

## VIDEO SESSION:

# I

## INTRODUCTION To NURIGEUL

### ► King Sejong, the Inventor of Nurigeul

#### **Narrator A**

Welcome to this session, in which you will learn a global script, *Nurigeul* that has the potential of solving the illiteracy problem still worldwide in third world countries.

In the year 1446, Korean King Sejong invented a new phonetic alphabet to alleviate the illiteracy among his people. He named it *Hwunmin Cengum*, which means “Correct Phonetic Symbols for the Instruction of the People.” ‘This Phonetic Symbol’ can be applied to virtually any language in the world; we call this alphabet ‘*Nurigeul*’, which means Global Script.

What makes *Nurigeul* superior to all other writing systems is that it was designed by taking into account significant physiological features of speech production and perception.

The design principle of *Nurigeul* is so simple and easy to learn that with only 5 basic consonant letters as building blocks, we can assemble and generate a whole new writing system.

Contemporary linguists and speech scientists consider *Nurigeul* as the most rational and scientific script among the writing systems in use today anywhere.

Due to the potential for solving the illiteracy problem, *Nurigeul* has attracted the attention of UNESCO who recognized its significance and declared it the “Memory of the World” in 1997. The scientific and cultural implications of *Nurigeul* are beginning to receive international attention, at last.

## VIDEO SESSION: Narrator B & E

### ▶ Sejong's Preface to the Original Text <Hwunmin Cengum>

Sejong's great intention to design *Nurigeul* is clearly stated in the **Preface** to the Text.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Annotated Version of Hwunmin Cengum”</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">世·宗宗禦·製·訓·民·正·音 訓·훈·민·민·正·정·음·음</p> <p>나·랏·말·쓰·미· 中·동·國·국·에· 달·아, 文·문·字·중·와·로· 서·르· 스·못·디 아·니·할·씨, ·이·런· 전·츠·로· 어·린 百·백·姓·성·이· 니·르·고·져· 흥· 배 이·셔·도, 只·춤·내· 제· 쓰·들· 시·러 퍼·디· 문·흥· 노·미· 하·니·라. 내· 이·를· 爲·왕·호·야· :어·옛·비·너 ·겨, ·새·로· 스·물· 여·덥· 字·중·를 링·ᄃ노·니, :사·름·마·다· :히·여· :수 ·비· 니·겨· 날·로· 부·메· 便·편·安·한· 키· 호·고·져· 흥· 쓰·르·미·니·라.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Sejong's Preface” written in Chinese characters</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">世宗禦製訓民正音</p> <p style="text-align: center;">國之語音, 異乎中國, 與文字不相流通. 故愚民, 有所欲言, 而終不得伸 其情者, 多矣.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">予爲此憫然, 新制二十八字, 欲使人易習, 便於日用耳.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>▶ English Translation of Sejong's Preface</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>King Sejong Creates Hwunmin Cengum</b></p> <p>The speech sounds(語音) of our country's language are different from those of China and are not communicable with the Chinese characters. Therefore, when my beloved ignorant people want to say something, many of them are unable to express their feelings in writing. Feeling compassion for them I have newly designed twenty-eight letters, only wishing to have everyone learn them at ease and readily practice and use them conveniently everyday.</p>	

## CD ROM SESSION: Narrator B

### ► The Universal Applicability of Nurigeul

The universal applicability of the Nurigeul alphabet is clearly evidenced by the following quotations from the Original Text of 1446.

1. “以二十八字而轉換無窮,簡而要,精而通故智者不終朝而會,愚者可浹旬而學.”

In-Ji Chung's Postface

“Though only twenty-eight letters are used, their shifts and changes in function are endless. They are simple and fine, reduced to the minimum of finite rule, yet **universally applicable**. Therefore, **an intelligent man can get acquainted with the script before the morning is over, and even a stupid man can learn them in space of ten days.**”

2. “無所用而不備,無所往而不達.雖風聲鶴唳,雞鳴狗吠,皆加得而書矣.”

In-Ji Chung's Postface

“There is no application not provided for, no direction in which they do not extend. Even the sound of the winds, the cry of the crane, the cackle of fowl and the barking of dogs – all may be transcribed.

3. “庶使觀者不師而自悟.” In-Ji Chung's Postface

“Nurigeul enables for those who look at it [the writing system] to come to self-understanding without teacher.”

We recapitulate essential points raised so far:

1. King Sejong created an efficient script for the literacy program.
2. It is a script so simple and easy that people can master it effortlessly.
3. The letter design is based on the generative principle which permits us to develop an unlimited number of letter shapes to accommodate entire range of speech sounds, thus offering its universal applicability.
4. It is a self-instructional script without teacher.

Now is the time for Nurigeul teachers and literacy workers to get acquainted with Nurigeul. So, let us study for 50 minutes to see how the *Nurigeul's* consonants and vowels are designed and how the sound elements are composed to form syllables.

Would you like to test yourself whether you are an intelligent person or not?

