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# **KING LING COLLEGE S5E GRAND TOUR REPORT**

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**26-29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015      SEOUL KOREA  
GROUP 1**

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Photo consists of 35 of us and 4 teachers, wearing a big smile before the departure.

# INTRODUCTION

Grand tour provides opportunities for us to act our age and enjoy the last holiday before we absorb in academic performance. Our grand tour's destination, Korea, is a multicultural country as it has been invaded and occupied by China and Japan in the past. In this 4-day-trip, we aim to acknowledge how Chinese culture is preserved in Korea and build up lifelong friendship with each other. With anticipation, our purpose is fulfilled and it is found that Chinese culture like filial piety is more well-preserved in Korea than in Hong Kong.

# DAY1 REFLECTION

## HONGDAE

### SPOTS DESCRIPTION

Hongdae is the first spot that we visited after setting foot in Korea and we got not much feeling of arriving Korea despite the cool weather as it is as lively as Mong Kok and Causeway Bay.

Here, we can see a large number of teenagers and it can be described as a teen's hub while many kinds of delicious street food can be found. Those unique café street stores, and cosmetics and fashion stores become a great spot for the post 80s and 90s to hang out.

## REFLECTION

After visiting Hongdae, we found that it is a place like “Mong Kok”. Unlike in Hong Kong, streets there provide limited amount of rubbish bins, but the streets are tidy and clean. In Hong Kong, we can see rubbish bins everywhere, but still, a catchy sum of citizens not throwing rubbish into the rubbish bin. With the limit number of rubbish bins, the cleanliness of street in Hongdae, a place with nearly prime number of Koreans, is better than that in Hong Kong. More than keeping the street clean, Koreans also recycle materials before it becomes rubbish.

How come the self-discipline of Hongkongers is so low while there are sufficient number of rubbish bins provided? Indeed, what Koreans did is a role model for us. We should learn how well they behave in public area and learn from the sense of recycling. Even some citizens in Hong Kong cannot remember what the color of each recycling bins represents!

Moreover, the government can implement the idea of behaving well and the sense to recycle to citizens through advertisement while schools should input those ideas through education programs.

Our trip to Korea did remind us the civil obligation and we should never forget to keep those in practice and promote them to others.

# HONGDAE PHOTOS



Deep fried cones with ice-cream is on sale



A hawker selling sweet egg-cake.



Food court in Korean style was opened for passer-by to enjoy meals.



Hongdae also consist of modern cafés.



Appreciated the gimmick of selling 32cm long ice-cream, we found this really creative.

# DAY2 REFLECTION

## NAMSANGOL HANOK VILLAGE

### SPOTS DESCRIPTION

Namsangol Hanok Village is a huge construction of houses of the old Koreans. Only the rich (so called the “Yangban” in the past) could live there but not the poor ones. The height of each house is not tall and they look similar to the Chinese style one. However, the slant side of Chinese one is straight while the Korean one is in curved lines. Moreover, Korean built a grand temple in the middle of their house which they can pray to their ancestors at home frequently. Most of them pray in the temple at least once per year ceremonially and some of them even pray once a month.

## REFLECTION

After visiting Namsangol Hanok village, we know it is very important to the preservation work in China as it does improve the understanding of a country's history towards foreigners. In Hong Kong, there is a Cultural Museum that houses much Chinese history. However, people nowadays seldom realize the importance of preservation works and always destroy or draw graffiti on those buildings which worsen the image of the country. Maybe some more security works should be done.

For preservation works, stakeholders can take their own part to reach the goal. Government and school should bear the responsibility in all circumstances. The government could hold more exhibitions about the advantages of preserving the old for example to educate and alert the new generation not to repeat the previous wrong steps. Other than holding exhibitions, having advertising programs on television can arouse the public attention so as to make them aware how desperate preservation is.

Also, education is crucial. As students, teenagers, hold the future of the city, decisions should be made by them. As a result, education becomes an utmost important part in promoting preservation of the symbolic buildings in the history. In fact, having talks and holding fun fairs are some pretty good objectives for students to learn from. Students may easily feel bored and fall asleep in the topic of preservation. However, by stories during talks and fun games in fun fairs, they will enjoy the delightful moments which facilitate the aim of promoting preservation.

Maybe I think too much further after understanding the story about Namsangol Hanok Village during the occupation of Japan, it is still important for preservation work all over the world in order to mark those which cannot be obliterated.

# NAMSANGOL HANOK VILLAGE PHOTOS



One of the side door among the numerous in Namsangol Hanok village.



Constructions are mainly made by woods.



