

The Gazette

Spring, 2017 Vol.32

A publication of Ajou University's Graduate School of International Studies



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206, World cup-ro, Yeongtong-gu, Suwon, Gyeonggi-do, 16499 Republic of Korea
Tel +82-31-219-1552, 1555, 3596, 3597 Fax +82-31-219-1554
Email gsis@ajou.ac.kr <http://gsis.ajou.ac.kr>



Introduction by the Editors

Jamar Sargent - Managing Editor



Aigerim Kebekchieva - Editor



Maya Metriana - Editor



Peng Chen - Editor



With this issue, the editors the Ajou University's Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS) present to you a further trip along our journey, cataloging the shared experience of students who learn, grow, and expand our minds through the privilege of studying in Korea. The manifestation of these times is Gazette. We have worked tirelessly to create an issue that will be of interest to you, our readers. We have gone about this in several ways.

First, each of the editors has lead a team to build several themes that capture a taste of the dynamism that comes though living on the Korean peninsula. For instance, our authors have been kind enough to share details of their choices that brought them to study in Korea. A wide variety of motivations delivered us here, and we can share advice and knowledge with current and future students. Additionally, we have provided you information not just of the mechanics of Korea's fantastic healthcare system, but also its genesis. Systems do not appear spontaneously; they are crafted and adjusted through the hard work of the Korean people. Here, you will have a chance to learn much more through our research. We also have sections that provide more detail about the diversity that thrives in Korea. And no descriptions of Korea would be complete without delving into the views at street level, with accounts about social media and the majesty of Korean street food. We have also prepared some information about a necessary and productive facet of student life, stress. You will be guided toward a greater understanding of the biological drivers of stress along with how to use it productively. The reader will also be informed about how to keep stress from being destructive.

But, GSIS is not simply about learning in the classroom; there is so much to take in outside campus! Students are granted a wide variety of chances to interact with the local environment. GSIS provides so many events, conferences, and field trips where we can participate in the

cultural and political world around us. In this issue, you will learn about a GSIS-sponsored debate, a special lecture from a distinguished outside scholar, and even the chance to see some of Korea's world class manufacturing up close and personal.

Finally, we have interviewed your student representatives. They are here to make your experience even better, and you can learn about what they are doing in that capacity. They are also people too, and they have shared a bit of their humanity with all readers. But after graduation from GSIS, many adventures abound. One recent alumnus won a prize in an essay contest, and he was kind enough to speak with us, sharing his journey.

Overall, we have produced a thoughtful issue that provides broad and deep representations about student life in the GSIS. Professor Troy Felver helped us coalesce our ideas into topics that would be of interest to the wider community. The members of the GSIS staff, and especially Ms. Hanna Lee, were so helpful providing the resources we needed to produce this issue, and she always gave assistance with a smile. Our authors shared their hearts and souls to produce these thought-provoking articles. Last, but certainly not least, we thank you, the Ajou GSIS community. Your interests and fascination to devote yourself to Korea makes this magazine possible for all of us. It is to you, and from you. We hope you gain from and enjoy our issue.

Dear Readers

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Professor Column

By Professor Troy Felver



The Spring Changes of Our Lives

The only constant in our (hopefully) long existence is change. This inescapable fact may sometimes be hidden through life everyday happenings. But change lies in the most mundane events. Every snip of the fingernail clippers is a weekly reminder that for all of life's peace and calmness, change is literally happening at our fingertips. Change is everywhere, even in the smallest and most unexpected places.

For students too, the beginning of a Master's program at GSIS appears to be a long and static process, but this is an illusion. The two-year program is actually four terms, which still seems long. At the beginning, the magical dream of graduate study is apparent from students at the Welcoming Party. We talk, eat, and become familiar with each other. A few weeks after this, the initial euphoria rapidly transforms to stoicism, with long reading assignments and intense class discussions. Welcome to graduate school! While we excelled at our prior institutions, studying in the GSIS is a long way from Undergrad 2.0. The professors push and challenge us, by filling our brains with more knowledge than we can imagine. Then, this resolve transforms to abject fear, because midterms are now upon us. "What is

on the test? If I could only see it before, I would have a chance!" as we move to bargaining with higher powers for some relief. And just like that, May greets us, and we actually survived exams, and our coats rapidly fall away, to be replaced by short sleeve shirts. Late spring is glorious, and it will last forever. With a blink of an eye, though, we learn about Memorial Day on 6 June, celebrate those who made the ultimate sacrifice to allow Korea to become our transplanted home, and maybe even start to turn on the air conditioner. However, our halcyon days of late spring have collapsed, with the last lectures, pictures with professors, and a huge pile of notes where there is no possibility to know them all. "While I survived midterms, finals will be the end of me," are the glum looks seen from Yulgok Hall. Exam day final arrives,

they are even harder than we expected, and then, we see the summer sunshine again. Vacation has arrived! The infinite possibilities of the warm season is here. Finally, a time that will last forever. Wait, it's August 31st and classes start tomorrow?

Professors, we are wiser, or more shopworn, about the true rapidity of change. Harried students wearing heavy coats file into our classrooms on a cold March day. The computers in each of our classrooms seems to conspire against us, despite each being nominally the same, every one seems to have a mischievous personality to reject my USB drive and prevent my PPTs from improving my lecture to students. And the students! There are so many, and I will never know all their names. Let's take their pictures

and get to know them. Quickly, I need to start writing the midterm exam. "Is this too easy or too hard? Easy for me, and I'm sure the students will think so too." After the exam, students ask if they can pass the class even if they fail the exam. "Well, it is possible it was too hard. I will try to make it a bit easier for the final. But when will I write it? Thesis defenses are starting soon. I guess I will sacrifice sleep." After we sufficiently interrogate all students defending their writing, then it's time to write our exams and plan our summer conferences. Of course, too, their will finally be time to finish up that long delayed paper. Finally, time to breathe and write. Wait, our department meetings start on August 22nd? Where has the summer gone?

Even with Gazette, the spring brings

change. Professor Iain Watson was kind enough to allow me the dynamic experience of leaving my stamp on this public face of Ajou's GSIS magazine. After reviewing prior issues, I know I will have much to live up to, given the fine quality and beautiful layouts of previous editions. I have worked hard to put together an issue that reflects the exemplary experiences of our students and their limitless enthusiasm. The students conducted in-depth interviews, wrote about the wonders of Korea as a destination of advanced study, and explained what they learned on GSIS sponsored outings. Professor Watson did much to make Gazette great. Again, I hope my best efforts will be enough to capture the Spring 2017 winds of change.



My Journey to Korea



According to the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the country hit a record high number of tourists last year, surpassing 17 million. A majority of the tourists are attracted by Korean entertainment. Other wise known as the Korean wave: the popular culture movement also known as “hallyu” which encompasses (music, films, soaps, video games and cartoons)! “Hallyu” is said to have contributed more than £2.3bn to the South Korean economy. Currently, the number of international students is growing from year to year. The Justice Ministry said that the number of foreign students in South Korea has hit a record high, topping 100,000.

“The South Korean government has played a significant role in the production and marketing of K-pop since the beginning of the Korean Wave. The cultural industry was specifically targeted as the government mandated an aggressive international promotion of K-pop.”

The Korean wave is influencing Kyrgyzstan. Young girls are following Korean trends in fashion, clothing, and life style. However, Asian countries are not the sole target of the Korean wave. In other parts of the globe, Korean entertainment has sparked an interest in local populations. In Latin America, it has quietly but successfully flooding into the Latin American entertainment markets.

