

Report on Participation in Field trip to Taiwan

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This field trip was a wonderful experience. As a Chinese student, it was my first time to visit Taiwan, and it provided me with an opportunity to acquire practical knowledge about Taiwan's development from different perspectives.

In general, the field trip included four topics. The first day's content mainly focused on the international relations of Taiwan. For me, the most interesting part was how Taiwanese view the relationship between Taiwan and mainland China. Both the lecture at National Chengchi University and our visit to the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association gave me a strong feeling that the chance of reunification of Taiwan and China is very little, just as Lowell Dittmer mentioned in his article, the complex historical background, contrasting ideology and totally different political forms make this issue extremely intractable for both sides. Although in history, some other areas like Hong Kong and Macau were colonized for centuries then returned to China based on bilateral agreements, the current situation of Taiwan is another story. After Japan returned the island to the ROC government, it has self-governed for several decades. The case of "one country, two systems" is difficult to be replicated since developing routes of Taiwan and mainland China are widely divergent nowadays. Besides, during our stay in Taiwan, I could feel how different we've been educated by contrasting our views of different historical figures such as Chiang Kai Shek, Li Denghui, etc. Hence, I appreciate that this overseas field trip provides a new perspective for me to review our history from a more comprehensive point of view.

On the second day we visited Lite-On, a local semiconductor corporation. From our preparatory research we already knew that China is one of the biggest economic partners of Taiwan. However, official relation of Taiwan and China have deteriorated since 2016, and politics and economics are always linked. Taiwan's companies could face more challenges when they do business in mainland China, especially involved with government. On the third day we visited an agricultural community in Xinbei City. This community has small population of around 1300 people, and according to our guide the average age is 65. I was surprised that under local people's management, the community has developed into an agricultural area integrating ecological protection and tourism. Compared with China's rural area, both a lack of resident young generation and aging problem obstruct local agricultural development while most elderly people are idle at home, this kind of experience is well worth learning to enhance vitality of rural areas.

The collision of cultures contributes to the understanding of one's own culture, and so does our research. Every student gave a presentation at National Taiwan University. For me, it was a good opportunity to practice skills of presentation and acquire feedback from various scholars. Maybe I didn't perform very well, but still I enjoyed it a lot. Suggestions from the audience gave me some new thoughts about how to conduct the following field research in China, also, a professor of the university suggested that I could add some institutional comparison among Asian areas nagged by shortage of labor force and aging problem like Taiwan, Japan and China. All of these feedbacks are quite instructive and thanks to this joint workshop, I think I could do better when working on my master's thesis.

The last day was for a cultural trip. When I was in China I visited the Palace Museum in Beijing several times. Those antiques are symbolic of Chinese culture. When we visited the National Palace Museum in Taipei, it felt like finally I found a jigsaw puzzle of our traditional culture. Although current cross-Strait relations are in a cold state, our common cultural deposits are undeniable.

In general, I really appreciate this field trip for giving us a wonderful academic experience. And we were lucky to

witness the local election process and get to know the democracy of Taiwan. Most importantly, I understand how it is necessary to communicate with people with different views and opinions. It would inspire me to look around the world and pursue more diversity in the future.