

Kyoto Summer School

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It is such a great honor and pleasure for us to visit Kyoto – the cultural capital of Japan – and study in Kyoto University. I really appreciated everyone who has put great efforts in this program.

First of all, I must say the lectures are really impressive for they cover the researches of various areas and we can see that every lecturer has got fully prepared for their speech. Kyoto University and Peking University are both top universities in own country. Recently, Peking University launched reform of the education of undergraduate students and those policy-makers attached great importance to liberal arts education, by which the university can produce elites with all-round qualities. As for Kyodai, 国際高等教育院 is the institution responsible for 教養教育 which is Japanese version of liberal arts education. The lectures at Kyodai have showed how mature the liberal arts education is there since every course (speech) is enlightening and they have broadened my horizons and provided me with different perspectives of academic research. It is necessary for Peking University to learn from Kyodai.

I am also deeply impressed by the spirit of freedom. One of the most important missions of higher education institution is to explore unknown knowledge. It does take a lot, including time and money, obviously. Nowadays, most of the higher education institutions around the world are paying too much attention to the ranking, which is mainly measured by publication of academic research but, it is doubtful whether the numbers of publication and ranking are tricky, since academic research may take very long time to be fully accomplished. At this point, Kyodai just gives the researchers the freedom to conduct the researches they are really interested and let them take time to be devoted to their studies, just like the research of chimpanzee. I deeply believe this is one of the key factors that leads to the success of Kyodai. In addition, the students also got the spirit of freedom. We can see those signs criticizing the university around the campuses. In other universities, I am afraid that the student are not allowed to do so but even the universities are okay with that, the students possibly just do not bother to do so. To briefly speaking, the freedom comes with the responsibility.

I have lived in Kyoto only for a week but I have inevitably fallen in love with this city. The life is not hurry here and the people are very warm-hearted. I was born in Japan and have been to some cities in Japan, but obviously Kyoto is the city where I want to spend my rest of life. As for my future, I am going to continue doctoral degree study at Peking University and I am also considering apply for Kyodai in the future. My major is higher education and I have noticed the advanced concept of Japan in many areas, like higher education. I plan to study the higher education of Japan, including issues of governance and finance, and conduct comparative studies.

Again, I extend my sincere gratitude to both Kyoto University and Peking University for this unforgettable summer.