Twenty SIT’s students participated in the 5 days study trip to Seoul, Korea from 15 to 19 September 2014. Students were given opportunities to immerse themselves in the cultural and social environment through company visits and cultural visits. In this blog, the students were asked to reflect and pen down the places they visited.
On September 14 2014, we started our 5 days study trip to Korea. The four of us, from the same class applied together for this 5 days study trip. After we were notified that all of us were selected from the overwhelming number of applications, we were excited and started planning for our trip whenever we had free time. We expected to learn more about Korean culture, taste good Korean food, have our free time to go around Korean places with our friends and lastly have enough time for shopping.

Firstly, this is the first trip with my poly friends, so we did expect a little more from this 5 days as we will be traveling together, having fun together, shopping together and lastly the goal for all four of us is to learn Korean culture together and also have a better bond among us.

Secondly, we were hoping to make more friends from other courses in SIT through this trip. In those 5 days, I felt that we will have more chances to get to know each other and have better understanding among my friends and my new friends.

Thirdly, I’m sure that everyone had enjoyed this 5 days study trip in Korea. Everything was possible all because of our lecturer in charge, our tour guides from Singapore and Korea and also the students who came along with us. We would want to take this opportunity to thank our lecturer, Ms. Cally, Mr. Leo and Mr. Thomas our tour guides in Singapore and Korea respectively. Ms. Cally and Mr. Leo ensured our safety every single time and they also made sure that we ate and rest well and have fun throughout the trip. Mr. Thomas was a very experienced guide as he explained to us more about Korea’s history and culture and also entertained us and gave us some general knowledge facts throughout the trip.

Therefore, we are thankful for NYP and SIT for giving us the chance to go on a study trip with a wonderful team. We would sign up for another study trip if we have the chance again. Thank you for creating a memorable experience at Korea.

*Ng Wee Hau, DEI*
*G. Pirathipaa, DEI*
Our first visit after landing is Digital Pavilion, this is the place where we get to experience new IT technology and some of the technology we might be able to see and use it in the near future. First we went to the third floor, known as the Imagination Hall that introduces futuristic IT concepts that can become part of our everyday lives.

What captivate me the most is this U Cafe.

The U Cafe is cafe of the future, you can use your smartphone to read the QR code and you will be directed to their menu and order your food from there. Other than browsing the menu and ordering food, it also allows you to surf the net play games and choose your own music from their playlist.
The second floor which is known as the Exploration Hall, which offers an opportunity to experience and personally explore the fundamentals of IT technology by trying out various pieces of equipment. The Digital Canvas that uses digital brush for painting. Digital Instrument at the right allows you to create your own music and can play a stringless harp.

This is African Marimba known as Mari that consist of 44 drumsticks you can control the Mari to make flower pattern shapes for you or select a piece of music and it will play it for you.

Lastly, Dancing Robots that knows how to dance Gangnam Style and Fantastic Baby! From this visit I have experienced new IT technology that I never get to see or experience it before. We can also create some of this technology by applying what we have learnt in school by just adding a little creativity we can make our lives more convenient.

Kang Heng Hui, DIS
First, we learnt about the opening ceremony about stock market. The KRX Exchange building used to be in Myeongdong. They built and moved in the new building in 1979 which is located at Busan which used to be a runway for airplanes!

Back in time, stock exchange is done manually. How amazing! They even used hand signals to place bids. Signals using the left hand mean to opt for a higher price and the right hand means to lower the price.

Next up, we had a lecture from the Director of KRX Academy. We learnt about how the stock market works, securities market growth and how they manage the KRX Exchange. It was fulfilling and interesting. From that lecture, I gained lots of new knowledge about Stocks Exchange. Also, we have learnt many new things that I don’t get to learn in school.

Like how to read the stock board and how stock exchange is done.

Poh Jing Shi Adeline, DIS
Namsan Tower

The YTN Seoul Tower or commonly known as the Namsan Tower or Seoul Tower, is a communication and observation tower located on Namsan Mountain in central Seoul, South Korea. It marks the highest point in Seoul so literally every place we go during this trip, we can see this beautiful tall tower. From our Korean tour guided Mr. Thomas, I learned that Namsan Tower is the radio wave tower that holds transmissions antennas of KBS, MBC, SBS TV, FM, PBC, TBS, CBS, and BBS FM. The tower was only open to the public on 1980 and since then, the tower has been a landmark of Seoul.

