



IMMERSION 2016

Aditya Nur Hakim | 1901520624 | 2016

Introduction

Hi! My name is Aditya Nur Hakim, I one of the participant for Immersion that held by HIMISISFO Binus University and School of Information System on 1-7 September 2016. And this is my report about my journey in Korea. I hope you enjoy it!

DAY 1

I went to airport by my family because I bring my clothes and things that I need from home. After I arrived at Terminal 2E on 5pm because I'm batch 1, I met my friend which is going to the boarding room first, the 2nd batch. Then I met my PIC, waiting for the others and finally went into boarding room at 6pm.



Check-in

When the first I've saw my friend's luggage, their luggage are smaller than me. I share my air baggage with my friend, Rafi, that also bring a big luggage too. Our maximum capacity is 20kg, and when we checked our luggage's weight, unfortunately mine are 14kg and his luggage are 16kg... So, we are really panic and the staff told us to take some things from our luggage and bring it into cabin. After we decided to taking out some clothes, finally we do have enough luggage to be able to put on air baggage after sharing it with another person in our batch. At 7pm we are going to boarding room, we waiting until the plane came and we just sit down talking about many things and met many foreign people that went abroad.



Soetta Boarding Room

After 9pm we are finally fly.

DAY 2

At 12am, we arrived at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. The airport is quite big but I don't have much time to sightseeing because we need to go to our next plane which is fly at 1 pm. But yeah we are Indonesian people, we do like taking picture everywhere even though we are in hurry.



Our gate at KLIA2

After waiting for 30 minute walking and sit in boarding room, finally we are flying to Seoul by this plane.



Our plane to Korea!

In plane, I rarely sleep because my friends always want to chat together. As time goes by, we finally sleep until the plane landed in Seoul on gam.

When we arrived, I really amaze by how beautiful and enormous the airport is. We still need to walk to immigration and it takes about 10 minute just to walk to subway *magrail* and went to “main” airport because it’s too big.

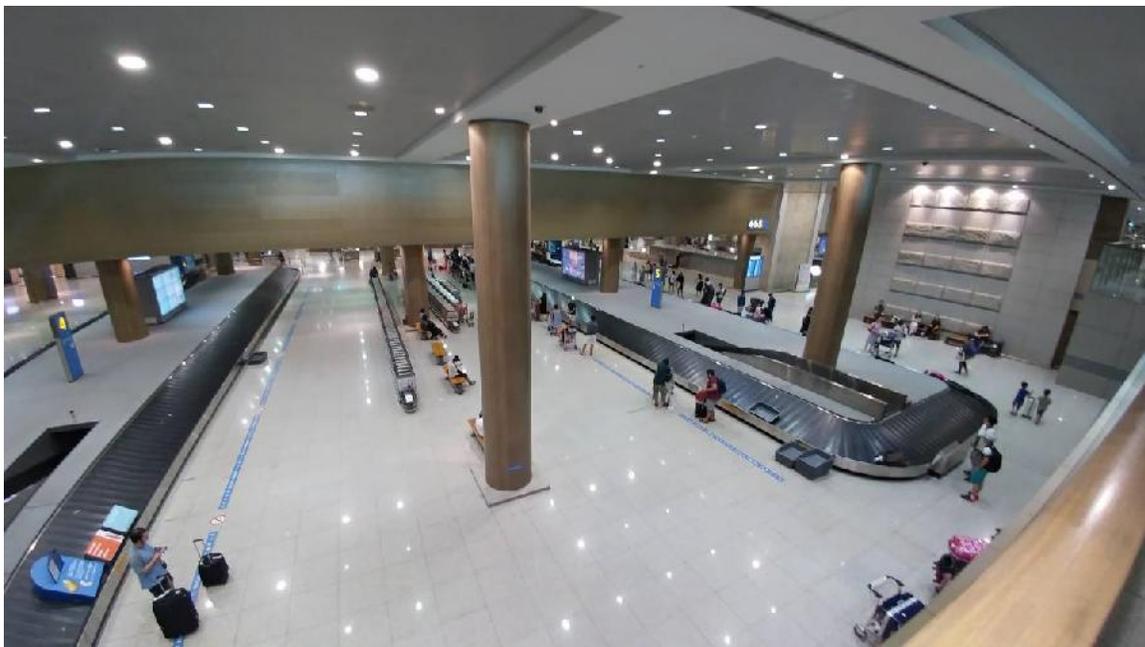


After we arrived at the main airport, we need to pass the immigration.



Immigration check point

It's cool when the staff ask my passport. After he scan it, the machine talk in Bahasa! It told me to scan my fingerprint and we can pass the immigration. After that we collect our luggage, but sadly one of our member's luggage was lost and I think the airport gave it back tomorrow (or the same day, I don't remember)



Place to take our baggage

After we got our luggage back, we went to subway to go to our guest house. Our tour guide (Ka Darian or I called him 저기요 *chogiyo* it means excuse me to person) gave us card, similar to Binusian Flazz Card, and use it for pay the subway.



T-money

We went to the subway and ride it for about 1 ½ hours. The subway is so fast compare with Indonesian train. We are going from Incheon to Itaewon, Seoul. We bring our luggage to subway and It's a new experience for me because I never do that before.



Rafi and Me



Korean Subway

We need to transit to another subway because Korean Subway are so complicated that we need to transit everytime we go there... After arrived at Itaewon, we walk to the ground and there are so many stairs in Korea. I really amazed with Korean people, how can they walk every day and always meet stair wherever they go. For about 10 minute, we take our time to walk while bring our luggage and finally arrived at the ground.



