

## **Final Completion Report of Exchange Student Programme**

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Japan in my mind is about anime, manga since I was a little child. I remember how happy I was when I got a new Doraemon release. Then, I have always dreamt of setting foot in Japan, breathing, and feeling this special atmosphere. Thanks to the support from both my home university – Thammasat University and its partner – Kyoto University, I am fortunately granted this opportunity to experience a two-month program in Kyoto. It is marking a milestone which is huge and significant, I wonder myself.

And, Japan in reality is a potential environment for me to develop my inner capacity. First, this year's program includes a Kyoto Graduate Seminar and courses' enrolments. The Seminar is useful for participants to develop their social capitals as well as academic knowledge. The attendees coming from many countries gave us opportunities to exchange not only each economic, social and political context but also obtain broaden perspectives. Especially, I am reminded of a Kenyan girl studying in Busan, Korea, who shared with me her cultural shocks in comparing African – Asian values.

The courses cover various aspects of East Asia regions such as agricultural, sustainable development dimensions and putting them in a comparable context regionally and worldwide. Assigned papers and presentations are adequate for students to prepare and learn thoroughly for each subject. Besides, soft skills are leverage in joint discussions and Q&A rounds.

Secondly, I am impressed by the kindness and consideration of Kyoto University's professors, staffs and coordinators. They provide us the best convenience to facilitate our studies. For example, I can learn much from the way Prof. Shuji Hisano in marking students' assignments or how Prof. Raymond Jussaume organizes his lecture by asking students' requirements. Conceivably, Kyoto University proves itself a liberal school for students.

Thirdly, Kyoto lifestyle should be emphasized. Before, I heard and read some materials about how Japanese succeed in proving its national image internationally. After arriving here, I understood the reasons behind, for example, their punctuality, and responsible characteristics. After living in Kyoto, I find the place is fulfilled with antique breath and I am mesmerized by the beauty of shrines, temples, architecture.

Fourthly, the program motivates me to be working diligently and wholeheartedly to follow academia as I intend to become a lecturer in university. Notably, time management skill and responsibility are trained and improved.

Last but not least, in the future, I have intention of pursuing Post Graduate studies majoring in Chinese relations with different countries, focusing on China – Vietnam. The two-month program accommodates me the methodologies and approaches in designing my papers. In particular, the discourse analysis and apply inter-disciplinary perspectives to take any investigation cases into consideration when I begin any in-depth interviews. As being answered my query, I got meaningful advice from Prof. Hisano that “Social scientists need to be all the time critical, even of what they have perceived positively” to be a lodestar in the future's steps.

My dream is achieved thanks to the JASSO Support – a real Doraemon to me. Again, I want to express my best gratitude to all related components, all support me.