Can you spot where is Namsan tower?

Before reaching the Namsan tower, we have to climb a very steep pathway. Upon reaching there, we meet 5 of our Nanyang poly student which under overseas student exchange programme(OSEP) and one of them is my classmate. Of course after reaching Namsan tower, we had to go to the observatory tower. The beauty of Seoul spreads in front of me when I reach the observatory. I was really amazed with the beautiful scenery. And of course it’s a must to take a selfie with the scenery.

Just look at the steepness of this pathway!
Then after satisfied with lots of photos, we went down to Khuntoria Namsan tower locks or commonly known as locks of love in Seoul. Wow, that place is a place filled with thousands and thousands of locks. Each belongs to a couple, accompanied with a message of their love. It is said that if a couple secures their lock on the rails of the tower and then tosses their key far down below, they will be together forever. It’s an icon place in Korea so it’s a must to take lots of cute photos there. Lastly we end our visit there with a group photo. I really enjoy being there and if one day, I were to visit Seoul again, I will definitely visit Namsan tower again.
Samsung D’light

On the second day of the trip, right after we had our breakfast, we headed down to Samsung D’light which is located along the Gangnam Street. The journey from our hotel to the destination took roughly about an hour and as weather was nice and chilling in the morning, we can’t help but fell asleep throughout the bus ride. As we arrived at destination, we’re amazed by the surroundings. Gangnam Street is absolutely beautiful, surrounded by unique architecture of buildings.

Samsung D’light is a 3-level building and is known as a global exhibition space that showcases the latest product lineup by Samsung Electronics. The purpose is to create a space of interaction that allows visitors to experience new life patterns through state-of-the-art digital technology. A variety of hands-on features are available at the digital lounge Lvl B1 (B1F), the mobile plaza Lvl 1 (1F) and the global gallery Lvl 2 (2F).

We were guided by one of the crew and she showed us what are the devices and features found in Samsung D’light. The devices found are the common devices that we’re using daily such as cellphones, laptops, electronic tabs / tablets, and also cameras. All these devices are available hands-on to the public, therefore we took the chance to try and play along with the devices as well. One of the coolest features that we came across is the “D’light Stage”. Basically, one volunteer is needed to stand inside the tile on the platform. It will detects the person through a sensor system and a random theme is displayed on the big screen. There are various themes each time a person step on it and what the volunteer needs to do is to just act along according to the theme like a mini drama.

Khadijah who volunteered herself to try the “D’light stage”
Next, we move on to Level 2 which is the Global Gallery whereby it is slightly different than what is displayed in Level 1. Here, it showcases a living room with all the electrical appliances. The crew showed us how these home appliances can be switched on/off through a phone. How amazing! We can also check the status of the appliances use example, by any chance if we left the house not knowing that we forgotten to switch of the air-conditioner. We can check through phone and switch it off. Apart from that, Samsung has also created technologies in a way that it is more convenient for students and teachers as well.

Samsung D’light “Smart Home”

Samsung D’light “Smart Study”

Surprisingly this idea is exactly what Khadijah and I have discussed before in our previous project and honestly we are really glad that this idea actually has been applied and we’re able to witness it.

*Nur Savina Binte Mohamed Sarvini, DEI*

*Khadijah Binte Rashid, DEI*
We are welcomed by the ambassadors from the Yonsei University. They brought us to the Yonsei Samsung Library, one of the biggest libraries in the university to tour around the library and they did a demonstration of how the library resource system works especially for booking study area for studying. Overall they have huge facilities and provide sufficient facilities to accommodate the students with studying materials and other facilities that they can spend time to relax and reduce their stress levels. Thus, the students will have a place to do research and a place where they can relax. Their central library is open 24 hours every day which enables students who wants to study for long hours, could stay there and study without being disturb. The ambassadors also brought us to their old building that has more than 100 years of history and they also explained to us the history of this University. We also get to talk to the ambassadors to find out more about their life in the university and about the Korea culture too. Lastly, they also brought us their amphitheater which can accommodate up to 1000 people. We would like to thank the ambassadors of Yonsei University for giving us a wonderful tour around the university.
Chanelle: To me I personally think that Yonsei University is a good school for students who want to further their students to get their degrees and even master levels. I also find that the whole structure of the school seems unique and comfortable. The University sufficiently makes use of every area in the school to build more rooms and facilities for their students.

