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Organizing Committee & Editorial Board

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Editorial Board

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LIANG Ka Man, Carmen
TSANG Hing See Pansy

Itinerary

Day 1 - 07.06.05

Hong Kong ✈️ **Korea (Incheon)** 🚶 **War Memorial**
🚶 **Doota Shopping Area** 🚶 **Ewha Women**
University Shopping Area 🚶 **Walker Hill Casino**

Day 2 - 08.06.05

🎓 **Kim & Chang** 🎓 **National Human Rights**
Commission of Korea 🚶 **Insadong**

Day 3 - 09.06.05

🎓 **Seoul National University** 🎓 **Supreme Court**
of Korea 🚶 **Lotte World**

Day 4 - 10.06.05

🎓 **Korea University** 🏠 **Home Stay**

Day 5 - 11.06.05

🏠 **Home Stay**

Day 6 - 12.06.05

🚶 **Gyeongbokgung** ✈️ **Hong Kong**

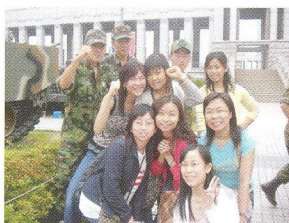
Seoul, where twenty-two fellow law students shared a memorable experience together, is the destination of Legal Interflow Tour 2005.

With an aim to help law students widen their horizons and not to confine their legal learning to within our faculty, Spectrum, the Law Association this year, put much effort in organizing this tour. We organized visits to various famous universities, law firms and legal bodies; we lived with local host families; we also did a lot of sightseeing. We do hope that law students, after a stressful academic year, would have the chance to experience a completely different culture, legal system and education methods in a fun and leisurely manner!

We laughed and we cried, we played and we learned. Each of the twenty-two of us treasured every moment of the six-day tour in Seoul. Now, let's share what we've gained by enjoying our words and lovely pictures in this publication!



Elsie Chu
Chairperson
Legal Interflow Tour 2005



p. 5

Kim & Chang

Karen So (LLB II)

Visit p. 6

Before we went to visit the largest law firm in Korea, discussions arose on the legal topic of what the major differences were between the common law system and the civil law system. Does the lawyers play a lesser role in regard to litigation in Korea or is this only a theory and in reality, the differences between the two legal systems are actually insignificant?

We were lucky to have Mr. Kim, the President of Kim & Chang, himself to explain to us the major differences between the two legal systems. As a former judge in Korea, he believed that the two systems are now actually getting more and more alike. He also told us some recent legal changes in Korea which would ultimately lead it to the unification of the South and North Korea.

Apart from the formal discussion with the lawyers in Kim and Chang, we also talked about the differences of legal education between Hong Kong and Korea during lunch. Although we were there for only a short period, my knowledge on the Korean legal system has indeed been increased. Our questions were all answered when we left and I felt very lucky to have learnt more about modern Korea from a new perspective through explanations from the Korean lawyers.



Kim and Chang is one of the largest and the most specialized law firms in Korea, founded in 1972 by a retired former senior judge. It is well-established and renowned for its quality professional services. We visited its office, which is located in the central business district of Seoul.

We were warmly welcomed by the staff there. She toured us around the office. We were amazed by the splendid facilities. The spacious conference rooms were furnished with high-tech writing boards, where the words written on the board could also be printed out immediately which saves the time for copying. Each lawyer had their own office so that they could have their private working area to preserve confidentiality - important for the protection of clients' interests when lawyers in the firm are representing opposite parties in a suit.

A senior lawyer then introduced the background, structure and the operation of the firm in a short presentation. After the presentation, we thereby knew that the firm's diversity in its specialized fields of commercial law including securities, capital markets and banking, mergers and acquisitions, privatization, foreign investment, bankruptcy/corporate restructuring, human resources, antitrust and fair trade, international trade, product liability, real property/construction, environment, telecommunications, health care, intellectual property, litigation and arbitration, tax and maritime. We were then honoured to have the opportunity to meet with the senior partners, including the founder of the firm, Mr Chang. He shared with us his experience as a judge in the judiciary and a practicing lawyer.

After this visit, it made me realize that how different the real life and the way we studied law in the university could be. Globalization fosters international trade and business connections. As lawyers in the modern society, we are expected to be capable to handle situation which involves parties in different countries and of different natures. As law students, we must now equip ourselves better to be prepared for the challenges ahead.



National Human Rights Commission of Korea

Daddy Law (LLB II)

The visit to the national human rights commission of Korea has been a truly eye-opening experience.

As a start, we were shown two inspiring and entertaining movies produced by the commission for the purpose of increasing people's awareness about human rights. The first was 'The weight of her', which featured a girl coming to grips with the overwhelming pressure from her peers, family, school and society on her to lose weight. It seems discrimination on the ground of 'physical appearance' is a common occurrence in Korea. A plump face and figure only invites bullying, sarcasm, loss of employment opportunities and bears upon the mind a weight so heavy that eventually leads to self-denial and a blind pursuit for better appearance at the expense of health, money and self integrity. We were astonished by the popularity of eyelid surgeries among Korean girls.

