

Experience in Japan

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A week away project to Kyoto University was one of the outstanding programs that I ever participated. It offered me a variety of knowledge that broaden my experiences and perspective which I can combine and adapt to my perception and in the study of ASEAN Studies Program in Thailand. What I received from spending a week at Kyoto University could be counted as a progressive stage in my life in terms of academic matter and living my life in the growing region in the world.

In academic matter, My knowledge has been broadened from attending various fields of classes from the dedicated professors of Kyoto University. For example, in the class of the History and Culture of Kyoto, I learned about behavior or belief characteristics that vitally shaped a unique culture and history of Japanese. The professor also presented the traditional festival, which is called "Gion". The Gion festival especially takes place in Kyoto as a ritual to appease the god thought to cause earthquake, flood, and fire. It is an old tradition that makes me impressed and interested in it through the way the people arrange this annual festival. It is a good example to narrate me in the aspect of history and culture of Japan.

In the class of "The Introduction to the Southeast Asia Political Economy", professor encouraged me to see and think about the ability of Southeast Asia or even single country in the region not only in terms of population, economic growth, GDP, imports and exports etc. but also politic issues that continually arise in most of countries in Southeast Asia. These things play important roles in response to the development and competing ability to other regions in the world. This course emphasized on the political economy which is seriously important for me to make my understanding. I can truly adapt the knowledge that I received from this course to my study in Thailand. To study about ASEAN, it is essential to realize this aspect (political economy). Actually, according to my previous study background, I'm not quite familiar with this field of study, but after attending this class I gained many pictures in my head as a foundation to understand this issue in depth in the future.

Apart from the above matters, I gained beneficial knowledge not only from the classroom but also the field trips. For example, going to the Yasaka Shrine and Kiyomizu Temple gave me a wonderful experience to have a chance to explore historical places. I really admire the cultural patterns that reflected on architectures and art works and also on the way of life of Japanese people. During my visit, I saw many Japanese dressed in their traditional costumes wandering on the streets as living their daily lives. In my opinion, it is admirable to maintain its uniqueness and pass this thing to the next generation by using as a part of routine. What I was impressed with the most is visiting to Ozaki Farm, I was really impressed with the way of thinking and let it to the real action of Mr. Ozaki. He initiated his organic farm without background of it but keep his continuation by learning and doing with the thought of being independent from the circle of business. He creates his own style of living which is simple but really makes the value of life.

I always value the participation in this program as a quality time in my life. I could majorly gain the knowledge from the professors and fulfil it to my study in ASEAN studies program. The knowledge that I received will not only

limited in the classroom or academic papers but my daily work and I will also use it as a mechanism to drive the ASEAN forward.