



# S5B Grand Tour Report

26-29th March 2015 Seoul of Korea

Group 3

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## Introduction

During 26th to 29th of March 2015, our class went to the capital of Korea, Seoul. Korea is a country full of historical and cultural atmosphere. In Hong Kong, K-Pop music and TV programs are popular. We experienced a lot in this trip, which has surely broadened our horizons and we had more exposure to other culture. We were glad and delighted to have this chance to go to Korea for such a meaningful and fruitful lesson.

## Day 1

### Spot description:

On the first day of our trip, we went to Hongdae for shopping. There is a variety of shops like clubs, fashion shops and eateries. We called Hongdae the "Second Mong Kok" as it is almost the same as Mong Kok in Hong Kong. What makes them different is that, Hongdae's food and shops have a kind of special culture of spiciness and putting some of the clothes and hats outside shops, which are totally different from Mong Kok.

### Reflection:

Before we went to Korea, we were expected to see handsome and beautiful locals. For the first destination, we slowly forgot our expectation, but focused on the culture of Korea. While we were strolling around Hongdae, we discovered that Koreans love wearing hats and glasses. All the Koreans were very nice and passionate. Although we had a language barrier, we could still feel their passion. In Hong Kong, there are many tourists, mainly Chinese. Their behavior has caused the dissatisfaction of Hongkongers. The Hong Kong government should take this matter seriously as this kind of behavior will severely harm the tourism of Hong Kong.

Photos



Spot description:

On the second day of our trip, we went to Kyung Hee University. It is located in Dongdaemun-gu. Inside Kyung Hee University, there are lots of Western style buildings which has decorated the campus with a kind of luxurious impression. We could experience the study attitude of the Korean students and also the subjects provided by the University.

There was a brief introduction of the university about the subjects they studied and the statistics of their school. Then we moved on to visit the facilities offered by the university. The stunning pool with a Western church building really amazed us so much as we thought that we were in Britain but not in Korea! While we were walking to our next destination, the students nearby greeted us friendly and with smile. We answered them with a Korean "안녕하세요" meaning "Hello" in English. We all felt that the Korean are really nice and enthusiastic. This was a great visit of our trip. We thought we would consider this University after the HKDSE."

Reflection:

While we were visiting the campus, not only have we found out the enthusiasm of Korean students, but also the importance of learning atmosphere. Unlike some of the universities in Hong Kong, this campus provides a green environment for students in which is a very comfortable atmosphere with trees and flowers all over the campus. Other than that, there is a spacious grassland in front of one of those facilities for students to chat with friends or have a pleasant area to study. However, in light of size, Hong Kong's universities can only provide students with quiet and

peaceful libraries which are undoubtedly less competitive with a comfortable grassland for students to study. Although one's diligence is important, atmosphere also takes priority in disturbing or altering positively one's mood when studying.

Photos



### Spot description:

We went to the Boramae Safety Experience Center after visiting the University. It is a place where people can experience the disaster like earthquake and tsunami. The Center provides the imitation of disasters for visitors where they can feel the real situation and the safety measures you can take while disasters are happening.

### Reflection:

Because Korea is a country where disasters frequently happen, Korea spend much money on educating people about the seriousness and the importance of saving ourselves from disasters. We are lucky that Hong Kong will not suffer from earthquakes and tsunamis. We should cherish we are here in Hong Kong, living in such a safe place without earthquakes and other disasters.

The Center also played a 4D movie about a disaster happened in Korea. It further reminded us about how fortunate we are living in Hong Kong. We should always bear in mind that we are luckier than the Koreans, need not to face any disasters.

Photos



Spot description:

In the early morning of the third day, we went to the Folk Village. In this Folk Village, we could see people performing different kinds of traditional shows. The Folk Village is very famous as many dramas like Moon Embracing were shot there. Hence it becomes a popular spot for the tourists.

Reflection:

The Folk Village is a place full of historical and cultural atmosphere. There are palaces and traditional games of Koreans. Setting up this village can surely help the tourists to learn the culture of Korea. From the Korean perspective, through visiting the Folk Village, the younger generation can learn more about their country. For example, the youngsters can get to know more about the architecture culture during the Joseon period from different parts of the country.