Except for pop culture and Samsung products, I was not very aware of Korea.

One of the tipping points in my decision to come to Korea was a lecture given by a Korean Ambassador. The Ambassador talked about the rapid development and economic growth of Korea. I thought that this is an excellent example that my country can learn from. Both Kyrgyzstan and Korea are small countries, both have no natural resources to support a national budget. The most important resource in both countries is the human resource. Nowadays, Korea is famous for innovation and education around the world. According to the Bloomberg Innovation Index 2016, South Korea is leading in the rank of the most innovative economies in the world.

After the lecture, I started looking for ways to study in Korea. I Googled “scholarships in Korea for international students”. And it showed me many results but the most appropriate one was the Korean Government Scholarship Program (KGSP) that selects outstanding applicants from all over the world.

The Korean government is promoting Korea through education. Korean universities are offering high quality international education and many programs and courses offered in different languages, especially English. There are quite a number of programs, diversified for different targets. These are good tools for distributing its values. South Korea is concentrating on the development of international cooperation by inviting future leaders and top students to get an

education from Korean universities, with scholarships available for exceptional students.

I am a Korean Government Scholarship Program (KGSP) grantee. This is a fully funded Program that allows international students to study in Korea and not worry about paying for the tuition and living expenses. KGSP gave me an opportunity to gain international experience, to expand my vision, perspectives, and prospects by immersing myself into a multi-vector society with diverse opinions and thoughts.

The main targets are future leaders that will bring change to the world. KGSP promotes international cooperation in education. The problem is that few people are aware of KGSP in my country or in other countries. It is a good opportunity to learn Korean language and study in masters or PhD program without as much concern for the financial burdens involved in higher education.

Ajou University has other scholarship programs for extraordinary students; for example, the Ajou Foundation Program. At Ajou University in Suwon, undergraduate students must first complete a one-year foundation program covering Korean, English and basic science.” It is a good chance for prospective students to prepare for university life and having a good time raising their level of knowledge. After living in Korea, I can see that the

influence of the world on Korean people, but at the same time have a special and unique value system at their core. Korean people preserve their vision in harmony with modern progressiveness. Koreans are also sharing their values and successes with developed and developing countries alike.

I can give my recommendation to potential or interested student worldwide. Also, knowledge of the Korean language will be a good plus for employment. Travel within Korea since there are a lot of beautiful places to create memories. Furthermore, the South Korean government has announced a new national strategy to nearly triple the country's foreign student enrolment by 2023. It means more places for applicants and more chances to study in Korea, for which I am so thankful. It has put me on the road to success for a new, dynamic, and fascinating life.



By Maya Metriana

Studying in Korea

The success of Korea's economic transformation is historically one of the very global economies to so much success in such a short period of time. In the past few years the number of foreign students in Korea has been growing rapidly because the Korean government willing to spend lots of money into its educational system. Various scholarship programs for well qualified students are offered to assist international students financially, and this funding shows Korea research and development as a priority in education. That leads to technically-minded students pursuing promising futures' in a world class technological environment. This prolonged obsession with education brings Korea to the forefront of the global educational system.

As a result of the Korean government's hard work to make education a top priority, Korean students have the necessary weaponry to compete for every possible opportunity out there. They also believe in hard work which leaves no excuse for failure. Korean students have a large desire to have a higher education which will create. As proof, many of their libraries even become their second home. There are 24 hours' library's that are full of students, especially during exam periods, it is a common thing to see.

Korea also realizes that environmental conditions play a very important role as

well. They welcome foreign students with warmness. And despite the fact that Korea is not an English-speaking country, the emergence of international studies and the English-based courses have developed Korean universities into foreigner friendly environments. Emergency call centers help foreigners living in Korea, not only with English but also several different common languages that foreigner use. Furthermore, Korea is an extremely safe country.

Another unexceptional fact that encourages more foreign students to study in Korea is Hallyu otherwise known as the Korean wave significantly increases the popularity of Korean culture among the young generation. The 'Hallyu' phenomena has ignited their curiosity not only for the culture but for the language as well. Also, job fair's which are held regularly for international students create great opportunities of landing a good job.

With all the facts mentioned above, more and more foreign students coming to Korea. Korea has become a blend of modern and traditional culture surrounded by positive and vibrant people. Korea has created a perfect place for foreign students to study, the Korean government has targeted the goal of 200.000 foreign students by 2023. Korea really is more than just a country.



By Harriet Nyaki

Why is Korea more than just a country?



"Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world," said Nelson Mandela. Most people take this saying for granted, but not in Korea. The Korean Economy is a true definition of the change education can create once you put your mind and effort to it. Sixty years ago, South Korea was an economic backwater. If you go back to the 1950s and the early 1960s, Korea was one of the poorest places in the world that people didn't expect it to survive. For Korea to have gone from a resource poor and generally poor, country into a wealthy and innovative democracy, it would have been impossible to imagine. But the Korean people have done it. Today, it is not only the world's 11th largest economy, but also a vibrant democracy and an emerging cultural force. Being a small country with no natural resources, the Korean people knew that they had to invest in a much more important resource than natural materials, to develop their country into a great economy it is today, Korea decide to invest into its people's education. People say that Korean development was a miracle, but they don't understand that with education, you can create all the change you want. The development of Korea has attracted a lot of scholars and tourists as well. Korea has become a case study to many being the home to some of the biggest companies in the world, and leading in innovation and technology. A few years ago, as I was pursuing my

undergraduate studies in economics, my friends and I were discussing about our 'bucket list' and the places we wanted to visit after our studies. All my friends wanted to go to European or American but not me; I was different. I wanted to go to Korea. The expression on their faces was priceless when I told them that, they looked confused. They didn't say anything back, but the expression on their faces read 'why would you want to go to Korea?'. Deep inside I knew that there was a lot more to explore in Korea, and I was right! Coming to Ajou University is a decision that I'm so proud I made in my life. It's like a small wonderful world on its own; where you get to meet different people, learn different cultures, get equipped with knowledge to conquer and face the modern world, broadening your way of thinking and you begin to see the world differently.

Most of the countries in the world have been westernized losing their cultural practices in the process, but not in Korea. They have both western culture, which mostly has evolved as a result of 'k-pop,' and at the same time have remained true to their beautiful culture and traditions. I have visited most of the Korean traditional villages that explains the history of Korea, and it always reminds me that you should never forget where you came from and what you went through to get where you are; and that change is real. Seeing even the young people proudly wearing 'hanboks' on the street shows how much

Koreans are proud of their culture which is 'breath taking.' As a foreigner, I always feel 'home away from home' getting easily absorbed in the Korean culture and at the same time being comfortable and relaxed in a modernized environment.

For young people in Korea, life is full of targets. Achieving high scores in exams, acquiring good university education and getting a good job is a top priority. In Korea, perhaps more so than anywhere else, educational success equals socioeconomic status. South Koreans view education as the main driver of social mobility, for themselves and their family. This has cultivated a spirit of hard work to every Korean, from kids to adults in order to keep up with the rest of the country. As a result, Korea is highly urbanized with South Koreans leading a distinctive urban lifestyle and leading the charts of the world on innovation.