At Itaewon Station (Outside)

Our guest house is quite close enough from subway station, just a few meter and we finally arrived at G Guest House. This place already well-known by traveler or backpacker that went to Seoul. Our tour guide said that it's one of the best/popular guest house in

Seoul by its rating. And actually the place is good enough and cozy, the exterior and interior are so unique that you can write anything in the wall because that's how G Guest House works. The owner, Mr. Shrek welcomed us and help the other to bring their luggage.



View from G Guest House



G Guest House

Mr. Shrek told us that our room are not ready, and they ask us to wait at the lounge room inside at the basement. Meanwhile we are waiting for our room, the committee gave us food, my first food that made real from korea.



Bibimbab

After we finish our brunch, we have enough time to explore Itaewon.



I'm ready!

We're not went to the main road of Itaewon, we explore the small road on there. And Itaewon are really popular with the multiculturalism, we met so many foreign people from other country here, especially middle-east. Itaewon also popular with its cafes and bar.



One of the bar in Itaewon

You can also find beautiful street art in here. Many place in Korea that have mural painting, they tend to put art into place that no one can expect anything.



One of the mural in the stairs of Itaewon

After exploring, we went to the rooftop of the Ghouse while waiting for our friends from batch 2 to come. We hanging around and realise at 6-7 pm there, the sun is still high that it's kinda like 5 pm in Indonesia.



On the rooftop of the Ghouse



View of Itaewon (You can see Namsan Tower from here)

After they're coming and wait for them to take a rest, we do explore Itaewon again at night, but this time we went to the main road. We walk around there and sightseeing how Korean people life at night. The myth is right, Korean is alive after 9pm, you actually can see how Korean people's life at the night. The fashion, people from young to adult, their behavior, etc.





Itaewon at Night

Time for dinner is arrived, we went to Eid restaurant. The theme of the restaurant is Arabic-Asian style, they serve us food that kinda like curry, but it's seafood and it's really delicious.



Seafood Curry(?)

After dinner, we went back to our dorm. When we walk, I found a street food booth that sells Korean street food like tteokpokki (rice cake with spicy sauce), odeng (fish cake), and sundae (blood sausage). I bought tteokpokki and its really delicious! But it's too spicy for me and no one in my room want to eat it...



떡볶이 (Tteokpokki)

After that, I'm going to the biggest mosque on Seoul. It's located on Itaewon and Its actually a large but hidden mosque in here. I do praying there and meet some people that want to pray too.



After I and Rafi finish praying, we went back to our dorm. We do clean ourself and prepare to sleep for tomorrow next journey.

DAY 3

Today, we gonna go to Inha University at Incheon. Before went to Korea, I told my roommates to bring batik to here and use it for one day. Today we wear batik! After taking breakfast with bread and milk, we went to the subway.



The Batiks (Except Mario)

It takes about 1 ½ hours to the Inha Univ Station. The subway is quiet enough so we can take photos and walking among the train



Cheers!

We arrived at Inha University and meet one of the Binus alumni that study here. We explore Inha and walk around to see how student in Korea life in here.



In front of Inha University



Flying Dragon Tower



Inha Hi-tech Center



In-Kung Pond

After walking around Inha, we have alumni sharing. Our alumni, 2 people, talking about how they can study here with scholarship, their major, their life, how to get scholarship, etc.



In front of Inha Cafeteria



One of the Binus alumni that study at Inha University

We finish our schedule in Inha and we were going to eat at Hans Deli restaurant. The menu has a variation of western dishes infused with Korean style (kimchi sneaks into some of the rice/gratin dishes plus tteok, there's a lot of seafood, steak), and a cheeky bit of fried chicken is available as a side. (Pro tip: it's good chicken.) It's cheap and cheerful and totally worth checking out.



Chicken cutlet

After eating, we went back subway and go to Myeongdong. Myeong-dong (명동) is one of the primary shopping districts in Seoul. It's a particularly popular area for young people and tourists as a center for fashion and sight-seeing



Lotte Department Store



Myeongdong



Another Myeongdong

We went shopping here while I'm searching for my sister cosmetic that she's told me to bought here. After I bought all of it, I tried another street food and its grilled squid.

