



# 2019-2020 KOREA-JAPAN PEACE FORUM & FIELD TRIP



## Hope in the Midst of Uncertainties!



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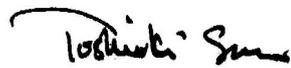
We are pleased to deliver this report to our colleagues, friends, participants, and their proud parents and/or guardians who have supported Peace Research Institute plan and implement the 2019 **ICU Korea-Japan Peace Forum & Field Trip (the Forum & Trip, hereinafter)** in November 2019. From planning to writing, from editing to compiling this report all took place during these unprecedented times of uncertainties, challenges, transitions, and hope!

Unlike previous trips, we have focused our event to trace the history of Korea's Independence Movement, which took us beyond our usual route and traversed the Korean Peninsula, going from Gimpo to Jeongju, Gwanju, Daejeon, Cheonan, and back to Metropolitan Seoul in six days! We were able to meet up with students at Hannam University. It was a busy but emotional trip for many of us. Tension and incongruity between Korea and Japan are not only political and economic, but also personal and social for many residents and citizens in Korea and Japan for far too long. Further exacerbated by myriads of factors in recent months and years (e.g. missile testing by North Korea, land disputes, wartime incidents, domestic issues with leadership, disparate interpretations of history and narratives), both Korean and Japanese residents must explore possibilities and strategies for peace and justice. Obviously, efforts to alleviate the unfortunate situations call for a shared future for the well-being of neighboring countries at multiple levels, and will be best achieved by engaging our future young leaders in both countries.

The present report contains the participants' daily reflections on their experiences and three group essays prepared for ***the Forum & Trip***. Our staff provided some minimal editorial work in the final production so you should notice the participants' experiences more or less in their own words. Nonetheless, our special thanks goes to Dukin Lim for her dedication and commitment to the project including the editing of the report, Maia Duggan, and Tagen Haga for their assistance with the trip, and Geraldine Jourdain and Aomi Kuwayama for additional editing the entire report and its production at PRI office.

I hope you all enjoy the report, and please remember to thank and encourage our participants when you see them on campus.

Shalom!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshiki Sano". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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## PRI Field Trip Itinerary

	Date	Time	Activity	Details
<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>11/25 (MON)</b>	10:00	<b>Haneda Airport (12:20)→ Kimpo Airport (14:40)</b>	10:00AM Asiana count (Haneda Airport International terminal)
		15:00-18:30	<b>Seoul →Jeonju (2hrs30min)</b>	Transportation: Nihon ryoko bus Late snack time in the Service Area*
		18:30	<b>Dinner</b>	Menu: Korean table d'hôte
		20:30-21:30	<b>Night Market tour</b>	Nambu Market
		22:00	<b>Hotel</b>	Accommodation: Ramada by Wyndham Jeonju
<b>DAY 2</b>	<b>11/26 (TUE)</b>	7:30	<b>Jeonju</b>	Breakfast
		8:40		Leave the hotel
		9:00		Jeonjuhyanggyo Confucian School
		10:00		<i>Gyeonggijeon</i> (English Guide)
		11:00-12:30		The origin and present condition of the Hanok Village (English Guide)
		12:50-13:50	<b>Lunch</b>	Menu: <i>Bibimbap</i> (Korean rice dish)
			<b>Jeonju→Gwanju (1hr)</b>	Transportation: Nihon ryoko bus
		15:00-17:00	<b>Gwanju</b>	Gwangju Student Independence Movement (Korean Guide)
		17:30	<b>Hotel</b>	Check in Accommodation: Bentley Hotel
18:30-20:00	<b>Dinner</b>	Menu: <i>Samgyeopsal</i> (grilled pork belly)		
<b>DAY 3</b>	<b>11/27 (WED)</b>	8:50	<b>Gwanju</b>	5-18 Archives Exhibition Hall (11:00-11:30 Korean Guide)
		9:30-11:30		
		11:40	<b>Lunch</b>	Menu: Korean styled-Bufferet
		13:00-14:00	<b>Gwanju</b>	5-18 Archives Park
		14:00-16:30	<b>Gwanju →Daejeon (2hrs30min)</b>	Transportation: Nihon ryoko bus
		16:30	<b>Hotel</b>	Check in Accommodation: Lotte City Hotel
17:30-21:00	<b>Welcome Dinner</b>	ICU-HNU		

