

1 **Asia - Republic of Korea / Wando Group Interview**

2 Interviewers: Francesco, Manon, Hakyung

3 Interviewees: Pastor, Director at center, Host in charge of workcamps, parents of a child who  
4 participated in the workcamps

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6 Francesco (F): ... (asking for the permission to record) Everytime we wanted to do the  
7 special project, Yonghan always said, "Um, Wando!" So, this year, we are trying to do  
8 something special, which is to understand what is the impact of the workcamps for the  
9 volunteers, on one side, and for the community, on the other side.

10 Pastor (P): Um, first of all, Wando is the region where it is the farthest from Seoul and the  
11 most southern area in Korea. Also, it is an island. Especially, in 2002, when the workcamp  
12 firstly took place here, it was even held in Nohwado (Nohwa Island), which is one hour away  
13 from Wando, even. The children living there especially had less or no chances to be exposed  
14 to the culture and education, furthermore, same like now, the parents were very eager to  
15 educate their children English. However, there were no private schools for teaching them out  
16 of schools and no opportunities for them to be exposed to different cultures and different  
17 people. Then, we thought, it is hard for us to go abroad, in economic and realistic problems,  
18 why not inviting them to here and giving the children to experience different cultures and  
19 English so that the children would be globalized and feel the need for learning English? So  
20 we tried, and it worked well. First of all, when the children meet foreigners, they no longer  
21 felt scared or intimidated, but they could easily get used to communicating with them.  
22 Despite the language boundary, the children felt close to the new people who they met. Then,  
23 some of the children got interested in learning languages and studied hard, such as Japanese,  
24 English, etc., through chatting with Japanese people on the net, which let us see the children  
25 changed the attitude toward studying.

26 F: In fact, since we need to present Wando to our colleagues and other 10 countries that are  
27 doing the same thing. We need to know a little bit even more, how it started and also,  
28 especially, when was the first year he came to Wando and what you are doing, what kind of  
29 activities you do?

30 P: Yes, we started at 2002, as far as I remember. But, since it was so long time ago, I am even  
31 confused. In the camp, there is a culture exchange activity where the children and the  
32 campers exchange their own different cultures, for example cooking their own foods,  
33 experiencing different cultures, singing own songs, dancing traditional dances, introducing  
34 the cultures to one another... Also, from our side, we let the foreign campers learn Korean  
35 culture, such as learning Taekwondo and/or Samulnori (Korean traditional percussion quartet),  
36 so all together the children and the campers can spend time together and have fun. On the last  
37 day, we altogether have a festival, which the campers really enjoy. (Translator (T): "Then,  
38 what was your initial motivation to start the workcamps here?") The initial motivation was to  
39 break distance and fear towards foreign people, which are the biggest barriers for the children

40 to become globalized. Secondly, you know, we do not really feel or realize the importance of  
41 learning English, but the children get taught English so much at school. So, I wanted them to  
42 know the importance and the need for learning 'real' English as a medium for communication  
43 by being exposed to the foreign campers and to the new cultures of them. Furthermore, since  
44 they get to meet diverse people, I wanted them to have a bigger vision and dream in their  
45 lives, to see beyond the community and the country, but to the whole world.

46 F: We can actually ask about the festivals, because we were reading some of the reports of the  
47 past years. And we saw, at the end, in the last year, there were always this kind, more 'open'  
48 festivals, which before looked more 'inside' the center. So, we can just ask about if it's  
49 something a bit new, or a new step even to involve more people around Wando, not just the  
50 children, because it looked like that.

51 P: Before, we cooked foods first and then invited people to share and enjoy the foods together.  
52 Then, we wanted to make it bigger than just cooking and enjoying the foods together, to  
53 having a performance, even. So, we go to the performance stage and invite people. For the  
54 cooking and food part, we just set it aside as a separate schedule. In the past, the campers and  
55 we cooked the traditional dishes from all over the world, then we invited the villagers around  
56 here, for example, French, Italian, British cuisine... More or less six countries, since we had  
57 had the campers from more or less six countries. Then it got changed to the performance and  
58 festival.

59 Director at center(D): At the festival, we have asked for help to the entertaining/music band  
60 of the county office, ending up with having an association with them. Then, people hearing  
61 the Samulnori sound wonder about the noise and the sound, then come to the performance  
62 place. Then, people get to know about the performance and this kind of culture, but I am not  
63 really sure there is any communication, though...

64 F: And, that was actually the next question, which can be two questions. So, the first, for the  
65 most important, how do the children participate? Since they see the before and the after and  
66 during, are they happy with the way of participating? And then, if someone else, apart from  
67 the children, has been involved? Especially, year after year, as the community has enlarged  
68 around the project? So, first the children, then if someone else... (Since the pastor has to  
69 leave, giving him one final question first) Maybe we can ask this question, then. For all these  
70 years, what is the most significant change this project brought?

71 P: It is not on a large scale, but I would say, the children. The children who have continuously  
72 participated have changed a lot. The children who participated for the first time were quite  
73 scared and intimidated, but now they are not scared at all and get easily used to the new  
74 people and new environment. In the past, they were really scared that they needed at least 2-3  
75 days to feel comfortable and close to the campers. However, now, since they have  
76 participated in the camps year after year, they changed and have no more fear or distance.

77 D: Then, since more and more people get to know about the workcamps, it gets more and  
78 more attention, and gets connected on a community scale, for example, the district office, the

79 local self-government committee, the county office, etc... Also, especially, this year, we had  
80 another center involved together. It started to have some connection in the community with  
81 other associations or organizations, then it started to get well-known and got bigger and  
82 bigger. So, people came to know the fact that our center has this kind of activity, workcamp.

83 P: So, these days, schools even get quite interested in the workcamps, so they wanted to let  
84 their children participate in the camp. In the past, we had to try hard to get the students  
85 participate in the camp, but now the schools found the value in the workcamp and sent some  
86 students to the camp.