The second was 'The man with an affair', which depicted the stigmatization of a released sex offender and calls for reflection over the meaning of punishment. The man's identity as a sex offender was exposed on his door and open for the scrutiny of his neighbours. The film used the punishment of a girl to symbolize the punishment of the sex offender. While the girl was thrown out of her home as a way of punishment, the sex offender was isolated from society for his past wrongdoing. As a way of retribution, the girl was asked by her mom to collect salt from her neighbours, as if to announce to the world that she was being punished, while the sex offender was, in perhaps a more humiliating manner, deprived of dignity by the compulsory exposure of his criminal record. Sadly, neither of their desires to seek pardon was answered. Does society offer any chance of rehabilitation to past wrongdoers? On the contrary, the sex offender was the only neighbour who helped the girl, who gave people second chances, and needed a second chance.

In addition to the films, they gave us a comprehensive review of the human rights situation in Korea which covers freedom of expression and political participation, labour and consumer rights, basic rights of subsistence, legal rights of access to justice and due process, prisoners' rights etc. Like HK, they are also involved in the fight against a national security bill for freedom of speech and assembly.

However, one deficiency of the commission is its lack of power to bring a legal action, unlike the Equal Opportunities Commission in HK which is a body with statutory powers to take government departments to court for violation of human rights, for example, the inequality of male and female students in the allocation for secondary school places. The Korea commission can only facilitate reconciliation of disputes, make recommendations to other institutions, or give opinions to court upon investigation of complaints. Such powers are hardly sufficient to help victims fight for justice.

Last but not least, I would like to say thank you to Elsie for organizing such a wonderful trip and congratulations on giving birth to a healthy baby, the trip I mean. The success of the trip is largely attributed to her enthusiasm and incredible effort throughout the trip. It has been an honour to have participated in the preparation for the interflow tour and great pleasure working under her competent and considerate leadership.



National Human Rights Commission of Korea

Charmaine Yim (LLB II)

The National Human Rights Commission of Korea features a broad mandate and diverse functions. It is an all-in-one human rights institution designed to protect and promote human rights across the spectrum and to fight and rectify discrimination.

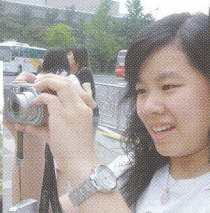
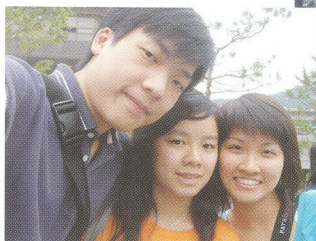
On arrival, we first received a warm welcoming speech from the Chairman. She gave us some background knowledge of the history and the recent development of human rights in Korea. The lecture on human rights issues was exciting and informative. A series of human rights films were shown which fostered a culture sensitive to human rights and discrimination issues. We then enthusiastically participated in the subsequent discussion.



We listened to several inspiring speeches. Here we had a group of human rights advocates, sparing the plight of the Korean and how their basic human rights are abused. Instead of hiding these notorious injustice and unfairness, they faced them and addressed the problems. Thanks to this non-government organization, justice is done to the victims and the human right situation in Seoul was less gloomy.

This visit has undoubtedly arisen our awareness towards human rights issues in a global context.

I was impressed by the dedication of the members of the organization and their determination to address the issue.



The “birthplace” of most of the prestigious judges in Korea since 1920, the dreamy destination for many high-flyers in Korean high schools, and the synonym with glory and nobility --- the Seoul National University, a place we had the greatest pleasure to visit.

After welcoming by a group of smiley law students, we attended a lecture by Professor Keun Gwan Lee. He briefed us with the Korean legal system and explained how law has interlinked with the dynamic political and economic development of Korea. He also spoke on the country’s plans to designate law as a post-graduate study, which aims at easing the keen competition of entering law schools. At present, not only entering law school is difficult, passing the judicial exam is much more, since the passing rate is only around 1%. Upon comparison, Hong Kong students are much more fortunate.



But what keeps the Korean students go on though under a hectic and pressurizing study environment? Perhaps their desire to strive for justice. Hints can be found within and outside the law building. Under the statue of a past graduate, “fiat justitia, ruat coelum” were clearly carved, which means “let justice be done, even though the heaven falls”. Outside the law building, the glittering sunlight gleams through the green leaves and draws your attention to the shiny justice bell behind the trees. A placard was attached to the bell, spelling out “fiat justitia, ruat coelum” in Korean.

Glory and nobility do not come easy, so do being the servant of justice. I believe that this is the case in Korea, Hong Kong and the rest of the world. But, as law students, we are prepared to take up all the challenges ahead. Envisioning justice and fairness is the propellant behind us, and the bond between us, against the overwhelming personal and regional differences.



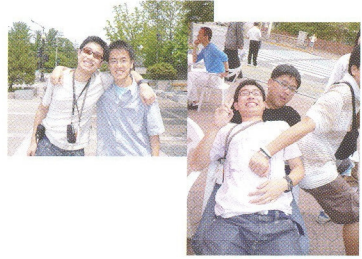
Legal System of Korea

Edwin Choi (LLB II)

What makes this trip to Seoul valuable, from a law student's perspective, is that we get to experience the operation of a civil law system - which is different in many ways from the common law system in Hong Kong. After meeting the local law students, representatives from a local giant law firms, we had the honour to meet one of their Supreme Court Judges.

