

A Cultural Odyssey: Transcending Borders in South Korea

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During my traineeship, I had a great opportunity to work as a research assistant under Mr. Shin Dong Kim's supervision at Hallym University Media School in Chuncheon, South Korea. From August to the end of October, I have conducted research on mainly public diplomacy and media effect on politics in Korea and analyzed the differences with Japan, another highly developed East Asian country. Moreover, I have participated in the lectures given by my supervisor in English and also Korean. During the discussions and meetings, I have expanded my world vision and understood deeply how much people's background influences their worldview. Other times I assisted the professor with his lectures in the Media School and shared my experience and thoughts on media influence on politics and the effect of politics on cinematography.

Parts of my duty as a research trainee included doing research on the comparison of public diplomacy and popular diplomacy between Korea and Japan, preparing a proposal on this topic and then discussing it with my supervisor. Later, I attended professors' lectures on "Asian Cinema" in English and "Understanding the Hallyu Culture Industry" in Korean as a teaching assistant and trainee and helped in classes, guest lecture meetings and group presentations. I have also joined my supervisor during an expert discussion "Unequal Korea" in Seoul and presented a movie discussion for university students in his absence.

During my stay in Korea, I experienced several culture shocks as a result of the Korean lifestyle and society, which I was lucky enough to compare with my life in Hungary. Korean public behavior was more about not disturbing other people's life. Everyone is trendy and highly utilizes new technology products. Moreover, Korean cuisine is totally different from Western cuisines or Turkish cuisine but I have appreciated the uniqueness of foods and culture while traveling and studying in the country. The more I met other international or Korean people, the more I sensed that I become a part of the global world.

As a result of my traineeship, I have obtained new research skills, analyzed data and literature in various countries and in Eastern and Western states. I learned new social skills like adaptability, improved in human interactions, and grew in my academic capacity during professional debates and discussions. As a foreigner in Korea, I was glad that I did not experience any discrimination or racism, hence I could enjoy my social life more openly. Even though there is a huge difference between Korean lifestyle and my Turkish lifestyle, Korean society does not impose its standard on international people but only on Koreans. Thanks to this opportunity, I learned how an Erasmus mobility could enlighten my academic and social skills, and also expand my world vision.