

## Report on Participation in [KUASU CHALLENGE+]

[BAICK KYUHYUN]

Year level: EA course M1

Faculty/Graduate School of: Economics  
Kyoto University

- (a) It was my first time to go back to my home country with special academic purposes. Although there were minor problems such as corona virus and cancellation of interviews, which I didn't expect, it was an interesting experience. Since I've never conducted overseas field research, it was a little challenging for me to apply to the KUASU CHALLENGE+ program. Through 10 days of overseas research in Korea, which is a familiar and place where I know the language, I was encouraged and most of my concerns and anxiety about field research were relieved. As my research topic deals with Korean Chaebol (conglomerates or business groups), I might not need to conduct another overseas field research in the near future, but I got both confidence and motivation to conduct further overseas research through this experience.
- It also gave me a special experience which I might not have been able to achieve if I were only conducting my research in Japan at Kyoto University. Although Kyoto University provides us with one of the best archives and digital contents through the KULINE system, I could not get several Korean books and papers which were needed for me to proceed with my research. Visiting the National Assembly Library gave me an extraordinary chance to obtain extra sources and literature which I should read before writing my master thesis. Although it was prohibited to copy some of the books, I could identify the key ones and managed to acquire/buy some books and preceding papers regarding my topic which were written in Korean.
- I'm not sure what I'm going to do when I proceed to the doctoral program but, if I continue my research on Business Group in emerging markets, I will recall my experience in the national assembly library this spring. I found and experienced that visiting the national assembly library or central library can truly help me to acquire further books and preceding research and understand how local studies and researchers view my topic.
- (b) I spent most of my time in the national assembly library copy room and national library of Korea copy corner. I went also went through several book stores in Jong-ro and secondhand bookstores near Seoul National University to find some books which I didn't copy due to the copy right issue. I also visited Hyundai Steel Plant in Dangjin city, South Chungcheong Province. On Sunday, I was reading through and checking books. On Friday (Feb 7<sup>th</sup>), there was a cancelation of an appointment I had made, so I changed my plan and organized some copies.
- (c) Day 1(31<sup>th</sup>) : Departure, Back to home  
 Day 2(1<sup>st</sup>) : 10 – 15 National Assembly Library; Search, Skim, and Copy  
 Day 3(2<sup>nd</sup>) : Did not visit a specific place, reading materials collected  
 Day 4(3<sup>rd</sup>) : 7 – 18 Hyundai Steel Dangjin Plant; Safety Education, Visit, and Look around the plant and vicinity  
 Day 5(4<sup>th</sup>) : 10 – 16 National Assembly Library; Search, Skim, and Copy  
 Day 6(5<sup>th</sup>) : 10 – 16 National Assembly Library; Search, Skim, and Copy  
 Day 7(6<sup>th</sup>) : 10 – 15 National Library; Search and Check  
 Day 8(7<sup>th</sup>) : Did not visit a specific place, reading materials collected  
 Day 9(8<sup>th</sup>) : 9 – 17 Kyobo Bookstore(Gwanghwa-moon and Gangnam), Youngpoong Bookstore(Jonggak and Gangnam), and Secondhand Bookstores near Seoul National University including Heulg-seojeom  
 Day 10(9<sup>th</sup>) : Did not visit a specific place, reading materials collected  
 Day 11(10<sup>th</sup>) : Leave, Back to Japan
- (d) First of all, it helped me to gather invaluable copies of books and academic papers written in Korean which will further my knowledge toward the research topic. I am going to read and organize those papers and data in detail from this spring vacation.
- Also, I witnessed a lot of trucks and trailers carrying Hyundai Steel's products while visiting their facilities and there were also Hyundai BNG Steel plant and Hyundai Steel's cold mill plant, which were former Hyundai Hysco's plant, near the steelworks which gave a certain level of confidence on my hypothesis regarding how the business group operates.
- The program provided me a valuable experiences and opportunities which I might not come upon if I only conduct my research inside the campus and at my desk.