

Report on Participation in Field Research in Taiwan (ROC)

ZHOU YUE

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**Faculty/Graduate School of: Economics
Kyoto University**

As a student from mainland China, I have never been to Taiwan before, and this field research provided me a valuable chance to visit Taiwan. From this seven-day study trip, I learned more than expected. Our field research was well organized, and every day was so fulfilling and informative. On the first day, we received a lecture from National Chengchi University. It was provided by Prof. Lu, and it was about Taiwan's international relations, including Taiwan's relations with mainland China. Prof. Lu gave me a brand new idea about the trade war between China and America, as well as how Taiwan is affected by this trade war. In the afternoon, we visited the Taiwan-Japan relations association, and held a joint meeting with staffs from this association. The chairman was so kind and answered all our questions. Through this communication, we gained a deeper understanding about relations between Taiwan and Japan. We all know that Taiwan was a colony of Japan prior to and during World War Two, but Taiwan still develops good relations with Japan now, which is quite different from other colonial countries. On the second day, we participated in a lecture provided by Prof. Zheng. The topic was about the dual globalization of the Taiwanese Economy. From this lecture, we learned how Taiwanese companies internationalized, and the challenges these companies face now. Our next schedule was to visit LITE-ON GROUP. This company is one of Taiwan's representative high-tech companies. The third day was an agricultural day, and we spent almost all day on the mountain. Sanzhi is a beautiful village now, but it was heavily polluted before. The villages' achievements were attained by the villagers' own fight with local government and their attempt to learn advanced sustainable agricultural development experiences from Japan. We also visited Zhuzihu, where rural tourism has developed. More than 600,000 people visit this area each year during the blooming season of Alocasia. The fourth day was the most nervous day. We held a joint workshop with students from National Taiwan University and National Chengchi University. All students gave a concise report about their own research and got feedback from others, which is quite helpful for our future studies. For myself, I gave a presentation about China's urbanization, mainly focused on the problems and solutions. Of course there were students interested in this topic and we exchanged our ideas, which gave me inspiration about the next steps for my study. I will focus on the impact of transportation infrastructures on China's urbanization in further research. The final day was a culture day. We went to the national palace museum together. We were all amazed by the gorgeous cultural relics on exhibition, and most of them were taken from mainland China to Taiwan by the KMT in 1949. Besides, our field trip was arranged at a special time. On 24th November, Taiwan conducted its local elections. Actually, both Prof. Lu and Pro. Zheng advised us to experience this election in person. Some of us went to polling places privately and directly investigated about Taiwanese style democracy. To my surprise, even if it was just a local election instead of presidential election, the relation between Taiwan and mainland China still became a hot topic, which showed the importance of cross-strait relations.

Overall, our field trip to Taiwan was fantastic and I want to say thanks to all the professors and staff involved. It is because of you that we could enjoy such a satisfying study trip.