For the little time that I've been here, I've observed that having a target and a goal to chase always molds you to the best version of yourself, which is one of the many reasons that explains the success of Korean's. Experts and heads of state, from former US president Barack Obama to former Australian prime minister, Julia Gillard, often cite the Korean education system as the panacea to improve education systems in other places of the world. As a foreign student from a developing world, the experiences and the lessons learnt here in Korea, are life changing and there's a lot more to learn.

1

By Bilquees Jamali



Korea's Health Care System Lessons for Ailing Health Care Systems in Developing Countries

Good health is very important for human happiness and welfare. Health makes an important contribution not only to economic progress, but also benefits the social and political fabric of any nation. As healthy populations live longer, they produce more and tend to save more. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as: "Health is a state of complete physical, psychological, and social wellbeing and not simply the absence of disease or infirmity." Freud's defines health idealistically "Health is the ability to work and to love", rather Freud's definition seems to reflect the essence of health and its vitality for human life. There are multiple factors that affect health status and the ability of a country to provide quality health services to its people. In all countries, the ministry of health together with other government departments, donor organizations, civil society groups and communities themselves provide health care facilities to citizens. For example: investment in infrastructure can greatly improve the access to health services; ambitious economic objectives can constrain health spending; and reforms in civil services can either create opportunities or limitations by hiring or firing health professionals. Provision of health care varies around the world. Nearly all the developed wealthy nations provide universal health care, USA is an exception in this regard. Health provision is more challenging

in developing countries due to lack of sufficient resources and inappropriate use of existing funds, as well as various social, cultural, political and economic conditions impedes the delivery of a universal health care system. South Korea achieved a universal health care insurance system by shifting from a private voluntary health insurance to a government mandated universal coverage, unusual in a short span of 12 years. South Korea's universal healthcare system is rated as the fourth most efficient healthcare system out of the 55 nations rated as of 2016 after Hong Kong, Singapore and Spain by Bloomberg. Social health care system was introduced in 1977, President Park Chung-Hee and the legislature passed a law that mandated medical insurance for employees and their dependents in large firms. Gradually health insurance coverage was extended in 1979 to different groups in the society to include government employees, private school teachers, and industrial workers. In the late 1980s, health insurance expanded on regional basis, first to rural residents in 1988 and then to urban residents. This system is funded by government subsidies, donations and tobacco surcharges. The National Health Insurance Corporation is the main administrative organization. Developing countries are struggling hard to provide better health care services and achieve a universal health care system. But there are many hitches for

this dream to come true. Poverty is a main problem, with large number of people without access to health care, it can lead to a seriously distressing irony, poverty exacerbates poor health while poor health makes it very difficult to get of poverty. Policies adopted by developing countries in under IMF and World Banks structural adjustment programs have reduced the abilities of these countries especially many African countries to provide health care services to their people. These institutions encourage inappropriate policies based on privatization which have never been fruitful in case of developing countries. Corruption is ever present and makes the situation even worse. The number of doctors and nurses in proportion to population is small and brain drain has plagued developing nations. These nations struggle to educate medical professionals; they are attracted to rich countries for better opportunities. The WHO and others organizations have identified many areas where health provision can be far more cost effective than is currently provided, even with severe budget constraints, perhaps it reflects hope for a healthier future. Health systems are an investment in people, it appears to be very expensive. But healthier people contribute more to the economy and society which is essential for developing countries.

2

By Malika Holamtova



Universal health care in South Korea

Soon after World War II, Korean people suffered through a civil war, this war ended by separating Korea into two countries (South and North Korea). After the Korean war, South Korea (here I refer it just Korea) started to expand their economy as soon as possible by spending less than 1 percent of their national budget on health care, whereas other industrializing countries were spending close to 6 percent. Korea started offering health insurance to some big companies again in 1963. In 1988, the Korean government provided compulsory health care for everyone. In 1963, the average income per capita was one hundred US dollars per household. After 1976, the Korean health insurance program launched three tier principle platforms: first coverage is compulsory, second the level of contribution should be based on individual income, and third the level of benefits from the level of contribution is independent. The system commenced to give fruit by collecting revenues, determining the benefits and accumulating reserves. All firms with more than 500 employees were required to purchase health insurance. As a result, workers who have high salaries pay more for health insurance. The percentage of people with from insurance, reached 60 percent from 0 percent after the Korean war. Beginning 1988, people were given the right to visit hospitals every day, and physician's, could prescribe drugs covered

by the insurance coverage. People pay twenty percent of the total in-patient cost. Korea categorized its citizens into 41 different income groups. Now there are more than 144 insurance societies in Korea and each of them helps people to save money. After the Korean war, health status has enhanced dramatically, and the life expectancy has risen from 51 years for males and 54 years for females in 1955 to 78 years for males and 85years for females. Health care expenses have been increasing rapidly. Korea has decided to redistribute health facilities by organizing medical centers in rural areas of Korea. Unlike hospitals, medical centers clinics

are cheaper. Patients could be examined in their medical clinics first and then were sent to hospitals if their condition were serious. Korea improved its citizen's health care system by proportionately applying national health care cost between the poor and rich. Korea established an insurance service for its people. And 90 percent of the population receive the medical insurance service while the other 10 percent, who cannot pay, are provided by the government funding. The Korean government realizes the benefits to society from having a healthy nation.





Diversity in South Korea

1

By Peng Chen



In 1443, Hangeul, the written language of all Koreans, was created by King Sejong in 1443, Hangeul is both written and spoken by Koreans on a daily basis. According to linguistical statistics, modern Korean, does not share any words from other languages, as Charles de Gaulle put it, “how can you govern a country which has 246 varieties of cheese?” During this article, we will try to exam how a traditionally homogenous society such as has managed to open its doors to foreigners but also maintain its culture and ethnic identities.

Statistics Korea shows, by Nov. 1st, 2015, the population of South Korea is 51 million people, among which 1.3 million (2.7%) are foreign nationals. The number does not include legal immigrants, like those via international marriage that accounted for 22,462 cases in 2015. Chinese nationals account for 40.5% of the foreign population, with Korean/Chinese accounting for (36.7%), non-Korean/Chinese (13.8%). The Vietnamese account for 9.3% ranking as second in terms of foreign population, Thai's account for (5.7%), American's account for (4 %), followed by Filipinos (3.8%),

the Indonesians and Cambodians are tied at (3%). Dating back to before the 1950s, Korea was one of the most homogeneous countries in the world. During the Korean War, South Korea opened its borders to the outside. The Itaewon area is an old American military zone there it is possible to find a diversity in food and cultural entertainment. People of different origins traveled a long distance to Korea, residing either temperately or permanently! The community of Itaewon is classic example of foreign communities in Korea, but to the south of Seoul the village of (Anjeong-ri) located in Pyeongtaek-si, Gyeonggi-do also offers land to foreign businesses, involving the culinary arts, construction, realty and fitness centers. There are many typical American sports bar's that offer customers colorful cocktails, various beers, authentic American regional foods, and TVs playing real-time International sport's games.

In terms of academics, Korea offers a wonderful short-term exchange program. These programs are popular in major universities. International students coming from abroad at their

host universities ready to accept the challenges of a heavy study schedule are welcome to amazing opportunities. Without doubt, Ajou University is one of the best at transitioning foreign students into Korea academic culture. Within the GSIS, the administration staff does a wonderful job of organizing field trips to every corner of the Korean peninsula. For example, Ajou International Day is a campus event to introduce international students and their individual cultures by cooking traditional foods in their respective booths decorated in there ethnic elements. Various foods like Swedish ginger bread, Ecuadorian cheese quesadillas, Chinese hot pot, Yangzhou fried rice, Mongolian Buuz, and Cambodian style chicken soup are just a few of the delicacies available. Students perform their cultural dances and songs such as Uzbekistan dancing and Spanish dancing, and Indonesian songs. There are many other stories to talk about it terms of diversity in S. Korea that are waiting for us to spot. As the poet Maya Angelou wrote —“In the diversity, there is beauty and there is strength.”