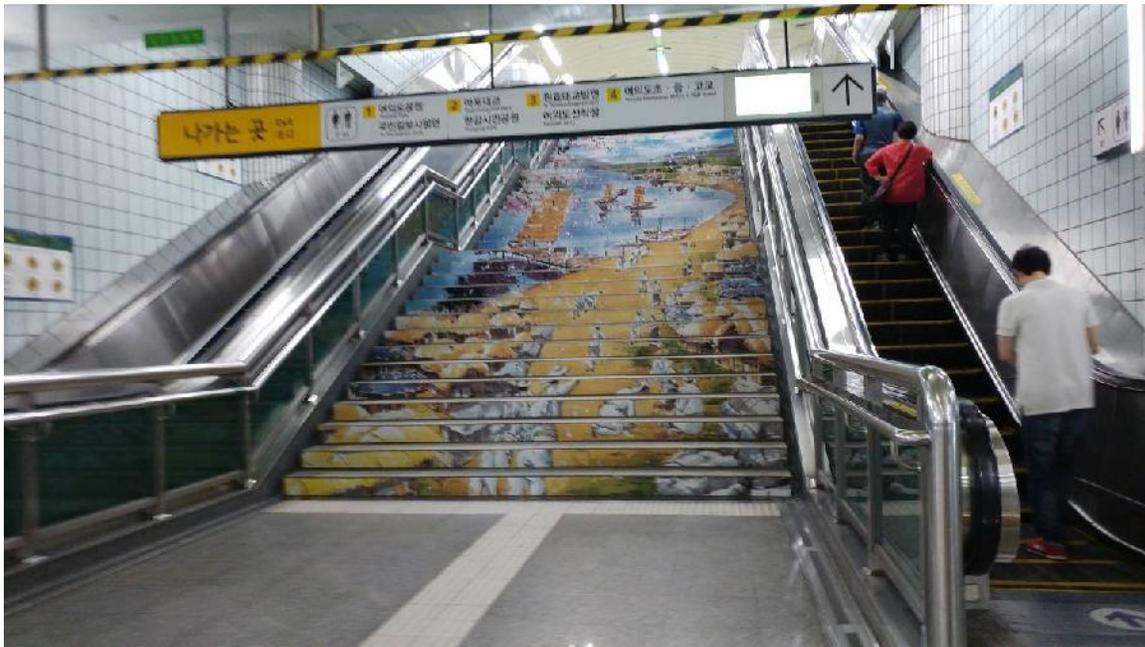


Grilled squid

It tasted so good and chewy. And while eating it, I walk around with my friends (Claresta, Rafi, Wardana, Arya) and bought some sweater and hats. After we finish shopping, we went back to our dorm and preparing for the next day.

DAY 4

Today is Sunday! We went to Han river and we will explore around there. The tour guide said that we gonna rent a bicycle while traveling around there, but sadly there are some event in there so we can't rent it because it close. We use subway to go to Yeuido Station.



Rural in Yeuido Station's stair.

After we arrived, it really refreshing to be there actually. The view to Han river are really cool and the river are so clean. We do take photos on there and sightseeing people that do activities there such as jogging, running, picnic, etc.



Wardana, Mario, Me and Claresta

The committee gave us free time to walk beside Han river. Me and my friends are walking to floating stage because I had seen many Korean events there from dramas and reality show. Floating stage is located near Yeuido Han-gang Park.



Floating stage



Yeuido Hangang Park



At Hangang!

After taking picture, we had picnic there! The committee and our tour guide provide us rice box a la Korean style with fish as main menu. Also one of my friends bought boendaeggi, which is silkworm/pupa/chrysalis. Its look awful but it's so delicious! Taste like shrimp! Really! You must try it when you go to Korea!



번데기 (Boendaeggi)



Our lunch!

Lunch finish! We went to Changdeokgung(창덕궁) Palace, it's one of the Grand Palace located in Korea. the palace was home to the Joseon government and was also the favored residence of many Joseon Dynasty kings. This makes Changdeokgung Palace the longest-serving royal residential palace. Compared to other palaces, Changdeokgung Palace is well-preserved and still has many of its original features. A particular virtue of Changdeokgung Palace is the way its buildings blend into the surrounding landscape.



The entrance of Changdeokgung Palace



Main Palace in here!



Inside the Palace

After we explore Cheongdeokgung, we went to another palace which is Gyeongbokgung(경복궁) Palace. Gyeongbokgung Palace was the first royal palace built by the Joseon Dynasty, three years after the Joseon Dynasty was founded. Built in 1395, Gyeongbokgung Palace was located at the heart of newly appointed capital of Seoul (then known as Hanyang) and represented the sovereignty of the Joseon Dynasty. Gyeongbokgung served as the main palace of the Joseon Dynasty. The palace actually the largest of the Five Grand Palace in here. It has 2 part which is the palace itself and the museum.



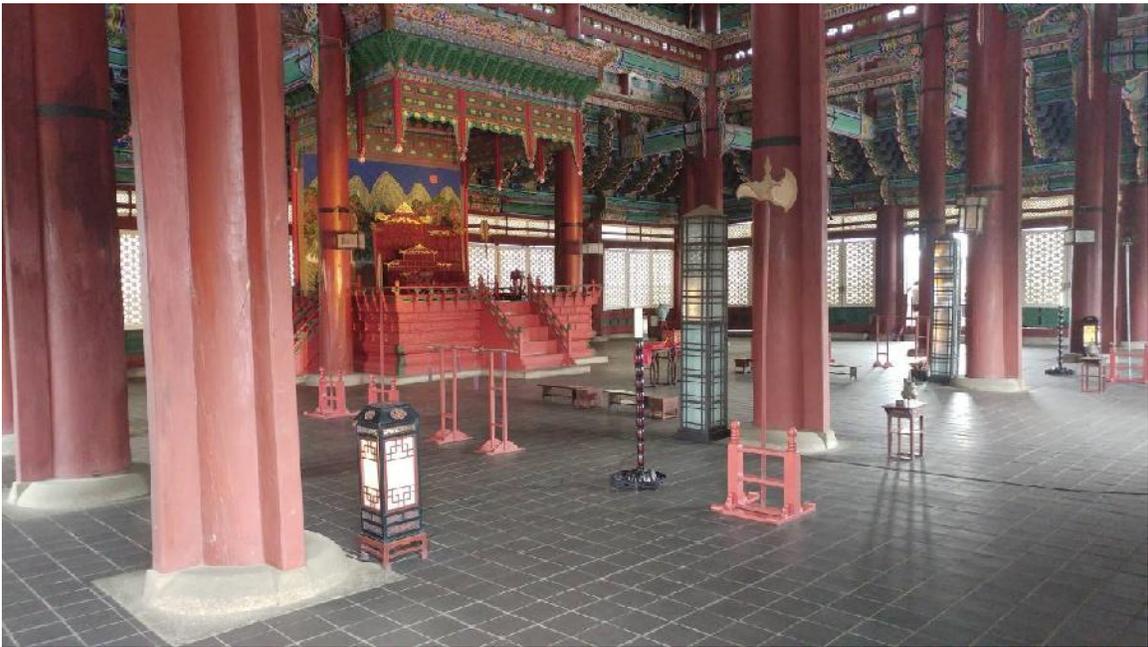
National Palace Museum of Korea



In front of Gyeongbokgung



The main Palace of Gyeongbokgung!



