

Report on Participation in Taiwan Field Trip

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The Taiwan Field Trip, from 21st to 27th November, was hosted by National Chengchi University and National Taiwan University in Taipei. This seven-days research provided a great opportunity to me to explore Taiwan, which is an important component of East Asia. Additionally, this inspiring research trip will also make contributions to my own research regarding the pulp and paper industry.

In the mornings of 22nd and 23rd November, our team stayed in the National Chengchi University for two fulfilling presentations. The first one was given by Associate Professor Lu Yeh-Chung regarding the cross-strait relations and the role of the States. Then Associate Professor Cheng Li-Hsuan provided a presentation about the dual globalization of the Taiwanese economy on the second day. These two presentation were more like lectures for us to gain the knowledge of Taiwanese society and economy, and their role in the international environment. Moreover, in the afternoon of 22nd November, we had an agency visit to the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association and spent an impassioned Q & A session here. In the next afternoon, our group was offered a company tour to Lite-On Group, which is a worldwide leading provider of optoelectronics, key electronic components, information technology, storage devices, and mobile devices components. These two days provided an opportunity for us to understand Taiwan from an internal perspective.

The day for natural sustainable agriculture exploration was on 24th November. In the morning, we went to Sanzhi District's Gongrong Community in New Taipei City, which is one of the most successful and sustainable rural villages in Taiwan. By the introduction of the president of the local council, we learned that this community is following the Satoyama Initiative and became a paradigm for the future development of rural villages in Taiwan. Our journey started from Sanzhi Visitor Center and Gallery, and ended with a detailed presentation regarding the rural development. Afterwards, we arrived at Zhuzihu ponlai rice foundation nursery story house for further exploration. Zhuzihu is located in the heart of Yangmingshan National Park, at the altitude of about 650-670m above sea level. The entire trip presented the history of cultivating ponlai rice with foundation seeds, local lifestyle, and the history of agricultural development. On this day Professor Chen from National Taiwan University accompanied us and added a lot of background information. In fact, the experience of this day was a rare and instructive one in my studying career. There are normally not much opportunities for individuals to explore the rural regions, and this will become one of my precious memories.

On 25th November, we had a joint presentation workshop in the National Taiwan University. This event allowed me to communicate with local students deeply and gain the knowledge of their academic ability. In fact, as far as I observed, students from Taiwanese universities have different styles to make their presentation compared with us. They intend to demonstrate a vivid example or social phenomenon firstly, and then continuing with a methodological and statistical explanation. Presentations from Kyoto University may put their literature review part first. This is a quite interesting point for me to observe such differences.

The last full-time day in Taiwan was 26th November. In the morning, we went to the National Palace Museum. This marvelous construction demonstrates innumerable treasures, and enriches my understanding of traditional Chinese culture.

In a nutshell, this Taiwan Field trip was a great opportunity for EA students to gather together to explore, to research, and to improve.