2

By Bilquees Jamali



Diversity in the Land of South Korea

The South Korea of yesteryears is not the South Korea of today. Today's South Korea is rapidly becoming multicultural, growing in racial and cultural diversities. Take a look at the spread of religion in South Korea. There is an upswing in the spread of different religious practices in South Korea, this is promulgated by the South Korea Constitution which provides for freedom of religion. The 2015 South Korea census showed that 29.2% of the population are Christians with the Presbyterian church as the biggest protestant domination in South Korea with close to 20,000 churches affiliated; 22% of the population as Buddhist, 10.9 is Roman Catholic. Thus, as of today, they are fitting themselves into the multicultural society of South Korea.

With every passing year there is a steady flux of foreign population into South Korea trying to chase the Korean phantasm, the population is becoming more diverse. As compared to the days of yore, South Korea is grappling with

large numbers of foreigners living in South Korea, with the highest number of foreigners living in the capital, 'Seoul' which is about 17 foreigners per 1000 residents (2010 census), and Ansan City having the highest numbers of foreign workers. These foreign residents include people without Korea citizenship, people who have obtain citizenship in South Korea and children of naturalized citizens as well as those who acquire citizenship through marriage. Today we have many multicultural families in Korea which was not the case a few decades ago. These multicultural families have helped to increase ethnic diversity which has lead to a gradual collapse of homogeneity. Today, about 1.9million foreigners reside in South Korea according to the ministry of justice with the Chinese at the top of the list followed by Americans and Vietnamese.

Despite the traditional martial sport known as Taekwondo, South Korea still enjoys sports from different cultures and

countries with football and baseball seen as the most crowd-pleasing sports. The diversity goes beyond football and baseball with other weighty sports like golf-especially women's golf, Rugby, Cricket, Table Tennis, E-sport, Hiking and Fishing. Their diversity in sports have taken them to many international competitions to show their abilities.

In the aftermath of the Korean war, Korea has experienced a great change in their educational system. It is witnessing a great era of diversity. There has been an insertion of various programs especially international program's. These international programs have helped to attract foreign students who hve migrated to South Korea to study. About 47.2% of foreign students intend to stay in South Korea after graduating to seek work and additional education.

Besides Hangeul (the Korean language), South Korea has indulge in the teaching of other languages such as Japanese,

Chinese, German, French, Spanish, and Russian. English is the most popular foreign language which was introduced in Korea in 1883. About 15 trillion won is spent on English learning per year in South Korea according to Samsung Economic Research Institute. They top the list of the test of English as a foreign language between 2004 and 2005. There is a rush for English teachers to accelerate the English learning process. This diversity is being proven with the availability of English schools in Korea like the Busan Foreign School, Hannam University in Jaejeon and Direct English Pogada in seoul etc.

As the Koreans are aware of increasing diversity, they show their appreciation of diversity by promoting diversity through the celebration of cultural diversities which has created a place for the foreigners by their involvement in programs created for them such as the push for multicultural curriculum for children. These programs help them to



showcase their different cultures.

Talking about diversity in South Korea, the Ajou Community cannot be left behind for it is a great example of a diverse institution. The Ajou University comes in with the most diverse international student population. Ajou proliferates students from 60 different countries from Africa, Central Asia, Asia, Eastern Europe etc. These students participate in both academic and nonacademic activities, one of which is the Ajou International Day Festival which gives both the domestic and international students the pleasure to exchange cultural differences like exchange of unique dishes, costumes and national dance. This event amplifies' diversity by promoting cultures. As of today I can proudly say Ajou University is an impeccable example of a multicultural institutionalization and a promoter of diversity within South Korea.



As I headed towards my dormitory in campus, at the entrance of the intersection, a little semi-transparent tarp tent with warm-colored light caught my attention. The air flow of warmth blended with food aroma guided me into the tent. Inside it was a typical permed Korean grandma and her simple cooking station partly functioning as a food presentation and serving table along with a row of several plastic stools.

Having greeted the grandma while setting my backpack down on one chair and myself on the next, I ordered, in broken Korean, a half portion of Sundae, half of Tuikim and one portion of Tteokbokki.

The heat from every bite of the food perked me up little by little; slow chat with the hospitable grandma kicked the coldness away; a traditional, common, humble Korean street food stall called Pojangmacha(포장마차) just played the magic, emotionally, and set me down into peace and calmness.

You can't talk about Pojangmacha without talking about its food. There are fancier ones with more options offered and even alcohol, mostly Korean traditional bottles like Soju(소주) and Makgeolli(막걸리). But with the following 4 Pojangmacha basics, you will no longer be a novice

Tteokbokki(떡볶이) means stir-fried sticky rice cake in English. Cylinder is the favored shape when it comes to stir-frying it. Cooked in Gochujang(고추장), a kind of Korean style chili paste, the dry hard white cakes regain moisture, which brings out its nature of elasticity. Moreover, with the reddish coat of Gochujang, a hint of hotness can be captured by taste buds. But the trick here is that individuals have their personal limit of hotness in food. For some of us, the chewy Tteokbokki may be aromatic bombs sent to mouth to blast with unexpectedly strong hotness.



POJANGMACHA



Sundae(순대) is a kind of Korean blood sausage stuffed basically with sweet potato noodles, shredded vegetables like carrots, and animal blood. In the Pojangmacha I have eaten and seen, Sundae is usually cooked in a steamer instead of being boiled, together with parts from pigs like livers, hearts and lungs. Hot steam flow goes through all the ingredients to make them warm and sanitary and eatable without spoiling the original shape. And finally, Sundae and other pig parts will be cut into chunks of bite size to serve one a plate with sprinkles of coarse salt on the side.

The third regular Pojangmacha snack is Odeng(오뎅), fish cake, made from fish meat and flour. It is thick paper-shaped, but is cooked by soaking and simmering in broth, folded and skewered by a long slim bamboo stick. Eaters grabbing one end can easily pull it out, and enjoying it with a sip of the broth is just heavenly satisfying, especially in wintertime.

My personal favorite at Pojangmacha would be Tuikim(튀김). It is a sort of light battered fried snack. Literally, it can be anything on the inside, ranging from veggies like sweet potatoes, cabbage and carrot to meat, with ingredients like shrimp and crab stripes. All Tuikims are already battered and light-fried during preparation at home, and upon placing the order, you will have them re-fried in the boiling oil to both warm up and get a final touch enhancing crispiness. One bite combines a layer of bread crumbly crust with either crunchy or tender food part, and the change of texture from each chew will let you know how many of possibilities of variety within one a simple street snack can offer.

The owner of the Pojangmacha of over 2 decades old nearby Ajou gate said that she had merely seen customers exchange contact often, and suggested that it might be more often at Pojangmachas that sell alcohol. Interestingly as she put, she has got the skill to tell, between a girl and a guy coming in together, if they are currently at the stage where there is something romantic undergoing, almost there but not yet...since they are chatting with informal honorifics.