Inside the palace



The main gate of Gyeongbokgung

Actually the palace is so large, so I can't explore all of it. I just went into the main palace and inside the museum. The museum itself has their own theme which are Joseon era on Korea. After it, we went to Gwanghwamun Square, it has King Sejong Statue (세종대왕 동상), King Sejong is best remembered as the inventor of Hangeul, the Korean alphabet. During his reign, he consolidated the basis for ruling the Joseon Dynasty by incorporating Confucian philosophy of politics. Furthermore, he led the nation's great strides in agriculture, literature, science and technology. In front of the statue lie a celestial globe, a rain gauge, and a sundial, all of which King Sejong invented himself during his reign. Behind the statue, there are six columns with golden carvings depicting the King's major accomplishments, as well as an underground passage to the 'Sejong's Story' exhibition hall. Surrounding the statue, on the edges of the Square, is the 'Waterway of History,' a stream flowing on tiles with inscriptions of Korean history.



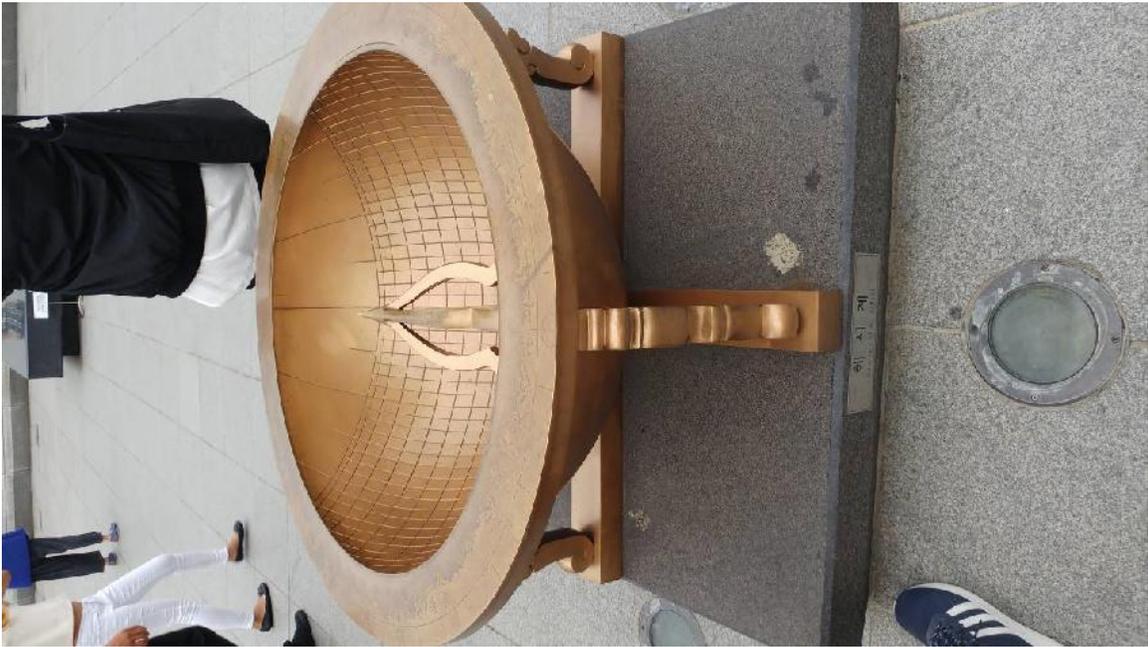
King Sejong Statue



Celestial globe



Rain Gauge



Sundial



Gwanghwamun Square



The view on Gwanghwamun Square

After taking photos there, we went to Cheonggyecheon Stream & Cheonggye Plaza (청계천 & 청계광장). Cheonggyecheon Stream existed only as a neglected waterway hidden by an overpass. Today, it has been transformed into a haven of natural beauty amidst the bustle of city life. Narae Bridge, representing a butterfly in flight, and Gwanggyo Bridge, symbolizing the harmony of the past and future, are just two of the more than twenty beautiful bridges that cross the stream. The Rhythmic Wall Stream, lined with fine marble and sculptures, and Palseokdam adorn Cheonggyecheon Stream. Cheonggyecheon Stream passes close to Deoksugung Palace, Seoul Plaza, the Sejong Center, Insa-dong Street, Changdeokgung Palace, and Changgyeonggung Palace.



Cheonggyecheon Stream



Cheonggyecheon Stream again

After enjoying the view, we went to KFC to eat dinner. I thought that KFC in every country gonna be different, but it actually not. It has the same taste, but the different is we should take our plate back, return it by ourself (self-service), and also the drink are refillable. After that we went back to our dorm and prepare for the next day. But before it, me and my friends are going to Line store café located in Itaewon. We bought coffee and cake there and taking pictures of course. The place was so good, its cozy and very cute. Many Line character here.



Inside Line Café



Americano and green tea cake

In Korea, if our order is ready, we will get inform by buzzer. A round thing that will buzz and we must give it back to the staff and take our order.



The buzzer and some Korean money.

After finish chatting, we went back to our dorm and sleep.

DAY 5

At this day, we gonna go to Chung-Ang University! One of our partner in Binus University. We went there by using subway and wearing our shirts + almamater.



Chung-Ang University (중앙대학교)



Logos from Chung-Ang Creative Studio

After arriving, we were welcomed by a representative from Chung-Ang and they told us to go to inside the university. They prepared slides about Chung-Ang, study exchange, their cultures, etc. Then we took a picture in front of Chung-Ang Logos!



Chung-Ang University (중앙대학교)

Also Chung-Ang prepared a show for us! There are 3 women that play a Korean traditional musical instrument called Gayageum (가야금). The Gayageum is a traditional Korean zither-like string instrument, with 12 strings, though some more recent variants have 21 or other number of strings. It is arguably the best known traditional Korean musical instrument. They play so many songs such as Arirang, The Beatles song, etc.



