

## **Report on Participation in Korean Field Research**

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### **A. Academic outcomes**

It was an honor to participate in the Korea field research trip. During this trip, I had opportunities to visit the National Bank of Korea Currency Museum in Seoul where I learned about Korean money, finance and the economy in an interesting and easy manner. The most memorable site for me among the many places we visited in Seoul was the Seodaemun Prison History Hall. I was impressed by the construction and the way Korean people have renovated and designed the complex in order to make the Prison Hall become a living site for history education so as to remind future generations of their noble spirit of independence.

Besides the visits in Seoul, I also had the chance to visit Daegu city – the hometown of Samsung. Our field research group took a tour of Samsung Electronics Smart Gallery in Gumi city to learn about the development and innovation in technology of Samsung cellphones. Also in Gumi, we visited the assembling plant of LG TVs, giving me the first experience to see the assembly process up close in real life. I was so impressed by the rapid development speed of high technology industries in Korea.

During the trip I also made a presentation of my research at Kyungpook University. Although my presentation still has some room for improvement, I was able to get some feedback and ideas from Korean professors and graduate students. I am pretty sure this experience will help me improve my work and give me confidence going into the next international academic conference.

Participation in this program encourages me to become more open, communicate with others and make more foreign friends. Prof Na in Kyungpook University inspires me to become a kind and excellent researcher in the future. After completing my PhD in Kyoto University, I hope to find a good opportunity to work in a Korean research organization.

### **B. Experiences while overseas;**

In Korea, the metro is really well developed. It is easy for us to use public transport, especially in Seoul and Busan. Taxis in Korea are also amazingly cheap. Korean food is very tasty. Our group had lots of great meals together with interesting conversations. Korean people too are also very open and friendly. We had interesting discussions with Kyungpook University students during our lunchtime on the day of the workshop. From my viewpoint, everything in Korea is great, except that sometimes we had problems with the Korean language. We get lost a few times and because we cannot speak Korean it was hard to get directions. But all of these things became part of our memorable experiences in Korea.

### **C. Content of the program;**

There were three main parts to the program. First of all, it was the academic communication with Kyungpook University. This included a lecture at Kyungpook University about how the Korean economy develops and the challenge of sustainability was provided by Prof. Jang. Kyoto University students also made presentations based on their own research results.

The second part was visiting Samsung Electronics Smart Gallery and LG A3 factory in Gumi city. We expected to see the production process of Samsung cellphones but most of the production process is now implemented at Samsung factories in Vietnam. Despite this, we could benefit from the visit by learning about Samsung cellphones technology development and try several of the products. Besides, in Daegu we also had chance to visit Daegu City Hall and Samsung Center for Creative Economy and Innovation. We had an open and interesting meeting about the development plans of Daegu with the Deputy Mayor.

Last but not least, we had the chance to learn more about the history and culture of Korea. We visited the National Bank of Korea Currency Museum; National Assembly; National Museum of Korea and Seodaemun Prison History Hall in Seoul. These experiences enriched our knowledge of Korean culture, history and art.

#### D. Impact of the program on your career plans.

In the workshop, I presented my research results about the impact of hydropower dams on agricultural productivity in India. The professors at Kyungpook University gave me valuable comments. I have found that I should include some climate variables as control variables in my specification. This field research trip provided me with an opportunity to broaden my research interests and gave me encouragement to pursue research career.

Although this is the third time I visited Korea, I still found this country interesting and amazing thanks to Samsung Gallery and LG factory tours. I am so grateful to Kyoto University for giving me such an opportunity, which allowed me to gain new knowledge and approach different opinions from different perspectives. I really appreciate the efforts of the Professors in charge of this field trip and our group members, it will certainly be among my cherished memories of my time at Kyoto University.