

## G8 WET Day 3 Recap

5/18/2017 Kitakyushu, Japan

After another sumptuous breakfast buffet we got a leisurely start to our day, departing on our bus at 9:30 a.m. on our way to our first stop, the Tagawa Coal Museum, about an hour south of here. The museum is located on the site of a former operating coal mine in the middle of a major coal-mining region from Japan's past. (We learned that Japan no longer mines any of its own coal but now imports it all for various uses such as generating electricity, making steel, and industrial chemical processes). During the approximately 100 year history of coal mining in this area it produced about half of all Japan's coal.



Students at the Tagawa Coal Museum examining a model of the mine when it was in operation.

Sadly, many Koreans worked and died in these mines. Their descendants in the area raised money to build a memorial to them and we visited that as well.





Our next stop was for lunch, which consisted of delicious bento boxes.



(Didn't we just have a huge breakfast? I know I did!)

After lunch we returned to the area near our hotel from last night (and also tonight) which is right on the straits separating our Island (Kyushu) from the main island (Honshu) of Japan.





That's the main island just to the north of us.

You can take a bridge over the straits, or you can...



... all crowd onto an elevator together and descend 60 meters underground to the pedestrian portion of the tunnel (built by Koreans who were deported to perform manual labor in Japan) which runs beneath the straits and...





... WALK from one side to the other! (It's only 780 km.) And when you get to the other side, guess what? There's vending machines! (I think those are the student's favorite part of the trip).



From this island we could look back and see our hotel to the south. It's the red brick building in the middle of the picture below. From here we walked to a shrine to a former Japanese king.





And then killed some time before dinner on the boardwalk playing “Ninja”.





Finally it was time for dinner (didn't we just eat lunch?) an all-you-can-eat buffet featuring meat....





and, almost more exciting, cotton candy!





Finally it was time to board our bus (our home away from home these last three days),



Our driver is on the left, and our tour guide, Kim Jinee, is on the right

and head home to our luxurious hotel where many students chose to spend an hour browsing the shopping area seen here from the window of one of our rooms.





as the sun set on another beautiful day on our World Experience Tour with CDS!



View from the hotel lobby looking back at the main island where we'd spent the afternoon.