



South Korea amongst 5 countries elected to UN Security Council



UN Security Council consists of five permanent members with veto power, including Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States, and 10 non-permanent members.

By Sophia Choi

The UN General Assembly has elected Algeria, Sierra Leone, Guyana, and South Korea as five new non-permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year term, beginning on the first of January 2024. On June 6th, in a vote to elect geographically distributed regional nations, South Korea obtained 180 votes out of

192 member states as an unopposed candidate for the Asian seat. South Korea has previously served twice on the council and will return to the UN's most powerful body after 11 years to voice global issues until December 31st, 2025.

The Security Council consists of five permanent members with veto power, including Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States,

and 10 non-permanent members, with five two-year term members replaced each year. The UNSC makes legally binding decisions, such as imposing sanctions with the power to authorize the use of force to maintain international peace and security.

Since 2006, the council has issued sanctions on North Korea for its military provocations, and South Korea is expected to calm rising tensions in the Korean Peninsula by addressing the North's nuclear weapons. South Korea's trilateral cooperation with the US and Japan will be strengthened as the three allies serve the council at the same time amid the North's rising security threats with record-high ballistic missile tests. President Yoon Suk-yeol called it a "victory of global diplomacy," and a foreign ministry official says that South Korea could be likely to assume a rotating one-month presidency of the council in the next year. Representatives of the nation say that they hope to focus on issues surrounding peacekeeping, gender equality, climate, and cybersecurity.

N. Korea launches first spy satellite only to end in failure

By Choi Mun-young

On May 31st, North Korea launched its first spy satellite, only to fail as the payload ended up in the sea. This is the first time since 2016 that they have attempted to launch satellites into orbit, and the sixth overall, although many of them also ended in failure, with two successful launches in 2012 and 2016. The vehicle rocket, named Chollima-1, crashed into the West Sea after an abnormal startup of its engine made it lose propulsion.

The satellite was launched at the Tongchang-ri launch site at 6:37 am, where the Chollima-1 rocket shot up into the sky with the Malligyong-1 satellite. It later fell into the western coast of the Korean Peninsula "after losing thrust due to the abnormal starting of the second-stage engine," the North Korean state news agency, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported. North Korea's National Space Development Agency has announced that it will investigate the failed launch and has planned to quickly attempt another launch, stressing the importance



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspects the National Aerospace Development Administration at an undisclosed place in North Korea.

of having the satellite for military purposes in relation to its rival countries.

The South Korean military has conducted a salvage operation to recover parts of the crashed space vehicle, including what is believed to be pieces of the satellite found off the west coast of Eocheongdo. Earlier, emergency alerts like air

raid sirens were sent out at dawn through Seoul. However, they were canceled 20 minutes after no signs of imminent

danger were to be found, although Pyongyang had notified the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of the launch beforehand. Speculations have been made about the failure of the satellite launch, many saying that it was rushed due to South Korea and China's recent space-related accomplishments.

Sejong City introduces first-ever "Loneliness Support Officer" system



"Sejong City has introduced a 'Loneliness Support Officer' system for the first time among the 243 local governments in the country."

By Yeon Kyung-han

Sejong City has introduced a "Loneliness Support Officer" system for the first time among the 243 local governments in the country. This initiative aims to promote organizational culture and uplift employee morale. The system involves assigning specialized counselors, equivalent to level 4 civil servants, to provide counseling and support services.

This system focuses on diagnosing, counseling, and providing healing for the psychological difficulties of all civil servants in Sejong City. To achieve this, a mental health survey has been conducted among all employees, and their challenges are being analyzed as data. Mayor Choi Min-ho emphasized that loneliness is not only a social issue but can also have significant impacts on civil servants. According to him, therefore, showing interest in and caring for their well-being is essential for effective administration.

If this system is implemented successfully, it is likely to become an exemplary model for public administration nationwide. Following a series of unfortunate incidents in 2022, where three Sejong City employees tragically passed away, Sejong City has taken the initiative to address these issues by introducing the "Loneliness Support Officer" system in March 2023, making it the first local government to do so.

Mayor Choi, during a policy seminar with Sejong City's youths on May 29th, stated that the "Loneliness Support Officer" plays the role of breaking through the barriers among people concerned by listening to and empathizing with one another. He also mentioned that while the system has limitedly been applied to city employees, it will be expanded in the near future so that all citizens can benefit from it.

