

Reflection on the 5<sup>th</sup> East Asia Junior Workshop, 2013

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First of all, I really want to say thank you to all of the professors and students who organized this wonderful workshop and fieldwork. I have learned a lot not only from the presentations by others but also from the interesting and meaningful places we went visit. In 柳原銀行, we knew the problems and stigma that outcast faced in the past; in 東九条, we realized the discrimination toward Korean people nowadays; in 洛東苑, we gained knowledge about the welfare system to elders in Japan, and had chances to compare with Taiwan and Korea; in every historic sites in Kyoto, we learned more about Japanese history and cultures by Kyoto University students' introduction, which I couldn't learn in Taiwan or in textbook! Moreover, two professors were so considerate and nice to us. Professor ASATO and professor OCHIAI always noticed the conditions of each student because of the hot weather in Japan, and even prepared umbrellas to us which made me touched. I saw your endless efforts in this activity and thank you so much!

About the presentations by professors and students, it was so interesting to discuss the topic of nuclear power, which is also a debate in Taiwan. Also, I understood what kinds of researches people had in Japan and Korea, and wanted to extend my knowledge base about other issues related to sociology that I didn't know very well before.

Most importantly, I met lots of friends in this activity who can not only chat about casual topics but also discuss profound issues. After exchanging ideas and thoughts with each other, I found out there is a similarity in these three countries, Japan, Taiwan, and Korea, such as aging problem, the situation of educational system and the change in 90s generation, which may due to the similar cultural background. For me, this surprised and inspired me to have cross-national research or comparison in the future. I really enjoyed talking with people from different countries, especially people from Asia, because I had a feeling that we are more closed to each other and understand each other more.

Thank you again to professor ASATO, professor OCHIAI, Seoul National University, and students in Kyoto University who organized everything or guided us or translated to us during the workshop and fieldwork. I am so touched by you and really want to join this workshop again next year. Thank you so much ☺.