

## The 27<sup>th</sup> ASEACCU Students Conference 2019 in Seoul, Korea

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“Reconciliation and Situation in the East Asia Region” - This was the theme of ASEACCU 2019. We did various activities related to this theme. Firstly, I would like to explain them roughly in time order as my activity report.

The first day started with ice-breaking among my group members. There were Korean, Japanese, Filipinos and Taiwanese people in our group. Then we went to the NANTA show, before spending time in a lively shopping spot called Honde. On the second day, we had three lectures about politics, gender issues and becoming a global citizen. Then we did a briefing for our final presentation. My group focused on gender issues and we discussed LGBTQ problems and gender inequality of each country. On the third day, we went to the observatory near the border. Then we practiced our farewell dance performance. On the last day, we had a key note lecture about human rights, history and democracy. Then we did our final presentation about how men and women can create gender equality together. After that we had our farewell dinner and then performed the dance. With that, this year’s ASEACCU was over.

Secondly, I would like to share two remarkable things I learnt from this conference. The first thing is that we should never be afraid of discussion in order to reach the best decision. After the keynote lecture on the final day, one participant asked the speaker about the relationship between Korea and Japan. It was very sensitive topic to talk about in an official place, but they exchanged opinions in good spirit. I felt their attitude illustrates how we should work towards reconciliation in East Asia. Everyone and every country have different opinions and views of justice, so we cannot decide which is correct and which is wrong. I believe, however, we can make fair and good decisions for both sides if we are not afraid to exchange honest opinions.

The other thing is that people can pray for each other’s happiness even though they are in a difficult relationship. As I have already written, my group members were from different countries and we had many points of difference, such as different genders, different religions, different personalities and different strong points. But even so, we became unbelievably good friends. We attended a mass together every day, and prayed for each other’s happiness, saying “May peace be with you” to the person sitting next to

us.

We knew that some of our countries have difficult diplomatic relation, but we still love each other. We learnt that no problems or conflicts can stop love growing between human beings.

In conclusion, I learnt that the first step towards reconciliation in East Asia is to discuss problems with respect and honesty, and to pray for happiness and peace for each other.