87 D: So, it became a very important event and activity in the center.

88 (The pastor left, and the translator tries to ask again the parents of the children who  
89 participated in the workcamp.)

90 T: So, was your daughter or son in the workcamp...?

91 Parents (P): Both of them.

92 F: Very good, then please tell us. (laughter)

93 T: So, you must have heard a lot about the workcamp from your children, what was nice and  
94 what was not nice, etc... Were they happy about it? (laughter)

95 P: I was actually at the camp site.

96 T: Oh, interesting. How was it? Feel free to tell us anything about it.

97 P: Our daughter was already in high school and our son has participated in the workcamps  
98 since he was in the last year of middle school. Since she was already busy with studying  
99 being in high school, she could not really participate in the camp, fully. She just took part in  
100 the camp from time to time, when she was free from school. She told us she really liked it.  
101 For our son's case, he had a really big distance and fear towards the foreign campers. So, at  
102 the beginning, he had some hard times to get used to the new people. But, overall, I felt he  
103 overcame a lot and had a very good experience from the workcamps. He was quite fine with  
104 English at school, he is quite good at 'studying' English at school, in fact. However,  
105 whenever he met a foreigner, he became frozen, you know, the very natural feeling for  
106 Korean people to feel intimidated and scared to actually speak out English. So, when he was  
107 in the camp for the first year, he did not know anything but just took part in. Then, in the  
108 following year, when he entered a high school, he didn't want to participate in the camp. He  
109 had some hard times to overcome it, I assumed. I suggested him to challenge himself one  
110 more time and participate in the camp in that year too, but he felt too burdened about it and  
111 uncomfortable that he didn't want to come to the camp. But I pushed him a bit, so he did  
112 participate in the camp, in the end. Then, after the camp, he told me that he overcame, like  
113 80-90% with that issue. Then, he visited the United States in this February for a month and he  
114 could understand and was actually able to speak English there. He was a good example to

115 overcome his difficult issue through the workcamps. Now, he is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of high school,  
116 and he told me that he could understand what people there spoke to him for being a high  
117 school student. Another good one I saw was to meet a Korean American person, the person  
118 being born abroad and not knowing Korea, but knowing Korean language and having  
119 American culture. I guess he was very helpful for my son to get comfortable with English and  
120 new people.

121 F: And, he actually saw the camp. So, I am quite interested in knowing how they got to know  
122 about the camp and how they got involved with them...

123 P: I volunteer at this center. So, I am like a staff or a family member at this center. I even  
124 have some fear or distance toward the foreign people, so I wanted to come and visit here. I  
125 am in my 50's, which makes me not very strange to have that kind of fear with foreign people.  
126 So, being a local villager living around here, seeing the campers from around the world year  
127 after year, I came to feel very comfortable with them. Also, seeing the children getting along  
128 with the campers by playing sports and games together, I was surprised and interested to see  
129 how close and intimate they get to be, in natural ways. I was even just watching them in the  
130 camp, but came to feel close to them. It made me find this workcamp very nice and good.

131 F: Actually, that's quite interesting, because, in Busan, we had the same impression. Just by  
132 seeing the people working together is already a big change in their feelings. So, maybe to  
133 complete what we asked, to the lady who manages things, are there other people from the  
134 community or the volunteers at the center who are involved in this way, maybe they are not  
135 daily attending, but still they are watching or sometimes helping, or sometimes just telling  
136 other people... Who else is around? Or, cooking and helping... Just to have an idea of who is  
137 around the camp?

138 D: Well, I already told you about cooking international foods and inviting local people, right?  
139 In 2013, we did the same and invited people, but not many people came. So, that was why we  
140 changed the way to the festival with songs and dances. There were some people who visited,  
141 but they didn't really stay long. Some people did come to enjoy the foods.

142 Host in charge of workcamps (H): She was in the workcamps in 2013, right?

143 Manon (M): Yes, yes.

144 H: Yes, she somehow looked familiar to me.

145 D: Yes, same for me, too. For me, foreign people look somehow very similar, so I thought I  
146 was just confused, but I was right. (laughter)

147 T: Yes, yes. She was very happy to come back here so she was taking pictures in front of the  
148 center and is enjoying time here. (laughter)

149 F: So, maybe again, I don't know exactly for whom, but the example of their son going to the  
150 U.S. and feeling even more comfortable is quite good. One thing we want to know in general

151 is people from the center who participated in other types of programs ‘after’ the camp, as a  
152 direct consequence. Students, or other things maybe ‘thanks to’ the workcamps could either  
153 go to the abroad or participating in other volunteerings, or activities...

154 D: Well, some have penpal friends. (H: “Philippines, Philippines...”) Oh, the students have  
155 been to the Philippines in this February.

156 T: For what kind of program?...

157 H: For volunteering. We went to help to build a kindergarten, taught the children there  
158 Samulnori, etc.

159 T: For how long?

160 H: For 4 nights 5 days.

161 F: So, some of them are same children, who were in the workcamps?

162 H: Yes, all of them. So, we could explain to the children about going to the Philippines for  
163 volunteering with the example of workcamps. We said, “Like the volunteers came from  
164 abroad here, this time we are going to the Philippines to volunteer.” Then, they were  
165 understood easily and well.

166 M: So, they are all from the workcamps?

167 T: Yes, yes.

168 F: Then, maybe, we can, even if it’s difficult question always... Because it was one of the  
169 objectives that the pastor mentioned as well, it was the change of the way to see the others,  
170 but, for us, it is also interesting to know if they changed the way they see themselves, and  
171 Wando, and valorizing the local culture, or... themselves.

172 M: Or, even personally, maybe.

173 F: Yes, even personally. So, yeah, maybe the parents shared the way how he looked changed  
174 but also, for the community, if they look at the center... She mentioned the center became  
175 kind of attractive, if they see there are changes in the way they see themselves?