<b>DAY 4</b>	<b>11/28 (THU)</b>	7:30	<b>Daejeon</b>	Breakfast
		8:30		Leave the hotel
		9:00-9:30	<b>Daejeon Student Seminar</b>	Orientation
		9:30-10:30		1st session-Korean-Japan relations
		10:30-10:40		Coffee Break
		10:40-11:40		2nd session-History and Culture
		11:40-12:40		3rd session-Peace Education
		12:40-13:30		<b>Lunch</b>
		14:00-18:00	<b>City Tour</b>	City Tour with HNU
		18:00-20:00	<b>Dinner</b>	ICU-HNU (Dinner with HNU)*
		20:30	<b>HNU campus</b>	Meet up
		21:00	<b>Hotel</b>	Accommodation: Lotte City Hotel
<b>DAY 5</b>	<b>11/29 (FRI)</b>	7:30	<b>Daejeon</b>	Breakfast
		8:30		Leave the hotel
		8:30-9:30	<b>Daejeon → Cheonan</b>	Transportation: Nihon ryoko bus
		9:30-11:30	<b>Cheonan</b>	Independence Hall of Korea
		12:00-13:00	<b>Lunch</b>	Menu: Dak-galbi (spicy stir-fried chicken)
		13:00-15:00	<b>Cheonan → Seoul</b>	Transportation: Nihon ryoko bus
		15:00-16:30	<b>Seoul</b>	Ahn Jeongun Memorial Museum
		17:00	<b>Hotel</b>	Accommodation: Koreana Hotel
		17:40-19:30	<b>Dinner</b>	Pork BBQ
		19:30-21:30	<b>Free time</b>	Myeong-dong
		21:30-23:00	<b>Optional</b>	Shopping at LOTTE Mart Seoul Stn.
		<b>DAY 6</b>	<b>11/30 (SAT)</b>	8:00
9:00	Leave the hotel			
9:10-10:20	Gyeongbokgung Palace			
11:00-13:30	War and Women's Human Rights Museum Audio descriptions in English			
13:50	<b>Arrive at Kimpo airport</b>			
15:50	<b>Kimpo Airport (15:50) →Haneda Airport (17:55)</b>			Gimpo International Airport → Haneda Airport

## **Students' Daily Reflections and Impressions**

## DAY ONE (November 25)

**Nene Oyama**

During the two and a half hour flight from Tokyo to Seoul, I was thinking, "Why haven't I been to Korea before?" One of the reasons why I chose to participate in this study tour was to deepen my understanding of Korea, the neighboring country of Japan. The flight from Tokyo to Seoul was short, but it was enough time to fill my heart with hope.

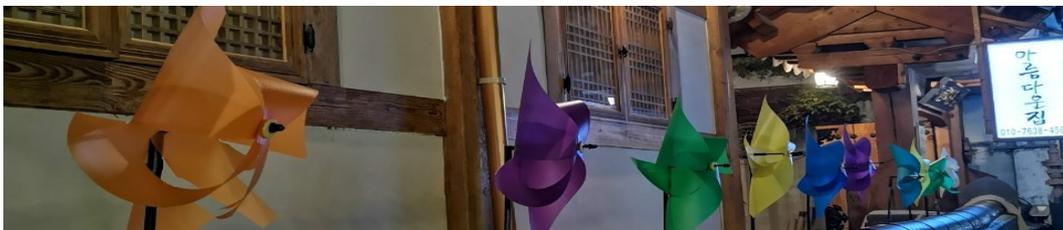
When we got off at Gimpo Airport, cosmetics, casino advertisements and information displays written in Hangeul gave us the feeling that we had finally made it to Korea. Immediately after getting off the plane, we boarded a bus to Jeonju. However, we found ourselves caught up in a heavy traffic jam. Our guide explained that in Seoul, the city where many people gather for work and study, the traffic jams are so common that people say "every hour is rush hour." Even if I didn't get to the center of Seoul, I could feel the passion of the city. On the way to Jeonju, we stopped at a rest area, where I bought a cheese hot dog, the first food I had in Korea.

A few hours after leaving Seoul, we arrived to Jeonju when the sun was gone. Although it was already dark outside, I could still feel the historical aspect of Korea from the city. Our dinner was a Korean table d'hôte at a traditional styled restaurant. Many dishes were lined up on a long table, and the meal started with kejang and kimchi. After that, more dishes were brought in one after the other, and there was not enough space on the table by the time we were done eating.



After dinner, it was colder outside, and my body got cold rapidly despite being warmed up by Korean traditional underfloor heating called *Ondol*. However, because we sat on a plane and bus all day, we decided to climb a small mountain and take a walk to see the night view of Jeonju. It was a bit of a steep walk, but the view was worth it.

The most memorable thing on this first day was the time we spent at a cafe after checking into our hotel. Before coming to Korea, students were meeting with each other, but there was a strained atmosphere because we were concentrated on preparing for the presentation. So the cafe was an excellent team-building opportunity for everyone as we played a board game around a table and had a peaceful time. I was pleasantly surprised by how much we got along. We had a wonderful night as a good start to our week-long trip together.