A pair of slogan which was believed to drive out devils.

# INSADONG

## SPOTS DESCRIPTION

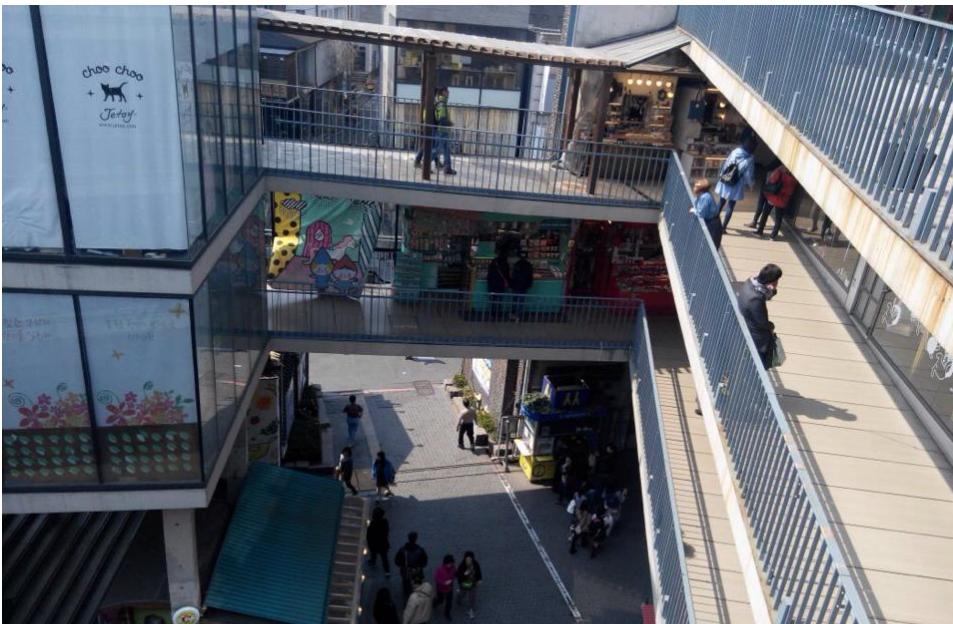
Insadong is a well-known traditional street to both locals and foreigners. Not only the stores, but there is also a flea market. There are many national antique shops, art galleries and traditional stationery shops. We mainly visited Ssamzigil which is also a famous place of Insadong. It is a shopping mall that is concentrated in specialty stores of handicrafts.

## REFLECTION

Korea mixes both historical and modern atmosphere; we knew that when we were visiting Insadong and other places in Korea. The Korean government really did a great job on protecting the history of Korea. In Hong Kong, we only put little effort on protecting the history of Hong Kong. If we want our city to have a lot of attractions besides the shopping malls, we need to sacrifice many things.

Korea is also a great place to develop creativity. Take Insadong as an example, we found that there is a place for handicrafts which is Ssamzigal. Many people go there to shop for necessities. However, Hong Kong lacks places for creating. Since government do not put money in creativity, hardly can people do what they want.

# INSADONG PHOTOS



# SUNGKYUNKWAN UNIVERSITY

## SPOTS DESCRIPTION

We visited Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU), which are founded in 1398, on the second day of our trip. Sungkyunkwan University is one of the best universities in South Korea and only the top 1% students can enter SKKU. What impressed me the most is that Sungkyunkwan University is also a place to preserve historical heritage, including two 1000-year-old ginkgo trees, Myeongnyundang, which is a lecture hall to set for lessons about Confucianism to students, a place to carry out the test for the students of Confucianism and Daeseongjeon, which are Memorial tablets of Confucius and his followers.

## REFLECTION

Through the visit to Sungkyunkwan University, we realize that conservation of traditional heritages is paramount because these heritages represent the history of a country and allow the next generation to be acquainted with the history of their country through seeing the real building, not the picture.

Besides, having a cramped population is not an excuse to give up preserving heritage. Like Hong Kong, South Korea has a dense population with more than 25.6 million people living in an area of  $605.25 \text{ km}^3$ . However, they make use of the campus of Sungkyunkwan University to preserve nearly 18 historical heritages instead of destroying heritages for more land. Take Myeongnyundang for example, it was established in 1398 but was destroyed during the Japanese Invasion of Korea in 1592 and then reestablished in 1606. It has been perfectly protected since reestablished in 1606 until now. Thus, preserving heritages in universities is a wise choice because well-educated university students understand the importance of heritages and they will not cause any damage to these heritages, as long as they encourage the visitors to protect the heritages together.