Yet, one of the respondents used Jeong(정) to describe how Pojangmacha has made her feel. She said it is a single word but combines the meaning of senses of love, compassion, and sympathy. It is believed that the function of Pojangmacha has surpassed a simple stall serving food on streets. Moreover, to the locals, given it has to be loading the memories for nights when they eat and interact, randomly or meaningfully, with people, close or unacquainted, or alone, it is a sign of some shelter where they can take a break from the outside and enjoy a moment of relaxation, ecstasy and a bite of Tuikim.

POJANGMACHA



By Maya Metriana



Modern day “Social Media” ... Can people survive without gadgets?

By investing more than 4% of its GDP in research and development (R&D) sector, South Korea has secured the first place in the international chart of R&D expenditure. Thus, it has generated a new label for Korea as the world's top innovator. Driven by the will to innovate continuously, the Korean global IT industry is getting stronger and stronger. And inevitably the emerging of technology has been creating a new world in Korea—and clearly for the entire world as well.

Today's generation is basically living under the development of technology. One particular example is through social media. Social media is a digital platform where people socialize as well as exchange information and opinions. Due to its power, social media has taken over our lives, in a way, we could have never imagined. It is also an undeniable fact that because we are surrounded by social media and realize that the world is simply just one click away, we tend to share everything over social media, including our daily activities; what is the main purpose, social recognition, for sure.

Among the social media adopters, it is not uncommon to see people from very young ages using Whatsapp, Facebook, Youtube, Instagram, Snapchat and many other social networking systems in every activity. It creates the impression that it is almost impossible to isolate people from their own gadgets.

Yes, the existence of social media has begun to change the way people communicate, think and behave. In general, there is an enormous transformation on how people live their lives. Various strong arguments related to the impact of social media and gadgets keep arising. Furthermore, contradictions among scholars make it even more interesting to discuss. Is social media a friend or enemy to us?



Based on its name, social media means media to socialize; clearly it was designed to connect people. In most cases, social media has helped to connect people in virtual communities, create strong bonds of solidarity. It also reconnects people who lost contact and enable them to meet in a virtual world. Information among them can easily spread within seconds through their gadgets. The ease of accessing information could also trigger people's curiosity and make them aware of the situation that happened around them and widen their personal knowledge as well.

Social media has been profoundly beneficial for some professional fields and social media is one of the key trends driving business. It's safe to say that now in the business world, marketing is no longer about the product; it is about the stories of the product. Companies speak to the customers via social media and let them talk about their brand to help it go viral. Influential people who interact with the brand online become a brand ambassador and both parties gain advantages from this. For the past few years, it has become a trend in my country; many Indonesian companies choose brand ambassador from influential bloggers with hopes of them possibly becoming the most persuasive spokesperson to talk about their products.

Social Media

In contrast, the presence of social media simultaneously harms the quality of life. Most of the time, social media addicted people are glued there their gadgets and isolate themselves from reality. Sitting in silence and focusing on gadgets is a pretty common sight to see, not only in public areas where others total strangers but also within the familiar situation. Somehow people hide behind social media platforms and drag them out of reality. We are paralyzed by the emergence of high technology; it brings us closer to those who are far and distancing us from those who are close. Moreover, security issues need to be consider also, any information that is posted online could be social media abuse..

1

By Rahmouni Moez

From Stress to Anxiety

2

By Aigerim Kebekchieva



We all experience stress and anxiety at some point in our life but only a minority really understands the difference between those two words. Therefore, we often use those two words interchangeably. It happens when a student is expecting an examination or is awaiting a major professional decision, a student or an employee will say "I feel stressed" or "I am anxious". Yet, biologically, the two notions are different, although, as we shall see, they are often related.

Let's start with stress. Hungarian biologist and endocrinologist Hans Selye first defined this concept in his book *The Stress of Life* in this manner: Stress is a physiological reaction that allows the body to adapt to aggressions, traumatic events, thermal variations or even social pressures.

According to Selye, stress syndrome (the word syndrome indicates that it has multiple symptoms) is composed of three successive phases: an alarm phase where the organism mobilizes its defenses, a phase of resistance where there is an adaptation to the stressor, and an exhaustion phase which happens when the effect of the stress factor is too strong

Stress is a normal mechanism of adaptation to a changing situation, a natural reaction to danger and discomfort. But if the traumatic situation is dragged out and it is impossible to resolve it by one's own strength, the stress turns into a chronic form. Constant stress is very dangerous - it can lead to neuroses and even depression. Stress can be caused anything - problems in relationships, difficulties at work, low self-esteem, bereavement, fear, past tragedies and excessive fatigue. Particularly stressed

or too prolonged and the body can no longer cope with it. On the other hand, it is acknowledged that there is positive stress, or an intermittent stress phase. It all depends if the the subject dominates the effects of stress and adapts to it in the first or second phase. Any stress that reaches the third phase is negative and therefore an unfavorable stress. At this point the subject can no longer adapt to the aggressions it undergoes.

Humans act exactly like animals and to react to changes in their environment. Most animals have two major systems that interact: the nervous system and the hormonal system. The first is based on messages transmitted between the nerve calls. The second consists of the endocrine glands that secrete chemical messengers, the hormones. The interaction of both systems results in the release of these hormones, which are transported in the blood and act on the body.

We can use this scientific background on stress to help us cope with stress, use it to our own advantage by understanding the different phases of stress and to learn

people are anxious type, absorbed in memories of the past or attempts to calculate the future.

In many situations, anxiety is completely natural, adequate and even useful. In certain situations, any person feels anxiety, especially if you need to do something unusual or prepare for it. For example, an alarm can be caused by a speech in front of an audience, with a speech or a difficult exam. A person can experience stressful situations if he turns out to be alone at night on an unlit

to recognize them. It takes a real effort of self-consciousness and self-monitoring to link emotions to a psychic and biological state but it can be done by everyone who wishes not only to decrease stress but also to become more controlled and pragmatic individuals. The easiest way is through two simple techniques that evaluate both the physical and mental state of a person. First of all, you have to set up a benchmark, a point in time when there is absolutely no reason to feel negative emotions or even physical exhaustion. you have to take your time, preferably even meditate for 10 to 15 minutes to assess the situation of you both body and mind. Make a point on putting what you are feeling to words. For example, you might say: "I am feeling relaxed and not thinking about the future", "My body is numb; I am feeling kind of lazy today". The more precisely about how you can describe the exact state of yourself, the more you will be able to recognize which state you have reached in the stress development.

For an optimum boost of productivity, the best way is to always be on the border of the resistance phase. In this

street or, lost in the woods. This is useful because it encourages you to better prepare the speech, learn the material before the exam, to think about whether it is really necessary to go out at night all alone, or gather to navigate in the forest. It is impossible to ignore your fear, as this will subsequently lead to serious consequences, the development of a more severe phobia. You can learn to overcome your fear, control it and regain the right to control your own life. At the same time, the inner psychological

intermediate phase, your intellectual abilities are very sharp and the stress level is not high enough to cause physical and mental exhaustion. It's especially usefully for procrastinators who tend to accommodate stress and use it as an excuse to leave everything to the last minute. If they can reach a transition phase, the body is biologically and biochemically ready to fight without causing further fatigue or decrease performance. This is the simplest way to achieve outstanding performance without the need for interior motivation. To assess your current, state the best way is to ask yourself those questions: how I am feeling right now and how is it different than the benchmark state of mind. If you are feeling physical fatigue or mental exhaustion and fail to identify a genuine cause for them, you are probably reaching the limits of the resistance phase of stress and entering the exhaustion phase. At this moment, it's important to not panic and reassess your needs and work schedule. Preferably, you must increase the frequency of activities that decreases stress, like sport, art or any other activity that suits your personality.

