

On the special visit of Prof. Dr. Sang M Lee, University of Nebraska (USA), significant contributor to the development of the Master's program

The Faculty of Economy of University of Tirana (FEUT) had the pleasure of having from May 28 to June 5, 2025, Emeritus Prof. Dr. Sang M Lee from the University of Nebraska (UNL, USA) the distinguished personality of the academic and scientific world, the main contributor to the opening of MBA and MPA programs in Albania, capacity building, improving curricula according to the standards and requirements of the time, and supporting the institution in many activities. Thanks to this cooperation, FEUT became the first institution in Albania towards the **Internationalization of universities.**

A short bio of Dr. Sang M Lee:

Dr. Lee is the University Eminent Scholar and Regents Distinguished University Professor Emeritus at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), USA. He graduated from Seoul National University in Korea and received his PhD degree from the University of Georgia, and started his career at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1968. After serving as Professor and Coordinator of Management Science at Virginia Tech for 8 years, he joined UNL as Chair of the Management Department in 1976. His seminal research on multiple objective decision making, global strategy, and innovation has been globally recognized. He has published over 70 books, more than 350 journal articles, and produced 145 PhDs during his university career. He served as President and Program Chair of National Decision Sciences Institute (DSI) in the US. He is a Fellow of DSI, Academy of Management, Pan-Pacific Business Association, and the recipient of the Inaugural Lifetime Educator Award and Distinguished Service Award of DSI. He has served as the Founding Editor-in-Chief of Service Business (Springer Publishers). He has received five honorary doctoral degrees for his contribution to global business education.

Sang has served as the Program Chair of 50 international and national conferences and visited over 200 universities and research centers in 75 countries as a distinguished visiting scholar. He directed international projects for the US Government over 15 years in Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, and Central Asia. His pioneering work as the Program Director of USAID Project in Albania during 1992-2004 brought modern market economics education and entrepreneurship to the country. He introduced the first ever MBA program in Albania at the University of Tirana. He brought more than 25 Albanian faculty to the US for the graduate education training. For his contribution, he received an honorary degree from the University of Tirana in 1998 and a medal from President Bujar Nishani in 2016.

The meeting with the staff trained in the USA was one of these exciting and very kind activities. All are grateful to this personality and his collaborators, the American distinguishes professors

Fred Lufthans, Lester Digman and Ijrish Gupta as well as the continuous connections through the Albanian professors there Silvana Trimi, Arbeni Asllani, etc.

Another important and interesting activity was with **doctoral candidates of FEUT**. Dr. Lee and his colleagues, former lecturers of our faculty, and today, excellent lecturers in US universities, Silvana Trimi and Beni Asllani, had an interactive meeting with them! The activity mainly discussed the role of AI in scientific research, accompanied by many practical examples that aroused a lot of interest.

On June 21, 2025, Prof. Sang M Lee was invited as part of the "**AUDITOR-EDUCATION**" series, **RTSH**, in the program with the topic: "**Why is the Faculty of Economy a Model of ChangeThe Contribution of American Professors in creating Teaching Standards**".

This program was dedicated to the valuable contribution of all American professors and especially of Prof. Lee, a contribution which is now appreciated by entire generations of students who were lucky to be part of the first Master's programs in Albania and successfully completing their master's studies in MBA and MPA, with double degrees from UT (AL) and UNL (USA). The program was accompanied by interviews with Prof. Dr. Dhori Kule, former Rector of the University of Tirana and Prof. Dr. Kozeta Sevrani, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Economy, University of Tirana.

Dr. Lee's stay in Albania had a very beautiful activity in **the city of Vlora**, where Albanian parliamentarian Bujar Leskaj offered extraordinary hospitality, being himself part of the training program in the USA, during the time he was a lecturer at FEUT. A wonderful polyphonic group from this city surprised us all during this visit.

After the end of his very special and unique visit, Dr. Lee wrote: **It was a very memorable trip to Albania and it was all possible because of all of you!**