



<The way to go to Tagaitai>



<After exploring the deep cave which covered with guanos, Sagada>

It was my first time to stay in another country alone for a long time. I was just a curious girl, who was nervous about leaving her place and starting her new life in a foreign country.

Everything was a challenge in the Philippines. I had to speak, listen, write, read English, clean my room by myself, wash my own clothes. For a few weeks, I felt I was isolated. But this nostalgia wasn't last so long.

Through ASEC (Ateneo Student Exchange Council)'s general assembly, I met a lot of exchange students from various countries and I could be their friends after a moment.

And every exchange student has one on one Filipino buddy from ASEC. My buddy was an exchange student who stayed in Korea. She could share a lot of Korean memories with me.

ASEC also has plenty of programs for us. They celebrated exchange student's birthday, brought us to nice sightseeing places such as Tagaytay, La Union and Sagada. They explained information sincerely about these places. After sightseeing, we tried traditional Filipino dishes altogether. I could understand Filipino culture much easier.

When we have a free time, we taught our own mother tongue from each other. I came to know a few Tagalog, Japanese, Chinese, German words from them. I also taught them some Korean words. By explaining words, I could naturally embrace their own cultural background.

My friends, those who I had met in Ateneo were so nice and kind. I learned invaluable things from them. They taught me how to communicate with the others and how to respect the others.

I'm not afraid to run into a new world. I became more confident and braver than ever. If I stayed in Korea, I have never changed. I appreciate ACUCA for giving me the chance to stay in the Philippines.

Even if now I'm separated from them, I will never forget great times I spent in the Philippines and I will definitely go back to the Philippines and meet them again.