176 D: Well... These days, we do feel everywhere is globalized. Before, people used to think that  
177 globalization is not their stories, not my business, feeling far from that concept. But, now, we  
178 do feel close. I guess this kind of change happened.

179 T: Yeah, so you are saying you feel that kind of change in Wando, too?

180 D: Yes. When the workcamps firstly started in Wando, it was the time when people came to  
181 see the foreigners. So, at that time, people took pictures of the foreign campers and hung it in  
182 the district office or wherever, feeling so proud and amazed to see foreigners. It was in  
183 Nohwa island. So, it means that we could only see the people and the community around us,

184 but it made us see beyond our community by getting exposed to new and different people.  
185 Even, a person like me says “global, global...”

186 F: Okay, then maybe then, if I am allowed to ask the important point for us... Very important  
187 part of your center and your community is, of course, your religious belief. And, um, having  
188 worked in the countries that, for example, France, people are very attentive to this... I know  
189 that, at some moments of the life in this workcamps, it was raised as, not as a problem, but as  
190 something that shouldn't be pushed too much. So I am wondering if that affected the way  
191 they felt about themselves, because it's obviously not something bad. On the contrary, it  
192 brings us the project, but I know that some volunteers don't like the idea of being associated  
193 with religious group directly, no matter how good is the project, so I am wondering if that  
194 was somehow making them less happy or whatever... It's delicate, but it's quite important  
195 and I know it's good, as well... How they could perceive this kind of attitude from some of  
196 the volunteers and eventually how they expected, because I know at the end the volunteers  
197 are actually very happy and they forget completely if it's religious or not religious.

198 M: If they had to deal with...

199 F: Exactly. How they dealt with... if it happened, directly to them. Maybe here is not the case.  
200 How they dealt with it and how they felt.

201 D: Muslim... When there was a Muslim camper, she wanted to have some religious rituals  
202 here at the center. So, it was the example that we told her that we didn't want them to happen  
203 here at the center. Because we did not have something having religious belief in it, there was  
204 no complaints about it.

205 H: So, we brought them to another place to do the rituals. We did tell her that, inside the  
206 center, we didn't want the rituals happen.

207 T: Then, where did you bring her?

208 H: At the accommodation, in another room.

209 D: About the foods, like they don't eat pork, we ask them, in advance, or if there is any  
210 vegetarian. So, when there is some pork or meat menu, we prepared other menus for them.

211 F: Just to explain more the reason we asked is it's brave decision to open to all culture. It's  
212 quite easy to find volunteers who have the same beliefs and bring them here, but still you  
213 have a lot of cultures. But, with no major problems, because everyone has the same faith or  
214 big culture, let's say. But, they decided to open to really everyone, so that's why we ask about  
215 the possible conflict, because if they solved that, they actually have really peace in the world.  
216 That's why we were very interested in that aspect

217 M: And that's the goal of the workcamps.

218 F: Exactly, so just to appreciate they made a courageous decision to do it, and that's why we  
219 asked because that's what we want to do.

220 (Translation and people understanding and nodding)

221 F: Okay, so maybe to become more practical, what kind of results, I mean, if they think back  
222 all the activities that they did, which one they would tell us, like “Oh, that was nice” or “That  
223 year, we did some things that were very well and special...” The highlights of the camp, not  
224 just this year...

225 D: For the highlight, of course, the festival. For this year, we went to the Korean traditional  
226 folk painting museum, which the campers really liked and appreciated. It is located in  
227 Gangjin, so we rented a big bus to go there.

228 M: Is it still in the harbor, is it open... is it still the same? The festival... Where was it taken  
229 place?

230 D: This year we could not make it to the same place, so it took place in the church. Every  
231 year, we had it in the outdoor stage in front of the beach. Manon must have performed in the  
232 performance in the outdoor stage too, right? (Manon says yes.) This year, another event was  
233 already there, so we could not rent it. Anyways, we had a typhoon at that time so we could  
234 not have used it.

235 H: And, by the way, last year, the campers and the students made a video with many places of  
236 Wando as background. Not only the campers but also the students really liked making the  
237 video and like the time. Also, there was a national UCC contest, so we submitted the video  
238 and won a prize there. It was very meaningful since both the campers and the students liked it.  
239 If you can see it there (pointing at the banner hung on the wall), it is one scene in the video. I  
240 think it was very nice to have something that they could share and enjoy together. Also, it was  
241 like a summary of the camp, since it had not only the workcamps but also some places at the  
242 center and in Wando, too. But also we won a prize, so we were very happy about it.

243 M: Did they tell the volunteers?

244 H: To submit the video, we needed to get the permission from each person in terms of the  
245 portrait rights, so an email was sent to all the volunteers, in advance. Therefore, they should  
246 know the video was submitted but not sure they know if it won a prize or not... Anyways,  
247 there were only 10 winners all over the country for the community child centers.

248 F: Okay, very nice, very good. So, for the challenges and the suggestions... Maybe, to the  
249 parents, we can ask the suggestions? What can be improved or what kind of activities they  
250 would like the camp to have? If they can remember some of the activities, also that the son  
251 and the daughter mentioned significantly...

