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保良局李城璧中學
Po Leung Kuk Lee Shing Pik College

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璧程
LSP TRAVELOGUE

"It is my honor to communicate with the students in Korean and Japan. It allows us to learn about the different cultures of the three places. Under the guidance of the Korean students, I learned how to write a few Korean words, such as "hello" and "love". The Korean characteristics and our Chinese characters are very different in writing. The Korean students also explained carefully on how to write a Korean character neatly and nicely by demonstrating how to write stroke by stroke.

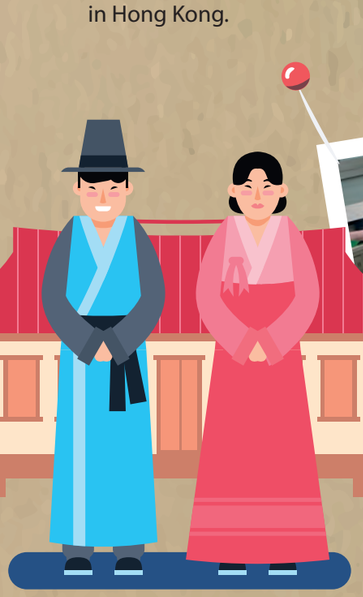
In the exchange with the Japanese students, we have learnt about the history of the atomic bomb which destroyed Hiroshima and it is difficult for the people in Japan to forget. We revisited this part of history by taking part in this activity. I am saddened for the people at that time. We also hope that Japanese students and us could learn how to create a peaceful world. Only when the world is in peace, there will be no more similar tragedies, and people can live in harmony."

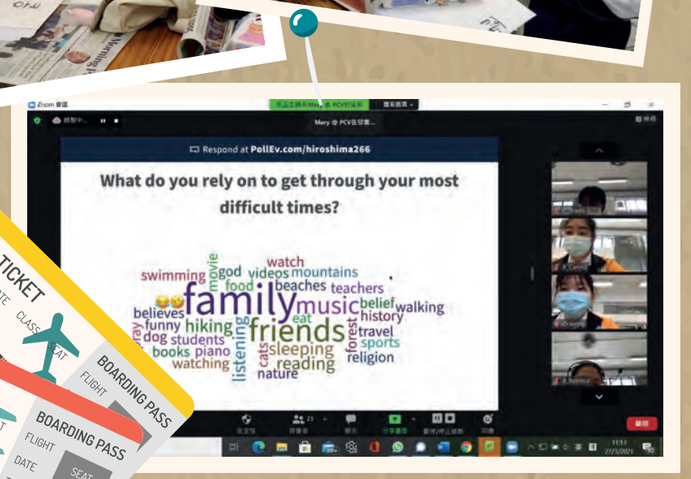
Online Exchange With Our Korean Friends

Secondary School system: Hong Kong vs Korea

Although some people from Hong Kong may think that secondary education in both places is very similar, actually it is not.

The education system in Korea is somewhat different. Korea divides 6 years of secondary education into two parts. The first part consists of 3 years of education in middle school, which is similar to that of form 1-3 in Hong Kong. Once the students graduate from middle school, they will continue their studies in high school, which is equivalent to form 4-6 in Hong Kong.





Tutorial Classes

Schools in Hong Kong teach a wide range of knowledge, from basic to a more advanced level for various subjects (core subjects and electives) in order to prepare students for HKDSE. Tutorial classes are not necessary for students in Hong Kong. Most of the Korean students will have tutorial lessons after school. The most unforgettable thing we have learnt from a Korean student is that they have tutorial classes after school until 10:00 p.m. which rarely happens in Hong Kong.

Most of the schools in Hong Kong have 9-10 lessons a day which usually start from 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on a normal school day. However, most of the middle schools in Korea only have seven lessons a day. These schools also have self-study sessions until 11:00 pm to prepare the students for the university entrance exam.

Choosing High Schools

Once students finish their junior years in Hong Kong they have to choose specific subjects for the DSE. In Korea, upon graduating from middle schools, students need to choose which high schools they wish to attend, as each high school has curriculum and areas of studies. Students who want to be singers or actors can choose to attend high schools that offer performing arts. Students who want to be athletes can choose high schools that offer physical education.

Academic Stress

The stress of Hong Kong students also comes from studying. Parents in Hong Kong would send their children to the tutorial schools for better academic results too. Therefore, students in both places are facing the stress from studying hard to achieve good results in tests and examinations.

We were deeply impressed by one of Korean students in our group during the online exchange. His goal is to study International Politics at Harvard University in the future. Although there is a lot of information helping us to plan our education and career goals, we seldom think about studying International Politics abroad!

Freedom Enjoyed and Fulfulling School Life

We think the most interesting part about Korean school life would be the freedom enjoyed by students. Korean students can have their hair dyed and put on make-up at school. The schools consider students having make-up as a part of tidiness and cleanliness. However, We think the campus life in Hong Kong is more fulfulling. We have four houses in our school. We can have different cross-curricular activities, such as joining the Scout and basketball teams, etc, after school. For the Korean students, they seldom have activities but only attend tutorial classes after school.