We first toured around the Supreme Court. One observation greatly attracted my attention. There were only 11 Supreme Court Judges yet 13 chairs on the bench. Our tour guide said the extra chairs are reserved for the judges from North Korea should Korea be united again. This caused me to think about how such subtle act can shed some light on the national aspiration of South Korea, and more paradoxically, by an independent judiciary.

In a common law system, most of the laws are judge-made laws. It is the judge's role to discover the law by what might in substance be an invention of new legal principles, subject to the restrictions of stare decisis principles. With such duty, Judges, in my mind, are bound to be distinguished individuals who respect nothing but the system.



This is different in a civil law system. In Korea, it can be a choice of a law school fresh graduate to be a judge. With due respect to the judges who must have weathered through all sorts of excruciating examinations, I just cannot clear the doubt in my mind as to the maturity of such individuals to decide cases, as compared to the judges in the common law system who initially have excelled as barristers and subsequently choose to be a judge at an age while others are planning their retirement. Although I understand their laws are drafted in a more detailed way so as to lighten the judge's burden, I tried to prove myself wrong by asking the judge a question on legal system. I asked if he has worried that he might have erred in his decisions since he is deciding cases alone, without the long-term training as a barrister. The answer I expected from him was that the system would come into assistance should he really be wrong, since the losing side can always appeal to a higher court. However, the answer he gave us was, basically, that he and all other judges would lift those doubts by sparing no effort in making the right decisions. I was astonished by this answer.

I dare not jump to any conclusions solely base on this encounter without examining comprehensively the Korean system. However, this might nevertheless reflect the different fundamental elements that the two systems focus on.



Supreme Court of Korea

Carol Chan (LLB II)

Visit p. 12

We arrived at the Supreme Court of Korea on the third day of our trip. As I stepped into the premise, I was amazed by its humble yet unique architecture. The special placement of statues and artworks around the tour ground displayed a sense of order and peace. The two grand statues, which consisted of the statue of Law and Justice named Haitai and Harmony-95, conveyed the harmony of nature and solemn order. What drew my attention most was the engravings on the main entrance arc. The three words "Freedom, Equality and Justice" are the values we pursue in our judicial system. We, as law students, are learning to uphold these basic rights for our citizens and that the three words written above the main entrance symbolize a pledge to the Korean citizens.



Not only was the exterior of the building unique, its interior was also grand and spacious. The Goddess of Justice stood above, guarding over the entire Supreme Court. We stayed there for a long time and took a photo with the statue of the late first Chief Justice, Byong Ro Kim. Afterwards, we visited a number of courtrooms and spoke with one of the judges of the Supreme Court. Everyone participated in the conversations about the differences between the Hong Kong and Korean judicial systems. This experience was certainly a memorable one. I learnt a lot about the Korean legal system in this trip.

Supreme Court of Korea

Maureen Ho (LLB II)

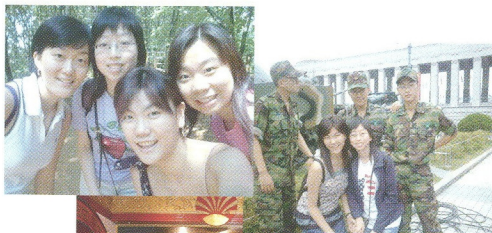
Visit P. 13

In the afternoon on 9 June (Day 3), we visited the Supreme Court of Korea. The Supreme Court is located in a splendid white building near the city centre. The courthouse was completed in 1995 which marked the year of the modernisation of the judiciary system in South Korea. Being the highest court on the land, it handles appeal from the district courts and makes final decisions on cases.

We were first guided around the court building. In the main courtroom, there were 16 seats on the stage where the chief justice and 13 other Supreme Court justices sit. The extra 2 seats are set for purpose of allowing the judges from North Korea into the court when someday North and South may finally unite together. The setting of the main courtroom demonstrates to all visitors the strong desire of the South Koreans in joining their brothers in the north regardless of their lower level of living and freedom.

After a tour around the marble hall, we were then given a 15-minute video show on how the court mechanism worked in Korea and how the advancing information technology assisted the handling of daily court work. In the information centre located near the main entrance, business and land registry work can be done through computers. It facilitates the handling of such complex job.

The rest of the afternoon came our time with one of the associate judges. We had a very fruitful discussion with him on the judiciary system of South Korea and the judge appointment system.



To be a judge in South Korea, one has to be appointed by the Chief Justice with the consent of the Supreme Court Justice Council and to serve 10 years subject to possible reappointments. The role of a judge in this civil law system is quite different from ours in the sense that he has to take an active role throughout the process and does most of the evidence work in order to have a speedy progress on the cases. Let alone the lack of a jury system, judges are not bound by any precedents in theory. However, the outcome would be very similar to one in the common law system as judges tend to follow previous ruling as a matter of courtesy.

Moreover, the career of a judge is not the same matter as in our common law system. In South Korea, graduates from law schools can immediately start on the career without being a practitioner in the first place. After 2 years of training programme offered by the Supreme Court, they can be appointed to their posts by the chief justices of the high courts or the district courts.

Apart from the discussion on the system, we also have a casual chat with the associate judge. He felt that the incentive behind for him to become a judge is prestige and social status. Although practitioners usually get higher salaries than judges, the stable career is the main attraction to most of the graduates. Except for the Chief Justice, the judges in South Korea can always be appointed unless one has committed felony or is in breach of the constitution which is rather serious conduct.