252 P: The campers draw/make the introduction of their own countries a lot, right? Of course, I  
253 found it very nice and interesting. However, in fact, those information about the countries, we  
254 can find them on the net, too. I wish they could have been more professional and prepared to  
255 introduce their own countries. So, when introducing their own cultures or foods, well, I don't  
256 know how it would sound to the host staffs and to the director here, but I thought it was the

257 information that we already knew and quite widespread in Korea too already. About foods, as  
258 well, I wanted it to be more special and more traditional. However, if we are given the foods  
259 that we can also buy in Korea, then it does not mean some unique or traditional ones, I  
260 assumed. So, in my opinion, it would be better if the campers are more prepared to know  
261 more about their own cultures and be able to tell us. Of course, I have seen the introductions  
262 that the campers made on the wall, like Vietnam, France, Vietnam, etc., then I thought ‘Oh,  
263 those things and information, I can find it on the internet and some of them I already know.’  
264 In my thoughts, something called as ‘culture exchange’ means a person from a certain region  
265 meets another person from another region and introduces his/her own ‘unique’ culture. For  
266 example, not just about their whole country, but also about the region where s/he is from, like  
267 there is a unique characteristic about ‘Wando’, different from the whole ‘Korea’. Also, we  
268 have talked about Samulnori, which is also quite different region by region, with different  
269 beats, instruments, names, feelings, values in it, etc. So, it must be same for the other  
270 countries, right? They must have somewhat different culture in a specific region, a unique  
271 one. So, as long as that unique culture is introduced and understood, it is also understood how  
272 the camper acts and thinks like that, to the other campers. So, I somehow want this kind of  
273 aspect can be strengthened and practiced well. When my son was in the camp, he met a  
274 camper from the U.S., named ‘Dan’, who was very helpful to him. Also, my son met a  
275 camper from Vietnam and he came to me and told me that he tried a very unique Vietnamese  
276 food that the camper from Vietnam cooked for him and the camper promised him to cook it  
277 once again if he could come to Vietnam in the future. So, he told me that it was a very special  
278 experience to try and taste the food that was cooked for him. Although he is not being able to  
279 keep communicating and talking to the camper now, since he is in the high school being busy  
280 with studying, but he told me that it was a very unique experience. So, it reminds me of that it  
281 is also important to pay personal attention to each kid. For example, if the children and the  
282 campers are divided into groups, it would be nice to give each child sincere attention, not just  
283 pretending it. It’s because it would give the children the real feelings of being taken care of  
284 and it may change their lives. Of course, since there are already programs made to be done  
285 during the camp, it is understandable but still I sometimes felt the campers were not leading  
286 the programs, but being dragged by the programs just to finish the programs. Also, this place  
287 for being a center for marginalized children, as you may know already, it would be not easy  
288 to deal with the children here and their education level is not really good, since they are the  
289 ones who need to be protected and have less chance to be educated. So, sometimes it does not  
290 work to make them globalized or whatever. In this kind of situation, I assume communication  
291 and paying sincere attention to them are much more important, but I have once felt the  
292 campers were not really willing to do their best, just feeling tired and not taking it seriously.  
293 It would be easier to have some physical activities, but it wouldn’t be so, if some intellectual  
294 activities and communication in English are needed. So, when this kind of situation happens,  
295 if the campers pay just a bit more sincere attention and take it a bit more seriously, then it  
296 would turn out to be much better. Anyways, the campers are also coming to volunteer and do  
297 their best, so they should be prepared to understand the children as the ones who need more  
298 protection and attention and this place too. Of course, I would it would be hard to do it in less  
299 than one week, I want the campers to be a bit more prepared, then it would make differences,



300 for sure. Also, for example, if people hear about Vietnam, most of the people think the  
301 country to be inferior to Korea. However, after my son met the camper from Vietnam, he  
302 changed the way to think of Vietnam and was very happy to get personal and sincere  
303 attention from the camper very much, he told me. We met the camper from Vietnam after the  
304 camp once again. I was also there to get invited because I was volunteering, as well. I could  
305 see how happy my son was, to meet that camper again. I was very surprised and amazed to  
306 see how close they became.

307 D: I do agree with him, but still, in my opinion, the volunteers are not some people  
308 specialized in volunteering or in workcamps. They also paid some money to join the  
309 workcamps so I am just really thankful for them. At this center, we have quite many students  
310 who need careful attention and protection, but still I saw the campers were being very nice  
311 and kind to them, which would have been not easy. So I wanted to thank them a lot.  
312 Especially, this year, there were quite many challenged children. Of course, it would be nice  
313 to have the campers prepared more and specialized, but still I thought they were doing very  
314 well. Well, you know, it's always never ending for parents to have much better... (laughter)

315 P: (laughter) Yes, yes. But since I was asked to point out some things to be improved... If I  
316 was asked to say good points of the workcamps, I would have said other things. In fact, I  
317 really thank the campers a lot, too. In general, if you see the walls, you can find a lot of  
318 introductions of the countries that the campers made, right? Also, even if the children have  
319 lower understanding abilities and education levels, if they repeat what they are learning, they  
320 are capable of learning things, as well. If you give up on the kids, because they have lower  
321 education levels, they just end up being there, only. As the children are taught how to read  
322 alphabets and so on, they learned a lot. So, since we all know this already, when I am asked  
323 to speak about the things to be improved, I told you those things. So I wanted to tell you  
324 some more shocking things like that. Likewise, you told me you also didn't know there were  
325 differences in Seoul Samulnori and Wando one. (T says yes.) People also don't know that  
326 kind of fact. So, if people know about this, people get interested and try to know more about  
327 it. Anyways, these days, at school, we do have a lot of multiculturalism-related classes. So, it  
328 can be also said that the classes at school might be much better, since it is given by the  
329 professional lecturers. At the workcamps, the children are able to be exposed to the foreign  
330 campers and to communicate with them. So I want them to have more detailed, specific, and  
331 unique culture information. For example, the interviewers must know some unique  
332 characteristics of their own hometown or places, not just like perfumes or fashions from Paris.  
333 So, if it is introduced and understood well to the children, they would get interested and  
334 eventually they would like to visit there, like my son who wants to visit Vietnam, not just to  
335 the tourist attractions. Some things they, for being local people from that region, may know  
336 more...