Jocelyn: As Korean Universities are well-known, I felt that Yonsei University is a wonderful school. As they have facilities that some universities may not have yet. They provide a balance of facilities between studies and relaxation and I felt that that is important as students get to study and enjoy their lives as university students. I also think that it is interesting that they conduct classes at underground facilities.

Jocelyn Lim, DEI
Chanelle Khor, DEI
On the 3rd day of our trip, we woke up early and head off to the energy dream center. We got dropped off 10 minutes’ walk away from the center. On our way there, there are gardens and rivers and a lot of local teenagers there hanging out with their friends. When we reached, the representative of the center came to greet us. As he doesn't know much English, our tour guide, Mr. Thomas had to be the translator. He explained to us many different things they have done using energy and how we couldn't live without it. There are some things he talked about that still stays in my mind. Such as, the Green home. The Green Home was built in a way that the building structure would change when the seasons change from summer to winter. Also the Green Home has an automatic lighting control system whereby it uses led lights to help the center maintain comfortable illumination levels regardless of the weather or the season. The reason why they uses led lights is because it reduces power consumption and electric bills.
Next, the representative explained to us how we can use bicycles to power up something just by paddling. He then asked if any of us wanted to volunteer. 4 of us after getting pushed and encouraged, we took up the challenge. The representative said it was a race between the 4 of them so by the count of 3, they have to start cycling as quickly as possible. This is the photo when they were preparing/ starting to cycle.

As you can see in the photo, there are lights in front of them, if they cycle fast enough, the lights were start to light up and whoever who manage to light up all the lights first will win the race.

This is the end of my journey to the energy dream center, it was an interesting trip and I learnt a lot of used energy and how they save energy. I would like to bring my friends and family there someday. And I also hope that my schoolmates who are going to Korea in the future will visit this dream center.

Joey Goh, DEI
Kimchi Making

It was a great experience attempting to make a kimchi - all by ourselves!

This is our first attempt making a kimchi, this time being handmade, as most of the time, the only thing we did was to enjoy the ready-made ones served by the restaurants. Through kimchi making, we learnt how to make a kimchi through the steps guided to us.

Making a kimchi requires not only the right ingredients, but also the time, effort, compassion and attentiveness put on it. A good kimchi taste spicy, sweet and sour, the unique thing that distinguishes it is that it has a different texture when you chew it that differs from raw vegetables.

Very soon, we moved on to the kitchen to start off with our kimchi making!

Upon approaching, we were welcomed by a very friendly voice. Standing at the front was an extremely friendly lady. She was the instructor of the day, who will be leading us throughout the entire process of kimchi making. On top of that, she was really kind to offer each and every one of us a glass of ginseng milk before she started the lesson, as a way to welcome us to the learning centre.

The instructor was very clear in explaining the process of kimchi making to us. The details were explained in a very professional manner, without any details left out. She was great in leading us to ensure that every one of us understand the steps and process clearly.

A picture of the kimchi made by everyone of us.

The finished products were donated to children’s hospital and nursing homes as charity.

Apart from this, kimchi making also allows us to learn from the history and cultures of Korea.

We learnt the different kinds of heritage in Korea, as well as the traditional culture there. Most importantly, not forgetting how a kimchi came about.
A zone where a wide range of souvenirs from Korea are put on sale. Hanboks are put for rent and for photography purpose - mainly targeted towards tourists of the various countries.

We were also given the chance to try out the different kinds of Korean foods handmade by the professionals there. Each and every food placed on the plate brings out a unique taste that distinguishes them from the rest. There is also a promotion going on, where we can purchase them back to our country in a 'Buy 5 get 1 free' package!

