

TWO UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI STUDENTS ATTEND 'NEW GENERATION OF KOREAN LANGUAGE' TRAINING PROGRAMME (2014)



Mohamed from Kenya



Lynne Kazi (Seated, 4th from Left)

The Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) nominated two students, Mr. Mohamed Abdullatif Abdulrahman and Lynne I. Kazi, from the University of Nairobi to participate in the 'Training Course for New Generation of Korean Language' from June 2nd to September 27th, 2014, at the Soon Chung Hyang University. The training programme was established under the 2014 Technical Cooperation of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

Lynne Kazi Shares their Experience in Korea.



Mohamed Abdullatif

(Standing 2nd from Left) and Lynne Kazi

(Standing, 5th from Left)

I got the chance to be invited and participate in the Korean language learning programme in South Korea. It began on June 2nd, for the duration of 4 months and ended on September 26th. It involved participation of 20 students who are learning Korean language and there were a total of 11 countries. From Kenya, there were 2 representatives, Mohamed Abdullatif and I, from The University of Nairobi.

We arrived on June 3rd and had the orientation meeting at Koica ICC on the same day. The following day we had a trip around Seoul, showing us the major areas such as the palace and how to use the subway transportation. We then left on 5th and headed to Soon Chun Hyang University in Asan City and had our orientation as well as settling in. The next day was Friday and we had a tour of Asan and museum of the Great General Lee Soon Shin.

From the 2nd week onwards we had our classes which included Korean speaking, reading, listening and writing. Each took 2 hours and a total of 6 hours everyday from Monday to Friday, starting at 9 a.m to 4.30 p.m and every Friday afternoon we had an exam about what we had learnt in the course of the week. We were grouped into Beginner class and Intermediate class after taking a level test and I was in the Intermediate class and was also voted as class representative. From 4.30 p.m to midnight we had free time in which we studied and went shopping in neighbouring city, Cheonan. During the weekend too we would have fun with friends by shopping together in neighbouring areas or going to Seoul's amusement parks and shopping centres. We had the Korean TOPIK exam scheduled for July 20th and until the exam date, we had special classes designed to prepare for the exam everyday from 2.30 p.m to 4.30 p.m. Everyone passed the exam and got certificates.

After the TOPIK exam we began the field trips, essay writing and action plan in August and September as we could relax a little for we had finished the crucial exam. We went to Jeonju

for 2 days and 1 night, on our way back to school we passed by Baekje palace. Later we also went to Busan for 3days and 2nights and stopped by Samsung Company, POSCO factory and the Haeundae beach. The last trip we went to was a 2days and 1night trip to the DMZ in Paju and trip to Seoul. During September we were invited to two shows, "Quiz on Korea" and "Immortal Song" at KBS T.V station in Seoul. In the essay, we were to choose 1 topic among 7 about Korea and our countries, then write similarities and differences between the 2 countries as well as what can be done to improve their relations. I wrote about comparison of Korean and Kenyan culture. After the essay presentation we began preparing the action plan in which we presented ideas and suggestions on ways in which Korean culture can be introduced and spread in our countries, in my case, in Kenya. Both the writing and presentations were done in Korean only.

We had our final exam on the second last Friday and in the final week we prepared and presented the action plan. On the final Thursday afternoon we had a writing contest and at night we had dinner with our teachers. On 26th Friday morning we had closing ceremony in which the Kenya team got the award for **Best Action Plan**. We had lunch and since the Kenyan team's flight was earlier than the others, we had to leave earlier. We headed to the Incheon Airport and left as the rest went to the Koica ICC since they were leaving on 27th and 28th of September.

I am very grateful to The UoN and Koica for giving me this opportunity and I got to experience and learn a lot about Korean culture, which I had always been very much interested in. I also got to know more about Korea-Kenya relations and ways in which the relations can be improved. I hope to use the knowledge I acquired now and in the future in matters of relations between Korea and Kenya.

Thank You~

KAZI LYNNE IMALI.

More Photo from photo gallery at <<http://arts.uonbi.ac.ke/image/tid/56>>