

Dear Dieter

Hello. How are you doing?

You mentioned you went hiking before it got colder. I'm curious how it went. In Korea, the temperature started dropping by $1\sim 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ per day, and since last week, it's definitely turned into autumn weather. The strange thing is, autumn used to be completely cloudless and dry, but this autumn, it's been raining continuously for the past 10 days. It is really strange weather.

Did I mention in my last letter that I started studying to upgrade my amateur radio license grade? I've been studying it constantly lately. Until recently, I was memorizing Morse code, and now I'm reviewing past exam questions. I originally planned to take the exam next year, but I decided I didn't want to study for so long, so I'm aiming for the test in early November. With about 20 days left, it shouldn't be a big problem. Even if I fail, I don't think I'll be too disappointed. It's not really my field anyway. If I pass, I suppose I'll probably try to be

more active. Of course, I cannot think of what to talk about with someone I've never met before, so my current goal is to see how far my signal can reach by communicating as far as possible with the equipment I have.

Honestly, amateur radio is a hobby with an unclear purpose.

Korea had holidays from October 3rd. to October 9th. It's a holiday called Chuseok. Think of it as a kind of Thanksgiving. I didn't have much trouble because both my parents and my wife's parents live nearby and we visit often, but I was on duty during the holiday period and worked.

Surgery always has patients needing emergency surgery, so this isn't ideal. I'm a world-weary doctor now, so I don't feel much of a calling as a medical doctor, but still, during this on-call shift, I operated on a woman who suddenly had an intestinal obstruction and sent her home today, so I feel good.

The person on the envelope is Lee Jae-myung, who recently became South Korea's president after breaking absurd martial law. I recently made a penpal

friend living in Norway, and since she collect stamps, I bought some to send her.

In Korea on September 26th, a fire broke out at the National Information Resources Service (NIRS), paralyzing the entire government online system. The fire was extinguished within 24 hours, but most servers were burned or contaminated and are still being restored. The unfortunate part is that this accident occurred during the process of moving the uninterruptible power supply (UPS), which is crucial for safe server management, to secure location. A lithium-ion battery exploded, causing the fire, and the exact cause remains unknown.

And.... the civil servant overseeing this recovery effort (his actual position was Section Chief, but his rank was Secretary, a Grade 4 official) committed suicide. He left no suicide note, so no one knows the reason, but I personally suspect the constant pressure from politicians and superiors regarding the recovery effort was the cause.

A lot has happened since I sent my last letter. By the way, how are your investments holding up?

Today, Donald Trump raised tariffs on China after not winning the Nobel Peace Prize. I wonder how that will play out.

Wishing you a peacefull autumn.

Sincerely yours

2025. 10. 11th.

Kyungtak