By Gulbakhor Khamrakulova
International Development and Cooperation



The annual Aju University NUBI conference was held on April 5th 2017. The conference was conducted by NUBI members and students of GSIS. The discussed topics of the conference were Gay Marriage, the good Samaritan law and Science.

In session 1, the debate was on theme Gay Marriage. Nowadays, this topic is becoming most debatable and in most cases is criticized by oppositions. Statistically, 19 out of 194 nations allow gay marriages (2015). The world's first legal gay marriage ceremony took place in the Netherlands on 1st of April 2001. Legalization of gay marriage was followed by Belgium, Spain, Canada, South Africa, Norway, Sweden, Argentina, Iceland, Brazil, the US, and others. During the session participants gave their opinions related to this topic. Some of them argued pros for gay marriage. It minimizes discrimination, the elimination of the restrictions on gay marriages removes the 'stigma' that gay and lesbian couples are forced to live with. Couples as well as individuals in the LGBT community will seem less "different" from heterosexual lifestyles,

so straight couples and individuals will be more inclined to accept homosexual couples into their communities. It becomes legally evident that gay and lesbian are not lesser beings and it is not okay to discriminate against. There were also opposition opinions of that the argument against same sex marriages is that it is not always the best environment option to raise a child. A majority of adults are able to function without the utilization of traditional gender roles, children may require a presence of mom and dad to feel comfortable and safe. Some kids simply need a dad and mom to reach their potential.

"The Good Samaritan Law" was discussed on second session. The Good Samaritan Law in legal terms refers to someone who renders aid in an emergency to an injured person on a voluntary basis. Usually, if a volunteer comes to the aid of an injured or ill person who is a stranger, the person giving the aid owes the stranger a duty of being reasonably careful. Considering both sides participants' opinions upon Samaritan Law. It encourages help, it ensures that people injured or in need

NUBI CONFERENCE - What Do YOU Think?



of help receive help they require with some legal protection since it compels people with medical training to help injured people. Since problems such as the "bystander effect", that people in large groups are unlikely to respond to someone in need, create situations where victims ignored and not protected, this law is compulsory. Likewise, the law applies in a different way to people with medical training, it provides generalized immunity to others. It becomes legally expected to perform to the level of proficiency and education for the people with medical training. For example, if a nurse witnesses an emergency that nurse would be expected to not to make a mistake that a normal nurse would make, and she could be held liable for that error.

The third session was devoted to the topic of "Science", in today's world, technology is an important part of our lives and has a huge impact on the way we communicate, live and work. It is even hard to define our daily lives without technology. Along with technological development, civilization flourished and we are moving towards

new and comfortable life styles. Does technological development have only good aspects? Businesses that use social media and technology to gain new business and the most innovative machines to produce goods are much more likely to thrive than those who do not take advantage of what technology has to offer. Students can find almost any academic material or answer to research questions just by using online resources or academic databases. On the other hand, there are also side effects, 'Business Insider' reports that social media is the most popular use of the Internet – surpassing email – and smartphones and other mobile devices seem to be the driving force behind this trend since 60 percent of the traffic is from a mobile source. 'The Global Web Index poll' shows that 28 percent of the time spent online is on social networks. With these type of numbers, some of the time spent on social media occurs at work. When these visits are for non-work related activity, it can cost companies money through lost productivity. A report on Forbes states that 89 percent of responders admitted to wasting time on social media while at work.

Overall, the NUBI conference was very interesting and meaningful!

2

By THIEU MAI LE



Studying abroad, especially study in Ajou University, Republic of Korea gave us a chance to understand how amazing Korea is and Why Korea is always recalled as Miracle on the Han River.

On April 07, 2017, GSIS invited Dr. Y.O. Ahn as a guest speaker to give special lecture for Leadership and Ethics workshop program.

South Korea has experienced a rapid and sustained economic growth since the 1960s when South Korea's gross domestic product (GDP) per capita was comparable to levels in the poorer countries of Africa. The lecture revealed "How did Industrial of Korea develop for a half century recently". At first, the workshop planned to take around 1.5 hours, however, to satisfy all GSIS students' questions. Dr. Ahn lengthened his speed to 2 hours.

At the beginning, in 1948, The first republic of Korea was founded under President Seungman Rhee who lead the nation through the Korean war. The second republic was established in 1960, which was known as a confused and disordered period. And after 1 year the next republic of Korea which called the 3th republic was constituted by great president Park Chung-hee with a democratic style and 52% national budget from U.S Aid (This funding was o assure the U.S. about Korea's anti-Communist stance).

In the main talk, he mentioned that Korea started the first 5 years Economic Development plan from 1962, when they built the first Industrial Complex in Ulsan including a refinery, steel, fertilizer, cement, textile and chemical plants. Total budget come from U.S Aid and Germany loans.

During Vietnam War President Johnson asked Korea to enter the war (1965) in order to Strengthening of Mutual Security Agreement with U.S that enabled Korea to obtain foreign commercial loans. Consequently, Hyundai Construction got contracts to build Camran Bay Project enabling construction of Danyang Cement Plant and Hyundai motors (1966) and Hanjin Group made enough money to buy Korean airlines. Besides that, Korea used Reparation funds from Japan to construct plants like POSCO and Incheon Steel Mills. And that fund provided to big Groups in Korea such as Samsung, LG, Ssangyong, SK, and Hanwha.

From 1970 to 1980, South Korea focused on developing Heavy and Chemical Industries. South Korea became a leading producer of ships, including oil supertankers, and oil-drilling platforms. In 1990, South Korean manufacturers planned a significant shift in future production plans toward high-technology industries. Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) start functioning in 1969 and KAIS Graduate School



“Half Century of Industrial Developments in Korea”

Special lecture
- by Dr. Y.O. Ahn

was established in 1971. KIST created the Agency for Defense Development (ADD), etc. Until 2012, Samsung spent 10.4 billion dollars to build an R&D center with more than 5000 PhD grade researchers. LG group will spend 4 billion dollars to establish LG Science Park. GS Caltex researches environmental protection products such as starting research for Bio-butanol with advanced micro-fermentation technology and developing composite carbon fiber materials for automotive industries. Additionally, sunroof material with nylon and carbon fiber composite material that was used in KIA's Sorrento. Now Korea ranks first in OECD in terms of R&D intensity (expressed as R&D spending as % of GDP). Korea's emphasis on R&D is the main driver that has been bolstering its global competitiveness.

At the end of the talk, he showed the art of industrial laboratories, which are really important for industrial R&D status. From 2011 to 2014, the number of industrial laboratories increased from 2782 to 6000, respectively. Besides, Hanwha Group built solar power systems

in Hawaii, Mexico and Canada. Through this process, they can export the energy to foreign countries.

The government the led “Creative Economy” Drive, which is defined as the application of ICT to all aspects of technical and business activities. Government created 17 creative economy development centers which are run by a legal entity composed of government, local autonomous entities and major business. For example, LG will concentrate on Lithium batteries, cosmetics, bioscience and life science. Hyundai Automotive will develop Fuel Cell for cars.