Meanwhile, the United Kingdom is the first in the world to appoint a Minister for Loneliness. In the UK, the Ministry of Culture, Media, and Sport was designated, In January, 2018, as the responsible department for addressing loneliness, and the Minister of State for Loneliness was appointed within that department.

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Exclusive Interview

... A foreigner's survival story in Korea ...

Espinosa Lien, an intellectual who came from Cuba, a country full of passion passionate Cuba



By Yeon Kyung-han

Cuba is a country in the Caribbean known for its passion, romance, dynamic dances, and lively rhythms. It became a socialist nation through the revolution led by Castro and Che Guevara. Since South Korea hasn't established diplomatic relations with Cuba, it is relatively less known to South Korean people. However, there is a historical connection between South Korea and Cuba through a century-long history of Cuban immigration.

Recently, Cuba has been making efforts to overcome its economic crisis by increasing exchanges with Western countries, including the United States. South Korea has also made a positive impression on Cubans through the popularity of Hallyu culture, like K-pop. This has led to Cubans living in South Korea, despite the geographical distance from their home country. We had the opportunity to meet Espinosa Beltran Lien, who obtained a master's degree from Pukyong National University, and learned about her life in Korea. – Ed

Q: Was there a specific reason or motivation for your immigration from Cuba to Korea?

A: I had been greatly interested in Korea since I was in Cuba. I won first place in a Korean language competition and visited South Korea for a study tour. I especially liked the singer BTS and watched many videos even in Cuba. During that time, I studied Korean at Sangji University in Gangwon Province and later enrolled in a graduate program at Pukyong National University, where I completed a Master's degree in International Relations.

Q: Tell us about what Korean culture or aspects interested you the most.

A: I have always had a great interest in all aspects of Korean culture. Currently, many Korean cultural elements are being spread in the Central and South American region. Especially in Cuba, there are many descendants of Korean immigrants who arrived during the Japanese colonial period. Recently, singers like BTS or Blackpink have been making remarkable achievements and gaining tremendous popularity.

Q: As a country in Central and South America, Cuba is known to have a different culture compared to Korea. Lien, have you faced any particular difficulties due to these cultural differences?

A: Cuba has a distinct culture, especially because it is a country near the Caribbean with warm sunshine throughout the year, which makes people more relaxed. Moreover, while South Korea follows a capitalistic system, Cuba is a socialist nation. There are significant differences from South Korea in politics, economy, and other aspects. As a result, I initially felt that Korean society was very fast-paced, particularly with its "quick, quick" culture. Additionally, Korean cuisine tends to be spicy, while there is hardly any spicy food in Cuba.

Q: Please share your honest feelings about living as a foreigner in Korean society.

A: South Korea is truly a dynamic and prosperous country. Above all, it is abundant in numerous resources and is friendly to foreigners. To me, South Korea is an incredibly cool and livable country right now. Of course, I am aware that there is intense competition and various social issues, but personally, I am very satisfied with settling down and living here in South Korea.

Q: I've heard your parents have also come to South Korea. Have you experienced any difficulties or memorable incidents while bringing your parents to South Korea?

A: Currently, South Korea and Cuba do not have diplomatic relations, so there is limited interaction between the two countries. For instance, there is no Korean embassy in Cuba, so we have to rely on the assistance of the South Korean Consulate in a neighboring country for diplomatic and administrative matters. Inviting my parents to South Korea with a grandchild care visa required a significant amount of

administrative documentation. Moreover, due to the scarcity of existing reference materials and the limited number of Cubans who had previously lived in South Korea, there were some difficulties and confusion for the government officials in charge of processing the paperwork. The document process was challenging as a result.

Q: While living in Korean society, are there any changes you would like to see in the future?

A: Firstly, I feel that Korean society can be a bit rushed due to the "quick, quick" culture, and it would be nice if that aspect could become more relaxed. However, I understand that this is a side effect of rapid development and it may take some time for such changes to occur. Additionally, I am currently pregnant and expecting a child soon. This brings a lot of concerns, especially regarding my child's education. I have heard that the education conditions in Korea involve intense competition for children, but I hope my child can excel in studies while also having the freedom to play and be happy.