Gayageum player

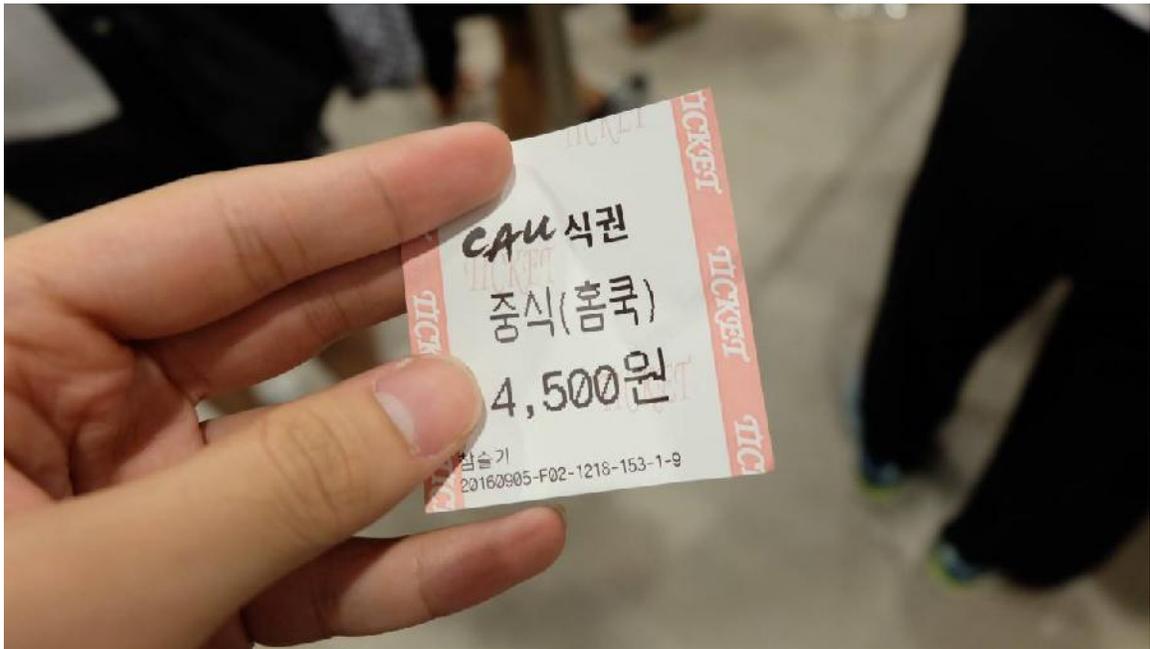


Me with one of the player.

After that, we had lunch in Chung-Ang canteen. It so crowded because it's time for the student in there to had lunch! In here, we should buy a ticket first for our food, then give it to the staff. Chung-ang representative bought us some ticket at we should take a queue there.



Inside the Canteen



The ticket



Lunch!

After eating, we went to the outside of Chung-Ang university and wait for our tour leader to say good-bye to the representative.



Their university has so many building

Then, we went to Gangnam area, Coex Mall. Coex mall is a shopping mecca for global brands in fashion, accessories, beauty, lifestyle, and others. It also has a large movie theater complex and a wide variety of fine dining establishments. Coex mall also the largest mall in Korea!



Coex Mall

We just hanging around at Coex mall because it so big and all of the stores are so expensive. Oh, they also have aquarium inside the mall. But the ticket is so expensive, it about 20.000 won or Rp200.000, just for entering the aquarium...



Only able to take photo here

Then, we went to Myeongdong again to eat dinner. We eat at Hans deli again but in different menu of course. They gave us a delicious food! I forget the name but its actually refreshing.



The food

After eating, we went to Namsan! We gonna go to Namsan tower and enjoying Korea night view there. It located near Myeongdong so we can just walk there.



Korea street

We need to use lift or walk to go to the cable car. Then we take a queue to ride the cable car. Namsan tower are located in the Namsan mountain, and it's so high (about 240m), it marks the highest point in Seoul.



The lift



Cable car and N Seoul Tower at the back

After taking the cable car, we still need to take stairs there and walk toward the N Seoul tower. Finally we arrived at N Seoul Tower! We still need to take lift to go to the top of N Seoul tower!



N Seoul Tower

At the top of N Seoul Tower, we can see a whole Seoul from here! the view is so good, that they provide a telescope if you want to see more detail and pays 500won coin. Also they have café there and merchandise store. We can send post card and send it to everywhere in this world!



Seoul at night!



Jakarta!

After finish sightseeing, we went back to the ground floor. Namsan are really popular for young people to put a lock with their name and put it in there. They called it “love locks” and believe if you put it here, your love will “lock” and long last. Then we went back to our dorm by using subway. When we arrived at Itaewon, I and some of my friends are buying Subway food, the brands are Subway. We couldn’t find it in Indonesia so I bought it here.



My 12" subway and my friend's 6"

After eating, we went back to our dorm and prepare for the next day.

DAY 6

Today, we gonna have study tour again on Dongguk University! And also it's the last day in Korea... We wake up at the morning and take subway to Dongguk, it located in Seoul and not far away from Itaewon. After arrived at there, we shocked because Dongguk University was built in the mountain! So we need to take stairs again to go to there.



The entrance of Dongguk University (동국대학교)

After we pass the main entrance, we still need to take another stair which is so many stairs...



Stairs by stairs...

