

# Rooster-Dragon Mountain Trip with YHTC

(March 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> 2009)

By Jan

## Friday

**18:46** – I got an e-mail from Min. He settles where and when we should meet. Finally we know more than that there's going to be some mountain trip.

**21:50** – our group of foreigners (Justus, Slawek, Martin and me) meets Min.

**22:00** – meeting in the Youth Hostel Travel Club room; leaving to the bus stop.

**22:20** – bus stop. We're divided into 4 groups; I'm the lucky one with Seung Hee as a captain!

**23:00** – arrival at the Suwon station; we learned (and broke as well) the rules of a game (i.e. we're not allowed to use our money during the trip). We're trying to understand the schedule but hardly can predict what we'll really experience; taking gas cookers and full bags of food with us.

**23:32** – leaving on a train to Daejon. It's pretty full, we're standing in the corridor most of the time. I'm talking to guys and trying to realize what can I expect. At least I know our group's menu! Drunken people still passing around and trying to explain me something really important, but sadly I don't understand. It's getting colder and colder.

## Saturday

**01:05** – arrival to Daejon. We're really curious what will come now.

**01:20** – moving to the square in front of the railway station and starting cooking noodles in groups; local homeless are gathering around us. Absolutely divine atmosphere!

**02:30** – cooking done, tidy. We washed the dishes in the heated restroom amongst the homeless looking weird at us. We cleaned our teeth there as well. Let's go to the tunnel!

**02:50** – starting to play games in the tunnel. First one, "Animal calling", is with such a big bunch of people unbelievable funny, especially when during Hyun Oh's animal is almost everybody rolling on the floor laughing. We tried a few games later; unfortunately I don't know the names of them even in Czech, but they're easy to explain and to understand.

**04:00** – some people fall asleep or are at least trying to.

**04:45** – railway station opens again, so we move to there. We're moving benches and trying to find most suitable position to sleep. I'm really enjoying it!

**05:50** – moving to the #107 bus stop.

**06:10** – leaving on the bus in direction to Gyeryongsan National Park. Classical public transportation bus, a green one. Taking all the rear seats and camping with the rest on the floor. Falling asleep wrapped around the holding bars. Where else could I enjoy sleeping in the public transportation bus on the floor?

**07:10** – terminus, the driver wakes us up. It seems to be a wonderful day; sky is without any cloud. It could be just a bit warmer! We're moving to the hostel where everybody finds a small place wherever it's possible and tries to sleep for a while.

**08:00** – get started cooking again in groups. But not every groups are awake ☺ I can hardly remember what I ate, but it was delicious. We're cooking breakfast and lunch to take out. After the meal back to "bed". Yeah so many socks in one room!

**09:45** – finally leaving for the mountain hiking - the main aim of our schedule. The weather is totally cool! We saw buddhistic women temple, waterfall and successfully reached the first peak (845 m). Our Korean friends are incredibly fast; we're just trying to hide our slowness behind taking photos of every single rock around.

**11:30** – enjoying the peak view and eating lunch. Unfortunately I again can't remember what I ate; but for sure there was some rice and it was very tasty. Taking photo with the club flag. At this place I should mention we're the first foreigners taking part in YHTC's trip. I can hardly believe somebody would miss such great trip intentionally!

**12:30** – climbing up the second peak. Amazing view!

**13:15** – second peak reached. Steep stairs everywhere, it's quite exhausting. Again taking pictures with club flag and singing club anthem, it's quite serious event with its magic. And hurray to the way down!

**14:00** – another temple...

**15:30** – back to the hostel. In a bit bigger room, but with bigger amount of socks ☺ Taking shower and falling asleep wherever it's possible.

**17:00** – wake-up call, we're starting to cook. This was really fun; I felt a bit handy sometimes (pass, carry, wipe, you know...). I was scared a bit with some approaches like placing a whole chicken on a frying pan or measuring if leek fits the pot in its length, but finally every team figured out how to prepare its delicious meal! We're cooking chicken pieces in sauce; I tried to write down the cooking instructions. Most things are easy to get even in Czech Republic (like rice, chicken, carrot, potatoes, onion, cabbage), but the main part of our meal was a special sauce prepared by Seung Hyun's mother. I can hardly find this in our convenient store ☹ Well everything got sliced, mixed together and eaten with rice. Really cool, very good. Of course we're trying other teams' meals as well.

**19:30** – we cleaned the mess after the dinner. Here's the place to explain that all the cooking was taking place on the floor and eating was done by sharing directly from the pan/pot. Just great! Next program was working in teams which seemed as a big language problem at first. One of the tasks were group discussions on any topics and the subsequent presentation of the results. I was expecting a lot, but first topic "Our charming captain" really didn't come from my head! Anyway it was a really fruitful discussion. Another topic was i.e. the attitude of the Koreans to the foreigners etc. Everyone just said her/his opinion; we translated it and wrote down. Further we determined the best people in various categories and finally prepared a short story to be played on the stage! Perfect; amazing fun! Our plot was very simple and didn't need any talking (it means no problem with understanding); it was its big advantage and one of the reasons it won ☺ We just represented a hungry Australopithecus tribe (our captain

forced us to be topless!). So we tried to catch the bear, but no one succeed except her (and it was about 2x bigger than her). Then we took the bear into our camp and began the dance of fire. But I was so hungry so I started to eat before the captain did; it was my end and the others were laughing at me. Nevertheless it was extremely funny!

**21:15** – presentation of the results and plays; it was mostly in Korean so I don't remember a lot. But as I already mentioned, we won the price for the best stage play!

**23:00** – cooking supper; pretty tired, really don't remember a lot.

## Sunday

**00:00** – leaving to the forest to officially accept new members in the ceremony. Then everybody lit a candle and said something concerning the club/trip. Finally we sung an anthem and went back.

**00:30** – exhausted falling asleep like a few others. The rest starts to play games; I can recognize The town of Palermo...

**08:00** – wake-up call! An outside group competition in singing some Korean song; we just made sure we're not needed and fell asleep again for a while. Then cooking again started! Our group is exceptionally the slowest one; but I'm really enjoying the cooking process. The biggest problem seems to prepare the sea monster ☺ I really don't know the name but would call it risotto with a sea monster; it was delicious like always.

**11:00** – cleaning. Some onions left so we play rock, paper, scissors who should eat it. Poor guy! The next and last task in the schedule is writing messages to each other's trip booklet. There are ca. 4 blank pages to express some feelings to that particular person. So the booklets do a round trip through all groups and everyone is supposed to write something in each one. I've got so many nice messages! Unfortunately most of them are only in Korean ☹

**13:00** – final cleaning and leaving to the bus stop. There we play a few great games. The aim of a team in the first one was to mask the feelings after drinking an unknown cup. The other teams should guess who drunk the good one. Next game's aim was to eat a lemon in three people as fast as possible.

**14:15** – bus departs. Trying to fell asleep but with no success.

**15:15** – train departs. Pretty full again, again standing near the toilets, great. We're checking messages in our booklets and I finally know meaning of some Korean ones. Most original was probably the one from J-Dragon – apparently it's good that I brought 3 friends to this trip, but what the hell about any girls? Nice! YHTC has a lot of pretty girls, but only three of them were taking part in this trip ☹ Perhaps it'll be better next time.

**16:45** – arrival to the Suwon Station. Singing the club anthem in front of the station and final Goodbye. I feel blue.

I'd like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to join this amazing trip. Hope we'll see us next time!