What is more, after the introduction of Sungkyunkwan University by the students, we understand that not only Hong Kong, the competition for a university place is also keen in South Korea. In fact, the high school students in South Korea face the highest pressure among the countries all over the world. Hence, we, as Hong Kong students, should feel precious about our relaxed school life compared to South Korea and do not always complain about the hectic schedule of quizzes.

# SUNGKYUNKWAN UNIVERSITY PHOTOS



Stately venues for students to take the examinations.



Students from Sungkyukwan University were introducing the history and the usage of the venue.

# MYEONG-DONG

## SPOTS DESCRIPTION

Myeong-dong is located at Jung-gu, Seoul, which is the centre of Seoul. Since the location of Myeong-dong, it is also the centre of politics, culture and economy. Therefore, Myeong-dong is one of the busiest and most crowd areas in Seoul. Over 1 million people pass through this area every day. Moreover, there are many different types of shops in Myeong-dong, such as fashion, shoes and skincare etc. Although it is a shopping paradise, it is one of the most expensive shopping streets in the world. Although we did not have much time in Myeong-dong, we still had good shopping experiences there. We all could buy the products that we wanted there.

# REFLECTION

Myeong-dong is a famous shopping area in the world nowadays. However, we can know more about the Korean history of Myeong-dong . When Japanese Occupation, Myeong-dong was the area where Japanese lived. After the Korean War, the economy was thriving. Myeong-dong was redeveloped and many department stores and shopping centres were built. At last, Myeong-dong became the Tourism Promotion Area and one of the spots that tourists from foreign countries must go. Besides we could know more about the Korean history, we could know more about the Korean culture. Different from other districts and shopping areas, sellers and shop keepers in Myeong-dong are good at different foreign languages. They are good at English, Putonghua and Japanese. However, in other districts, the sellers and shop keepers may be just good as Putonghua. Therefore , it is good for communication when shopping in Myeong-dong. They provided a good shopping experience for us. Also, we could find out that most of the Koreans are nice to the tourists. If we have any questions, they answer us patiently and in detail. They could provide the best services to the customers. They have the smiley face all the time. It really gives us an enjoyable and comfortable shopping experience. We, Hongkongers , should learn from them. It is because they are really polite and nice when communicating with people. However, lots of Hong Kong people lack regard and rule when talking to others. It forms a bad culture and gives bad images to tourists from different countries. Therefore, we believe that we must learn from Koreans.

# MYEONG-DONG PHOTOS



Myeong-Dong, the Mongkok-like spot, is filled up with countless stream of people.

## DAY3 REFLECTION

### LOTTE WORLD

#### SPOTS DESCRIPTION

If asking about the most complex theme park in Korea, it must be Lotte World. Not because it consists of 2 parts but because of its lovely design of the castle and every detail inside the park. A famous Korean drama “Hyde, Jekyll and me” is filmed here maybe because of its fairy-tale-like constructions and the park’s popularity. The Lotte company ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in Korean industry and Lotte World becomes the visitor’s favorite which marks the success of the company.

## REFLECTION

Visiting Lotte World is the most romantic and exciting experience during the trip. The designs of indoor theme park is really eye-catching and it looks as if we are placed inside fairy tales or becoming the reincarnation of the leading role of Korean TV dramas. Fantasy of meeting our loved one in Lotte World is vivid in our mind.

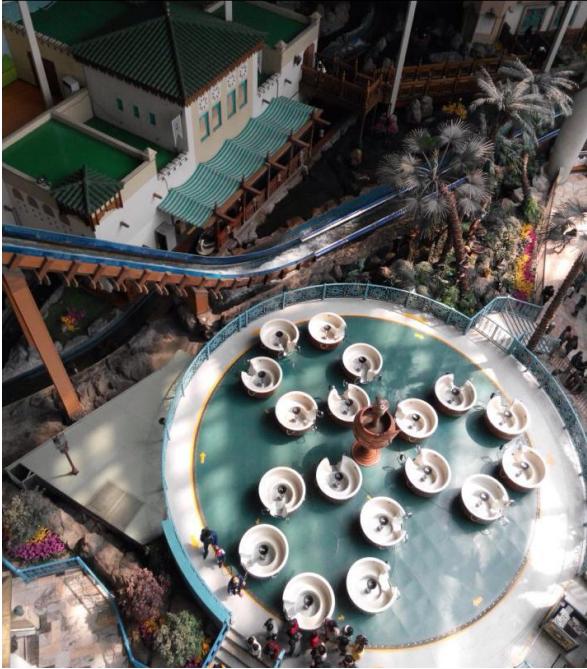
However, we, the young generation never forgets the exciting motor vehicles in the outdoor theme park of Lotte world and we spent almost all the time to enjoy the excitement. Compared to Hong Kong, those installations in Lotte World are tremendous and we must admit that Hong Kong gets little grounds to accommodate the huge constructions of theme parks.

