

Report on Participation in Preliminary field research and student exchange program in Indonesia

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I participated in student workshop at Gadjah Mada University and visited JASSO, the Japan foundation, local markets, Bank museum, and so on. From this trip, I learned a lot of things about Indonesia and hints for future career.

In Jakarta and Yogyakarta, I went to the bank museum, local markets, and Ramayana Ballet. In this trip I learned economy in Indonesia. In the museum, I learned Indonesian history and I was surprised at the information about Asian financial crisis which happened 16 years ago. According to them, at that time they closed sixteen banks, which means that Indonesian economy was damaged largely. Nevertheless, nowadays there are skyscrapers and many high brand shops in the department stores in the central of Jakarta. The price there is as much as that of Japanese department stores. Indonesia seems like developed country. Despite that, if I walk to down town, the environment is completely different, I mean, it is the developing country. There are many stalls which sell food, cracked roads paved with concrete, low price, beggars... This country still has the difficulty in economy and the enormous difference between rich and poor. It reminded me a book on comparative institutional analysis which gives many questions. For instance, why the cleavage in society between rich and poor is large, and so on. I wondered this question every day during the trip. The experience in Indonesia gave me great impression.

In the Japan foundation, I heard what economic environments have effects on Japanese companies in Indonesia. I asked a question about stock market in Indonesia because I read a book on Indonesian accounting and the author wrote there is the stock market in Indonesia. According to the Japan foundation, unfortunate for me, they raise money not by stock but by bank. There are still many disadvantages in stock market in developing country. My major is accounting and recently IFRS is one of the hottest issue in financial accounting. It is one of the problems that all countries can adopt the same IFRS because it is said that IFRS is useful and people can purchase stocks in foreign stock market easily. Indonesia has already accepted IFRS, but it is not so effective because Japanese companies avoid stock inscription.

In Gadjah Mada University, I made a presentation on my research and this is the most impressive experience. There are about one hundred audience and five presenters from Gadjah Mada University and Kyoto University. Our presentations are various. I have few chances to listen to the latest topics in other major and I have a few chances to make a presentation in English. This is the important chance for my future career because I have few chances to speak English. In the future, I want to study abroad and become a professor, therefore the presentation in foreign country is precious for me.

From the cultural perspective, I went to the Ramayana ballet. This play is based on Ramayana, the Hindu epics. Before I get to Indonesia, I have heard only the title "Ramayana" in the class in the high school and I have not read it. This was the first time to watch the play or dance in south east Asia and I regretted why I did not try to watch it.

Lastly, I am pleased that you gave me a great chance to participate in this program.