But it really payed, the view is so good! Dongguk University are large too same with Chung-Ang. Then their representative welcomed us and told us to come to inside the building there



Dongguk University! (동국대학교) including Buddha statue

After we enter a kind of mini auditorium, they presenting us about Dongguk university, their history, how was life there, student exchange, their partner (including us!), etc. Then, they have 2 women representative that gonna guide us about Dongguk university. They lead us to the statue of Buddha and 3-elephant statue in the center of Dongguk university, the temple inside here, also the stone inside here. Ah I forget, because Dongguk was built by Buddhist people, they still have Buddha culture here and you can found many monk hanging around.



The main building / admission building in Dongguk Univ



The 3 elephant statue



Temple inside University



Stone (I don't know Chinese writing)

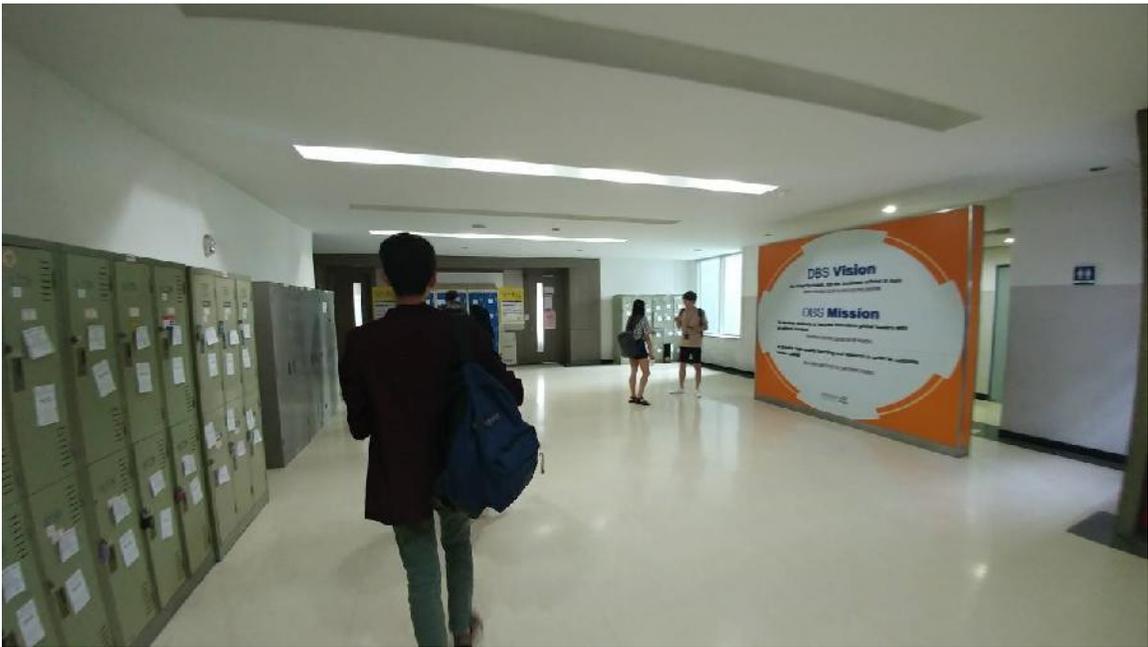
Then, they told us to go to classroom because their professor from MIS want to give us lecture. Their material is so clear and informative! I hope Binus can learn from them about material and how the lecturer should teach us. Their lecturer are so communicative and have so many knowledge that they can gave it to us. After it, we take picture and went outside to eat at their canteen



The lecturer and his material (In Korean and English language)



The classroom



Their hall

After went outside, we are going to the canteen. Once again, the canteen is located at the top of the campus so we need to take stairs(again). But the good thing is, they already preparing us special place and food! And it's so delicious. Really, the best home food I've ever eat in here.



It's so healthy and delicious!



Sundubu jjigae (순두부찌개)



잘먹에습니다! (Selamat makan)

After lunch, we went to the bus that Dongguk has prepare for us. We will go to Samsung Innovation Museum in Suwon-si. It takes about 1 ½ hours to go there.



Dongguk University Bus

After arriving at Samsung Innovation Museum(SIM), we amaze by how big is the complex. Samsung own most of the place on here and put it as factory also office. Then we went to the museum and waiting for our friends because they just have 2 lift to go to here. After that, we went inside the museum. We welcomed by their representative. 2 Korean women that speak English so well. We divided into 2 groups and takes photos for each group!



Then, she guides us to the main entrance of the museum. They have a big museum about history of electronic. From electricity, phone, signal, machine, lamp, television, etc. First we sit down at a mini cinema that told us we gonna see from the beginning of modern age. Then she told us about many history, non-stop. I really amaze her English pronunciation because usually Korean people can't speak English properly because of their accent. I ask her if she's Korean person in Korea language and she told me yes! She asks if I know Korea language and I said just a little, I praise her English and she told me that she's need to improve her English because her boss told her and she's a representative for tourist from outside Korea. At the end, they told us to watch another movie but it's about the future that Samsung want to build. Then we take picture and headed into Samsung product such as smartphones, television, ac, washing machine, cleaner robot, etc.



It's cool right?



My tour guide (right) and me and another tour guide

After the tour, they gave us photos in physic that we take before entering the museum. Then we went back to the bus and Dongguk bus and bring us to Itaewon. The committee said we gonna go to Lotte Mart in Seoul station to buy merchandise or gift but I don't want to, so I just stay at my dorm with Claresta and we went to Penguin Café near Seoul University (Sorry Ms. Tanty and the committee hhh). We went by using subway and it take 15 minute to go there. After we arrived, I order Americano coffee and taking picture there!



S&Penguin's Café

Fyi, this café is owned by one of idol in Korea and I'm one of her fans. So... yeah I need to go there hhh.



Americano



The place is cozy and comfortable!