Rachel Liu



On the first day of our 6-day trip to South Korea, we collectively faced and overcame the very first challenge we had been posed with: assembling at Haneda International Airport at 10am. As our members gathered, you could already spot several excited faces, and more amusingly, some tired ones as well (myself included). Having been briefed by the representative from the travel agency, we set off onto our flight to Gimpo International Airport. After clearing immigration and customs, we were greeted by our guide, Lee Jin. Exchanging hellos, we loaded our luggage onto the tour bus and began our 4-hour bus ride to Jeonju City, the first of many long bus rides due to the nature of our itinerary. On the way to Jeonju, we caught a glimpse of the beautiful Han River, or *Hangang*, while witnessing firsthand the 24/7 rush hour traffic in Seoul. After a rest stop or two, we finally

arrived in Jeonju past sundown. It was very interesting to observe the steadily diminishing number of street lights and the visibility around us decreasing as we travelled through the countryside.

The first item on our itinerary in Jeonju was dinner — and what a feast it was! Listed in our itinerary as “Korean table d’hôte”, we knew that we had a lot to look forward to, but what greeted us exceeded our expectations by far. After walking through the beautiful Hanok Village to get to our dinner venue, we were greeted by a very quaint-looking, single-floor restaurant. The walls were made of wood and covered with paper, as were the doors, though they were hinged, not sliding, and the floor was wooden. We took off our shoes, headed into the dining room reserved for us, and sat on the floor cushions around the low dining tables. The floor was heated directly, as with the traditional Korean architectural heating, known as *ondol*. As several *ahjummas* began trickling in and out, a sumptuous array of Korean cuisine started arriving on our tables: various assorted kimchis, fermented soybean paste stew, boiled pork wraps, Korean pancakes, just to name a few, not forgetting the highlight of the meal, soy sauce-marinated crab. We enjoyed a night of getting to know one another while having a hearty first meal together in Korea.

Our guide then took us on a brief post-dinner walk (or a mini-hike), leading us to a beautiful night view of the Hanok Village. Following a couple of photography sessions, we headed for our hotel by bus, and checked into our rooms, but not before Professor Sasao’s suggestion of a late-night coffee-break in a nearby board game cafe. We spent slightly over an hour in the cafe, having fun and warming up to one another, and playing games like Uno Attack, Jenga, and Tumblin’ Monkeys, while enjoying delicious drinks and honey butter toasts, courtesy of the professor. And that concluded our first day together in Korea.



**Homari Masuko**

At 10 a.m. on November 25th, members of the Korea-Japan peace forum gathered at Haneda airport to fly to South Korea. I was excited for our trip to finally begin. We had been preparing for this trip for so long by reading books and articles, visiting museums, and conducting research to deepen our understanding of Korea-Japan relations. It was my first time visiting Korea, so I could not wait to see the country with my own eyes and learn from it. After two hours of flying, we finally arrived at Gimpo airport in Seoul. My first impression of Korea was “cold.” Although many people told me that it was going to be cold, the highest temperature being six degrees in November still surprised me. At the airport, we met up with our guide, Jin, and got on the bus to head to Jeonju, a city known for its historic architecture and good food. Due to a heavy traffic jam in Seoul, our bus arrived in Jeonju almost an hour later than the original schedule. So, instead of checking in at the hotel first, we headed straight to the restaurant to have dinner. The restaurant was in a traditional Korean style house, and although outside was frigid, inside the house was warm thanks to the Korean floor heating system, *Ondol*. The menu that day was a Korean table d’hôte, which is a traditional Korean course meal served in many small plates and bowls. As the dinner started, the dishes began to be served on the table, one by one. There were fish, meat, soup, vegetables, and other foods that I do not know the names of. I had never had this style of a meal, so I was surprised by the number of dishes being served. The dishes were so many that we needed to put some plates down on the floor to make some space. I liked all the food but I especially liked Kimchi, which I thought was different from the ones I had in Japan. After the wonderful first dinner in Korea, we took a little walk around the city and climbed a small hill to see the night view. Being up on the hill, we could see the whole city and its beautiful houses well, which got me excited to explore the city the next day. After the night walk, we went to the hotel and had a little meeting at a nearby cafe. The cafe was a game cafe, so all of us started to play games. Although we did not do many things on the first day except for getting on the plane and moving to different destinations, we were able to become much closer than before. The fact that we were able to bond so quickly got me thinking that the trip was going to be a fun and great experience, which got me excited for the rest of the trip.



**Kaede Yamazaki**

We met up at Haneda airport at 10:30. I was really looking forward to visiting Korea on this field trip. I had visited Korea twice when I was a high school student, but both were just sightseeing trips. I wanted to visit Korea to study international relations, history, and peace education, and to present on those topics to Korean students on Day 4. With excitement, we headed to Korea.

