

Campus Asia Social Innovation Forum at Peking University

Introduction

The Social Innovation Forum held at Peking University was such a fulfilling and unforgettable experience that it's hard to believe it's only three days. I feel truly honored to have participated in this forum with students from Peking University, Korea University and Nanyang Technological University. Here is a brief recap of the three days.

Day1 : 4th July, 2025

On the first day, after the welcome session, we had a campus tour. It was my first time visiting China, so I was really excited. We toured the large and beautiful campus while getting to know the other participants.

In the afternoon, we attended two lectures on "The idea of Tianxia" and " Behavioral economics for social innovation". Both lectures offered deep insights into China's worldview and the decision-making processes behind human behavior.

In the evening, I went out for hotpot with some of the participants. It was my first time trying it, and it was absolutely delicious!





Day2 : 5th July, 2025

In the morning, we visited the Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall and the Olympic Tower as part of a field trip. At the Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall, we learned about Beijing's past, present, and future urban structure, history, and development plans through architectural models and videos. The architectural models were elaborate and truly impressive. At the Olympic Tower, we learned about the history of the Olympics so far and enjoyed a 360-degree view of beautiful Beijing cityscape from the observation deck.

In the afternoon, we attended two lectures on “Innovations for Inclusive Societies” and “War between the States”. As with the lecture on the first day, both lectures provided valuable insights. We discussed how to build societies where no one is left behind and deepened our understanding of the mechanisms of war between states.

After dinner, I visited Shichahai with some of the participants, a beautiful area in Beijing famous for its lakes and historic alleyways. Walking through Shichahai felt like stepping into a whole new world.



Day3 : 6th July, 2025

On this day, we visited the Drum Tower and Bell Tower as part of our field trip. Both towers gave us a deep sense of China's long history. Watching the actual moment the drum was played was fascinating, and I learned that these towers once played an important role in keeping and announcing the time to the public.

In the afternoon, each group prepared for presentations. My group discussed Aging issues in East Asia. Through sharing the current situations faced by each country, I was able to deepen my understanding of perspectives and backgrounds beyond Japan, which helped me think about the issue of aging from a broader point of view. Each group gave presentations on a wide range of issues, addressing not only aging issues but also topics such as education, disability, social issues, and migrant workers. Each presentation was very thought-provoking

and shared diverse and practical perspectives on social innovation.





Conclusion

The three days of the Social Innovation Forum provided a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to deeply engage with important social issues in Asia and to exchange ideas openly with students from diverse backgrounds. I think it was because we were all “students” in the same position that we were able to talk frankly with each other without regard to our positions or titles. Through this experience, I realized the importance of embracing diverse values with an open mind and respecting our differences. This experience has changed my mindset. I hope not only to embrace different values, but also to be a bridge between those differences and help create a better future together. I will continue to challenge myself to connect diverse ideas and contribute to building inclusive societies. The experience I had at the Social Innovation Forum has become an invaluable part of my life.

I would like to express my appreciation to the professors and staff at Peking University, for

being our host school this year, and to all those involved in the Social Innovation Forum.