After this visit to the Supreme Court of Korea, I felt that I had learnt more about the judiciary system in the civil law community. There may be differences between the common law and the civil law mechanisms, but it is undeniable that both systems strive to keep freedom, equality and justice in their own societies.

Korea University

Luke Fong (BBA Law II)

Visit D.14

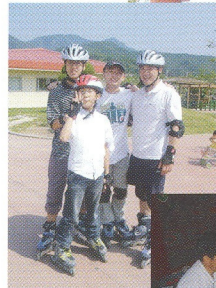
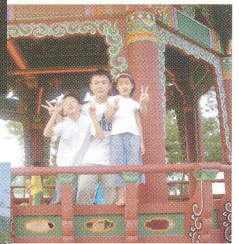
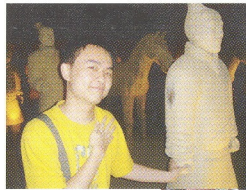
Korea University is the second university we visited. It is quite far away from Seoul's downtown and so our trip has to start early.

We were welcomed by a group of students at the main gate of the university. They introduced to us the history of the university and the keen competition within the legal field in Korea. We heard that if one wants to become a barrister in Korea, he must first get a bachelor degree in Law and then pass another exam, which, to our great surprise, the passing rate is only 2-3%. We could hardly imagine that the life of being a law student in Korea, especially if you want to become a barrister.

The students also told us that this year is a very special year for Korea University – its 100 anniversary. With simple calculation, anyone can easily discover that the university was founded in year 1905. However, the buildings you see in the photos were not built at that time. Despite the medieval outlooks of these buildings, the internal looks just like modern city halls or shopping malls. One of the many places that impressed me the most is the self-study area. It was separated only by a glass window from the main passageway to the canteen. We could see what was going on inside it when we were on our way to have lunch. It gave me a feeling that students went into the study room to 'purchase' their knowledge for 'food'.

After our full lunch, we visited the museum in Korea University. Korea University is the only university in Korea which owns a museum within its campus. The museum mainly displays the Korean history and its development. Some of us even had the chance to try on traditional Korean costumes!

It was a pity that we could not stay there longer to have more chats with the staff and students as we had to rush to meet our host families. We all had enjoyed our stay at the university and the warm welcome by the staff members and fellow students. We hope we can have the chance to visit there again in the near future.



Korea University

Stephanie Chan (BBA LAW II)

The advancement in technology and communication has gradually lowered the geographical borders that separate countries. Dynamic changes in industrial structure, technology, labor paradigm, and so fourth, have put enormous pressure on higher education institutions to adapt accordingly. Korea University has indeed given its students a head start by fostering a strong international outlook to empower them to compete on an international level.

I am especially impressed by its high-tech equipment such as wireless voice projection and classroom management software. On the curriculum level, emphasizes are not only on major courses but also on general education curriculum. The University increased the number of courses taught in English to approximately 30% this year and anticipates the number to reach 60% by the year 2010.



Last but not least, its superb environment help creates a truly unique learning and growing atmosphere, which is so inviting and welcoming.

All in all, the Legal interflow has provided me with greater insights as well as lots of fun. Inspiration does not only come from interaction with judges from the Supreme Court, Lawyers from the leading Law firms, students from prestigious universities, but it also comes from their attitude and the differences in their culture which we experienced during our home stay.

On a country level, we had a better understanding of the challenges and issues behind the North- South Korea problem. On a micro-level we had a chance to appreciate the growing potential of the 'one-stop service' of the leading law firms. Finally on a personal level, I had tremendous joy establishing life-long friendships with my peers as well as across borders during the trip. It is truly an amazing experience!

Lotte World

Helen Lie (LLB II)

It was truly unforgettable to see a group of twenty-year-old girls jumping up and down like five year-old kids when we arrived at the entrance of our wonderland – the Lotte World.

Lotte World was divided into two parts: the 'Adventure' inside the building, and the 'Magic Island' outside and beside the Seokchonho Lake. We first went to the 'Magic Island' where there were more exciting amazement rides. Jacky, our tour guide, suggested that we should all take a ride of the Space Mountain. Then the thirty-two of us just rushed to that machine. Some felt that it was not exciting enough while some thought that it was too frightening. Those who did not feel frightened even grasped the chance to play the most exciting machine – Gyro Drops. It was amazing to watch them falling from seventy meters up there in less than 30 seconds!

We also rode on the World Monorail. It was a smooth ride from the Magic Island to the Adventure. It was very relaxing. When we looked down from the train, we could see that inside the 'Adventure', some actors were performing a drama. We could also watch the parade and enjoyed the singing and dancing by two hundred performers.

In the second part of Lotte World, the 'Adventure', twenty of us played the bumping jesters. We sat on the bumper cars shaped like animals and the cars were bumping and jolting from all sides. Though this was a simple and common game in most theme parks, we did have a lot of fun!

Inside the building there was also a flume ride, but this was in a much smaller scale. Still, it was an exciting game! We took two rides and got wet! On top of that, we had taken an underground boat ride at the Adventures of Sindbad. While we were in the waterway, we were very excited as everything inside it was mysterious!