In fact, not everyone in our group has entered a theme park even in Hong Kong and it is really a remarkable experience to them while going to theme park like this can undoubtedly share laughter among friends and the experience did fasten our friendship.

With limited days left for DSE, we hope this trip improves the keen peer support to each other and we can all get a bright result afterwards.

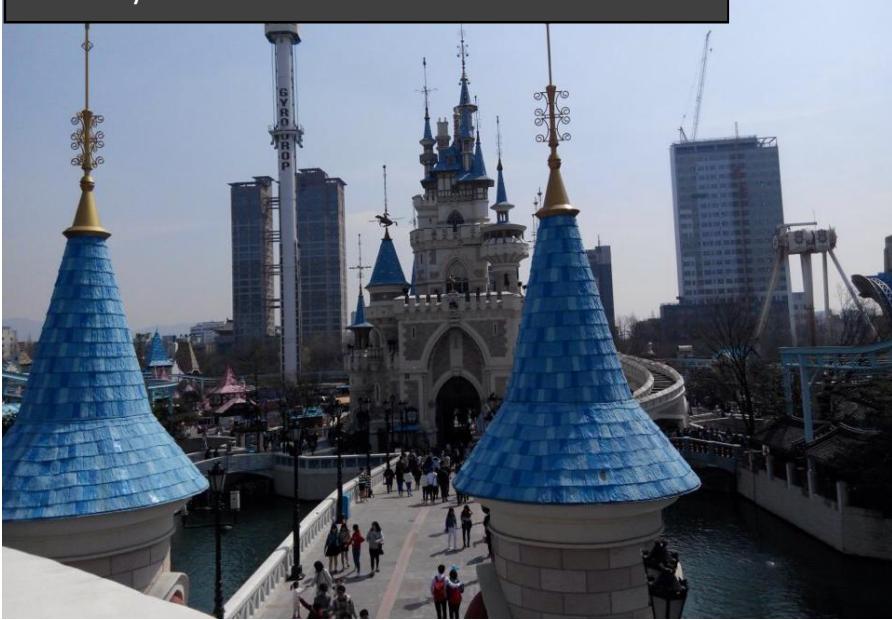
# LOTTE WORLD PHOTOS

Fancy and lovely construction work  
there has raised our eyebrow.



The bird's eye view of the indoor Lotte World.

A Disney-like castle is the icon of the Lotte World.



# DONGDAEMUN

## SPOTS DESCRIPTION

Dongdaemun Market is the most popular shopping and tourist destination in South Korea. According to our tour guide, she said that the market was first opened in July 1905 in Yeji-dong. The Dongdaemun is originally one of the Eight Gates of Seoul that used to surround the city in the Joseon Dynasty. These gates are the signature of the Joseon Dynasty and are also designated as the first National Treasure of South Korea. There are three main malls in the market. They are Hello apM, DOOTA! and Migliore. Most of us went to Migliore as the tour guide recommended it to us because of its reasonable price and wide range of varieties. Migliore has 7 floors in total which sells all types of goods, notably clothes, shoes and accessories.

## REFLECTION

After my visit, I discovered why Dongdaemun could be the most popular tourist destination in South Korea. Inside the Dongdaemun district, there are historical buildings, art museum, food counters and clothing market, the convenient and well-developed transport system. In Hong Kong, do we have tourist district, like Dongdaemun, with a wide range of variety of tourist spots for our visitors? It is understandable that Hong Kong is a small place with limited land resources which led to a barrier of developing a tourist district like Dongdaemun. However, when you walk along the streets in Tsim Sha Tsui or Causeway Bay, you could find a series of different brand name shops which are from foreign countries. Unlike Dongdaemun, there are malls selling trendy clothes in Korean style, no wonder K-pop is growing in the world like the music video (*Gangnam Style*) and TV drama (*You Who Came From The Stars*) and they are just the tip of iceberg. These Korean culture things have also been the talk of the town. To my dismay, Hong Kong government or even citizens do not pay much attention on the culture of Hong Kong, it is undeniable that Hong Kong lacks the development of culture and still has room for improvement. I hope after visiting Dongdaemun, our schoolmates can pay more attention towards the development of culture in Hong Kong.