The interesting part is, when I take photos outside the café with Claresta, suddenly a Korean man approach us and said “are you Indonesian?” and we say “yes we are from Indonesia”. Suddenly, he told us “Saya bisa Bahasa Indonesia” and we are shocked! He said that he lives at Bandung for 6 months for teaching at ITB and that’s why he can talk Indonesia a little bit. It’s an amazing experience for us to meet Korean people that can talk Bahasa! He told us the story about lives in Indonesia and ask for photos and exchange contact with me!



Me, Claresta and Kyun Heo hyung!

He asks us where we gonna go, we told him that we want to go to Dongdaemun Design Plaza. He told us that we have the same route with him and we can take subway together! We share about our days in here and about his story in Indonesia. He told us that Korean young people doesn't care what are you doing and he take an example. He's taking picture of both of us in the subway... full of people... oh my god. And also he takes a selfie like no one was here...



So embarrassing...



After he arrived at his station which is Jamsil Station, he said goodbye and told us to contact him if we went to Korea again. I chat Rafi and ask about where are him and he said the others are going to dorm. So we are in rush and we can't go to Dongdaemun Design Plaza (I'm sorry Claresta hhh). After arriving at dorm, we take a bath and the others are coming. I told my roommates about Kyun Heo and they are in shock to be meet by Korean that can talk Bahasa. Then I and Rafi went to outside to buy some drinks called Banana Uyu! It's really delicious and you must drink it as soon as you arrived at Korea! It's actually a banana milk but the taste is really refreshing and delicious. I bought 12 of 'em and Rafi bought 10, also we bought Line drink that only sold in Korea only.



Banana Milk (바나나맛우유)

After bought it, we went back to our dorm and packed our baggage. Previously in Indonesia we already upgrade our baggage so we can bring 20kg for me and 20kg for Rafi.

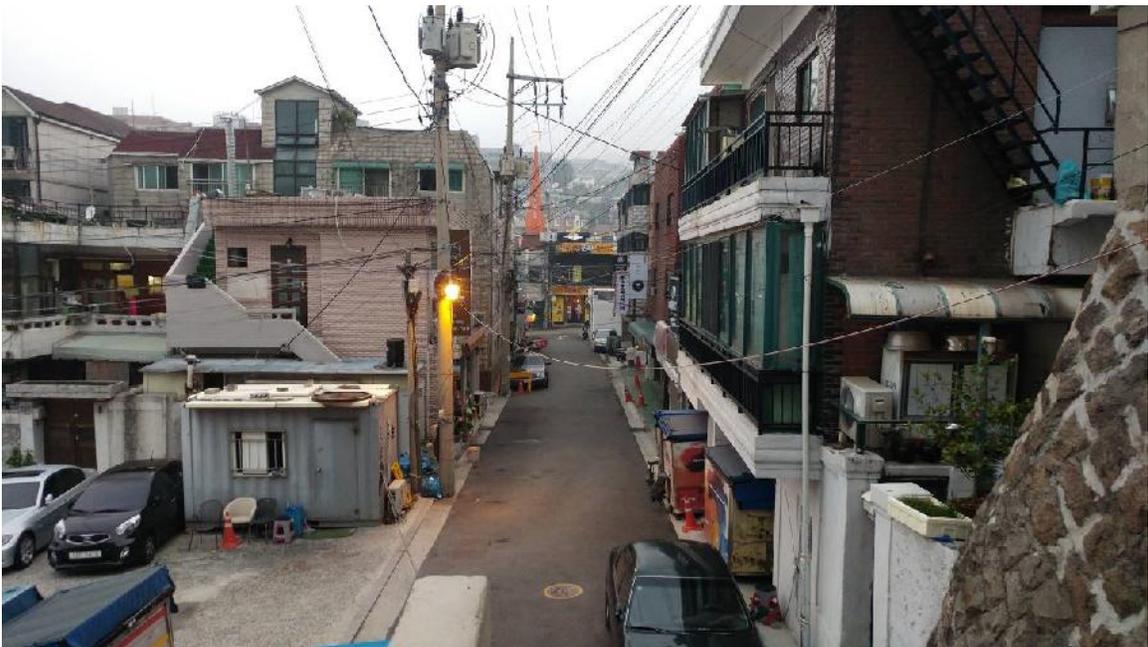


My luggage actually full of my sister's make up and banana milk...

After finish packing, finally I can sleep and I need to wake up so earlier because we need to arrive at airport at 10am.

DAY 7

I woke up first then my roommates. Then after take a shower I ate my last breakfast on G Guest house and taking my last picture in here.