337 F: To answer and also tell him that we are on the same line, the difficulties in the camps like  
338 Wando is that in the other camps the volunteers do this among themselves and that's part of  
339 our job, so they have this deep contact where they really share about themselves, they are  
340 interested in the cultures, thanks to this contact. And then maybe they renew the path of the

341 painting the wall. But, here, they have to do it among themselves and with the children, but  
342 for them probably the children, they see, as the job that they have to do, while the real job  
343 they have to do is what he described. So I think we also need to train our leaders in a different  
344 way for camps where the job is still same, meaning getting deep personal and culture, while I  
345 am afraid that we still consider that job like we teach something to someone. But, we do need  
346 to come close to them as well. That's why maybe it will take a bit more time because you  
347 need to do that twice, among the volunteers themselves and with the children. But this is very  
348 important, I totally agree.

349 P: Yes, yes. I see how the camps are being practiced, already knowing that kind of situation.  
350 But, for being the parents, the children also invest time and energy for being here too, right?  
351 So the parents want their children learn and gain something, such as overcoming the fear or  
352 whatever, like the pastor mentioned, or something like the children were interested in that  
353 country or the region and we met campers from that place so it was worth, something like this.  
354 Even though the children have lower education level, it doesn't mean that they have no  
355 interests in other countries or places. My son did tell me a lot, after having been to the U.S.,  
356 he felt that he overcame the fear from the workcamps already and he came to have a dream to  
357 volunteer in other developing countries. Seeing him trying to do what he wants to do by  
358 saving money for it and so on, I saw the value of the workcamps and want this to go on for a  
359 long time. But, on the way to sustain the workcamps, you know, the issues like I was telling  
360 you about... The campers would have felt it too, but also the communication and community  
361 spirit that we could also recognize here... Although the campers would leave after the camp,  
362 we stay here and are able to talk to you guys like this, so I want them to have more willing to  
363 mingle with the children and community... I also know it would be hard. For being parents, it  
364 can be seen that they had some communication problems or issues or something is going  
365 wrong... So, I wish it could be more systemized and well-developed, as time goes by. It's  
366 because I have seen some campers not willing to do what the leaders asked to do, or  
367 something like this.

368 F: In fact, one of the suggestions that they take is the change in something in the way we train  
369 our leaders, especially if they have to interact with the people, not build the walls, that's for  
370 sure. And, for sure, I will also bring back to the other partners in the other countries who send  
371 the volunteers, maybe to put more importance on the preparation, even if it's in Korea.  
372 Because, usually, most organizations that send volunteers they have a culture preparation for  
373 those who go to developing countries. But, they don't have it for Japan or Korea, even if the  
374 culture is very different. Because, they think, economically they are developed. So, maybe we  
375 can suggest them that, since they would need to interact much more and present their culture,  
376 they can include preparation also for Korea, Japan, and China, where they don't have because  
377 they are, let's say, rich countries. Just to show them that we take it on board and suggest this  
378 kind of things...

379 D: And, also, in terms of dates of the camp. It's too short to just get to know among  
380 themselves for the campers, but they need to be in a hurry to prepare for the camp. For  
381 example, they came on Monday and the camp started on Wednesday, so it was too short to get

382 to know the campers themselves but they needed to get to know the children, so quick, as  
383 well, which was one of the difficulties. Also, for example, if they go back on Monday, not  
384 Saturday, after Sunday, then they would be able to have the performance on Sunday, when  
385 here are lots of visitors and guests. So, it was hard to push things forward, under the condition  
386 that the campers don't even know about each other but they needed to be in the projects  
387 already. It didn't give enough time to get to know other campers, the children, the projects,  
388 and many others. So, in my opinion, the dates can be improved. Let's say, the campers come  
389 here on Tuesday, not on Monday, then the campers would have enough time to get to know  
390 each other and start the camp. About preparing more specific introduction of the countries or  
391 program-wise, it can be improved by ourselves. But, for the dates, I think it could be  
392 improved like this.

393 F: So, like different activities, or even a bit longer to give more time? What would be the  
394 suggestion? It's actually the guy in Busan said the same... At the beginning, they should  
395 spend some more time together, and then start the work together, so... Because we don't have  
396 many days... So I am thinking what would be the suggestions, more days, and then the first  
397 day focusing on that or simply focusing on that and less days of work... which can be more  
398 effective? I don't know which way they would prefer... It becomes a bit technical, but it's  
399 important...

400 H: Wando, for being a tourist attraction, has a lot of visitors on the weekend. To have the  
401 performance on the weekend, let's say, we need some more time. We are not talking about  
402 having more days of the camp, but the change of the dates. Not having the campers coming  
403 on Monday and leaving on Saturday, but having them coming on Tues or whenever, then  
404 leaving on Monday, which would give us more time to prepare. It's because we need to  
405 perform on the weekend, but with the existing schedule, we can only have one weekend. In  
406 this case, we have not enough time to get to know each other and have the camp, but if we  
407 change the dates, we would be able to use the dates more efficiently by having two weekends.

408 D: Yes, it would be easier for not only the campers, but also for us to run the camp, too.

409 F: In fact, many camps in France start on Friday, then on Saturday and Sunday they just stay  
410 in group and start working on Monday. Okay, so, it's about different dates, adapting to the  
411 schedule. It makes quite a lot of sense. Okay, that's very good. I am sorry that we ask about  
412 this, but it's an important question for all the NGOs in the world and volunteering. How do  
413 they support on hosting 15 people for 2 weeks? How do they manage, practically, on the  
414 accommodation and transportation, because I know they rented a bus for the visit?

415 D: For this year, we got some funding from the local community center committee, so we  
416 could rent the bus to go to the museum. So far, we have got some funding for the programs  
417 from a NGO called Busrugy (T: it is a missionary international developmental NGO).  
418 However, from this year, we would no longer be able to get the funding from them. So, we  
419 are trying to find another way to get funding from elsewhere, by submitting a proposal and so  
420 on.