In addition to kimchi making, we were also given the opportunity to try on Hanboks, which are also known as Korean traditional clothing. These clothes are mainly worn by the Koreans during festive days or special anniversaries. By putting on the hanboks costumes, we experienced how they were being worn by the Koreans during special occasions.
After trying out, we gathered together to have a group photo taken to keep the memories of Korea deep in our hearts.

Bernice Chua, DEI
Chai Jia Yu, DEI
KBS Drama

Personally I watched some of the Korea drama and I’m interested in it, not only their acting skill, but also the place that they did their recording. Being to KBS Drama, gives me a better understanding of a film making. It also allow us to experience the way filming was make.

In KBS Drama, we are toured around by the staff in KBS, they brought us to a room that used to film weather forecast and etc, from there we can experience how filming was done. Firstly, they film the actor in a blue background using the camera, secondly they created a programmed scene, and lastly, they merged both of them together and remove the blue color background to create the effects. This makes it looked as if the person is inside of the background thus helps them to save additional cost such as set up cost by using technologies which is very efficient. Those who are interested can also give it a try to have a feeling of being a star in the scene.
The above photo shows hundreds of equipment on top of the indoor filming room. They have facilities for indoor to do recording for day scene (camera with white plastic cover) and night scene (camera with blue plastic cover). It will help the crew and minimize their workload as they wouldn’t have to move all the equipment from one venue to another as everything is inside of the firming theater side by side.
Their outdoor facility is also interesting. They have different kinds of buildings built together, at the back of each building the design is actually different from its front part e.g. the front design of the building can be an older century design when its back is design in a newer century. The buildings are actually using rubber which is more durable than using wood or rock type materials. They really looked so real!

After the tour I realize that filming is not an easy task as the crew has to set up and gather equipment for the required scenes, make sure that the equipment is working and minimize any errors that could occur. However, even though it is tiring, when the film is finished, everyone will have a sense of success through teamwork and with technologies anything is possible.

Lim Zhi Wei, DBI
Lim Hui Zhong, DBI
On the second last day at Korea, we are brought to the Everland Recycle Centre to understand how the water is processed and recycled. We were first explained by the tour guide each of the processes how the water is recycled and the use of microorganisms to help clean the wastage water.
Lastly, this fish pond is used to monitor and test the clearness of the water once the water has gone through all the 8 processes. At Everland, dirty water is channeled to its Recycle Centre to be cleansed and produced as second-grade water used in aquariums and plantations. The only difference between our NEWATER and theirs is that their recycled water cannot be drinkable. Ours is more to reuse whereas Everland is more to recycle. But still it is a lesson learnt that Singapore should also adopt this method for our theme park to save more water. We are happy to know how Korea uses 3Rs in saving water supply. Lesson learnt!
Here comes the Everland theme park!

The theme park itself is very big as it consists of 5 sections - Global Fair (to shop and eat), American Adventure, Magic Land, European Adventure and Zoo-Tropia (zoo). Everland is ready for the Halloween, decorated with pumpkin and the stores were selling stuffs that were Halloween-based. This is something that the Singapore should try so at different occasion more people can enjoy their experience at places like the USS, zoos etc.

Since it is free and easy, we start off with the Zoo-Tropia. We managed to see the Penguin & Sea Lions performance, monkey, cute pets’ dog and human sky (cable car). We find the show much more interesting and interactive as the performance was portraying small story. Follow by the European Romance. We visited their rose garden and four season garden where is filled with beautiful flowers and building. Hence it is definitely a good place to take lots of photo especially for the couples. Next, we went to Magic Land which reminded us of the fairy-tale story we have read. We even played the Magic Swing. It was fun! Then we went to the American Adventure to ride the hurricane which was very thrilling. Lastly we head down to the Global Fair for some shopping. It is a good place to shop for snacks, souvenir, stationery etc.
Really wish that we could have spent more time even though we were given 5-6 hours in there as some rides were having long queue. It is a place that you can make memories by seeing the real life of the animals (not like Singapore keep in the cage) and taking the thrilling and exciting rides that you will not be able to have in Singapore. We had fun!