The Korean government has done a lot in reserving the unique culture of Korea. However, Hong Kong when compared with, has done little. The Folk Village definitely has its own culture and attractiveness to the tourists. For instance, the Village provides traditional art performances with excitement. We could see the culture vividly and lively. The Folk Village could help us understand the traditional entertainment in the old times as well.

Photos





Spot description:

On the last day, we went to 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel. The 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel is a line that divides North Korea and South Korea. There is a railway on the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel, aiming at encouraging the trade between North Korea and South Korea. However, it does not work at all. We could see some memoranda on the wall, asking the North and the South Korea to be united once again.

Reflection:

It is a place that tells us the lesson of war and history. During the Korean War, both North and South Korea attacked each other but got no results. Then the United States decided to split Korea into two countries at the border 38<sup>th</sup>. Stepping in the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel, we learnt that we should always step into others' shoes but not just pointing at one's fault. We should minimize the gap between others and hence, create a harmonious society, world and prevent wars from happening. Negotiation between others is also important to keep a good friendship.

The 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel acts as a storyteller, telling us not to have the same mistake again. We were shocked when we saw the mountain of North Korea are bald. Two countries are totally different. North Korea is in a communist state and relatively poor in economy. However, South Korea develops well. War separated the Korea. This is a meaningful lesson, telling us to use peace but not violence to solve problems.

Photos



Spot description:

After going to 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel, we went to make Kimchi. Kimchi is a traditional food of Korea. It tastes a bit spicy and sour but it is good for refreshing our stomach. Kimchi has a lot of types but all of their functions are the same---improving our health and refreshing our stomach. As the time ran short, the Kimchi we made would be sent to the elderly who are in need. We guessed this was a kind charity work and put in our love inside the Kimchi!

Reflection:

The Kimchi workshop was meaningful to us. Not only can we learn how to make Kimchi, but also send warmth to those who are in need. Kimchi, as a part of Korean culture, has lots of functions like improving our health. It makes us think of the traditional culture of China. The Chinese love to pickle different kinds of ingredients for a certain period, like the preserved kumquat. Both countries share the same culture of pickling. This workshop, we believed, must have attracted lots of tourists as this workshop is showing the special culture of Korea. By making Kimchi by ourselves, we could know that all Korean love Kimchi very much. Every meal will have some Kimchi as the side dish. We could see how the Koreans love their own culture and this attitude inspires us a lot.

Looking at Hong Kong, we always say some "unique language" or we call that "Chinglish". Hongkongers love to speak in Chinglish as we treat this as a part of our culture. Similarly, Koreans treat Kimchi as an indispensable culture.

Photos



Spot description:

After we finished the Kimchi Workshop, we had an opportunity to wear the traditional Korean clothes. All of us wore the clothes of Koreans and we decided to wear girl's custom eventually. Wearing the traditional clothes of Korean makes us feel interesting as we can only see the customs on Korean TV programmes. This was a fresh try for all of us!

Reflection:

Wearing the Korean clothes was a new try for all of us. What we thought of when we were wearing the clothes was the "dragon robe" in China. The Korean clothes are large in size and very long. The dragon robe in the past, is almost the same as the Korean clothes.

China and Korea share a similar culture of clothes. In the past, the Koreans wore Hanbok with a hat for men and a ribbon for women. The Chinese also wore similar clothes as Koreans, but called Cheongsam.

Photos



## Conclusion

This tour not only broadens our horizons, but also deepens our understanding towards other cultures. Time flies, the 4-day tour has enriched our lives. This memorable 30-student trip gave us an unique and once-in-a-life-time memory. We are sure we will not forget all the moments and memories in the trip.

### Teacher list

- ◆ Mr Cheung Ka Fai
- ◆ Miss Chan Po Yee
- ◆ Miss Or Fung Lan

### Group member list

- ◆ Chan Chui Ting ( 1 )
- ◆ Mandy Chan Man Dik ( 3 )
- ◆ Hui Angel ( 7 )
- ◆ Leung Oi Yee ( 10 )
- ◆ Wong Pui Ka ( 16 )
- ◆ Yam Hung Ching ( 18 )
- ◆ Chan Chi Wa ( 20 )
- ◆ Chiu Chun Yue ( 23 )
- ◆ Sum Kin Fai ( 27 )
- ◆ Wong Chun Hei ( 28 )

Thank You.