

## Visiting Journalist Programme 2006

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### Translation of Article

Studying Abroad Journal, Vol. 127, 2006

From 21 to 30 of May 2006, Mr. Kim Ki-Jong, journalist for Studying Abroad Journal in Korea came to New Zealand for an educational familiarization trip. An article was published following the visit (below is the first part of it).

**A Nation Blessed by Nature and a Super Low Crime Rate  
An English-speaking Nation where Study is Economical  
Back from a Familiarization Trip to New Zealand....**

Reported by Kim Ki-jong

*By arrangement of the New Zealand Ministry of Education and Embassy, a school tour was organized for Korean overseas study agents during the 12 days from May 21 to 30. Participating were officials from nine such firms, and our company was also represented for the purpose of gathering information on New Zealand and its schools.*

*For the future, the New Zealand Ministry of Education is looking to sponsor more of this kind of "Familiarization Trip" [familiarization tour] as a way of informing potential students in Korea about the country's excellent educational institutions.*

*It can be said that this presented an opportunity for New Zealand to muster its talent and open a channel of communication, informing Korean students that this is a country where they can receive a fine-quality education at reasonable cost. Although this report results from what was seen, heard and felt during only a short 12-day itinerary, it will attempt to present an overview of New Zealand education, living conditions and the representative schools visited.      – Editor –*

### **New Zealand Familiarization Trip Participants**

Group 1: Director Kim Son-mi of Segye Overseas Study Information Centre, President Lee Hyuk of Walking Holiday Overseas Study Institute, President Yang Kil-jun of Let's Study Abroad, Section Chief Shin Hye-jun of Lotte Tour

Group 2: President Park Hyong-tae of Global Overseas Study Institute, President Paek Seung-bom of Doosan Education, Department Chief Chu Yong-shim of One World Overseas Study Institute, Section Chief Kang In-ho of Segyero Overseas Study Institute, Reporter Kim Ki-jong of Studying Abroad Journal

I don't think many people immediately associate New Zealand with Lord of the Ring, kiwis and wool. Most only know it as an island country next to Australia with no need for particular concern except for sightseeing. And for students and parents considering study abroad, New Zealand has either been a second choice or ruled out altogether. However, with the recent

strength of the Won currency vis-à-vis the US and Australian dollars, the Won has appreciated correspondingly against the New Zealand dollar, with a favorable effect on costs. This has enhanced New Zealand's attractiveness to students preparing to study overseas. For its part, the New Zealand government is trying to attract more international students by relaxing student visa restrictions.

Nonetheless it is a fact that there is still a significant insufficiency of information on New Zealand for prospective students. And it is also a fact that even the overseas study agents are almost devoid of information on New Zealand as a country and on its schools. Many students who could have chosen either New Zealand or Australia say they came to New Zealand more for financial considerations than for its ability to satisfy consumer psychology. Also, the only marketing NZ schools have done is to put in cameo appearances at a few overseas study expos. Even so, NZ is showing the largest increase, and this 12-day Familiarization Tour was organized in order to maintain this trend by providing first-hand information about the country's finer schools.

#### ■ NZ's Primary & Secondary Education System

Primary and secondary education in NZ spans the 13 years from age 5 to 17, with each school year divided into two semesters and four terms. Unlike Korea, where children enroll in primary school in March of their 8<sup>th</sup> year, in NZ they enroll where they are 5. Primary School is a 6-year course, with the first two years in the Infant Department devoted to basic reading and writing, whilst the latter four years comprise a Standard Curriculum involving study on a more independent, self-disciplined basis. Upon completing the six years of Primary School, a student enters Intermediate School for two years, followed by five years of High School in Forms 1~7. Although not precisely equivalent, Intermediate School can be thought of in terms of *chung-hakgyo* in Korea, whilst High School corresponds to our *kodŭng-hakgyo*.

Classes up through Intermediate School are relatively basic, but beginning in High School Year 9 (Form 3) the core subjects of English, mathematics, science and sociology are supplemented by a variety of electives including one foreign language. Though the range of choices is limited, it can be said that they are substantially different from the university-oriented cramming experienced in Korean schools.

#### ■ NZ School Assessment Standards

Students preparing for overseas study and their parents would like to have some objective indicators of the standards of schools they are considering for enrollment. Of course, parents wishing to send their youngsters to primary school are more concerned first and foremost about a school's atmosphere and living conditions, but for those considering secondary schools the faculty qualifications will necessarily be a major factor. One such subjective indicator that can be helpful in the decision-making process is the Bursary examination administered to NZ students annually.....