

Sang-Mook Lee is a professor at Seoul National University, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, specializing in Marine Geology-Geophysics (SE, OS) and heading the Interdisciplinary Program in Computational Sciences (IG). He received his PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Programs in 1995, before working at Durham University, UK, and the Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute. His involvement with AOGS dates back to 2002 as an interim member and interim Secretary for the first Annual Meeting (2004). He also worked as a member (2008) and co-chair (2024) of the LOC for the Annual Meetings in Busan and PyeongChang and was awarded the Wing-Ip Medal by AOGS in 2020 for his services.

In July 2006, during a geologic field trip in the California desert, Sang-Mook was critically injured in a van rollover accident, which rendered him quadriplegic and completely paralyzed from the neck down. Nobody thought he would return. However, in less than six months, he returned to the university in an electric wheelchair. His incredible comeback made him an international celebrity overnight.

Sang-Mook is running for President of AOGS because he sees the current organization as a half success. Some sections, like AS, are doing quite well. However, many sections of AOGS lag behind our sister associations (AGU and EGU) in terms of attendance and the quality of papers presented. Catching up would not be easy or quick, but the gap can be significantly narrowed with renewed dedication and commitment. He will undoubtedly bring a new air of change.

This part of the world is where we see meaningful growth in the number of young people entering science and technology and in government and private sector investments. Sang-Mook aims to establish the 'One Earth Center' to share knowledge between developed and developing countries in the Indo-Pacific.