Climate change, energy security, and nuclear power

By Kim Hark-rho
(Former President of the Korean Nuclear Society)



Dr. Kim Hark-rho, former President of the Korean Nuclear Society (KNS), has made significant contributions to nuclear research and development in our country. He has held various positions, including Vice Chairman of the Generation IV International Forum, Vice President of KAERI in charge of SMART Development, and Deputy Director of the same organization. He has received the Commemorative Medal for the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of KAERI in recognition of his achievements. He has also been actively contributing nuclear-related articles to domestic and international media outlets. – Ed

Climate change is an ongoing global challenge that requires concerted efforts from countries around the world. The goal is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C by 2050. The "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change," which Korea ratified in December 1993, aims primarily to limit the emission of various greenhouse gases and prevent global warming. On October 28th, 2020, Korea's President declared a voluntary commitment

to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. To achieve the goals set in our 2030 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement and the 2050 carbon neutrality target, Korea must continue its collective efforts on a global scale.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), nuclear power has the lowest CO2 emissions per kilowatt-hour (kWh) compared to other energy sources like wind, solar, natural gas, oil, and coal. However, Korea faces challenges in utilizing wind and solar power due to geographical limitations. Furthermore, nuclear power offers high energy density, with 1 gram of uranium producing the same amount of energy as 9 drums of oil or 3 tons of coal. In terms of safety, the mortality rates associated with electricity generation are relatively low for nuclear power compared to other sources. Nuclear power plants have multiple physical barriers to prevent the release of radioactive materials, making them safe and secure for peaceful energy production.

Korea currently operates 24 nuclear power plants, and stringent safety measures have been implemented based on lessons learned from past accidents, such as the Fukushima nuclear disaster. The country prioritizes safety and has taken additional safety measures to ensure the resilience of its nuclear power plants against large earthquakes and tsunamis.

In terms of electricity costs, nuclear power is relatively competitive, with a lower electricity settlement price per kWh

compared to coal, liquefied natural gas (LNG), oil, solar, and wind power. Access to affordable and environmentally friendly electricity is crucial for enhancing the competitiveness of Korean businesses and ensuring a sustainable future.

On one hand, when discussing national security, it is essential to consider not only defense, food, and economy but also the importance of energy. European countries that are pursuing a nuclear phase-out policy can import electricity from neighboring countries when there is a shortage. However, Korea is an "energy island" that cannot import electricity from North Korea, China, Russia, or Japan. Furthermore, Korea is lacking in energy resources and depends on imports for 93% of its energy. It is in our national interest to produce electricity in a cost-effective, stable, and environmentally friendly manner.

Korea possesses nuclear-related technologies beyond uranium enrichment, enabling nuclear power to play a leading role in energy security. As of 2021, coal accounted for 34.3% of electricity generation, natural gas 29.2%, and nuclear power 27.4%. Renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro, tidal, and geothermal power accounted for less than 7.5%. It is important to remember that approximately 30% of the electricity we currently use is generated from nuclear power, which is clean energy. I hope that the wisdom of our citizens can contribute to the safer use of nuclear power.

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Growing mice population threatens Dokdo Island’s ecosystem

By Yeon Kyung-han




Recently, there has reportedly been a significant increase in the number of mice appearing on Dokdo Island. Previously, these mice were only found on the western island. However, they have now been spotted on the eastern island as well, indicating that they have spread throughout the entire island. Dokdo Island has a closed ecosystem, and with no natural predators, the mice have become the dominant predators, causing destructive effects on the ecosystem, disrupting its balance with their huge appetite.

Professor Cho Young-seok, Kim Han-na, and Lee O-seon from the Department of Biological Education at Daegu University were curious about the absence of native mice on Dokdo Island. They published a study in the international journal *Animals*, comparing and analyzing the genes of the mice on Dokdo Island. Professor Cho Young-seok’s research team conducted genetic analysis on 16 mice from various islands connected to Dokdo, such as Ulleungdo, Pohang Port, Hupo Port, Mukho Port, and Gangneung Port. The results confirmed that the mice inhabiting Dokdo Island are house mice, the most common species in the country. It surprised researchers who expected to find brown rats or Asian house mice commonly found at docks and ports. Based on this, the research team explained that the genetic patterns of house mice indicated a high possibility of the mice being introduced to Dokdo Island from Ulleungdo. In other words, the mice did not directly invade Dokdo from the mainland.