We arrived at Gimpo airport at 14:40. The air was a little bit cold, but it was not as cold as I had expected. That's when I thought that our Korean trip had finally started. As soon as we picked up our suitcases, we got on the bus and headed to Jeonju. During the journey, the tour guide told us several things about Korea.

We got to the service area about two hours later. We got some Korean snacks. They were delicious, and it was fun for me just to look around the market. It was really different from the Japanese ones. I do not understand Korean, so it was hard for me to order something, but I think it was a good experience for me to communicate with Korean people with some body language. After we enjoyed the service area, we got back to the bus and drove for another two hours.



Finally, we got to Jeonju and walked to the restaurant to have dinner. The air was really cold, but I liked the old and traditional city of Jeonju. We enjoyed walking to the restaurant as it allowed us to see the traditional town. The dishes were traditional and interesting to me. I was surprised at the number of dishes. The table was filled with a lot of them.

After we enjoyed dinner, we walked to a viewpoint to see the whole city. The view from the top of the hill was beautiful. Jeonju was not so shiny, but a quiet and comfortable town. We moved back to the hotel by bus. On this trip, we spent each night at a different hotel.

All of us went to the cafe near the hotel to have a meeting. We talked about the schedule from that day and also enjoyed board games at the cafe. There were many kinds of board games. It was a good opportunity to get along with everyone. After we came back to the hotel, I was excited about the start of our Korea Trip.

## DAY TWO (November 26)

Andrea Luna

On the morning of the second day, we headed to Jaman Mural Village. In this charming and vibrant neighborhood, we were able to enjoy the colorful murals painted on the buildings and walls along the way. Thanks to the relaxing and enjoyable atmosphere of this town, we had a perfect getaway from the bustling city. Beautiful homes and businesses covered in fantastic hand-painted murals make this place unique, with eclectic artworks that amaze everyone. We had a fun time taking pictures, even of Japanese characters such as Totoro and Princess Mononoke.

Crossing the bridge from Jaman Mural Village, you can find two beautiful traditional



pavilions: Omokdae and Imokdae. After climbing Seungam Mountain, we arrived at the pavilions, a great vantage point for a view of Jeonju. We spent some time admiring the beautiful colors of autumn and the magnificent view of the Hanok village. Afterwards, we went down the mountain to have a guided tour of Hanok Village. The town seems like a place where time stands still. There is a sharp contrast with the modern city that surrounds the village because of the hundreds *hanok* (traditional houses). There, we were able to

immerse ourselves for a while into the traditional Korean culture. We walked the streets where we had the opportunity to eat some traditional food and see people in traditional clothing.

Then, continuing with the guided tour, we went to Gyeonggijeon, an imposing and beautiful shrine, and one of Korea's historic monuments. It was interesting to learn that the shape and red color of the shrine are as such as a way to frighten evil spirits from entering the sacred ground of Gyeonggijeon. Also, the guide explained to us the meaning of the three gates on the outside of the shrine. The central gate is used to keep the spirit of King Taejo (the first king of the Joseon Dynasty of Korea), which explains why the gate is always closed and opened only during special ceremonies. As visitors, we could only use the right and left gates, entering on the right side, the best option according to Korean philosophy. Finally, we saw the portrait of King Taejo, the only portrait of the king that survives to the present day.

After a delicious *bibimbap* - a traditional Korean meal, especially famous in Jeonju-, we headed to Gwangju. In the afternoon, we arrived at Gwangju Student Independence Movement Memorial Hall, where we learned about the Korean independence and anti-Japan movement. The historical relevance of the hall is due to the number of students who engaged in the movement, how it spread and how it influenced other movements abroad, and the significant effects it had. The efforts made by students spread nationwide, encouraging a national independence movement and promoting the resistance against Japanese colonial powers. We ended the day with Korean cuisine for dinner - *samgyeopsal*- and a traditional dessert -*bingsu*-.

**Uroosa Mahmood**

We started the day with a breakfast buffet at the Ramada Hotel in Jeonju, followed by a visit to the Hanok Village Area where we saw traditional Korean dresses, cultural sites and the residence of some relatives of the Imperial family. We had the chance to explore a small village covered by murals nearby the Hanok Village. We experienced bright colours, playful characters and beautiful city sights. Walking to the Hanok Village we saw a beautiful temple which was built on the top of a cliff. We all sat on the steps of the temple surrounded by colourful autumn trees and took pictures of our beautiful time together in the heart of Jeonju City.



After reaching a famous street in Hanok Village we met our new guide "Mr. John," who gave us a tour of nearby historical treasures. First, we went to a Confucian high school, where we saw the masters teach students about the history of Confucius and his educational approach. Then, we had the chance to visit a museum which had the portrait of King Taejo. It was interesting to learn about how the color of the king's robe represented his position and power. We also visited a beautiful temple and a Catholic church, which was built in the memory of two people who had sacrificed their lives for their faith. After this tour, we had lunch at a famous bibimbap restaurant. The combination of fresh vegetables with warm rice and spicy sauce was no less than delicious.

