

CAMPUS Asia Social Innovation Forum 2025 in Beiling, China

A Fulfilling 5-Day, 4-Night journey comes to an end. Gathering ambitious students from all across Asia, surrounded by an incredible learning environment, the historically rich streets of Beijing, and clear blue skies with refreshingly beautiful weather—it was all an unforgettable experience, filled with valuable encounters and lasting memories.

Day 1

I departed from Incheon International Airport in Seoul and headed for Beijing. According to the itinerary, the flight was supposed to be about an hour, but it felt significantly longer. Perhaps because of my nerves, I experienced motion sickness, the passenger behind me kept kicking my seat, and the in-flight meal didn't suit my taste... The discomfort and frustration made the short flight feel unusually long. I later realized that this was the first time I had ever experienced jet lag. Having never been abroad outside of Korea before, I was more anxious than excited. I even found myself praying that I could enter China without any trouble. It was thanks to a reliable friend who traveled with me that I was able to stay calm and follow the schedule. I was also emotionally supported by the Waseda University students I met for the first time. In a foreign land where I couldn't speak the language, hearing familiar Japanese and seeing their kind smiles reassured me that they were good people. I'm proud that I was able to build a warm community with such people and share meaningful time together.

Day 2

We had a campus tour at Peking University and attended two lectures. The day began with meeting our group members. Among us were Koreans who had studied in the U.S., Koreans living in China, and Japanese students who had studied in Korea—people with diverse backgrounds. Even just the self-introductions were lively and exciting. Everyone was kind and wonderful. During the campus tour led by students from Peking University, they kindly showed us around the campus under the hot sun. I was amazed by the number of historical buildings and tourists—it hardly felt like a university. Just walking through the campus felt healing, and I felt proud to be able to study, even for a short time, in such a prestigious and inspiring environment. The lectures, especially on Chinese history—which I had never studied before—left a strong impression. I learned how historical ideologies in China can still influence modern diplomacy, and it gave me a valuable opportunity to think about how such influences could be used positively today.

Day 3 & 4 The rain that had been forecast never came, and the weather cleared up beautifully. We held our first group discussion and gave our final presentations. I realized that each country faces similar social issues, yet the root causes, impacts, and approaches differ depending on their backgrounds. This experience reaffirmed the meaning of social innovation for me. Even when problems look similar on the surface, they are deeply intertwined with unique and complex factors. And that is why social innovation is about social innovators from around the world collaborating and striving to find multifaceted and creative solutions—not one-size-fits-all answers. It is by no means an easy task, but I felt proud to realize that each of us is a social innovator in our own right. That realization motivated me to keep pushing forward.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made this incredible experience possible, and to all the amazing people I had the honor to meet along the way.

