



Introducing SIF 2025

It was a great honor to take part in such a wonderful forum. I would like to thank the staff and professors from Waseda University, Korea University, Peking University, and Nanyang Technological University for giving us this amazing opportunity.

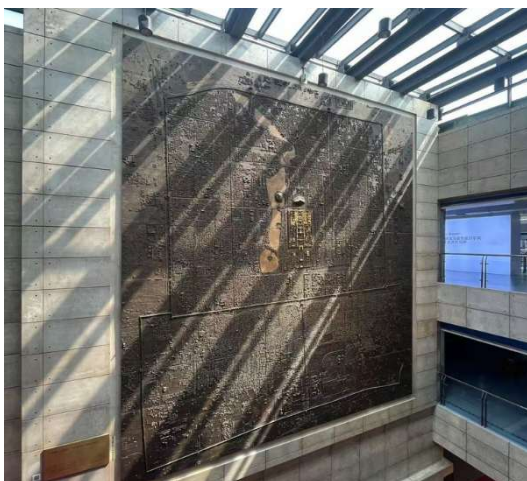
The forum had three main parts: a field trip, lectures by professors, and group work. I will briefly explain what we did in each.

Field Trip

The field trip focused on the central axis of Beijing. On the first day, we had a lecture by Dr. Xia from the Beijing Municipal Institute of City Planning and Design. She explained the history of the city, the cultural importance of the central axis, and the efforts to preserve it.



On the second day, we visited the Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall (北京市规划展览馆) and the Olympic Tower. In the exhibition hall, we learned all about city planning with videos, documents, and miniature models.



At the Olympic Tower, we had the chance to view the central axis from above. From the observation deck, we could see the northern landmarks such as the National Stadium and the Aquatic Center. Personally, the highlight of the visit was seeing the collection of Olympic torches from past Games.



On the third day, we were divided into two groups. My group visited the Altar of Land and Grain and the Imperial Ancestral Temple. We learned how these sites were used by royal families during the Ming and Qing dynasties. I was truly impressed by how well these historical structures have been preserved.





Lectures

Prof. He

The first lecture, titled *"The Idea of Tianxia (天下) and China's Perception of the World,"* was delivered by Professor He from Peking University. We mainly learned about the tributary system and how China saw the other countries through out the history. While I knew about the system itself, it was first time to hear about it from the Chinese perspective. The fact the China's perception and attitude towards other surrounding countries changed due to several factors including the power balance was very interesting.

Prof. Tan

The second lecture was *"Behavioral Economics for Social Innovation"* by Professor Tan from NTU. We started from learning basics of behaviour economics and some games. Then, we saw some studies and cases that apply these theories to real cases. It was fascinating to see how these studies explain complex social issues such as social norms, diversity and immigration.



Prof. Koyama

The third lecture, *"Innovation for Inclusive Societies,"* was given by Professor Koyama from Waseda University. This lecture was very intellectual. The focus was on inclusivity in this society, focusing on disability. There was a discussion about where we see a lack of inclusivity. I was surprised by how different the situation is between countries, as I expected the four countries to be quite similar.

Prof. Kim

The final lecture, *"Why States Fight?"* by Professor Kim from Korea University, explored the causes of war through the lens of bargaining theory. Since my major is political science, the topic was very familiar to me. However, how he managed to put the whole semester worth content into one hour lecture and still made it very clear and easy to understand was just amazing.



Group Work

After the lectures, we had a group-activity in which we prepared and gave presentations. Ours was about the topic of inclusion in education for people with invisible disabilities. The discussion was indeed fruitful, as I realized that some things I considered normal are not practiced elsewhere.

It was not easy to get everything ready on time by working with people from diverse backgrounds. I wish we had a bit more preparation time to get straight to an organized discussion and go further. Still, I learned a lot, from cultural differences to how I can work better as a leader.

Additionally, the professors gave us very detailed feedback at the end, which was quite helpful and enlightening.



Conclusions

This forum gave me much more than I expected. I learned a lot not just about city planning and academics but also about teamwork, leadership, and cultural understanding. I also got to meet quite a lot of extraordinary and enthusiastic students.

Again, I really thank every person involved and appreciate the effort the faculty members put in to make this forum happen.