After lunch, we took a bus to Gwangju and checked into the Bentley hotel. Later in the evening, we went for dinner at a local Korean restaurant run by old Korean ladies. The hosts showed great hospitality and care. Following the dinner, we went to brightly-lit streets where Kpop music played in the background. Finally, we visited Snowflake Café and enjoyed four different flavours of shaved ice.

**Rachel Liu**

After having breakfast in our hotel, we checked out of our rooms and boarded the bus to get to our scheduled venues for Day 2. We spent the morning wandering through the extremely Instagram-worthy Jaman Mural Village, making our way through the winding, up-and-down corridors of the quiet neighbourhood. Being a residential area, we had to contain our excitement and amazement at the breathtaking pieces of art scattered throughout the area, stopping rather frequently to snap a couple of shots here and there. There were also paintings of many Studio Ghibli characters, which indicated to us how popular they are in South Korea as well. We embarked on another mini-hike past vibrant red maple trees, leading us back to the same landscape that we had seen the previous night, at the Hanok Village, this time, however, in daylight. Needless to say, we spent an unjustifiable amount of time taking

photographs to capture the moments and the sights. Finally, we headed back down to explore Hanok Village in the daytime.

At the tourist centre, we met another guide from Jeonju, who took us to see culturally and historically significant places in the vicinity of and within the Hanok Village. Entering the Eodang Guesthouse, he taught us about the respect that locals have for certain trees (this specific one being a persimmon tree). He then brought us to the *Jeonju Hanggyo* or Confucian School, specifically instructing us to enter through the right-most door, and to exit through the left-most. According to him, traditional Korean architecture places a large emphasis on not only conserving those important trees, but also that the direction in which the building faces or its orientation plays a large role. In Korean culture, the east is considered to be more important than the west, since the sun rises in the east and sets in the west. There were also paid actors dressed in traditional robes like those worn by Confucian teachers back in the day. We then headed for Gyeonggijeon Hall, home to King Taejo's portrait. There, we explored and learned about not only the Main Hall, but also the Shrine, History Archive Building, and the Royal Portrait Museum. The guide also explained about two large trees that had been sealed off with rope, saying that in Korean culture, the one which branches out in all directions is considered male, while the other one which grows in one direction is considered female. The last place he introduced to us was the Jeondong Catholic Church, which was significant in the religious history of what used to be a predominantly Confucian Joseon dynasty Korea. Home to the first Korean Christian martyrs, the church was bought over and further developed by a French missionary. Its architecture showcased a fusion between western and eastern European styles, a rare trait found in the architecture of such cathedrals.



We wandered around Hanok Village, trying street food such as speciality *gyoza*, the famous Pungnyeon Bakery choco pies, pork *jeon*, and *hotteok*. For lunch, we had the dish Jeonju is famous for: *bibimbap*. It was the first time for me to try the dish, and I was blown away by how delicious it was despite being so simple.

Our second half of the day resumed in Gwangju, where our guide brought us to two different museums, one on the April Revolution, and another on the Gwangju Student Independence Movement. At the museums, we saw many drawings of what had happened in the two movements for a democratic South Korea, and for freedom as an autonomous country, as well as many artefacts dating back to those movements, each telling its own bit of history, and when pieced together with the others, telling a collective story about the struggles faced by Koreans, especially the young students who had instigated and taken part in those movements. The only downside to these museum visits was that most of the information on display in both museums was in Korean, occasionally accompanied by English titles and subheaders, making it difficult for us to extract information directly from the exhibits.

Once we finished the museum visits, we headed to our next hotel, and almost immediately headed back out for the long-awaited *samgyupsal* dinner, as well as a dessert break at a *bingsu* cafe close by. The night ended there for some of us, but the remainder headed off to a Korean *karaoke* place and had a fun night of singing.

**Rachel Lim**



Waking up at 7:00 and meeting my fellow schoolmates at the hotel lobby around 8:40 surprisingly didn't feel tiresome at all, which was atypical for a night owl like me who loathes early mornings and practically have to drag myself to attend morning lectures. With my heart full of desire to explore and learn, I hopped on the bus fully ready to start the day.

Our first stop was the Jaman Mural Village, which is a quaint village built on a hilly area from where you can see the Jeonju Hanok Village. The

village was structured almost like a maze, where one brightly painted alleyway twisted and turned into another narrow alley with interesting art and murals painted on the wall. It was still early in the morning, so no other tourists were there, so it felt like we were truly lost in a never-ending maze. As most houses were still occupied by local residents, we spent about an hour to explore the cute street art quietly, and quickly snap away some group photos.