In 1973, the Dokdo police released 40 domestic rabbits for the purpose of food supply. After a while, it was found that the number rapidly increased to 230 by 1988. The government then initiated a rabbit eradication project and successfully eliminated them completely by 1992.

“2023 Visiting Museum: Continuing Waves” exhibition opens

By Yu Cheol



The exhibition titled “2023 ‘Visiting Museum’: Continuing Waves,” organized by Chungcheongbuk-do and hosted by the Chungcheongbuk-do Museums Association (Chairman: Lee Yong-mi), opened on May 17th at the Suyanggae Prehistory Museum in Danyang, Chungcheongbuk-do. The opening ceremony was attended by Kim Young-hwan, governor of Chungcheongbuk-do, distinguished guests, local residents, and many students. This “Visiting Museum” event, planned to address the thirst for cultural enjoyment in culturally underserved areas, will provide opportunities to enjoy the exhibition, various activities, and educational programs until June 7th.

The “Visiting Museum” is a large-scale collaborative exhibition event that brings together representative collections from 21 museums and art centers in Chungcheongbuk-do, including the National Cheongju Museum and the Woo Min Art Center. This collaborative event, initiated as part of the “Renaissance of Lake Park Project” by Chungcheongbuk-do, includes interactive educational and experiential programs, a “UCC Contest,” as well as the “Visiting Museum: Continuing Waves” exhibition.

During the opening ceremony, Governor Kim Young-hwan emphasized the significance of Chungcheongbuk-do’s central location in Korea and stressed the importance of connecting history to culture.

Lee Yong-mi, Chairman of the Chungcheongbuk-do Museums Association, expressed her hope, “For this joint exhibition, 21 museums in Chungcheongbuk-do come together. This event will serve as an opportunity to connect with the next generations and link culture to them, as suggested by the theme “Continuing Waves.” Particularly, this exhibition aims to visit culturally underserved areas, provide cultural benefits, and offer career experiences to young students.”

South Korea’s trade deficit with China and the path to recovery

By Yeon Kyung-han



According to the “Trade Balance with China in May” announced by the Korea Customs Service (KCS) in June of last year, South Korea recorded its first deficit in trade with China in 27 years and 9 months. The deficit recorded until April this year alone amounted to a total of 7.8 billion dollars (approximately 1.02 trillion Korean won), which is about one-third of South Korea’s overall trade balance deficit.

The main cause of the current trade deficit with China is the slump in the semiconductor industry. According to the trade statistics from the KCS, South Korea’s semiconductor exports to China from January to April this year amounted to only 9.8 billion dollars, which is 57.3% of the same period last year. The decrease in surplus is even steeper. The surplus in the semiconductor sector from January to April this year is 4.1 billion dollars, which is less than half of the previous year. The value of South Korea’s main export product, “PC Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAM),” has also dropped from \$4.10 per unit in July last year to \$2.21 per unit in October, and it has fallen below \$1 this year. With the global economic downturn and the ongoing IT slump, the semiconductor prices have declined, resulting in the ongoing trade deficit with China.

Of course, if semiconductor prices recover, South Korea’s trade balance with China will improve to some extent. However, the problem is not simple. Semiconductor products account for 25-30% of South Korea’s total exports to China, but the performance of other product categories is also continuously deteriorating.

The decline in performance of consumer goods in South Korea’s exports to China is also a serious issue. In fact, Korean automobiles, smartphones, and electronic products, which are Korean representative export items, have already been replaced by Chinese products that offer reasonable quality and low prices. While the food and clothing sectors are still holding up, even in these areas, Chinese products are rapidly catching up. The export of intermediate goods, which account for 90% of the exports to China, is also showing a downward trend. It is not only semiconductors but also the majority of core consumer goods and intermediate goods that have experienced a setback.

Word Search

By Lee Hye-ri

This puzzle was created using the 100th edition of *The Monday Times*.