Online Calligraphy Time

Hangugeo Writing

In the sharing session of calligraphy, we have learnt about the history of calligraphy and taught each other how to write in Korean and Chinese. Group members from Korea shared the history of their language. We have learnt that the language that they are using now was created by King Sejong. The Korean words are made up of consonants and vowels, and there are fourteen consonants and ten vowels. Our Korean counterparts also taught us how to write “love” and “hello” in Korean. Group members from Korea taught us how to speak and write Korean. It was interesting to write Korean with brush and ink! Rose, one of the members from Korea, taught us how to write the Korean character “love”. The learning and writing process was very enjoyable. Learning a new language gave us a sense of satisfaction. For example, the members from Korea taught us patiently and told us the meaning of the words. We were very grateful for their sharing, from which we learned a lot of Korean characters. Moreover, we found that some Korean and Chinese pronunciations are similar when we read the words they taught.

Kickass Type Writing

After learning how to write Korean, we demonstrated how to write Chinese characters to Korean students. We introduced the "Kickass Type" of Chinese writing, which is a font created by a local Hong Kong artist. A key difference between the "Kickass Type” and other font types in Chinese is that the strokes in the "Kickass Type” have different thickness. Some strokes are thick while some are thin. We taught them how to write “happy” in the "Kickass Type”. After introducing the meaning of the word to them, we invited Korean students to write it. They wrote very beautifully and neatly, and they were able to write the word "happy" in the "Kickass Type”. At the end, we also showed them the difference between the word "happy" in the "Kickass Type” and Chinese calligraphy. All group members took the sharing session very seriously, and everyone practised diligently.

勁秋體

Virtual Peace Cultural Village Tour

Devastation in a Second

"Countless people died from the bombing, but for what reason? The victims had done nothing wrong but they had to sacrifice their precious lives. How unfair it was! The most unforgettable scene in the video was the innocent people walking in the metro area on that fateful morning, all in a split second, they perished. All their dreams, hopes, passion and their future were gone. Apart from the atomic bomb incident, there are a lot of things around the world that destroy peace. For example, wars, brutality in different forms and ignorance of human rights. Rome was not built in a day."

"The most unforgettable thing for me is listening to the experience shared by the survivors of the Hiroshima bomb. One survivor mentioned that when she was walking on the street, the nuclear bomb suddenly exploded. Not only many things were destroyed by the bomb but also her arm, head and backbone got burnt. After listening to her experience, I was very shocked as I could not imagine that situation. If I were her, I would have already died because of it."

They are innocent.

"Everything was so peaceful before the atomic bombing. In the video, after hearing the sound of the explosion of the atomic bomb, Hiroshima suddenly became quiet and empty because most people were killed in an instant and almost all buildings were destroyed. Some had not been killed immediately, but eventually died some time later due to radiation. This is an unimaginable pain. The survivors would never be able to forget their painful experiences. I think the survivor who shared her experience in the sharing was very brave because she was willing to uncover her scars for telling everyone what she has experienced and expressed her feelings at that time. When she was describing the situation at that moment, she cried. I can feel how desperate she was when she knew her family and classmates were dead, and even their bodies could not be found."

"After listening to the sharing by the survivors of the Hiroshima bombing, I would like to say that I feel sympathetic and distressed for what happened to the survivors. Even if people were fortunate enough for not being killed by the atomic bomb, they would never be able to forget this traumatic experience. Many innocent villagers and children were killed in one day. It was a very sad history."

Say "No" to Nuclear Weapons

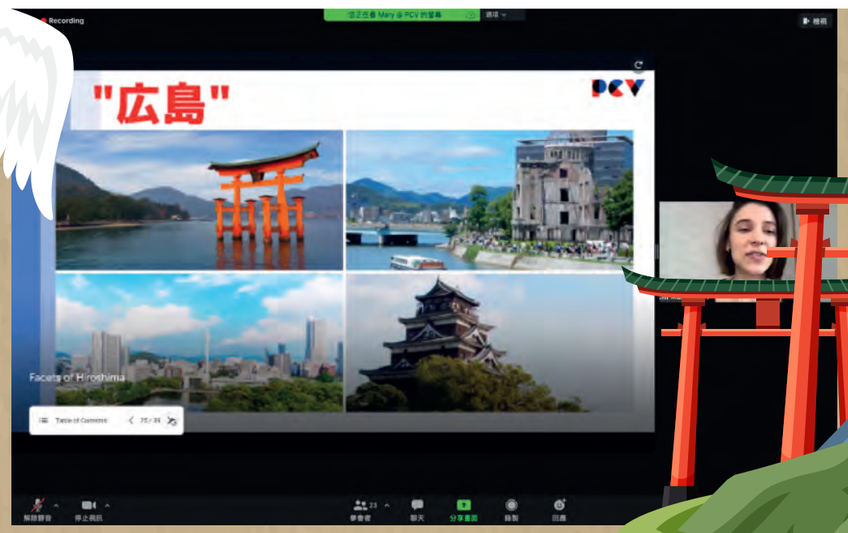
"If I ask "what do you know about Hiroshima in World War Two", I think most of the Form 3 students would just say "on the sixth of August 1945, America dropped the 'Small Boy' in Hiroshima, and this killed many people" as this is what was mentioned in Form 3 History book.