Next, we walked towards the Jeonju Hanok Village, which is a cultural and historical destination that is famously known for its traditional Hanok houses. We met up with the local tour guide, Mr. John who took us around a few significant sites and shared with us the story of Jeonju. We went to the Jeonjuhyanggyo Confucian School, which was a national education institution during the Joseon Dynasty where students aged between 14 and 40 years old learned based on Confucian principles. Confucianism has held substantial influences over history in Korea. Then, we walked over to Gyeonggijeon Shrine, which has become known as the historical symbol of the 500-year-old Joseon Dynasty. We learned that the shrine was constructed to hold the portrait of the founder of the Joseon Dynasty, Taejo Yi-Seong-gye, which we were able to take a look at, at the Royal Portrait Museum along with other historical archives. Although it was a bit chilly, walking through the shrine while the ginkgo leaves rustled under my feet made me reaffirm that fall was the perfect time for us to visit Korea. Finally, we walked towards the Jeondong Catholic Cathedral, which is a beautiful western style building built to honor the lives of the first Korean Catholic martyrs to have been executed. Jeonju was truly one of my favorite places in Korea, not to mention that for lunch we had a Korean rice dish called *bibimbap* which was super delicious.

We then traveled to Gwangju city, famously known for being the birthplace of pro-democracy protests in the past which ultimately laid the groundwork for Korea's modern politics. We visited the Gwangju Student Independence Movement Memorial Hall, which presents various exhibits and artefacts that showcase the struggle of young students and their fight against Japanese colonial oppression to gain independence. As a student myself, I was constantly in awe, especially of those who lead the forces despite fear of arrest and torture by the Japanese army. I truly admired their fearlessness, and left the building feeling empowered and compelled to convey their story to others. For dinner, we ate *samgyeopsal* (Korean pork belly), and had *bingosu* (Korean shaved ice) for dessert, which was a delightful way to end the night.

## Mayuko Sasaki

Lovely weather but a little cold. In the morning, we visited Dongpirang Wall Village, which is famous for its wall paintings such as Ghibli characters, Disney characters, and so on. We took a lot of pictures for Instagram. Everyone had a good time playing models. After that, we met the guide, and he introduced us to some cultural places in Jeonju. Jeonju is well known as a traditional and cultural city in Korea. It reminded me of Nara or Kyoto in Japan. Not only foreigners but also many Korean people go there. There were a lot of traditional houses, which are called *hanok*.

According to our guide, the *hanok* was mainly used as an educational institute for students of Confucianism. The Jeonjuhyanggyo Confucian School is one of the most famous places for shooting TV dramas and movies. Initially, the term *hyanggyo* meant Confucian temple and school during the Joseon Dynasty. Jeonjuhyanggyo is estimated to have been built in the 3rd year of King Gongmin of Goryeo's reign around 1354 A.D. The structure is based on the 'shrine in



the front and lecture hall in the back' style so it has the altar in the front. Inside of the *hyanggyo*, some older men were wearing *hanbok*, making them look like Confucius. I sometimes saw their dress style in Korean dramas. Besides, there were two ginkgo trees older than forty years old. Those were planted with the hope that students of Confucianism would grow up well, and that they would become righteous men with integrity. Today, many people visit this place to wish for the academic success of their children. I thought it was similar to the Japanese who like to visit shrines or temples before important exams. This might be common in countries where students have to be competitive to be really successful.

At noon, we had a tasty *Jeonju-bibimbap*, and then we moved to Gwangju by bus. Gwangju is the birthplace of the independence and democracy movements in Korea. Firstly, we visited a small museum located next to Gwangju high school about the April 19th Student Revolution that took place in 1960. This visit was added to our itinerary at the last minute. In my opinion, this is because it was essential for us to know that high school students were the ones that started the independence movement. I was shocked that the May 18th Gwangju Uprising was triggered by the power of younger generations such as those high school students. Next, we moved to Gwangju Student Independence Movement Memorial Hall. I learned about the movement and its purpose, which was mainly to protest the colonization by Japan, from this exhibition. However, there were few English subtitles and I was a little bit confused since it made it difficult for people like me who are motivated to learn about history during wartime from the Korean point of view to do so. In the other museums, there were also just a few English subtitles, even at the World Heritage Sites of UNESCO. I was curious to know about how many museums related to the history of war used other languages.

### DAY THREE (November 27)



**Andrea Luna**

On the third day of our field trip, we went to the 5.18 Archives Exhibition Hall. There we learned about the Gwangju Uprising that occurred on May 18, 1980, and its background and effects on Korea's history. At this time in history, South Korea was in a struggle for democracy against the authoritarian military government of Park Chung-hee. The uprising is considered as the resurgence of democracy in South Korea, after several protests against the martial law established by the government. Numerous civilians were injured and killed, rendering Gwangju into a symbol of people's power and South Korean's struggle to achieve democracy.