Gan Shi Ting, DBI
Yee Ling Hui, DBI
Gyeongbokgung Palace

The name means "Palace" [Gung] "Greatly Blessed by Heaven" [Gyeongbok]. We visited the palace on the last day of the trip. It is a royal palace located in northern Seoul, South Korea. We also managed to spectate the changing of guards whilst at the palace.

We then proceeded inside the palace and saw the Geunjeongjeon Hall, which is the throne hall where the king formally granted audiences to his officials.

The stone-paved courtyard is lined with two rows of rank stones, indicating where the court officials are to stand according to their ranks.

The floor as seen in the picture is uneven because the King does not want anyone to run in the courtyard despite being busy. If anyone were to run, they would trip and fall.

This is the Royal Banquet Hall (Gyeonghoeru) Constructed mainly of wood and stone, Gyeonghoeru has a form where the wooden structure of the building sits on top of 48 massive stone pillars, with wooden stairs connecting the second floor to the first floor. It used to be depicted on the old Korean 10,000 won.
The chimney is hidden in the walls because there is not enough space behind the building. When the chimney is being used, the rooms in the walls get heated as well. Smart right?

The King of the Joseon Dynasty also made sure the servants or slaves are Eunuchs. They have been castrated, usually in order to make them reliable servants of a royal court and to make sure the purity of the royal family is protected.

We’ve learnt about the dynasties and the innovations that they used to make their lives better. Innovations such as the chimney being hidden from view and providing warmth to the rooms in the walls, uneven courtyard to prevent running and the rank stones to indicate where to stand.

We may think that in the past, the societies were backwards but after this trip, I realised that they were talented and intelligent. Overall the trip was fruitful and we gained a lot of knowledge on Korea’s history and how the Kings and Queens used to live during the ancient times.

**National Folk Museum**

National Folk Museum of Korea is a national museum of South Korea, located within the grounds of the Gyeongbokgung Palace in Jongno-gu, Seoul, and uses replicas of historical objects to illustrate the history of traditional life of the Korean people.

I had the honor of visiting this place to know more about the history of Korea. There are a lot of artefacts inside and every artefact has a story. There are pictures of weapons in the past, rifle, grenades and spear. There is also farm equipment on display.

This is one of the books I saw that day, there’s Chinese characters in it and I guess that the Koreans all originated from Chinese country and they started to make their own unique language, Korean.

There is 3 different symbols in Korean words which are o, _ and |. The o symbolise the universe where _ is the earth, ground. | is human as it looks like standing. This is how it was formed.
The museum was huge and provided us a lot of information on the Korea’s history. We learnt a lot from reading the information panels beside the displays and overall it was an enjoyable experience. We gained so much knowledge and we would want to come back again to visit.

*Mohammad Shammel Bin Mohammad Fadilah, DIT*

*Jorden Quek, DIT*
Group photo before we leave Korea

After approximately five days of enjoying ourselves in Korea, it’s time we go back to reality. Where the sun’s so hot, we can literally die. I kid you not. Speaking of which, the weather in Korea was better than in Singapore by a few bits. And that’s in my opinion. It wasn’t that cold, and it wasn’t that hot either. But still enough to make you perspire, which is the only thing I hate about the whole trip, to be honest. I was actually expecting a more cooling temperature throughout the day, given the word ‘Autumn’, but that’s alright. At least I had fun! The temperature at night, though, is the bae. And if you don’t know what bae means, it actually stands for baby, sweetie on the internet. I LOVE COLD.

The flight back home was rather smooth, even though a passenger got sick halfway. I still wonder what happened to him... Airsickness maybe? Oh, and it’s horrible to sit on a plane when you’re having a running nose. My ears hurt near the end of the flight.

Vivien Lee, DEI
Although travelling is fun, sometimes you get unwell during the trip. That’s when I learnt that we should all expect the unexpected regardless of anything, and prepare everything we might need. Also, everyone’s really genial and helpful like our local guide in Korea – Mr Thomas, Ms Cally, Mr Leo and duh, our schoolmates! As for me, I think that the climate there isn’t for me. Hot and cold, uh-uh. I always keep in mind that every individual is different, so it is completely normal to see the different types of Koreans. Of course, a lot of them are really kind!

Kang Hui Yun, DEI