



My observations about South Korea

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Korean peoples are very friendly, shy, loving and the people having good health and character. After getting independence from Japan, Korea had the hard life even for food. Korea has lack of natural resources except man power, non-cultivation lands and rivers. . Just after the independence, it reveals the past history of low salary, poor living standards and lack of money etc. From the Japanese occupation to the Korean War and then to 1997's economic crisis, life of people was quiet miserable and full of calamities. But the country seems determined to leave its troubles in the old century. It has entered the new millennium with renewed optimism. The hard working, sincere, disciplined, industrious, and courteous people have paved the way for the present well developed, prosperous and modern country with a strong economy.

The secret of success of Republic of Korea in one word, is "discipline" and if add some more expressions, it is "hard work and positive attitude." Of course, the richness did not come all of a sudden. Korean people never waste their attention on matters that have nothing to do with their work. They are very respectful to the fellow co-workers. On the first day at my institute when my host introduced me to the other fellow researchers, I was surprised to see that every time people would bow at angle of 90 degree to respond me in a respectful manner. I wondered that they may suffer from chronic backache doing like this. The Korean people say 'Aneonghaseo' to greet you which means same as we say 'Namaste'.

Most of the cars used as taxis are equipped with computer-aided navigation system. This system indicates where your car is and also guides you to reach the destination by the shortest route. It also suggests the alternative path if there is any traffic jam on the way. Road system and vehicles are quite

decent; you would never hear anyone honking the horn. Fast KTX trains with running speed 300 Km/hr are available. In Korea crime is almost negligible. At the night time when traffic becomes minimal and policemen are no-where to be seen, even at that time, people are used to follow the traffic signals obediently. The behavior of police men's is very official not rudely. If you go to the police station, police will stand up and bowing 90° they will tell you annyohasseo (namste), then police will ask you about your problem. During talk they will ask you for tea/ coffee. On road, if you violate the traffic rule, police will first solute you then fine you and again solute you. This is very surprising but I think correct.

Peoples are very careful about the keeping clean every where. They will not throw any thing out except dust beans (better recycling beans). For throwing the house hold waste you have to throw separately the things by using separate colour of allotted bags/pots. You are not supposed to throw the paper or plastic things in the food recycling bin as all these things are recycled and reused. The food waste from the apartments is converted into organic fertilizers. The food wastes collected from the hotels or restaurants is supplied to the cattle farms on demand. Simultaneously, the waste paper, wood, glass, metals will be sent to recycling industries. They do their best to keep the environment clean. You will not find any garbage in Korea. You will hardly find plastic, paper, bottle or wrappers lying in the any public or tourist place. People are so particular about clean environment that if by chance a child throws a chocolate wrapper in the way then the person coming behind him will keep it in his pocket and throw in the dustbin.



Work Culture

I have seen very good co-ordination between educational institution, industries and research laboratories in Korea. Most of the research works are based on the current need of society. Industries are partner with research organization with all steps of development of the process. Educational institute simultaneously collaborate with industries as well as research institute. Students do the work in research institute as part time which is mandatory. They get fellowship for their work and expertise too. It is surprising you will not find big Iron Gate for any institution in Korea. Security system is electronic and perfect. Digital camera is equipped every where in institute and it is

recordable. For emergency all people should support. So, time to time they make practice. Sometime security will make a siren, and all people will run to particular place and after 5 min all will back. It is surprising within 2–5 min all people gathered at a particular place after hearing the siren.

In office there is no bureaucracy. Boss will be very friendly. I feel that is the reason why people works more and output is also high. Generally, people works in office for 10-12 hrs. Beauty is that no body will tell to stay more after office hour. But the culture and environment is like that the people are working hard and stay more in office. Up to 12 P.M. you will find 80% rooms' lights are on and scientists/ students are doing their work.