The 1980 Archives for the May 18th Democratic Uprising against the military regime are considered Human Rights documentary heritage, recognized worldwide by UNESCO in the 'Memory of the World' program. Among others, the archives include official documents of the central government, records of trials and investigations, several statements, and reporters' declarations. This collection unveils the gravity of the situation, and seeks to present the truth about these events to the world. We ended the visit by a round table, where we discussed with an expert, and shared some insights and understandings about this historic event. Among the questions that emerged in the dialogue space, ICU students were able to argue the importance of preserving the memory and narrative of the people who were part of these historical events, and also discuss how sensitive issues like this one should be addressed in the history books that children and adolescents use nowadays.

Next, we arrived at a Korean style buffet, where we ate different traditional dishes of Korean cuisine. Continuing our tour in the city of Gwangju, we spent some time at the 5.18 Memorial Cultural Center & Memorial Park, established to remember the May 18th Democratization Movement. The Memorial has peaceful and gorgeous surroundings, with some monuments to remember those who lost their lives during the Gwangju Democratic Uprising. We had the chance to visit a small underground memorial, where all the names of the victims rest.



In the afternoon, we headed towards Daejeon. At the end of the day, ICU students met Hannam University students for the first time. The welcome dinner was a Korean buffet, where we were able to try different traditional dishes from the local cuisine again. Japanese, Korean, and exchange students from both universities got to introduce themselves, got a chance to know each other, and have a friendly cultural

exchange. After the dinner, ICU and Hannam University students went to a coffee shop together to discuss the main topics and expectations of the Student Seminar that would take place the next day.

**Keita Abe**

The third day came faster than I expected. Part of my mind was still living in Day 1, yet here I was in another place different from the day before. The start of the day was simple enough, as we left the hotel after eating breakfast and went on to our first destination, the Museum of the 5.18 Democratization Movement in Gwangju. I had learned about the democratization movement in Gwangju and the impact it had not only on South Korea at the time, but also the world when the unfolding events were exposed. What I ended up seeing at the museum was however different from

what I had anticipated; though the events depicted were undeniably the same ones which I had learned about and studied, the museum felt much more “grounded” in its focus on the experiences of the people of Gwangju. The museum was a powerful reminder that though we may be able to academically analyze these events and form an understanding of how things happened, the experiences of the people are typically lost in the process and it is important to preserve them lest their sacrifices become merely a thing of the past unrelated to the modern times.



After the museum, we visited a nearby park also dedicated to the Democratic Movement, and took some photos before heading to lunch. Once we had our fair share of food, it was back into the bus and we were on our way towards Daejeon to have dinner with the students from Hannam University, whom we would have our peace forum with the following day. I was surprised, to put it one way, largely at the food. I had been told that we were to have buffets for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, however, I was not entirely prepared to actually have a buffet for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It was akin to the feeling of asking for a glass of water but receiving an entire

jug; not exactly uninvited but also not sure what to do with it all. After dinner, a number of us visited a nearby coffee shop to chat longer. It was at the coffee shop that I met the Korean students who were participating in the forum, and was able to introduce myself. Talking with them was definitely a unique experience, as I had never really been in a situation where Korean was really the only language I could use to express myself, so it was a fun challenge, in a sense, to communicate with them. After parting ways with them and heading back to the hotel, we began our final preparation for the forum.

### Nene Oyama

On the third day, we learned about the Gwangju Uprising by visiting the 5.18 Archives Exhibition Hall and the 5.18 Memorial Park. This was an indispensable visit to learn about the Korean democratization movement, as depicted in the famous Korean movie 'Taxi Driver', a social film. During that period of Korean history, since the government controlled all information such as the media, the Gwangju incident was never explained to the public. When I heard the story, I developed a sense of respect towards the citizens of Gwangju, who continued to fight. The explanations by the curator at the Exhibition Hall and the statues built in the Memorial Park helped us deepen our understanding of the Gwangju Uprising, and sent us a strong message. I couldn't believe that the now very peaceful city of Gwangju was once a battlefield where citizens fought for democracy about 40 years ago. The autumn leaves of ginkgo trees seen from the window of the Exhibition Hall were very bright and beautifully yellow.