P	Q	R	I	D	D	E	S	P	A	C	E	A	C
C	U	A	N	P	P	D	E	S	U	M	M	I	T
G	O	B	U	L	L	Y	I	N	G	S	S	L	H
E	T	I	L	L	E	T	A	S	A	O	B	A	S
O	A	F	D	O	M	I	N	A	T	E	T	I	D
N	S	E	N	O	T	S	E	L	I	M	A	C	E
T	H	L	E	G	I	D	A	E	E	E	D	U	L
C	I	O	F	H	U	B	N	V	O	L	M	R	I
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P	T	I	G	R	O	M	L	R	S	S	S	O	E
M	A	I	S	N	O	R	L	T	O	S	S	P	R
I	N	N	U	L	C	G	O	S	P	U	I	U	E
G	E	M	N	A	D	O	P	T	E	A	O	H	M
F	O	S	T	E	R	F	I	T	N	S	N	G	C

hub	satellite	space	pose	frog
deliver	bullying	adopt	shift	crucial
impact	dominate	strive	pollen	milestone
summit	admission	foster	quota	aging

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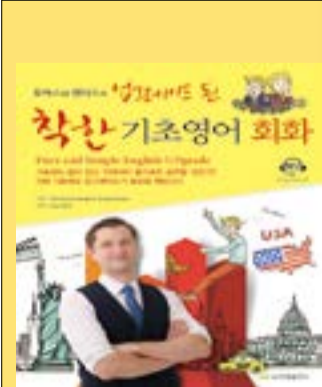
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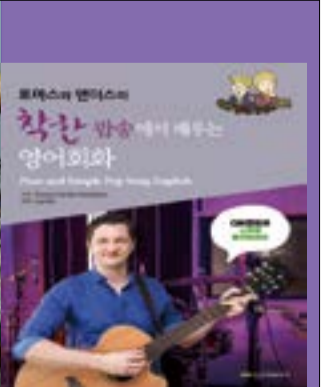
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Korean Dining Table: Introducing Korean food to the world



Introducing group meals and receiving evaluations of Korean food is undoubtedly a meaningful attempt as a new TV show program.

By Shin In-ho

Will Korean food be appealing to foreigners? What if it's a program where Korean food is provided to 200-300 foreigners, regardless of their own preferences? What if it's a kindergarten or elementary school where children express their emotions without filtering them? The attempt itself is an adventure. Recently, a Korean broadcasting company has been gaining attention with a program titled *Korean Dining Table* which introduces Korean food to the world. Despite some negative opinions about certain programs, the trend of showcasing Korean culture, led by K-pop, has dominated the scene. Introducing group meals and receiving evaluations of Korean food is undoubtedly a meaningful attempt as a new TV show program, especially amidst the current predominance of cultural programs. It is undeniable that presenting communal meals in the form of "Korean Dining Table" is a highly significant endeavor to assess Korean cuisine, even in the face of some criticism.

Up until now, programs introducing Korean food to foreigners have mainly focused on a small number of foreigners

who visit with an open mind and are willing to try Korean food. Representative examples include *Youn's Kitchen* and *Youn's Stay* featuring Yoon Yeo-jung, *Seojin's House* featuring Lee Seo-jin, *Baek Packer* featuring Chef Baek Jong-won, and *Borderless Pub* featuring Chef Lee Yeon-bok.

JTBC's *Korean Dining Table* began in March, offers meals to anyone, anywhere in the world, who desires Korean K-grade cuisine. It is gaining international recognition. The show is so dedicated to spreading K-food that they even carry plates made in Korea wherever they go. It is not easy to find traditional Korean cuisine that transcends the dominant spicy and stew-based dishes, so the locations featured on the show face many challenges.

The program introduces the astonishing school lunch menus, which are currently served in Korea, to a wider public abroad. It aims to promote Korean cuisine not only through traditional dishes like soybean soup, bulgogi, and japchae. It also tries to adjust and harmonize flavors to maintain the taste and aroma of Korean food while avoiding elements that foreigners may find unappealing. This includes incorporating dishes like donkasu (breaded pork cutlet) and tangsuyuk (sweet and sour pork) to spread Korean food globally.