# DONGDAEMUN PHOTOS



The tremendous artwork is a iconic symbol of Dongdaemun.



# DAY4 REFLECTION

38<sup>th</sup> PARALLEL NORTH/

DEMILITARIZED ZONE

SPOTS DESCRIPTION

Stemming from 1948, Korea was divided into two parts, the North Korea and the South Korea, they were separated by the 38th parallel. The 38th parallel nowadays was guarded by station troops dispatched by both the North Korea and the South Korea. After the cessation of hostilities in 1953, two Demilitarized Zones (DMZ) with a width of 4km were set up 2km behind the 38th parallel.



Whole form 5 students gathered at the DMZ for leaving a great memories there.

## REFLECTION

During the 4th day in our Korean trip, we visited the DMZ and had watched the video introducing the DMZ, this informed us that DMZ has already become a tourist spot with a natural habitat and various kinds of precious animals. Various kinds of famous spots could be found near the DMZ including the Imjingak Kungmin Gwangwangji, the 3rd tunnel and the Dorasan Station.

Through watching the video in DMZ, we have had a more penetrating insight towards the history of Korean War and the drawbacks the war brought, it also reminded me that peace is not a matter of course that we should treasure the smooth and steady live in Hong Kong.

Lots of ribbons with wishes written on them could be found hanging on the abates in the park next to Imjingak Kungmin Gwangwangji as citizens from the South Korea expressed their wish on the ribbons, hoping to live peacefully with no more war. The magnificent view really impressed us as the union of citizens was rarely found in Hong Kong, this reminded us to try making a concession once quarrel comes up rather than just focusing on the flaws of others and blaming all the time.

The experience of having an adventure in the 3rd tunnel also impressed us as we realized how rigorous and stern it was to be a soldier by trudging in a gloomy, humid tunnel with no supplementary. Noticed me how blessed we are to born and raised in Hong Kong, such an affluent paradise and we are not qualified at all to grumble.

The railway in Dorasan Station linking the North Korea and the 38th parallel was so boundless that we actually found it regretful to have the vast country divided. We hope Korea can reunite and restore their flourish culture in the future.

# 38<sup>th</sup> PARALLEL NORTH/ DEMILITARIZED ZONE PHOTOS



A group photo was took at the DMZ.

The third dugout tunnel showed  
the perseverance of soldiers.



Soldiers' lifetime vow and great ambition  
are portrayed on the flagstone.



# KIMCHI WORKSHOP

## SPOTS DESCRIPTION

During the Kimchi workshop, we learnt how to make kimchi and wore traditional Korean costumes .We learned that kimchi was found for 1400 years , also, every Korean wife has to learn how to make kimchi. Moreover, we could wear different Korean costumes and took photos there. Our class teacher wore a Korean dress and took photos with us. We all had fun in this workshop. Of course, we bought kimchi to our friends and family.

## REFLECTION

We learnt so much about kimchi during this workshop. Not only the process but also the tradition. Unlike Hong Kong, we do not have a specific food to eat and yet, Koreans have to eat Kimchi all day. In Hong Kong, we eat Kimchi once in a blue moon. Making kimchi is indispensable to life for Korean wife. We thought that making kimchi was easy but it was not the case. When we made kimchi by ourselves, we discovered that it was hard to make a perfect Kimchi. It is beyond dispute that making kimchi is a difficult job. Korean traditional costumes are actually not suitable for modern era. Even in Korea, only bride and bridegroom would wore it. But we all enjoyed taking photos with teachers and classmates. In a nutshell, during the Kimchi workshop, we learnt much more about Korea tradition as well as history of kimchi.

# KIMCHI WORKSHOP PHOTOS



We suited ourselves with Hanbok so as to get along with the Korean culture.



# CONCLUSIONS

To conclude, this fascinating form five Korean trip had broadened our horizons and had provided us opportunities to reflect upon our life. Born and being raised in an affluent city, Hong Kong, many of us were spoilt and have taken everything for granted. This Korean trip matures us by allowing us to take good care of ourselves as well as cooperating with our friends. This also allowed us to improve our problem solving skills and communication strategies. During this remarkable trip, we have been told about the keen education competition, it is beyond comparison than the competition in Hong Kong. This reminds us there is no excuse to hold a laid-back attitude towards our study but to strive for a university degree with all our might.

Last but not least, this fascinating Korean trip had witnessed our friendship and growth. We will have it deeply engraved on our mind and concentrated and our study from now on. Also, we hope this tradition of having grand tour can be preserved so that our schoolmates can also enjoy another precious trip like this.

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**THE END**