Last but not least, we had a ride on the Merry-go-round! It had become one of its famous scenic spots due to the filming of a Korean TV series. The Merry-go-round machine was so beautiful that we could not stop taking pictures in front of it!

Lotte World had given us a truly precious moment. If time permitted, perhaps we would stay there for a whole day! I was really glad to see how happy my friends were. In this little wonderland, it seemed we had found the children inside us. Thank you so much, Lotte World!



First Day Sightseeing

Victor Ng (LLB II)

After the tiring flight, we finally arrived at the Seoul International Airport early in the morning. Despite the fact that we were all tired out, our weariness was expunged and headed for our destinations without delay once the tour guide announced the lists of the scenery spots awaiting us.

And among the scenery spots visited, the War Memorial of Korea impressed me most. Our attention was drawn by the Tower of Peace Clock when we got through the gates. It was, in fact, a statue with two clocks; one was indicating the time when the civil war broke out while the other was telling modern time. We were told by the tour guide that when the obsolete clock functions again, reunification between North Korea and South Korea would be done. Not far away from the Tower stood the Statue of Brothers of Opposing Forces. It was a statue with the brothers embracing each other tightly when they met at the front-line of the war. They, though came from the opposing forces, could not brutally kill each other. It was ironical that their reunion took place at the front-line. The statue exemplified the tragedy experienced by countless Korean families to be forcibly separated and classified as either North Korean or South Korean and to oppose each other.

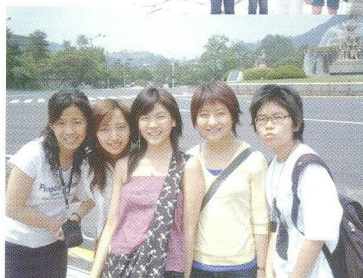


The visit to the War Memorial of Korea did let me know more about the history of the country (many thanks to our tour guide who was really a funny person and has given us detailed explanations) and the stance of Korean people concerning reunification. Actually, we were all surprised that most South Korean people really hoped for the reunification despite that great sacrifice, especially in economic aspect, is inevitable to them. They still consider themselves and North Korean people coming from the same one big family and greatness (reunification) requires sacrifice. They think that 'their country' is forced to be split into two parts under the intimidation and intervention of outsiders who wanted to take advantages of the separation. We were all amazed by their patriotism as well as their strong sense to try to reunify the countries as a whole.

Shopping in Seoul

Polly Cheng (LLB II)

After lunch, we headed for our last destination – Myeongdong. Myeongdong is a shopping district with a lot of fashionable shops. Somewhat like Mongkok, the busy and crowded district gathers both brand-named shops and non brand-named shops. We grasped our last chance to do shopping and buy souvenirs for our friends. To be frank, I was quite disappointed and I did not find the goods sold in the district attractive. Those in the brand-named shops were not as trendy as those in Hong Kong. However, they were charged with higher prices. While many items sold in non brand-named shops or by hawkers were just fake. For instance, many hawkers sold accessories with the print of popular Korean stars like Bae Yong Joon.



Besides being a shopping district, Myeongdong is also a place with a lot of restaurants. We were particularly attracted by a store selling amazingly tall ice-cream (nearly 40cm!). The ice-cream was cheap and tasty. We then went to a shop that sells traditional Korean food for our friends.

After the shopping, we finally went to Incheon International Airport and got ready to leave Korea.

Last day in Seoul

Wing Kwong (LLB II)

We visited the biggest palace, Gyeongbokgung in Seoul. It was a wonderful place with beautiful scenery. We took lots of pictures there. After lunch, we went crazy shopping in Namdaemun and Myung Dong. One and a half hour was really not enough for even a quick rush to all of the shops there. Myung Dong was a fantastic, funny and fashionable shopping area where you couldn't resist yourself from buying. I bought many souvenirs including cosmetics and accessories for my friends. If you visit Seoul in the future and only little time can be spent on shopping, Myung Dong must be your only choice! It is not an advertisement but my own experience: You can buy everything there!



Leaving Myung Dong, we went to the airport in Incheon, bringing all the joy, sweet memories and unforgettable experience back to Hong Kong.



First Day Sightseeing

Pansy Tsang (LLB II)

After 4 hours of flight, we have excitedly arrived at the heart of Korea, Seoul. Following the itinerary, our first day in Seoul would be spent sight-seeing.

First, we went to War Memorial. That was a place packed with war tanks and jets. From the description by the tour guide Jacky, we learnt a lot about the war which split the North and South Koreas. From the displays and statues, we could actually feel the sorrow of people who went through the war.

Next, we went to the Doota Shopping Area and Namdaemun. Both places were quite similar to Mongkok in Hong Kong with the difference that those were usually market stalls but not shops in the shopping malls.



Then we went to Ewha Women University Shopping Area. There were loads of shops and many special Korean snacks to eat. Most of us bought so much that shopping bags were hanging all over our arms!

The last destination of the day was the Walker Hill Casino. This was the first time for nearly all of us to step into a casino. The place was very grand and we had lots of fun. Some of us even won a small fortune out of the trip!

The first day was both an exciting and exhausting day. It was also a perfect start for our Legal Interflow Tour 2005!

Host Family

Gary Leung (LLB II)

While the entire interflow tour was filled with joy and excitement, the host family part was surely one of its climaxes. Every two members of the tour paired up and each pair stayed with a Korean host family for almost 2 days.

