

IAESTE Internship in GIFT, Korea

This spring I was looking for a way to spend my summer time in Asia. An internship is a convenient option to get to learn a new culture and to learn something about the job of engineer. So I send some internship applications to Japan and Korea through IAESTE (International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience). That is how I got to know and eventually was accepted for a summer internship at GIFT. As I am writing these lines at the end of my stay, I can definitely write that it was a brilliant idea to come here.

The internship provided me the opportunity to see how research is going on in GIFT and to get the feeling of how it would be to work in Korea. Those are precious information in case I decide to work abroad later in my life. The way work is organised here and in Europe is very different and because of this difference, a lot of people would be reluctant to the idea of working in an Asian country. An internship is a good opportunity to see that this difference is not so important and that we can actually do it.

It is also a wonderful way to get in touch to some Korean people and learn much more about Korea than I was just to come here for a holiday trip. The Korean culture is not known enough worldwide, so I had pretty much no idea of what was waiting for me when coming here. I had a very good time in Pohang, working the week, enjoying the city at night and travelling the weekend for exciting trips with the good friends I made here. I have been to Gyongju and to most of the national park around Pohang for hiking and temple visits. The beaches near Pohang on the East Sea are waiting for the students that need to rest for a while enjoying the sun and the waves.

The GIFT organises regularly plant tours, I could participate in one of these and get to see some factories and workshops of the leading Korean companies. The trip was indeed very impressive.

I will not forget the time I spend in GIFT and hope to convince other Swiss students to apply for the internship to see Korea and GIFT. The financial support provided makes it possible for everybody which is very important. I would like to thank everybody who made this internship possible and so enjoyable. Thanks.

Olivier Thomann, Pohang, 27th August 2008

