

# Awards go to 32 teams in cultural festival

By Lee Sang-eon / Lee Min-a  
JoongAng Ilbo / Staff Writer

The World Culture Open Global Festival 2004, an international cultural performance competition, ended its eight-day run on a stage in Ilsan, Gyeonggi province, yesterday.

It ended four days prematurely. The final phase of the competition was scheduled to be held in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, and Panmunjeom, the truce village in the Demilitarized Zone. But North Korea told the organizing committee Monday that it would not participate. The organizers said Friday that North Korea had not yet taken any action to confirm that the event was still on. After the North's cancellation, the final round was held at three venues in South Korea.

The event, which was planned as the first in a series to be held every two years, began last Wednesday in



The World Culture Open 2004 closed yesterday in Ilsan, Gyeonggi province. Thirty-two of 163 teams won awards.  
By Kang Jung-hyun

New York City and moved to Seoul on Saturday. The festival in Seoul was to have echoed the system used in New York, awards to groups or individuals in three categories: creative arts, holistic well-being and humanitarian arts.

The New York competition resulted in only two of the three prizes of \$100,000 being awarded.

Things were different here, though. The organizers said the stress in Seoul was to be "united in harmony" rather than competing, so the organizers handed out awards to 32 teams in Seoul.

In the Seoul event, 163 teams from 40 countries participated in performances of traditional dance, music and other arts. About 7,000 people came to an outdoor theater at Hosu Park in Ilsan to watch the final event.

"After the event, we will be all divided again and return to our homes, but let's not forget that we are one big diverse family tied with a common factor called culture," said Paik Nak-chung, one of the Korean organizers who handled the Seoul event.

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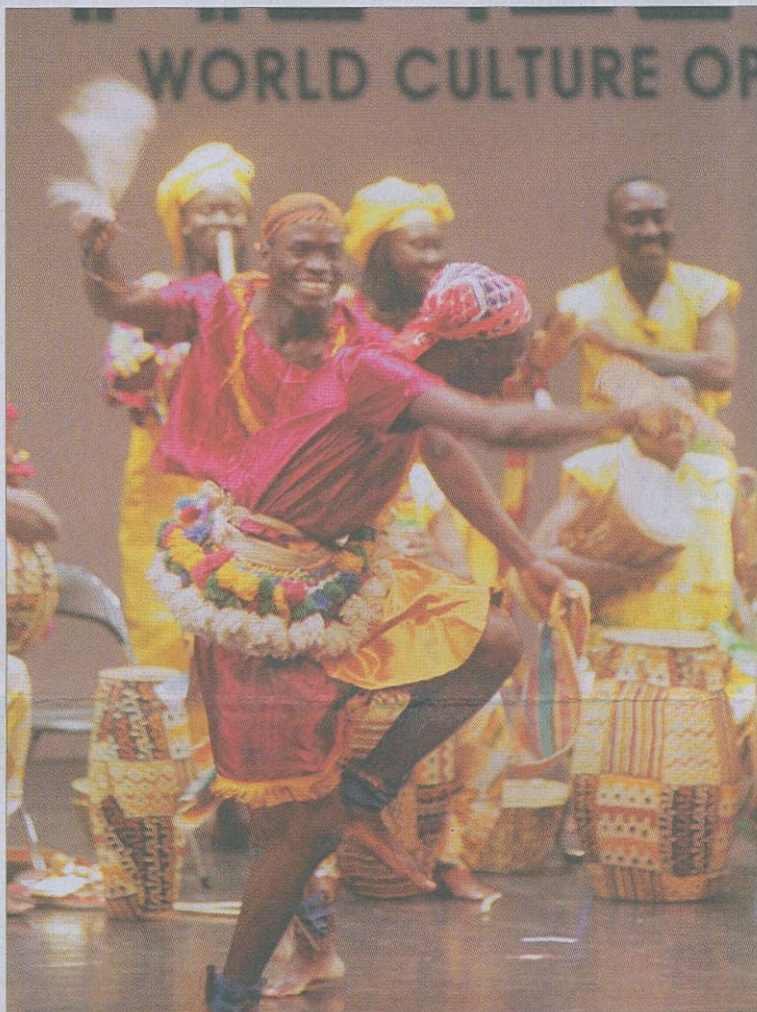
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## Out of Africa



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