

### **My Korean life: An unforgettable chapter of my life**

When this whole adventure began, I was not sure what to expect out of it. At first it seems like something irrational. After all, I was already a foreigner in Taiwan, why would I want to go to another country? Start all over again in a place where I didn't speak the language and I wouldn't know anyone. It might sound crazy, but that was the exact reason why I did it: for the challenge.

I want to be an international business development executive. I see myself detecting opportunities and creating strong relationships all over the world. I think I have good analytical skills, an strong awareness and respect on different cultures and curiosity to keep informed on what is happening in the world. But none of this is important if you can't manage the challenge of going to the unknown, getting out of your comfort zone and go somewhere you haven't been and do your best to achieve the goals you've set.

I love Taiwan and I'm grateful for everything I've learned there, but on my thirds semester at IMBA, I realized I was comfortable with my life and that I wasn't going out of my comfort zone. Therefore, I decided to take the risk of going somewhere new. The world is a vast place, but I knew I wanted to stay in Asia and Korea seemed like a good place. I also had a hidden agenda: I wanted to get a job in Asia and Koreans conglomerated looked like a good place to try. Besides, I have experience on the automotive industry, so landing a job at Hyundai seemed like the best idea.

At the end, I didn't get a job in Korea. Some might look at it like a defeat. Even I felt that way for a while, but now, looking back, I realize how much I won. First of all, I was able to develop many strong relationships with people from all over the world. Today, I feel very confident of my ability to connect with people, regardless of where they come from. All you need is kindness and an honest smile. It might sound like a "mom's formula", but it just works. Politeness works all over the world.

I also learned to become more proactive and outgoing to get to know as much as I could of Seoul and Korea. I think this is really important if you decide to pursue an international career. In the end, you will be in a new environment and you just can't work 24 hours a day. You need to find out places to go out, activities you enjoy, restaurants you like. Making your life in a new place is a process, and if you just lock yourself in your home, you will be miserable. Sometimes is not easy, for sure, but you if you are persistent, you will be surprised how everyday you feel a little more like "at home" at this new environment.

In the long run, I think I will look back on my Korean adventure and will laugh about how I started with some goals, and ended up having some unforeseen, yet maybe more useful, results. But that is what makes life so wonderful, you never know what you're going to get, but whatever it is, just make the best out of it.