

CIEE Study Center in Seoul, South Korea

November 2012

Newsletter 2, Fall Semester 2012

안녕하세요! **Annyonghaseyo! Greetings!**  
 It's hard to believe December is just around the corner and final exams are fast approaching. Last Thursday we had a CIEE Thanksgiving party complete with a traditional turkey dinner.



*Doing natural dyeing and brush painting on fans*

**Cultural Events & Activities**

The first week of October we traveled as a group to Japan to learn firsthand about the Korean Diaspora as well as visit some historic sites. And the last weekend of October, we went on our Explore Korea Excursion, which was scheduled originally for orientation but had to be postponed because of typhoons. The first day we hiked to a waterfall in Sobaeksan National Park where we had a picnic lunch on the rocks in a stream. In the late afternoon we visited Buseoksa Temple, home to Korea's oldest wooden structure, where we observed the evening rituals. That night we slept in a village of traditional Korean houses. The next day we toured the village to learn about *seonbi* (literati) culture and traditional lifestyles and architecture, visited a Confucian academy, and did some traditional brush painting and natural dyeing.



*At the first gate on the Mungyeongsaejae trail*

The next morning we set out early to walk the Mungyeongsaejae Pass, the route which travelers had to take in ancient times to get from the southern provinces to Seoul. Along the trail we stopped at a film set built like the ancient capital, complete with a replica of a royal palace. At the end of our 7-kilometer walk, we went to a hot spring town and a number of students enjoyed the baths while the others explored the town.



*Harvesting rice at a weekend farm*

**Community Engagement**

Many students participated in an overnight Habitat for Humanity project with local Yonsei students.



*Making kimchi to be donated to elderly people*

Our BACK project participants have learned K-Pop dancing, harvested rice, and made Korean traditional handicrafts, while helping the North Korean refugee participants learn English and about the world in general. This past weekend, together with our Seoul Mates, they made kimchi for charity.

**Note-**The proper name of South Korea is the Republic of Korea, abbreviated ROK; hence the name "News from the ROK".