South Korea is the vanguard of the latest technology in competition with the massive economical foothold of the United States and the tirelessly passionate workers of Japan. This amazes me as a software engineer of a Filipino-grown software company because most of our customers are from other countries excluding South Korea which led me to think that South Korea’s scientists are cream of the crop when it comes to brilliance and humility. I want to experience Korea’s initiative culture so that I can emulate and channel it through my programming career. What I would like to contribute for the exchange is how the Philippines’ IT industry is booming, and how our never say die attitude led to average Filipino Information Technology graduates being equal to Ivy League or Japanese software developers. Hopefully, also to my fellow Filipino youth in the exchange, I can clarify any confusion on why entry-level programmers enjoy higher starting salaries than licensed entry-level engineers. I hope to find a suitable thesis idea for my Masters degree over the course of the exchange by tapping to the fountain of knowledge our Korean friends offer, so this opportunity is perfect in every aspect of my career and I would treat this as an unforgettable life experience.

In my personal life, I absolutely love Korean food, dramas, music and their people. Seeing Koreans in Cebu, I would immediately feel that they are legitimately in awe of The Philippines’ beauty as soon as they see Filipino food or vacation spots. I steadfastly believe that we Filipinos would also be equally flabbergasted when we reach South Korea and their food and vacation spots. I work a 9-7 job and study for a postgraduate degree hopefully if accepted, this would unwind and light a fire in me. I am also an only child born from a single mother who in turn introduced me to Korean dramas and Korean food. With the advent Filipino-Korean tourism, Cebu has a plethora of Korean restaurants and I honestly love the food especially the Kimchi! May It be fresh out of the jar, mixed with rice noodles in a soup, or rolled in cabbage with a slab of grilled pork. In Korean pop culture, my half-sister from my father bonds with me by talking about famous Koreans’ relationships and about boybands here and there, which I indulge for by buying memorabilia. If given the chance, I want this opportunity to influence and inspire more youth to take part in creating a better future for the Philippines starting in my own home, friends, and eventually the community.

When I was in Cebu Institute of Technology-University taking up my bachelor’s, I joined the student governments in which I eventually became Chief Justice under the mother organization and President in the local organization. I also continuously support and sponsor them with as much as I am able. I am an advocate of good education from good mentoring, as a product of TAYO-awarded leaders, I try to keep the current officers mentally ready for their careers. For my bachelor’s thesis, I did research and implemented a system in which physically-handicapped people can navigate across the university with their smartphones. I wish to do the same in my Master’s except on a grander more wider scope. I want to observe how our Korean friends use their technology for community-enablement and use these to create applications for a better Philippines.

If chosen to be one of the nine, I would be the geek and techie of the group but I’d gladly give way to an astrophysicist, or a microbiologist for that role. Nevertheless, I’d be honored to be part of the family and be a continuous volunteer for events succeeding. This honestly is a once in a lifetime experience for me and even just applying brought me excitement even when the odds are 0.01%.

Thank you for this and I greatly appreciate what you guys have been doing.

Sincerely yours,

Dale