At the end of section, there were many interesting questions from GSIS students to him. I have learned about the development of Korea through history in undergraduate's course, however today lesson, Dr. Ahn gave us a lot of helpful information about the biggest companies in Korea such as Samsung, LG, Hyundai, etc...which are a part of success that has made Korea today. From this workshop I learned many meaningful lessons from miraculous development in Korean economics. Those are not only applicable for country level, but also to the individual level. To overcome difficulties, you may need other helps but if you want to be strong, you have to develop your skills, your knowledge, your competence by your own. No one can give you these.

Events

By Re-nato Bertao



Leadership and Ethics is a course designed to introduce leadership and ethics in general by participating in various GSIS workshops and extra-curricular activities such as day trips, industrial site tours, special lectures and other academic activities provided by GSIS. Students will be able to obtain hands-on academic knowledge and experiences from outside of the classroom.

One of the activities that interest students most in this course are the site visits to Korean companies. Every semester the Leadership and Ethics course program has at least two site visits. This 2017 Spring semester, the most meaningful activity was a visit to Kia Motors' plant. The GSIS office staff, Professor Rhee Cheul and all students, spent around 2 hours visiting its impressive facilities the company has in Hwasung City, an hour by bus south of Suwon.

Kia Motors started in 1944 as a bicycle parts manufacturer and nowadays is the 9th largest global motor brand with a presence in 170 countries and facilities in Korea, China, Slovakia, US, and Mexico. KIA Motors' (Hwaseong) plant was established in 1989 and is a huge industrial complex located in an area of 3,300,000 square meters it is close to the Pyeongtaek port on the southwest coast

of Gyeonggi province. This strategic position allows the company to export around 600,000 finished units that it produces every year to its biggest markets (US, Europe, and China).

The Hwaseong facilities and its assembly lines account for 20% of KIA global production. Using the state-of-art production equipment and the most advanced technologies in the car industry, it may produce 250 cars per day. There are 13,000 employees responsible for producing six models out of the 16 car models from KIA's portfolio. The best human skills and expertise combined with around 900 robots allows for achieving these impressive numbers. During the visit, GSIS students could get a detailed understanding of the automotive process. The visit inside some areas of the manufacturing plant was what drawn the most attention. It was possible to see the start of the production in the stamping sector; then the welding area (or "body shop") and the assembly line where the parts are gathered in a futuristic environment with robots all around working frenetically; and finally, the inspection area where the cars are tested according to rigorous quality standards. The industrial plant also has an innovative proving ground. In this place, KIA cars are tested in different conditions



A Fascinating Tour and Workshop at Kia Motors



on a track that is 4 km's long, it is a high-speed track to guarantee security and the best performance.

The future of the automotive industry is hybrid cars, the first step to electric vehicle are also delivered to the Hwaseong plant. There, the environment is a critical issue not only due to its geographical position by the sea but also regarding the use of water and other natural resources. This concern with the environment expands to the employees' work conditions that meets a high standard for ergonomic factors. All the plant facilities are designed to improve performance and well-being of those who work there.

When a visitor arrives at Public Relation Center, his/her eyes are taken away by the breathtaking view of the facilities landscape, where the geometrical shape of all buildings and the high-speed road integrate with the mountains and the sea horizon is like artwork. This view reinforces the Kia Motors brand motto ("We make Surprises."), and it is probably one of the most powerful images we kept from the visiting experience at the Hwaseong plant.

There are many ways to learn, and according to some experts in education, one of the best approaches to a broad learning experiences is when the five human senses are used for effective learning. GSIS's Leadership and Ethics course program design reinforces this approach and maybe is the reason the course classes are full every semester. But there are other relevant reasons behind this interest.

Those who attend the site visits achieve a considerable knowledge about Korean industry and the country's development model. KIA Motors at Hwaseong show the size and the complexity of the automotive industry, and getting inside the facilities it is possibly the best way to understand the Korean successful development model. While experiencing site visits, naturally arrive some insights about how a company works in a global scenario, about logistics, operation management and international business. These are indelible experiences that certainly will inspire all GSIS students in their future professional careers.

P.S. For those interested in watching a video about Hwaseong plant, I recommend a visit at <http://pr.kia.com/en/now/tour/global-plant/hwaseong-plant.do>

Interviews



By Lamiae Benaissa

1

INTERVIEW WITH ALEXANDER PAUL THE IT STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

Q1 Paul, why don't you start off by introducing yourself?

I am Paul Alexander, I am from Nigeria and I am an international Master's degree student studying in International trade at Ajou University.

Q2 What motivated you in the first place to want to become the IT students' representative within the GSIS?

Firstly, the will and zeal to serve others. Secondly, in my anticipated desire to be an entrepreneur, I need to develop my interpersonal skills by interacting with people from all works of life and from all around the world. This to me one way to develop and practice.

Q3 How would you assess your experience so far? and how are you carrying out your agenda?

As an IT student rep, I have been impacted greatly by this experience although this is just my 2nd month into it. I have developed more skills about assisting students with individual problems. I have even been encouraging students, especially those who are new, to contact me not only for academic purposes, but also in case they have personal issues and they feel like I can help them in a way or another. If I can personally help then I proffer solutions, but if the administration has to get involved then I refer them immediately to the GSIS office. During short breaks or while waiting for another class after my morning classes, I spend time with fellow students discussing studies and fun activities. I meet them during weekends for a lunch, a drink. I learn a lot from people I meet on a daily basis and It impacts me greatly as it

gives me joy and comforts me to know that I was and am able to help a student or put a smile on their face. This of course has boosted my leadership and interpersonal skills.

Q4 The GSIS hosts students with diverse backgrounds and skillful experiences, how do you think the IT program at the GSIS mold their know-how and enhance their competitive edge?

You will agree with me that Ajou University has a very good vetting process in admitting students. So students in GSIS are naturally smart and innovative. The professors we have at GSIS in my opinion are simply awesome. They take their time to explain and go through materials and they are always willing to take and answer questions from students. They are well-versed with vast knowledge when you talk about business or international trade. They provide up to date materials and suggest good books and related materials for study and references. Also, the KOICA program is a great way to help students mold their know-how and enhance their competitive edge because they are all government officials who have worked for a period of time and have some experience when you speak about work place environment or work related matters. Harmonize all these factors and some others, what you get at the end of the day...excellence!

Q5 Based on your own academic experience here at Ajou GSIS, to what extent are IT students exposed to the realities of the world of international business and trade?

Korea in 2010, looking at her GDP by sector,

58% was recorded from services alone, and occupied the 6th position in countries with external exports in 2015. This is a great way to be impacted if you are interested in business, the country itself will get you inspired. Most of our professors were business owners and have worked with long term work and business experiences. They have encouraged us to go into start ups and shown vivid examples on this and how to succeed so YES! Students are exposed to a reasonable extent, to the realities of the world of International business and trade. This is my opinion.

Q6 What sort of opportunities such learning experience offers to our future IT practitioners?

A lot of opportunities are open and present to us. They are too numerous to mention but summarily you may decide to get involved either in the private sector or the public sector or BE YOUR OWN BOSS! This is what professors in Ajou GSIS have always encouraged us to be.

Q7 In your point of view, how would the learning outcomes of enrolling in the IT program bring changes to our respective communities?