421 T: Can I ask more about that Busrugy?

422 D: We were a member in that organization and had some membership there, which we didn't  
423 use, so we were able to use the membership by having it as the funding for the workcamps.

424 H: It was the last year to get the membership, so we are trying to find another way.

425 F: And, the level of the local government, there is no direct organization...?

426 D: From the local community, we are not sure. If we ask for some funding, they would decide.

427 T: Then, from the district or country office, don't you have any funding?

428 D: We are trying to do so. We are trying to build a network related to this camps and center.

429 F: Are there many other international events, in Wando?

430 D: Not that I know of. I don't think we have any, in Wando. In terms of English camps, there  
431 should be some at public schools. But, something, like workcamps, to have multinational  
432 participants, I don't think there is any. So, introducing and promoting this workcamp as a  
433 culture exchange program, we are thinking to submit a proposal and advertise it, to the  
434 district or country office.

435 F: Okay... Does she remember how many different nationals they hosted, since the beginning?  
436 I don't know if they count or not, I am just curious to know if they know how many people  
437 they hosted and, especially, how many different nationalities...

438 D: No, no. Too many, there were. (laughter)

439 F: But is there any country or region that you want to know? If we have any special occasion  
440 to bring from Kenya, or the U.S., or Brazil... Is there a country that they want to discover  
441 more, for some reasons? Or, Italy... (laughter)

442 D: There were some from Italy, too. (laughter) There were from Spain, Russia, Thailand,  
443 Vietnam, Poland... I think, quite many countries, quite many.

444 (The parents left and having some breaks by having some more tea and water...)

445 T: So, for 15 years, it must have been long. It is one of the very few workcamps which have  
446 lasted for this long time.

447 D: Yes, but we did have some breaks in between, too. Like two years...?

448 F: What I want to ask is when the center started? And who organized the camp before the  
449 center was made?

450 D: This center was established in 2011. Before the center was made, we had the camps in the  
451 Antioch church nearby. Then, once, we held it in the social welfare center. At that time, we  
452 had more or less 40 children. Other than that time, we held the camps in the church and held

453 the camps here at the center from 2012.

454 F: And, how many children are participating now?

455 D: More or less 20 children.

456 F: So, maybe you can ask... because you didn't start asking from the beginning, we can just  
457 know a little bit more about what they do? And, since when they are involved in the center  
458 and the workcamp?

459 D: I am the director at this center, and this lady (pointing at the host) have been in charge of  
460 the workcamps. I am more involved with taking care of meals, since just two (or, three) of us  
461 cannot take care of all the things in the workcamps, people in the church help us, so I am  
462 more involved with that. But this host staff manages the programs.

463 M: Do they still, I mean, for the meals it was in the church... Is it still outside the center?

464 D: We have meals downstairs. For the other things, we do it in the second floor.

465 F: Then, maybe, we can just ask the same question that we asked, also to the pastor. But,  
466 when they think back all the things they have done, what is the most significant change that  
467 they can see the most?

468 D: Since I have talked a lot, maybe you can hear from the host? (laughter)

469 T: No, no. We will need your talk too. (laughter)

470 D: Of course, we can see the change in the children. That's for sure. For me, I think the fact  
471 that the workcamp is getting settled in this community seems to be a big change. Let's say,  
472 before it was a program which was only inside our center, but now it spread out and became a  
473 big event. It's because I could feel the atmosphere to cooperate and have a partnership with  
474 other organizations and other people. It feels like the workcamp became something we could  
475 share together.

476 H: For me, I have two things I could really notice. Firstly, after the camp, I could really feel  
477 the children getting brighter and more lively and active. It is being repeated, but once again,  
478 the children are having not just lower education level, but also loneliness, since some of them  
479 have no parents and live only with grandparents... So, they are also marginalized in a sense  
480 of 'relationship'. At the beginning, most of the children are so shy that they try to avoid the  
481 campers when the campers tried to talk to them. It's because they are not used to have a close  
482 relationship, which makes the campers embarrassed and baffled. So I had to explain these  
483 characteristics of the children to the campers, the characteristics that the children are not used  
484 to expressing their feelings and to this kind of relationship. So, after the children went  
485 through this kind of communication and activities, they became much more active and  
486 brighter. For example, last year, I saw the boys, who were particularly not used to expressing  
487 their feelings, making a kakao group and talking about what they did on that day and how  
488 they felt, like feeling sad, tired, missing the campers, etc., and having small talks. There have

489 been a lot of campers who paid sincere attention to the children. Since they tried to become  
490 close to the children, by paying more attention and asking what they liked and so on. Through  
491 this kind of program having sincere relationship and sharing things together, I saw the  
492 children filling the empty gap in their minds. Even we, having too much work and less time,  
493 cannot really pay personal attention to each kid every day. So, I thought it was very effective  
494 for the children to get sincere attention and meet diverse people. Like it was said earlier too,  
495 the schedule of the camp is quite tight. At 5 p.m., after the activities and classes are done, we  
496 let the children go home. But, this year, there were some physically challenged children, who  
497 had to stay for a bit more. Then, the campers who must have been tired after the activities  
498 stayed until they went back home and tried to take care of them, even after the schedule,  
499 which made the children feel encouraged and supported. Secondly, as the children have really  
500 less opportunities educationally and culturally, unlike the children in the cities. They are not  
501 just the children in Wando, but the marginalized children in Wando, which makes them even  
502 less chances to be educated and enjoy the culture. So, the workcamp experience gives them to  
503 be exposed to many people and get educated, as well. So I think it has lots of potential values  
504 in it. I think, if they went to the Philippines without this experience, it would have been much  
505 harder to make them understood about what they were doing, also they would not have been  
506 able to do as well as they did. However, since they have the workcamp experiences, they  
507 were doing very well, to get along with the children there too, even with the language barrier  
508 since the children there were too young to be able to speak English. Still, they could get along  
509 with the children there well, and took care of them. Of course, we did lots of work in the  
510 construction, but it was more rewarding to see them being able to get along with the people  
511 there. Although I cannot see the ‘something’ as a result, I could see something is growing in  
512 the children and the potential value in them. So I want them to keep experiencing this kind of  
513 experience. So, we are very thankful for the volunteers, but there were not enough ways to  
514 thank them. Every year, here come the volunteers with different characters and colors, but all  
515 of them, I am very thankful for. In the first year I came to this center, it was the first year to  
516 have the performance. So, it was more ‘messy’ and needed a lot of preparation. Even we did  
517 not know what to do and how to do. Still, the volunteers made it very well and worked hard  
518 on it, which was very thankful. In the last year, many of the volunteers were interested in  
519 education, so it was very well done to have a personal contact with each kid. This year, it was  
520 very thankful to see the campers staying after the schedule to take care of the children, even  
521 in their free time. So, after the camp, we wanted to thank them too, but on the farewell day,  
522 the volunteers usually have the time by themselves. So, we wanted to have that kind of time  
523 together too.

