

Report on Participation in Overseas Field Research

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The one-week trip to Taiwan has equipped me with considerable experiences and knowledge which, I strongly believe, will pave the way for my future academic and professional growth in the field of Development Economics. With the help of this overseas research, I have understood how globalization is making countries depend on each other, how numbers and algorithms are replacing people in control and management of cities, how a country, regardless of its natural resources and size, can achieve high economic prosperity by relying on technologies, sustainable rural development and democracy. In this report, I am going to briefly summarize my conclusions I derived from this very effective research trip to Taiwan.

The field research started with the trip to National Chengchi University (NCCU) where Prof. Lu explained the complex diplomatic relations of Taiwan with China and the US. From this lecture, one can understand that Taiwan is experiencing a huge pressure from both of these countries and this country can be praised for keeping a balance between these countries and achieving a stable economic growth. Many developing countries like Taiwan experience economic and political pressure from giant developed ones and Taiwan can be an example of how to deal with this pressure.

On the third day, we visited Lite-On group and there we were introduced to the products of this company, its future prospects and history. During this trip, I came to understand that technologies and algorithms are entering more and more into our life. Nowadays, human beings are judged with respective laws as well as social norms and many government units are controlled by human beings. However, while listening to the lecture at Lite-On on the company's future projects in "Smart cities" and "Smart technologies", I felt that in the near future technologies and scores generated by algorithms will replace people in controlling many aspects of cities. And countries trying to develop their future should primarily pay attention to technologies in order not to lag behind since technology is the future of human beings.

Most of the less industrialized countries of the Asian and Pacific region are suffering from a degradation of the natural resources and the environment, as they strive to produce enough food for a rapidly growing population. However, we are all gradually coming to realize that resources must be used in a sustainable manner. When we visited sustainable agriculture and rural development agricultural fields in Taiwan, we witnessed that the Taiwanese people have understood this sustainability issue very clearly and are trying to achieve harmony between production and the environment. In this area, by using the "Satoyama" approach, agricultural systems are now integrated with ecological processes, in order to maintain profitable production while minimizing environmental damage. The most astonishing part is that it is not local governments but local people who are playing an important role in this process by standing against any environmentally unfriendly economic projects from government and keeping their land clean and productive. From my point of view, in this process, the high level of democracy in the country is also playing a major role by allowing people to stand against a local government to demand their rights and build their own safe communities. This proves that fact that democracy can also be one of the most important sources of sustainable development.

I strongly believe that this experience can be a great help in my future professional growth as an economist and by using this experience I can bring policies which bring sustainability.