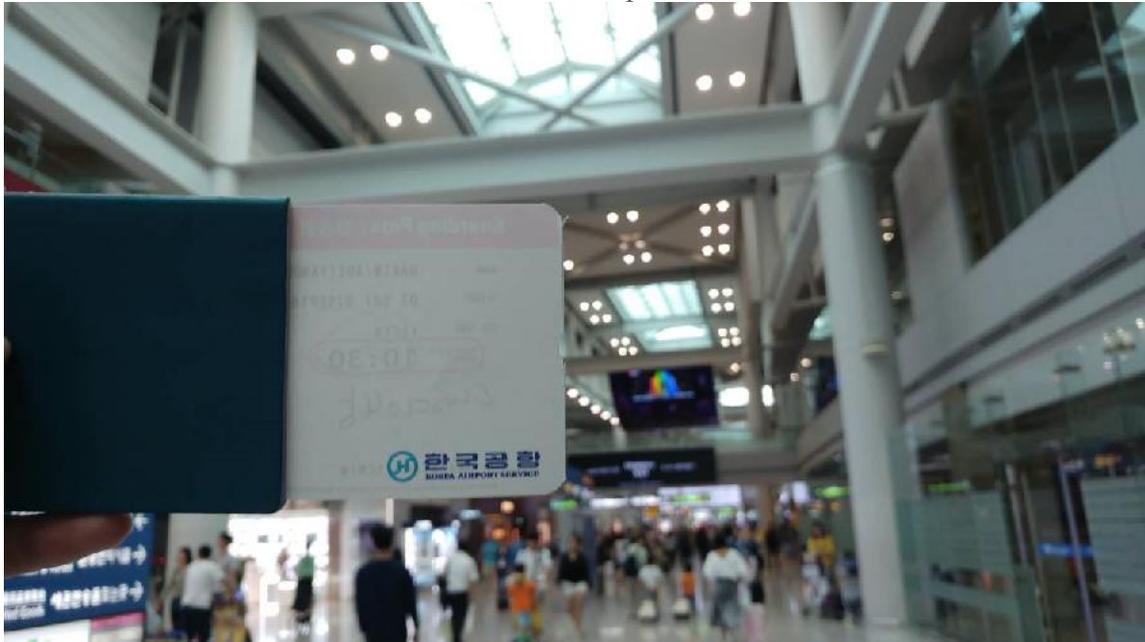


So sad

After breakfast, we went to subway and heading to Incheon Int. Airport. It takes about 2 hours to go there because we take the subway at weekday morning so it's so crowded. After arrived at airport, we check our luggage first especially me and Rafi. Luckily my luggage was 18kg and his luggage 20kg. After check in and receive our plane ticket, we have time to explore Incheon Int. Airport. This place is so large and amazing also beautiful.



Incheon Airport



My passport and ticket

I remember that I have a tax-refund for my sister's make up. So, after we pass the immigration, me, Rafi, Claresta and Wardana are going to find where we can refund the tax. After find it, I got my money back! I receive 13 usd and 1000 won. Rafi bought more than me but he just got around 7 usd, that's so weird though. Then we are waiting at the

boarding room. In here, we still can walk around because the boarding room are integrated into shopping place if you want to bought more gift, which is I do that. I bought a Korean traditional snack and seaweed. When I bought it, the seller which is woman around 40 years old are serving me, and I suddenly talk to her in Korea language and hope that I will get a discount from her. They have so many kind of seaweed such as original (sesame oil and olive oil), wasabi, spicy, etc. And because I talk to her in Korea, I can try all of the seaweed hhh. And I'm so proud when she asks me "why your Korean are so good, you are Korean people right?" and I said "no, I'm Indonesian" in Korea and she's look amazed with how foreign people can talk in Korea. After paying, I went back to boarding room and takes some photos.



Then the staff called us that our plane is ready to fly!

After I board the plane, I got the windows seat yay! Because Ms. Tanty kindly want to change her seat with me. After we fly, I went asleep and woke up just to bought food and eat in the plane.



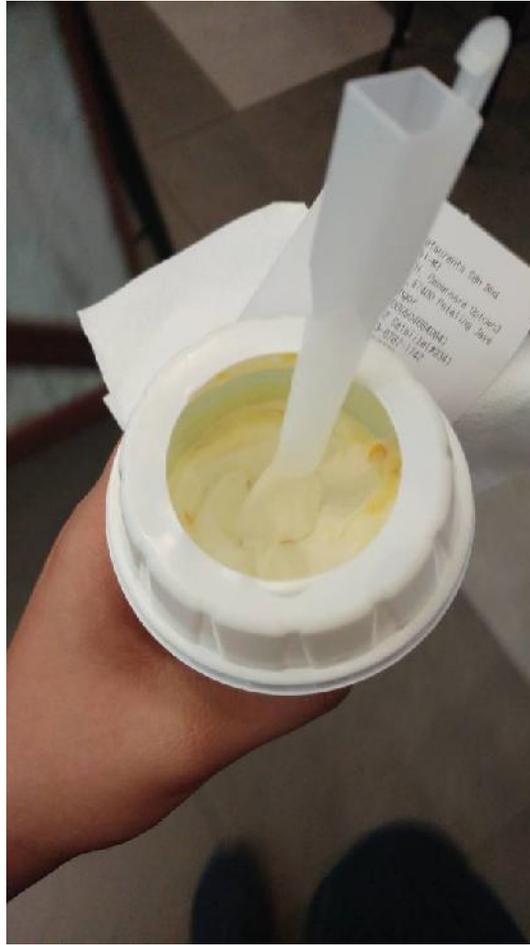
Rendang(?)



The sky is clear

The food actually tastes good, but the portion are so small for me. After about 4 hours, we arrived at Kuala Lumpur Int. Airport and we need to transit for 5 hours here. We ate lunch there and the committee was treating us by paying our food yay! I ate a noodle with mandarin chicken.

Then, I bought myself a McFlurry ice cream at Mc Donald in Malaysia. They have mango flavor here and it's so unique for me.



Mango ice cream

Then, I bought my family a gift. A durian cakes, durian coffee and mango dried fruit. Then they told us to go to boarding room. We chat together because it gonna be our last meeting and take picture together!



We are batch 1!

The plane is ready! We fly again and going to Jakarta. At this moment I really want to extend my holiday in Korea...

After landed, we finally arrived again in Indonesia at 12am! Then we went to immigration and takes our baggage. The baggage is taking so much time it's so different compare when we are at Korea. Then suddenly my grandfather went into place for taking baggage with his airport friend. After I receive my luggage, I said goodbye to my friends and went outside with my grandpa to meet my parents that waiting for me and went home safely!

I really want to said thank you to Immersion Committee, the lecturer that joined us, and Peponi Travel! Without you, we can never go to Korea together. It's really a new experience for me to enjoying life in Korea and trying many new things there. I really appreciate your hard work and I wish we can go to another place next year!

Thank you

Best regard,

Aditya Nur Hakim