

Report on Participation in Field Research in Taiwan (ROC)

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For this course, we went to Taiwan for a whole week and I think this was a precious experience. We had lectures at National Chengchi University (NCCU) and a joint workshop at Taiwan University (NTU). In these three days, we focused on three different topics: Taiwan's international relations, industries and high technology in Taiwan, and sustainable agriculture development in Taiwan. These lectures helped me a lot to understand the current situation in Taiwan from several aspects and different perspectives.

On the first day, we studied the international relationship between US and Taiwan. On the second day, we focused on industrialization in Taiwan and we went to a Hi-Tech company, called Lite-On. This company showed how technology has developed over the past several decades. And they shared future visions of technological progress with us. My research is related to sustainable agriculture, and I think the part on agriculture on the third day gave me a lot of inspiration. The place we went to study sustainable agriculture development is called ZhuZihu. It is a place for urban people to come and enjoy nature. The area provides different services, such as farming experience, studying agricultural history and so on. When we visited Zhuzihu, there were quite a lot of people who usually stay in the urban area and overseas tourists were enjoying the place. Although the place we visited is related to agricultural tourism, and thus not directly related to my research topic, I think it had some overlap with my topic. Since tourism farming is one of the possible functions of multifunctional farming, and it is advanced in Taiwan. Therefore, I think it is useful to use what I learned in Taiwan and to apply it to my research.

Also I believe that the workshop held in NTU is very helpful to us. During the workshop we were asked to make a presentation of our research together with the students from NTU. It was very helpful for me to make the presentation. Listening to other students' presentations was fascinating and inspired me a lot in how to improve my own research. The presentation itself helped me to go through the structure and main idea of my research again which is beneficial for my future research progress. The workshop provided me with a precious opportunity to present my research to other universities and gain some new feedback on my research which is very helpful to me.

Other than studying in Taiwan, we also visited Taiwan as tourists. The national museum in Taiwan left a great impression on me. I had been to the museum several years ago. Compared to the last time, this time I feel I understand more about the history and the arts. Also, we went to the famous night market in the night after lectures and activities. The night market shows the typical Taiwanese culture. And we really enjoyed local food in the night market.