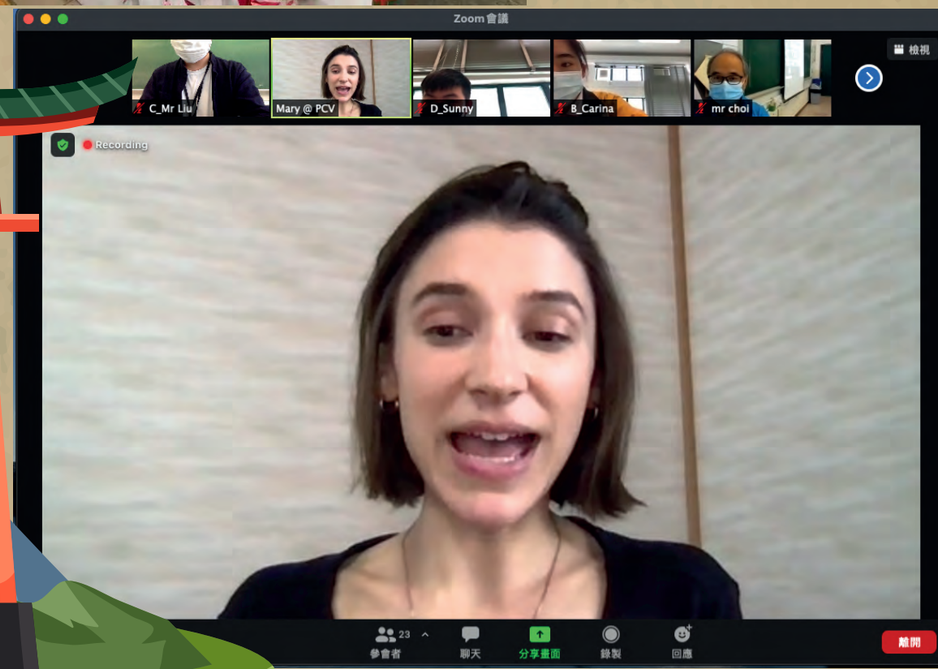
After participating in this sharing session, I have learned more about this part of history and started reflecting on the use of nuclear weapons. I have to say that nuclear weapons must not exist in this world. It is because nuclear weapons can be seen as one of the evilest objects in the world, and nuclear bombs are extremely destructive. 92% of buildings were totally destroyed in the Hiroshima Bombing. All people in the vicinity were killed and their bodies disappeared. All of these were caused by only one atomic bomb. How heartbreaking it is! Now, with thirteen thousand four hundred and ten nuclear warheads, we can completely destroy the Earth five times. How desperate it would be if World War Three broke out with the use of nuclear weapons. This tragedy must not happen again!"

"After learning from the Hiroshima bomb survivors' experience, I would like to say that nuclear war is a global threat. Why do I say so? It is because there are more than 10,000 nuclear warheads in the arsenals of the world's nuclear powers. You may not be able to imagine how destructive they are. These 10,000 nuclear warheads can destroy 5 Earths! The Hiroshima bomb was the first nuclear weapon in human history. The nuclear bombing killed more than 100,000 residents in Hiroshima, and also, as of 2019 the number of deaths reached 330,000. I have learnt a lesson from this event. I become more aware of nuclear weapons' terrible consequences. Fortunately, almost 60 years of the Cold War passed without using the weapons because mankind has learnt the tragic consequences from this incident."

The Importance of Peace

After listening to the experience shared by the survivors of the Hiroshima bomb, I wondered why mankind would have invented such a terrible weapon and more and more atomic bombs have been produced. Why would human beings destroy their same kind? Why don't people learn from the Hiroshima bomb? We should learn the importance of peace. We should not hurt each other anymore. There should be more communication between the countries so that misunderstandings can be avoided and allows the countries to get along in peace. I think that peace can start with one's own little acts, such as communicating more with their friends. Everyone should communicate well when they have problems, so that there will be less quarrels and the world will definitely become more peaceful."





East Asian Cultural Exchange Activities

Date: March-May, 2021

Participants

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Organization

Youth Cultural Corps, International Exchange & Cultural Promotion Institute, Seoul, Korea

https://www.facebook.com/ycc.officials/

Peace Cultural Village, Hiroshima, Japan

https://peaceculturevillage.org/