Hi everyone!
I hope everyone is doing well.
Are you having wonderful summer holidays?
During the summer vacation the ISL offered a 4 week Summer program which introduced Korean traditional culture to international students attending Inha University. During the four weeks of the program we learned about Korean traditional food and table manners, Korean traditional dresses which are called Hanboks, traditional house, Hanok, and Korean History from Gojoseon to now. During the last week, we went to the national museum of Korea to review the lessons we've learned. 34 international students and Korean volunteer students participated in this trip. The ISL Korean tutoring will continue next semester!

Field Trip to the National Museum of Korea

BY Vijay Deshmukh India

When the word 'Museum' comes to my mind, I get excited to see the 'world of the past'. It not only gives an idea about human history, civilization, culture, tradition, but also the way the human being has developed over the years. Museums also have the hidden philosophy behind the sculptures and articles which were used in ancient era. When I heard about the trip to 'the National Museum of Korea' which is the largest museum in Asia, I could not stop myself registering for it immediately.

We came across a tall and giant ten story Gyeongcheonsapagoda, as we entered into the exhibition hall. It was surprising for me that Japanese took this pagoda to Japan during Japanese occupation of Korea and later returned in 1960.

Golden Ornaments are always astonishing for me. When I saw the Golden Crown, I could not stop myself taking as many pictures as I could. It is one of the marvelous golden ornaments. It shows some similarities in all the old civilizations to use Gold as a symbol of status.

As I visited few well-known museums in India, I was expecting Buddha's sculptures in this place also. I always find Buddha as mystery. His sculptures in stone and metals, both are very nice to experience. When I see Buddha's face, automatically, I feel a silence and freshness. There is one very nice posture of Buddha, which is rare. It is called Bangasayusang or Maitreya Bodhisattva half-sitting thinking statue. It is the most insured statue in the museum, though it is priceless. The smile of the face of 'Future Buddha' is so attractive that the eyes get stuck.

Besides these, there are 150,000 articles to watch, of which 11,000 are kept for display. I wish I had enough time to go through each gallery and enjoy slowly. But I rushed through and had glimpse of the national treasure. Wooden House, wooden articles used in ancient time, china-clay pots, gilt-bronze incense burner of Baekje are few to name. Due to short of time, we had a small tour with our guide who had explained about every important sculpture nicely in fluent English.

I am very much thankful to Dr. Cho, director ISL and Ms. Choi, secretary, ISL who had taken all the efforts to arrange this excellent trip to National Museum of Korea. I will certainly visit this place once again to watch the other masterpieces, which I left for next trip.
A Visitor’s Feeling

BY Mohammad M Uddin Bangladesh

First of all, I would like to express my pleasure to thank ISL (International Students Lounge) for organizing such an interesting (though short tour) tour of visiting The National Museum of Korea on the July 23, 2009. It was amazing for the international students who had the chance of participation this tour. Thanks go to the Inha University Authority for providing the excellent bus for the tour. It is very tough to express my feelings within a short writings all about the tour and the excellently well arranged and rich museum.

The National Museum of Korea (NMK) endeavors to preserve, exhibit, and interpret Korean cultural heritage in a manner that befits its international scale. It also strives to grow into a world-class institution that serves the Korean people through international cultural exchanges. The museum is successfully providing extensive visitor services both in quality and quantity, envisioning a cultural multiplex of great accessibility and comfort.

I have no reservation to comment that the modern Korea participates in the leading group of the world with magnificent and durable electronics and IT as well as the older Korea bearded the hardworking and artifacts. I have also come to know that through a variety of exchange programs with other leading museums of the world, the NMK has been fostering its sense of internationalism. The NMK has surely been serving as proactive in promotion of Korean culture abroad as well as in attracting world audience by presenting quality exhibitions and a broad spectrum of world shows.

Today is an era of knowledge and information. In the era of advanced information technologies, the NMK has been disseminating knowledge about Korean cultural heritage and also maximize the usage of the information by the museum visitors. I do not see any obligation of the center of Korean cultural heritage to be a cultural institution of international recognition. If any one wants to feel or see the old Korea and Koreans, he shall get every sign and activities here in this museum. It has well arranged the large spaced building with separate doors, old different works, things, and several rooms with various historical documents even some thing written in English respectively. Though the time allotted for us was not enough to visit each and every corner of the museum, it was a memorable visit for me.

Finally I would request all other international students to visit the resourceful museum, do learn so many things and enjoy it.

Campus Map for Int’l Students

The ISL will publish maps of the Inha campus for international students. It will not only contain information about the Inha campus but also shops and restaurants near the back gate.

This campus map will be distributed on campus and is free!!

What the ISL is Planning for September

Welcome Party
We welcome all International Students at Inha University!
Date: Sep 4 (Fri), 2009
Time: 6 pm to 8 pm
Place: ISL (2N263A)

Korean Conversation Tutoring Program
The ISL offers Korean tutoring programs tutored by Korean student volunteers.

Period: Sep 7 - Oct 23, 2009
Registration Period: Aug 31 - Sep 11
How to register: ISL Homepage
(http://lounge.inha.ac.kr)