Edwin (LLBII) and I stayed with Kim's family. It was a family of four - two sons at the age of 15 and 20, together with their parents. The father of the family was a charismatic and successful businessman who was occupied with work, and so we spent most of the time with the mother. The elder son, Jung-el, is an artist who draws very well; while the younger son, Jung-kon, was a high school student and was going to study abroad in the US soon.

I was very much impressed by what I encountered. First, the family was extremely hospitable. They gave their best when treating us and cared about how we felt very much. Despite his busy schedule, the father managed to squeeze time to give us a 2 hours ride along Hangang River (漢江) and also drove us around the centre of Seoul to visit different places. The mother was thoughtful and had planned a full itinerary for us, including the exciting trips to the symbolic national Graveyard and to a traditional Korean temple. She always asked if Edwin and I needed anything and cared about our wants very much that we both felt that she was treating us as if we were her sons, which was something so warm that we had never expected.



Another thing that has instilled in me with deep impression was that the mother being extremely loving towards her family. Despite staying up till late night to plan our itinerary, she would check if her sons and us had slept before going to bed. She was always the first to wake up in the early morning. By the time everyone wakes up, hot breakfast has already been nicely cooked. She also drives her younger son to and from school everyday. She was just a real life example of a traditional Chinese model wife and mother. The two sons of the family were both very nice and were obedient to the parents. Jung-kon studied very hard and definitely had good English. Both of them lead a disciplined and regular healthy life style. I was surprised when I saw all these as I have never imagined that a Korean family can resemble a traditional Chinese family that much.

I was touched when I saw the mother burying her head into a dictionary, trying hard to explain a Korean expression to us; and I would not forget that the mother had years in her eyes when saying goodbye to us. We are now still in contact each other through emails. I can only say that I was fortunate to have Kim's family as my host family. I shall take this chance to express my heartfelt gratitude to the OCs of the Legal Interflow Tour 2005 as without their hard work, this extraordinary experience would not be possible. The Legal Interflow Tour 2005 was such a success and thank you so much, all dear OCs!



Host Family

Stephen Chu (LLB II)

During the last two days of our Korea Legal Interflow Tour, we were taken care by our own assigned local host families. Unlike many of those who got paired up, I chose to stay on my own with the host family. Quite unexpectedly, I felt extremely nervous right before I was being handed over to my hosts. All at once what came up to my mind was the possible misery of staying in a stranger's house. I cannot speak Korean. If my hosts cannot speak English, Putonghua or Cantonese, how could I communicate with them during the two whole days?

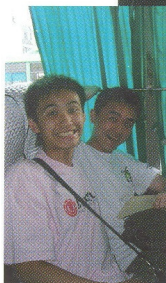
Fortunately, everything turned out fine. Every members of my host family can speak and understand English. On the way to their house, Mrs Kim (the mother of the family) nicely talked to me. She told me a lot about her family, hobbies and beliefs. I was further relieved after knowing that her husband, the two sons and herself are all Catholics; for I, too, am a Catholic. Although Mrs Kim's English was not very fluent, she tried hard to make sure I understood every thing she said. Besides, she is definitely a good cook. The meals prepared for me during the two days were far better than any of that arranged in the first three days of our tour. I very much appreciate her excellent hospitality.

When I reached my host family's home, I then met Mrs Kim's younger son, Ji Hwan. It was very excited to know that Ji Hwan was also a law student at Seoul University, to where we had visited previously. He is at the same age as mine too. Naturally, we talked and talked happily and very soon became very good friends. Between us there exist endless topics. We shared to each other our family life, school life, interesting characters, hobbies, aspirations as well as our secrets deep in heart!

That night, Ji Hwan, despite his exam in the following day, brought me out to have a drink somewhere nearby. There I met some of his friends at university. They were all very interested in Hong Kong. I felt ashamed as I sometimes failed to give full information about certain aspects of Hong Kong features.

The next day, I visited Mrs Kim's sister home together with Mrs Kim and Ji Hwan. Mrs Kim's sister was also another host who took care of Carol Chan and Vivian Ng. Moreover, Maureen Ho's host family also joined us. At the moment we met each other, we were all overwhelmed. After dinner, all the youngsters in that house united and moved upstairs to play. We played both Hong Kong and Korean games. It is quite interesting to realize that although we are all adults, we can actually be carried away by some childish activities! That night when I returned home, being aware that we still had affordable energy to consume, Ji Hwan and I immersed ourselves into the excitement of a computer game, the Bomberman. We played and laughed like two mad oxes and did not go to bed till 4am.

Although I had only stayed at my host family for two days, I felt as if I had gained one more father, mother and brother. Besides, I have realized that it is actually quite simple to make friends with foreigners. All you need is simply sincerity. Furthermore, I have also experienced how it is like being a foreigner in a foreign country and family. Being a foreigner may often be very lonely and hopeless. As local people, showing care and support to foreigners can already make a great difference. After this tour, I happen to examine my way of treating other, especially those foreign students at school. I have really benefited a lot from this Interflow Tour.



Host Family

Joey Zhuang (LLB II)

After 3 days' legal tour and sightseeing in Seoul, it was time for the host family session. We were randomly assigned to a Korean family to stay in for 2 days. This was really what I longed for – indeed, being exposed in a context of family situation is one of the most direct way to closely touch the pulse of exotic culture.