Featuring regular panelists such as Lee Yeon-bok, Hong Jin-kyung, Heo Kyung-hwan, Nam Chang-hee, Ju Hun, and Kim Min-ji (nutritionist), *Korean Dining Table* also invites numerous guest panelists. Unlike typical cooking variety shows, *Korean Dining Table* emphasizes "safe cooking" by employing professional nutritionists. The show has garnered great interest from viewers by showcasing K-food in actual British schools, starting with Wolverhampton Wanderers, the team of football player Hwang Hee-chan, as well as Oxford University and Queen Elizabeth School. From the 7th episode onwards, the show relocated to the United States and presented meals at Jefferson Elementary School in Anaheim, California, further stimulating viewers' interest.

What E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web* tells us

By Kim Seo-young
(Godeok Middle School in Seoul)



"Charlotte's Web teaches important life lessons, emphasizing the significance of companionship and highlighting that material possessions don't lead to happiness."

E.B. White, the author of *Charlotte's Web*, wrote a children's book that explores friendship, the beauty of nature, and the inevitability of death. The story follows Wilbur, a pig saved from death by his friends Fern and Charlotte a spider. It teaches important life lessons, emphasizing the significance of companionship and highlighting that material possessions don't lead to happiness.

The novel also promotes the importance of respecting diversity. Through Charlotte's actions and Fern's open-mindedness in befriending animals, the book shows that differences should be accepted and discrimination based on natural features is unacceptable. While progress has been made in granting equal rights, some individuals still face discrimination based on appearance, culture, religion, or gender. For example, certain Arabian countries restrict women from driving and impose fashion regulations, while religious intolerance persists in various forms. *Charlotte's Web* promotes the acceptance of diversity. *Charlotte's Web*, despite being a children's book, explores the idea of death. Wilbur meets with the crisis of death twice, but he is saved by Charlotte each time. However, her sacrifice highlights the inevitability of death and the impermanence of life. The novel suggests that while medical advancements can extend lifespans, true immortality remains unattainable.

A memorable scene in the book occurs when Charlotte and Wilbur discuss the Queensborough Bridge. Charlotte remarks on the rushed nature of human life, contrasting it with the peaceful existence of animals. This highlights society's tendency to prioritize efficiency and problem-solving over appreciating the present moment. *Charlotte's Web* provides comfort to those living in a fast-paced and often troubled world, reminding them to find peace by reconnecting with nature.

Overall, E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web* is a children's book that teaches important lessons about friendship, accepting differences, the reality of death, and the need to slow down and appreciate life.

Special volunteer experience in Indonesia: Sharing knowledge

By Kim Mi-shik (Daesung Girls' Middle School in Cheong-ju)



I joined a short-term overseas education volunteer group from Chungbuk National University called KOIN. We traveled to Yogyakarta, Indonesia from

January 11th to February 7th, 2023. Our group, led by one instructor and consisting of 19 students, taught Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Korean language, and Korean culture to Indonesian students. With the assistance of two professors from Sanata Dharma University and 13 co-teachers, we successfully completed our volunteer work. This was our second overseas educational volunteer project, following our work in El Salvador in 2018. The experience was transformative, and I feel like I've grown as a person who prioritizes understanding and empathy for others.

Our preparation for the volunteer work was as demanding as the actual work itself. We created lesson plans, received feedback, and conducted class demonstrations. Additionally, we practiced K-dance

routines weekly. As the departure date approached, the responsibility of being the leader weighed heavily on me. However, we arrived in Yogyakarta and conducted classes at SMA Stella Duce High School, an all-girls school. We also volunteered at SMA De Britto High School, a boys' school, where the principal and students warmly embraced us. Our farewell ceremony left a lasting impression, fostering a sense of unity and gratitude among all participants.

During the volunteer work, we held daily evaluation meetings, shared our diary entries in a group chat, and developed strong bonds with our co-teachers. Their support was invaluable. They took care of our lunches and acted as guides. We also appreciated the assistance from the university authorities. They allowed us to use their bus for transportation. The Indonesian cuisine, such as saté and goreng dishes, was enjoyable, and the local fruit,



Our educational volunteer project in Indonesia taught us that volunteering is not only about helping others but also about sharing and connecting with one another.

mangosteen, was a delightful treat. While there were some inconveniences.

This experience taught me that volunteering is not only about helping others but also about sharing and connecting with one another. It requires a healthy body, a positive mindset, and a genuine appreciation for people and their stories. I am grateful for the opportunity to exercise my volunteer instinct and extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this volunteer project. Terima kasih, Indonesia!

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