524 F: Yes, it’s important as well, in the same reason with what the parent was saying to feel they  
525 are actually close, personally. They are not the job of the volunteer, but they are still... Very  
526 nice. Thank you so much. Then, very very last question for both of them... Since we live of  
527 the different dreams of the communities, what is their dream for the next workcamp, if they  
528 plan to have another one? Or, in general, one thing they really want to do, in next year or in  
529 next 10 years? If they can share just one dream for the center...

530 D: Well, I don’t think we can get out of the frame which is set from the beginning, because

531 the leaders and the participants are different every year. So, I think it would be hard to make  
532 the program better, program-wise. Maybe we could work on motivating each participant to be  
533 willing to... like the parent mentioned... to be prepared for the camp in detail. However, I  
534 still somehow think that we are asking too much to the volunteers. I am not sure what the  
535 pastor would have in his mind, but, for me, I want the children to see beyond what they can  
536 do and see here. Through the camp and through this community, the children who are living  
537 in this southernmost region could see the world. I want them to be able to see farther and  
538 higher, being able to know there are this and that countries and these diverse people. So, I  
539 want them to have self-esteem and confidence in themselves although they are living in this  
540 southernmost part, some of them with no parents, living with grandparents, or without mother  
541 or father, and so on. I want them to have confidence in them as one human being and be able  
542 to have a vision and dream, by living for the future. In my opinion, if the children and/or the  
543 campers participate in the workcamp like travelling to the mountain or to the sea, there would  
544 be nothing to learn and gain from the camp. So, I want them to be able to know the value of  
545 the human relationship. Since the children are marginalized, most of them are not confident  
546 about themselves, so I want them to be able to have what they want to do, like visiting the  
547 camper's country, and what they want to do in the future.

548 F: Never too demanding. They can do it. Ask, ask more. (laughter) Good, good. Thank you so  
549 much. Do you have some questions?

550 D: Well, we feel like being a beneficiary, in fact. So, we just thank the volunteers, always. It's  
551 because, if I imagine, I don't think I would be able to do the same like the volunteers have  
552 done. So, for me, if we ask more and more, it feels like we ask too much to the volunteers.  
553 Well, some people who have seen the camps for several years, because it just looks like the  
554 children and the campers are having fun and exchanging cultures, they just think it's no big  
555 deal and they think they don't need to come anymore. So, of course, it would be good to have  
556 the campers prepared much better, but I still think it would be too much. (laughter) It's  
557 because every time I see the volunteers work hard, I feel sorry and thankful for them. I think  
558 it is going very well, like this. (laughter)

559 H: I have a question. We always have this and that to ask from the volunteers, but we are not  
560 sure what the campers want to gain and experience from the workcamp. So, I want to ask you  
561 what the campers expect during the workcamp and if they have something that they want us  
562 to do for them.

563 F: We have the statistics from the reports. Maybe we can answer just in general. We know  
564 what they want, those who apply for Wando and the two main things are to interact with the  
565 children and to interact among themselves, because of the workcamp setting, to discover new  
566 culture... These are the two. But, also in general, to close the circle of the project, we are  
567 actually asking few hundreds of the volunteers all over the world, what they want. I mean,  
568 why they do it, in general, to understand also better if what we are doing in the project still  
569 also corresponds to the volunteers themselves expect. But, definitely for Wando, we know,  
570 because we asked them. They wanted to interact with the children and that was the reason

571 number one to join this camp, not because of the seaside, luckily. And the second is to know  
572 other people.

573 H: This year, we went to the folk painting museum, to let the volunteers experience a new  
574 thing here. To go there, we needed to make a reservation, in advance, but I could not ask the  
575 volunteers in advance, since it would be in such a hurry if I did after they come to Wando...

576 D: Yes, so, if we had the information before they arrive in Wando, it would be helpful for us  
577 to decide what to do with and for the volunteers.

578 H: So it works like we decide what to do and just tell the volunteers that we will do this.

579 D: Luckily, they enjoyed it, a lot.

580 F: I think the half answer that I can give, is that, while we are asking what they want, the  
581 most important thing, because sometimes maybe they want to go to the beach three times  
582 instead of two, the important thing is whatever they think as an activity should be an activity  
583 where they learn something, something about Korea, something about the children, or about  
584 the center, about anything, but as long as they plan to do something which helps the  
585 volunteers learn something, then it's going to be perfect. Sometimes doing activity that you  
586 don't want to do, it's actually good to learn new things. Otherwise, you keep doing something  
587 again and again... It's good that they worry but they shouldn't worry too much about what  
588 they want to do.

