

Simon Doong



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Hello! I am Simon Doong, a native the Baltimore-Washington DC area. I graduated from the College of Wooster with a major in International Relations and minor in Spanish and Latin American studies. In college, I studied abroad in Oaxaca, Mexico. Before being a YAV, I served as a PULSE fellow in Pittsburgh, PA and worked at a non-profit that provided funding for job training and employment service programs.

I am very excited to be serving as a YAV in South Korea. Particularly, I am interested in learning about economic development efforts to improve both Korean citizens' lives and the Korean economy as whole and the roles of the government, non-profits, and the Presbyterian Church in those efforts. I am curious to see how Koreans define economic development, well-being, and community. In addition, I am interested in how the economic development efforts I saw in Pittsburgh, PA compare to those in Korea.

This experience in Korea is an important step for me. It presents an interesting combination of the familiar and the unfamiliar. Korea is familiar in the sense that it is a "more developed country" and I will be living with other YAVs going through the same experience. However, the language and culture will be completely foreign to me.

I feel very blessed to have this opportunity and am eager to see what plans God has for me and my fellow YAVs!