Day 3 was the day with the most food because we had a buffet for each meal. The first was the hotel breakfast buffet, the second a Korean buffet for lunch, and the third the welcome dinner buffet from Hannam University in Daejeon. When we arrived at the restaurant for dinner, I was a little surprised because there were a lot more Hannam University students than we were ICU students. At the same time, I was glad that many students were interested in participating in the Peace Forum. One of my favorite Korean words is *unnie*, which is the term that women use to call older women or respected women. I like this word because it represents the Korean culture that respects older people. I then ate dinner with an *unnie* who sat at the same table, listening to her explanations about Korean food and the town of Daejeon, and talking about Japan. Since we were all interested in each other's language, the conversation was an exciting time, with a mix of English, Japanese and Korean. We didn't have enough time to talk though, so after dinner we moved to a nearby cafe to chat about college life and the next day's Peace Forum. In the taxi to the hotel, I was able to communicate with the driver using the Korean phrase that *unnie* had taught me at dinner. The next day was the Peace Forum, so each group had a late meeting at the hotel. Talking with students of Hannam University at dinner strengthened our desire to make the presentation more successful, and our group continued to practice past midnight.





### **Airi Nemoto**

This morning, I woke up late at 8:20, so I skipped breakfast sadly. At 9 o'clock, we left Gwanju and headed to another city called Daejeon city. On that day, we had plans to visit two places related to the May 18th Gwangju Democratic Uprising.

Firstly, we visited the 5.18 Archives Exhibition Hall. The 5.18 Democratic Uprising took place in 1980 just 40 years ago. This movement was an effort to change the Korean government to a democratic one. Many university students were at the center of this movement. In Japan, young generations like teenagers do not seem to be interested in what the government does and how the country will change in the future. Also, I've never heard about Japanese university students taking action to make a change by devoting their lives. That's why this exhibition really impressed me.

At lunchtime, we had a Korean style buffet.

This kind of buffet is popular among all generations in Korea, so the restaurant where we ate as filled with people. I enjoyed eating all the food we had there. After having lunch we went to the 5.18 Archives Park. There was a huge statue to commemorate the 5.18 Democratic Uprising in the park. We took some photos with the monument as a background.

After checking into the hotel, we had a welcome dinner with Hannam University University (HNU) students. We were going to have sessions with them the next day, so it was a great opportunity to build friendships between us. There were around 30 HNU students in total and they gave us a warm welcome. Most students were international students who came from many different countries, and there were only four Korean students. We talked about what we study at ICU and about our upcoming presentations. After eating dinner with them, we moved to a cafe nearby and chatted with the students with whom we didn't have a chance to discuss with while having dinner.

In order to finalize the preparations for the next day's presentation and discussion, I discussed with my team members until 2 in the morning. We had worked for about six or seven weeks on this presentation, so we were both very excited and a little nervous for the next day.

### **Sohee Yun**

After starting my third day with the gourmet hotel breakfast buffet, our group headed to the 5.18 Archives Exhibition Hall to learn about the Gwangju Uprising that occurred on May 18th, 1980.

Gwangju Uprising was a social movement against the South Korean military government that took place in the 1980s. After the assassination of President Park Chung-Hee, the country was ruled by the military, following a coup, that created many oppressive military laws and limited freedom of speech and academic freedom. On May 18th, 1980, more than 500 students from Chonnam National University demonstrated against the military's policies, and the police brutally suppressed the movement. Although the uprising did not directly give any results at the time, it is a significant event in Korea's modern history which symbolizes the Koreans' long fight for democracy.

The graphic and provoking pictures of the movement displayed at the Archives effectively conveyed the passion and the strong will that the citizens had. The fact that I could not understand Korean captions beside the pictures inversely made the pictures and the non-written displays stand out more. Overwhelmed by the tension, I felt like I understood why South Koreans, especially those in Gwangju, are actively engaging in demonstrations; they have learned through these exhibitions that democracy is not a given, but something that citizens must protect. We also went to a beautiful park commemorating the movement.

After that, we headed to a Korean-style buffet restaurant, which served a wide selection of delicious Korean food. I started my meal with *sundae*, a Korean style sausage which I love, and ended it with a self-serve ice cream sundae. Both are amazing dishes from two countries that I have a close connection with. I lived in the

United States for five years where I studied English. Also, even though I have never lived in Korea, I have always been exposed to Korean culture since I am a Zainichi Korean. Although I do not speak Korean, almost all the food we ate on this trip were familiar to me, which was reassuring.

Then we headed to the hotel where we practiced our presentation for the next day. As we practiced, I felt relieved and confident about our presentation. After many hours of preparation, I felt that we had something presentable to offer to the Korean audience. I got very excited to meet the students at Hannam University.

We had our third buffet of the day for dinner, but dinner was special because we had the pleasure to interact with students from Hannam University. The students from Hannam University were very diverse in their backgrounds, as most of them were foreign students who were studying in Korea for a semester. I talked to two friendly students from Singapore, and we exchanged about our backgrounds. Although I was nervous to talk to people I had not met before, I had a delightful meal thanks to their friendliness and humor.