589 D: Since last year, we have been doing Samulnori every year, because we thought Samulnori  
590 could be something that the foreign volunteers could have wanted to experience. That was  
591 why we chose that activity, something that they could do with the children together. Or, since  
592 it has the sea, going to the beach with the children is, of course, possible. Something from  
593 which the volunteers can learn is quite limited here, in Wando. This year, since we had some  
594 enough budget, we could make it to go to the museum, but sometimes it's hard to do so. Then,  
595 we go to the beach to play games, swim, and have fun. Then, we cook and share the foods  
596 and have the performance and the festival, like these... But, more than these, it's not easy to  
597 go somewhere from here...

598 T: Yes, yes. But, what we meant by 'something from which the volunteers can learn' was not  
599 just related to really 'learning and studying' something. Let's say, they went to the  
600 supermarket to buy something on the seaside and they found out the way to pay or buy things  
601 was different than what they did in their countries, then it's something they learned about  
602 Korean culture. So, this kind of little thing can be something the volunteers can learn from.  
603 Or, just by talking with the children, the volunteers can learn something about the children,  
604 and so on.

605 D: Those kinds of things, yes, for sure.

606 H: It may be something similar to the previous question... Sometimes, since we have  
607 managed the workcamps, something like a conflict, or something like a small issue... Since



608 Wando has the education theme, to engage with the children and have close relationship with  
609 them. As far as I know, our workcamp is under that education theme and the programs here as  
610 well should be made under such theme. Then, some of the volunteers expect culture exchange  
611 more than the education. So, sometimes, between the two, I am confused. Sometimes the  
612 campers want more culture exchange, so we didn't know how to balance in between. So,  
613 under this kind of situation, what do the campers expect? What are the campers' opinions?  
614 Since we also have other works, except the workcamps, sometimes we miss the details and  
615 just run the program as it is supposed to be. Still, among the campers, there are some who  
616 want culture exchange more. In this kind of situation, if there is any good advice or tips...

617 M: Like about knowing Korea?

618 T: In general, about Korea or among campers...

619 F: I think, from my experience, I think what the father of the boy was saying about the  
620 volunteers really share something personal is available from the other way around. If they  
621 share something that is important for them... It can be about the culture, about Wando, about  
622 the center... Even if they are very busy, if they decide 'Okay, Monday 7p.m., we dedicate our  
623 time even if it's just one hour to share something important to them', they will be very happy.  
624 Then they will feel this close contact with the people. I know it's very difficult because of  
625 how busy they must be, but it's uh... for the volunteers, it's the same. If they see they have  
626 the passion and they want them to share, then they will be listening and they will be attentive,  
627 they will learn, I don't know, if the museum is good but they cannot go with them... and  
628 explain them why they think it's good, then it's not gonna work very well. Unfortunately,  
629 unfortunately, more than the activity itself, it's how much they can share themselves, it's  
630 better to make a smaller activity but where they can fully participate Or, to someone like  
631 camp leader from here, I don't know, ideally, in the ideal world...

632 D: Oh, very good idea. In fact, I don't think we have ever shared the vision of the center or  
633 something like this...

634 H: Yes, some time to freely talk about what 'we' think and such stuffs would be very much  
635 needed.

636 D: Yes, not only personally, one-on-one, but also as a group, too. Yes, yes. We don't think we  
637 have had such time, so far.

638 H: Yes, at the beginning.

639 D: To have a close contact and comfortable feeling, yes. We just took care of the programs  
640 and just the introductions of themselves and the countries. Thank you very much.

641 T: Yes, totally. Even when I was doing the camp leader in another camp, what I found after  
642 the camp from what the participants thought missing was to communicate with the people  
643 from the local community more. So, it would be very nice.

644 D: Oh, when we do the Samulnori class, we have the people from the community.

645 H: But they just teach the campers how to play the instruments. (laughter)

646 D: Yes, because they cannot communicate with them fully. But still, they did very well and  
647 enjoyed a lot.

648 H: Yes, they did do well, but still there was no explanation about the instruments. So the  
649 overall explanation should be there too, like what the instruments mean... It would be much  
650 better.

651 F: Yes, many times I visited camps and I had a chance to meet the organizer of the camps and  
652 the local community, because I was a special guest. They explained a lot of things and then I  
653 was so happy to know all those things, and then I realize the volunteers don't know, so it's  
654 more important to explain to the volunteers and they will be as happy as I am.

655 D: Yes, yes. That is what we were missing too. So, from the characteristics of the children to  
656 the workcamp program... if it was explained, it would have been much better. We only  
657 thought about matching the children with the volunteers.

658 F: But, still, it's a very good camp. (laughter) That's why we came here. We also forgot quite  
659 a lot. (laughter)

660 D: We also have thought that we were going well, but we found out what we were missing,  
661 too. Thank you so much. Also, what I feel sorry for the volunteers is the environment here.  
662 The volunteers from abroad must be used to the bed. At the beginning, or in 2013, there must  
663 not be the yoga mat...

664 M: No... (laughter)

665 D: So, we prepared the yoga mat, at least. Still, we are very worried about our  
666 accommodation environment...

667 F: Oh, no, no. It's very good. (laughter)

668 M: Living condition here was very... even if there was nothing on the floor, it was very good.

669 F: And, even sleeping on the floor or anything, if they can explain... For instance, how you  
670 do it, what is the best position, really, really, it's comfortable. (M agrees) If you know how to  
671 lay, it's comfortable. If you don't know and try to sleep the same way as it is, then it hurts.  
672 Even that, they can share. (everyone laughing) Yeah, when I was in Thailand, we always had  
673 to sit on the floor, since it was in the temple, and all the time I was falling, and then one monk  
674 told me your hand should be here and then you don't fall anymore. So, I learned something...  
675 (everyone laughing) Well, really, thank you very much, for this long time and all these years  
676 of work. Also to the pastor and the parents...

677 D: Thank you very much, too.