What conceals the scene of such a sleepless metropolitan, Seoul? How will the Korean people act in ordinary life? How about our Korean Family? Freaky questions sprung up in my mind when we were heading for the designated host family community.

Warm welcomes, hugs, grins, nothing special, and nothing unnatural. Without saying too much, every pair was brought home. Charmaine and I shared Mrs Kim and her family.

The Kim family had 5 people, including Mr Kim and Mrs Kim, their 2 sons as well as Mr Kim's mother. It was such a warm and hospitable family, where we were treated as a part of it, despite of existential linguistic gaps. Mr Kim, who speaks English with Korean accent, was always willing to communicate with us, inviting us to join their well-prepared sightseeing plan the next day, suggesting us having a memorable bar night, as well as enquiries on whether we need anything, and so on. Mr Kim, who almost didn't speak English, warmly greeted us by saying easy "Good morning" and "Hello". Yet, all his friendliness and care could be sensed from his plain smile. Granny chatted with us on arts of communication even though she didn't know English either. Mr Kim and Granny's perfect use of body language removed all the boundaries and barriers. Gestures, smiles, drawings and expressions, all of which recalled me a saying that "you said it best, when you say nothing at all".

According to Mr Kim's plan, we would go to visit the world ceramic exhibition taking place at the outskirts of Seoul. Luckily, we had our other two classmates, Paddy and Victor joining us with their gentleman Daddy. It was a really memorable day, especially when 4 big kids journeyed to the wonderland of global ceramics, as well as beautiful landscape and temples in the vicinity. What was also good experience is the traditional Korean lunch that day, in which we were surprised by fresh and robust exotic food, and nearly get "intoxicated" by the Korean rice wine.

To see is to believe. Our careful Korean Daddies in our eyes are far from male chauvinism which traditionally regarded as privileged by Korean man. They drove for us, parked and waited in the car when we were playing. They treated us with ice cream to cool us from the summer heat. They pictured us and made us laugh. You would definitely be moved when unexpected gift turns up. However, we would never discover this character if we just persuade ourselves by the stereotype.

....Maybe it is not a long time to spend 2 days in our host family, but all I will treasure in my heart is such a "human touch" in an ordinary family: acquaintance and understanding can be activated by communication in good faith, no matter what country you live in, no matter what language you speak, and what custom you act in.

Sarangheyo (I love u), Kims, and our Korean friends we knew along our way!



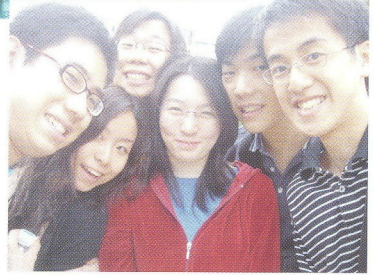
Host Family

Charmaine Leung (LLB II)

Through mixing with the people of the country you travel to, you get a deeper understanding of the country and its culture.

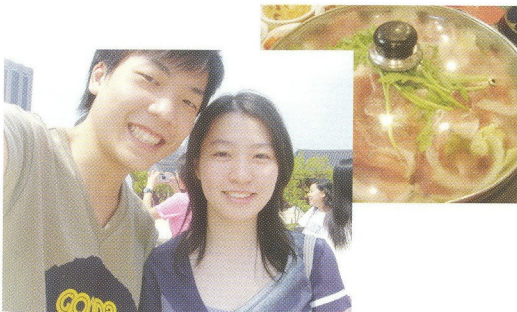
From 10th to 11th June, Stephanie and I stayed at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Kim. Despite the language barrier between the host family and the two of us, we had a most enjoyable experience during our home stay. Their son, Chris, spent most of his time with us. During dinner time, we discovered that Chris was a 'professional cook'. With his mother's help, he served us a variety of Korean cuisine. The food he cooked was indisputably delicious. Both Stephanie and I did try to help prepare for dinner, but Chris's 'professionalism' in cooking just rendered us useless in the kitchen.

After dinner, we chatted in the sitting room. Sitting in front of the television that shows Korean soap operas, with Mr. Kim reading the newspaper, Mrs. Kim peeling apples for us and Chris talking about himself and his friends - we came to realize the contentment enjoyed by a typical Korean family.



We set off early the next day with Chris to some traditional Korean villages. The trip was very valuable. We learned a lot about the traditional Korean way of life -- how they cooked food, how they got dressed...etc. We also watched a traditional Korean fight. To us, it might have appeared a bit violent. Yet modern Koreans seemed to regard it as a source of entertainment. Again, it was an experience of cultural difference.

Later in the afternoon, Chris introduced us to his friend, Jeff. It was truly an honour to meet him since he was still serving in the army and that day was actually his day-off. Both Chris and Jeff took us to different shopping areas around Seoul and introduced us to their friends, too. When they expressed their interest in visiting Hong Kong next year, we immediately told them that we would be happy to be their 'tour guides'!



Afterthoughts

Charlotte Leung (LLB II)

All the fun began with meetings of the organizing committee. The memories of sharing secrets between two good friends, gaming amongst a crowd of 10 persons, sharing the same bed were too warm to forget. It was extremely amazing to see the way new friends were made and old bonds get even stronger. We took care of each other, especially those who felt tired and sick. No graphs and curves can possibly make known how we get much closer throughout the trip. Yet we obtained thousands of shared memories and feelings of this fond trip.



