had its inaugural meeting on November 4, 1995 at the Hyatt Hotel in Seoul, South Korea. Until then, MTA-Korea consisted of a handful of users of standard M and MSM for applications in university libraries and small business enterprises. Oracle, in conjunction with IBM hardware, has been dominating the information processing market share in Korea, regardless of the type and size of applications. The representatives of Hycom Data Systems (InterSystems Corp. Korean distributor) and Daewoo Information Systems Inc. (one of the major systems developers in Korea supporting Daewoo Conglomerate) were finally persuaded to introduce M Technology to Korea by Spring of 1995. Without their sponsorship it would not have been possible to organize the MTA-Korea.

The objectives of founding the MTA-Korea were to: first introduce M Technology and promote its utilization, second, to standardize translation of M into Korean characters, and third, promote camaraderie among M Technology users. It was a surprise to the organizers that there were many enthusiasts of M here. Approximately 190 individuals applied for the membership and 150 of them attended the inaugural meeting. The meeting was a one day symposium introducing Open M, DHCP, and other case histories of M Technology applications. It was well received.

The executive committee of the Association decided that there should be semi-annual meetings to introduce various developments, tools, and case histories of M Technology applications since the technology has been evolving so rapidly. It was also agreed that the Association journal should be published quarterly to disseminate M Technology news here.

The Association's '96 Spring Meeting was held on June 13 and 14 along with the Spring Meeting of the Korean Society of Medical Informatics at the Riviera Hotel in

the famous hot spring resort town of Yusong, where EXPO '93 was held. This co-location of two professional meetings occurred rather spontaneously because the chair and some members belonged to the organizing committees of both organizations. The combination of Drs. Kwak, Jeon, and Mr. Hyung Soo Kim attracted more participants to the meetings. The MTA side was attended by approximately 200, 150 of whom were members of the Association.

There were a great many exciting presentations that took place at this meeting. R.H. Kim (Hycom Data Systems) explained the recent development of Open M next generation. He stimulated the thought among current RDBMS users of converting their DBMSs to M Technology. The mini-workshop provided by Daewoo Information Systems, Inc. on M Technology tools for programmers, the Korean character screen display developed by Y.K. Kim, and "How to Make a Distributed Backup System for M Databases" by D.H. Kim attracted a good many zealots. Daewoo and Hycom provided CD-ROMs containing those tools and Open M for Windows 95 and NT to participants as an introductory package free of charge.

Other interesting technical presentations were the new development of Visual M and GUI by Steve Ragon (InterSystems), DSM development by Y.A. Kim (Hycom), Open M for Windows 95 and Windows NT by S.Y. Yoo (Hycom), case history of banking industry system developed using M Technology by Richard Jefferson (SCA), case history of Hanjin shipping industry by Kerry Straton (Track Systems), case history of Daihan Security Co. by J.Y. Chi (Digital Korea), introduction of visual tools and case tools by Robert Atlas (Atlas Development), introduction of the Reporter by Richard Fried (Sea Change), and history of M Technology and its world market share by Y.S. Kwak for Bob Mappes (Micronetics Design Corp.). Bob Mappes was unable to attend. There was a panel dis-

discussion on current concepts in utilization of M Technology. There were also poster presentations on conversion of RDBMS-based hospital information systems to M Technology-based systems in which authors presented their reasons for conversion and their successful outcomes.

The inaugural issue of the Journal of MTA-Korea was distributed to the participants. The eye catchers were excerpts from John Glaser's feature article on client/server technology and Arden Forrey and Walter Biggs article on standardization which appeared in *M Computing* Vol. 3, no. 5., 1995. The translation of these articles into Korean was done by the editor Dr. Jeon. Also printed were the minutes of the MTA-International Meeting held in Boston in March, 1996 and the MTA-International Treaty in addition to the abstracts of the '96 Spring Meeting.

There were also vendor exhibits such as Hycom, InterSystems, Daewoo, and Track, to name a few. Those booths were busy and waiting lines were long.

Many participants recognized the strong points of M. The most interesting thing was that many hospital CIOs were beginning to look into M Technology for augmenting their current systems.

The most exciting outcome of this meeting is that M Technology finally arrived and is here to stay. **M**

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