

Somsiaw Natthaya

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It can be said that the Society in Kyoto is a Multicultural Society. There are many people from various countries. Some study, some work and some travel. Kyoto also gathers people from other parts of Japan from north to south. Hence Kyoto is a perfect place to look at people from differing cultural backgrounds. However Kyoto is also unique with its own history, old tradition and cultures where you can learn the real Japan from knowing it.

At Kyoto University, it was a very short period, October to January, but I had gained a lot of experiences here. First of all, Studying at Kyoto University had motivated me to try harder and harder to deal with language-barrier. All of classes are taught in Japanese and I had participated those classes with Japanese students. It is quite difficult to understand those classes at first so I needed to prepare the lessons every time before participation. Nevertheless it was still hard to completely communicate in Japanese. However it was a very good opportunity to develop my language skill for further study and to find a career in Japan in the future.

Moreover studying in Japan is a little bit different from studying at my home university and it is very useful to gain my academic experiences, to make me think deeper and deeper in a critical way with a wider point of view. Such as a Reading of literary works class, we have been assigned to read Harry Potter, the famous novel written by J.K. Rowling. We have learnt how J.K. Rowling used those materials to build her story and find out by our own if it is logical or not. We also see cultural diversity from the book. Meanwhile we also learn a variety of human societies and cultures in United Kingdom through the story.

In addition studying with Japanese students and students from abroad has also gained an international understanding since we exchange and share our points of view and experiences of our own countries. Since we understand one another, there is no white or black, there is no Asian or European or any but the member of the world.

Secondly, apart from studying in class, the general exchange program also provided me a spare time of participating various kind of activities in Kyoto such as club activity, events and volunteer in Kyoto. At club activity, Drama club, I enjoyed working and exchanging theatre experiences with Japanese friends a lot. At the time I joined the club, they were preparing a show for November Festival. I would also like to make a collaboration work with them but we didn't have much time so what I can do was only supporting them. Moreover events such as watching a Kabuki, joining Setsubun and other Festivals in Kyoto were very interesting. I also participated in a volunteer activity at Kyoto Art Center. It was a very good opportunity to have such a participation and to adapt myself to work at the environment which is surrounded by Japanese people.

Last of all, studying and living in Japan has affected my interest of working with international organization where I would like to prove myself if I can work in any environment and work with people from different countries. That means I need to improve my communication skill which in my opinion is the most important skill to tighten international relationship and to make a good international understanding. In conclusion, Both experiences inside and outside university has taught me to make an understanding of multicultural in Japan. Therefore Studying and living in Kyoto has widened my visions and gave me a very great opportunity of knowing Japanese Society and the world more and more.