It's never too long to stay in this astounding place with lovely friends. Seoul offers much more than just the food, the TV drama, the movies and the pop music. If you put yourselves into their shoes, close your eyes and feel it, you can experience the intelligence and friendliness of the Korean people. Insights and knowledge of a different jurisdiction that can not be learnt in a classroom are gained. I appreciate this year's Legal Interflow Tour at Seoul with gratitude.





Acknowledgement

The publication of this booklet resembles Interflow Tour 2005 nearly come to an end. I would like to say some words to express my feelings as a person-in-charge of this tour. Organizing this tour did provide me with laughters and tears. I have been frustrated by lack of sponsorship, no reply from Korean organizations and quarrels and "accidents" during the tour. In the meanwhile, I have also cheered by the support and help from the Committee members of Legal Interflow Tour 2005 and the Executive Committee Members of Law Association, HKUSU.

I would like to thank Kim & Chang, National Human Rights Commission of Korea, Seoul National University, Korea University, Supreme Court of Korea and Home-staying Office of Gwacheon-city for co-organizing this tour.

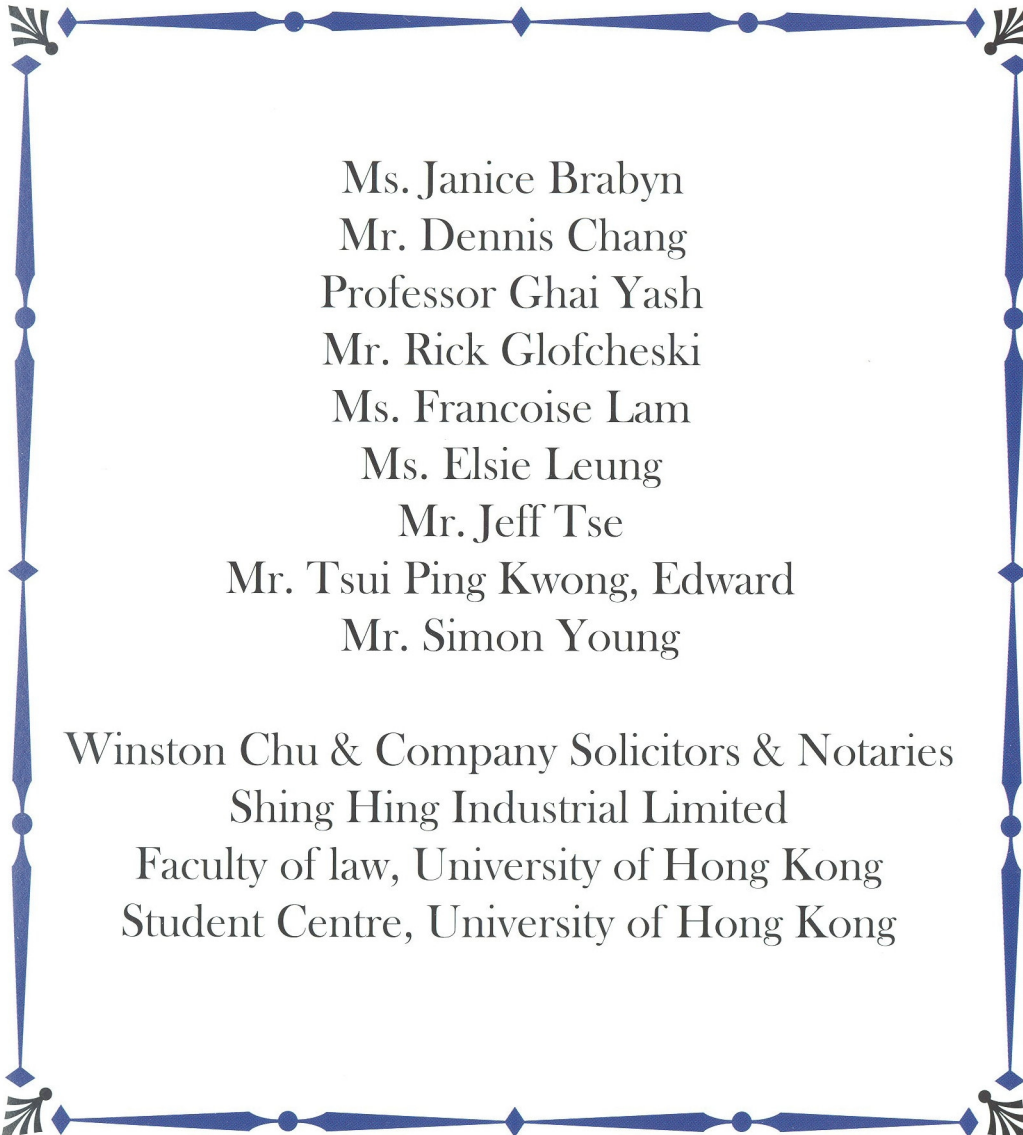


Special thanks to all sponsors, without your generous sponsorship, we would not have made this meaningful and fruitful tour a success.

Finally, thanks for all participants, having such a memorable six-days tour with each of you is really my pleasure. I would never forget those challenging and adventurous days in Seoul.

Johnson
Stokes
& Master

孖士打律師行



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