I am from a developing nation in Africa and if I were to talk about African issues, then this will be a term paper. Basically, the IT program will help give a student an edge in helping governments in job creation leading to employment. Helping to create a business-friendly environment to encourage foreign investors (e.g. my country and Korea), and other avenues I will like to reserve for now to keep it discreet.

IB STUDENTS REP INTERVIEW - BHESH RAJ GURAGAIN

2



By Maxwell Afrifa Quasi

Q1 What motivated you to run for this position?

The desire to take up new challenges and to learn new things was what pushed me to run for the position of Student Rep. In addition, and more importantly, it was a wonderful opportunity to know the opinions of all IB students from various countries and continents and as well different cultures and to share ideas on how to help each other in the department.

Q2 How would you describe the work?

The task is certainly challenging but very exciting. Addressing issues pertaining to students in my department is quite fulfilling, and I am trying to do all that I can possibly do, however, I feel I still have more to do.

Q3 What have been some of the key challenges that you have faced in your tenure?

There have been some challenges in my tenure. The key difficulties I have faced have to do with low attendance at department meetings and a rather low feedback when information is being sought. It is my belief however that as time goes on there will be massive improvement with respect to students' participation.

Q4 What has been your learning experience?

Having the chance to interact with numerous students from different backgrounds has really broadened my knowledge and understanding of various cultures and has helped me to appreciate the various religious beliefs and practices across the world. I am improving on my management skills. Coordinating affairs of the department and dealing with challenges have enabled me

better understand how to deal with people.

Q5 What is your advice to the students of GSIS/IB dept.?

It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to get together with friends from across the globe, so enjoy it to the fullest. Always carry positive vibes.

Q6 What next for you in future?

I believe I have learnt something special from here which will be of great benefit to me in my future endeavours. I will surely apply the knowledge and skills I have acquired wherever I may find myself next, be it school or work.

Interviews



By Lamiae Benaissa

3

Interview with Fosuaa Perpetual the IDC/NGO students' representative

Q1 Perpetual tell us a little bit about yourself.

I am Fosuaa Pepertual from Ghana, a fourth semester student in the department of International Development and Cooperation (IDC) and I happen to represent the voices of students in the departments of IDC and NGO. Integrity, hard work and fortitude remain my life's virtue and I am being guided by an idea that success in life does not come to those who sit and wait for it but those who dare to attack, hence I seek to do all I set out to attain with needed devotion and enthusiasm.

Q2 What is so special about the GSIS heuristic learning experience that made you want to become the IDC/NGO students' representative?

My ambition for holding the post of students' representative in the IDC/NGO department was largely influenced by several strengths of the GSIS, among which include diversity of students. Learning at the GSIS offers the ability to meet with, interact and share ideas with students from varied races, religion etc., Hence holding the position will be an awesome platform to be closer to such students, rather than merely having a few course sessions with some of them.

Q3 What interpersonal skills have you fostered during your academic pursuit here at the GSIS that made you a great candidate for the position?

My studies at the GSIS have indeed equipped me with great interpersonal skills which prepared me as a strong candidate for the position. Course sessions offered me avenues to engage in rigorous student discussions on pertinent issues coupled with class presentations, which has helped deepen and strengthen my relational and communication skills. I believe that

these skills have largely helped in getting my message across to students as well as gaining their support to represent their voices in the department.

Q4 What was your agenda for this semester and what are some of the accomplishments and/or challenges expected, attained or faced thus far?

I had great expectations this semester among which is getting as many students turn out for department meetings and getting their voices, including those of students who cannot participate, incorporated into decisions taken by the administration. More than half of students turned out for the meeting, showing our students great interest. An avenue was as well created where non-participating students could channel their grievances and get them presented on their behalf and that had greatly influenced the success of the meeting. I hope to follow up on concerns presented to the staff in order to ensure the expected impact on students' lives.

Q5 I know you have been a student representative for only almost two months now, but did you get to encounter any particular or memorable events or situations that had put your leadership to the test?

My endeavor so far has not been as much challenging except at instances when I had to schedule meeting times favorable enough for most students and reconcile students' concerns in ways to be effectively presented to the staff administration.

Q6 Moving on to some holistic questions in the thematic area of International development

and organizations. Since you are yourself majoring in International Development and Cooperation, how important and valuable it is in your opinion- to get enrolled in international development programs these days?

I believe enrolling in an IDC program is vital as the world today needs professionals in such field due to the great deal of challenges globalization is bedeviled with. IDC equips students with skills and strategies through analytical thinking in order to identify and improve ways nations can integrate and enhance peaceful co-existence in the global arena.

Q7 Can you tell us to what extent does the GSIS academic learning experience in this field fulfill that?

Academic learning at GSIS offers students of IDC deeper insights and understanding of some of the challenging issues in the global arena. It provides several analytical course sessions, special lectures, conferences and symposia where students can learn, share ideas and debate on issues, best practices, strategies and development alternatives to enhance global integration.

Q8 Can you relate those competences to what the IDC and NGO programs at the GSIS currently provide its students with in terms of skills and qualifications?

As initially indicated various course sessions at Ajou GSIS offer a platform for students to debate and analyze development issues. Course presentations, conferences and symposia all expose students to global issues, as well as present diverse views on strategies to help tackle most of such challenges.

Alumni Interview - Kenneth Mahuni, KOICA Scholarship Recipient, 12th Batch

4



By Jamar Sargent

Q1 Kenneth, your recently published essay won third prize in the "The 2nd Korea-Africa Center Essay Contest". Congratulations! Tell us, how did you do it?

Well, I had an idea, where I found a gap in the scholarly research. I am fascinated about industrial clusters, and yet, in my native Zimbabwe, there has not been much research about this. So I decided to take the initiative, and along with another scholar, we put together a draft. Several professors in the GSIS were extremely helpful in pushing us to refine our ideas. When we saw this essay contest, we decided we had to submit our work. And though our efforts and the assistance of the GSIS, we were fortunate to have a winning essay and get published.

Q2 Very impressive. Let's let the readers know a bit more about you. What is your full name?

Kenneth Mahuni

Q3 What country are you from?

Zimbabwe

Q4 What discipline did you receive your graduate degree in from Ajou University?

I earned a M. A. degree in International trade and policy.

Q5 Please give me a percentage in terms of much Ajou's graduate program prepared you for your doctoral studies?

Honestly, I am going to rate the GSIS program at 100% applicable to my doctoral studies here in Africa, I am so grateful to have had the

opportunity to study at Ajou University. The fact that the GSIS program is a global program which welcomes students from all over the world was incentive enough for me to choose their unique platform.

Q6 What was the most practical course you took during your graduate studies at Ajou university?

International Trade Law was the most important class I took within the GSIS program. The course taught me the basics of international trading protocols, which is very important for me to understand for my long term future goals.

Q7 Would you recommend the GSIS program to any potential undergraduate consideration the program?

Yes I would recommend Ajou's GSIS program to future students because I was able to meet people from all over the world. Some of them are my very close friends even now! My experiences at Ajou were unique and filling, culturally, socially and emotionally.

Q8 What was the one greatest life lesson you learned during your stay in Korea, to be more specific the GSIS program?

FOCUS IS KEY IN THE LIFE OF A STUDENT

Q9 After graduating from the GSIS program have you found the GSIS administrative staff to be helpful in assisting you with post-graduation issues?

Yes, the staff in the GSIS administrative office were warm and extremely cooperative in helping me transition into Korea and likewise for helping me transition out of Korean.

Thank you Kenneth!!!