

國立中興大學交換學生赴國外研修計畫

心得報告

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心得內容(1000-1500 字，請附照片 1~3 張)			

## 1 · Background

As someone who has studied abroad on multiple occasions, I have always had a strong motivation and interest to study what I can from these varying environments. Learning more about a foreign land while studying under their academic teachings, and at the same time, creating new bonds and relationships with so many people that I would otherwise have no chance of meeting brings me a great pleasure that I simply cannot express through mere words alone. I prioritized studying in Japan over other countries due to my desire to learn more about East Asian Agriculture. I intend to live and gain citizenship in an East Asian country one day, and I believe it to be beneficial for me to learn more about Japanese agriculture as they are one of the leading countries in regards to modern agriculture in East Asia. Japan was also a good choice due to its close proximity to Taiwan and its good international relations; I intended to form strong relationships with the Japanese students there so that there may be potential for future collaborations. It genuinely surprised me that I was able to participate in this program, and so I am forever grateful to have been able to complete my semester abroad. I wish to express my thanks for those who have supported me and made my wonderful semester in Japan possible.

## 2 · Introduction of Sister University

Tokyo University of Agriculture (JP: 東京農業大学), or Tokyo NODAI for short, is a private university located in Japan. The university has three campuses located in Setagaya, Atsugi, and Okhotsk; the Setagaya campus being the campus that I was enrolled in. Tokyo NODAI is the first private agriculture university to be established in Japan, and is the third highest ranking agriculture university in Japan. As such, Tokyo NODAI possesses a reputable name in the sphere of academics, and aims to make lasting positive contributions to the agricultural communities of Japan, as well as to the rest of the world through researching and refining

their agricultural knowledge. The Setagaya campus in which I studied at was a modern campus located within the highly urban residential Tokyo area, where access to public transportation is arguably at its most convenient in the country.

### 3 · Overseas Studies (Courses)

During my time at Tokyo NODAI, I was expected to take courses from a specified list of English-taught classes. These courses are taught by professors from varying laboratories and specializations, and pertain to a wide variety of different topics to choose from depending on your major and interests. It was surprising to see so many differences between life as a Japanese university student and life as a Taiwanese university student. The basic format for a typical semester in Japan is that students must select enough courses to fulfill their required credits for that semester and attend said course lectures that last for 1.5 hours each. As a course can involve a vast number of topics, one course can result in the teachings of different professors that specialize in different subjects. Exams are only held at the end of the semester, as opposed to the Taiwanese format of having a mid-term and a final exam. However, many professors would also opt for assigning written reports instead of an exam in order to let students demonstrate their culminated knowledge of the course.

In terms of exchange students that do not speak the native language, there are a few Japanese language courses that can be taken that are meant for beginners. Students who have no experience in learning Japanese, including myself, can choose to enroll in non-regular Japanese courses that do not contribute to any academic credits. I enjoyed my time in these courses, and I believe that it was quite helpful in teaching me the basics on how to speak Japanese with locals much quickly as opposed to learning the language by myself. Oftentimes, the professor of this course would invite students to act in a roleplay situation that encapsulates a common everyday situation such as buying items from a shop, asking a

passerby for directions to a certain place, ordering food from a restaurant, etc.

While lectures serve as the primary source of academic knowledge for me in Tokyo NODAI, I also had access to the laboratory in the NODAI Science Port. I was a member of the Laboratory of Tropical Plant Protection, and I had free access to the lab whenever I wanted to speak to the other members or professors, as well as to conduct personal projects using the available laboratory equipment. During my time at Tokyo NODAI, I would sometimes visit the laboratory to ask a few questions about managing plant pests that come in many different forms like microorganisms, fungi, insects & wild animals, etc. The head professors of the lab would also occasionally invite the students to special field trips; in my case, one of the professors invited a handful of students to go catch grasshopper specimens at a farm in a nearby prefecture. These grasshopper specimens would be used for future research, but the experience of catching the grasshoppers and learning more about the farm were still highly educational.

While academic studies were a vital part of being a university student, I believe that it is also important to form new connections with people from all sorts of different backgrounds. I am extremely grateful to have been able to make friends from so many different countries during my time at Tokyo NODAI. Tokyo NODAI is a very internationally focused institution that is in collaboration with a great number of other universities around the world, as well as being the home university of many foreign nationals. I am satisfied with the exposure I had with the international community at Tokyo NODAI, and I think this can be exceedingly beneficial as international collaboration may be the key to creating a better agricultural system that can potentially revolutionize the way in which we feed our people, despite the looming threat of an increasing world population.

Due to my location of study being situated in Setagaya City, a certain "check-in" procedure must be completed at the Setagaya City Hall. I was fortunate to have the NODAI CGI' s (Center for Global Initiatives) help; they helped arrange a time where I was able to complete the check-in procedure with a student representative from Tokyo NODAI. This procedure involves the issuance of my Japan Residence Card, managing and waiving my Japanese pension fees, and management of my Japanese health insurance. Staff members of the city hall had also given me and other exchange students some documents pertaining to common regulations such as details on how to recycle different materials and a guide to the local public transportation system.

While all exchange students were required to complete the check-in procedure, I also had a problem with withdrawing money from my Taiwanese bank account. As such, I asked the NODAI CGI for help, and one of their members offered to accompany me in creating a Japanese Post Bank account. Over the course of the semester, there had also been a number of times when I required other forms of help, such as the time I injured my leg during an accident. The NODAI CGI was very helpful in guiding me, and called for a student representative to take me to a local clinic that required a Japanese speaker to be present. Overall, I am highly appreciative of the aid given to me by the Tokyo NODAI CGI and consider myself lucky to have been under their care.

#### 5、 Specific Benefits of Student Exchange (Please list them in an article)

- Allowed me to experience the education provided by another country.
- Allowed me to experience a form of cultural exchange by living in another country.
- Allowed me to learn a new language (Japanese) more easily with native speakers and environment.
- Allowed me to explore other places in this world that has given me inspiration and

ideas for future business or career opportunities.

- Provided me with the facilities necessary to deepen my studies in certain aspects related to my original major (I major in agribusiness, but had the opportunity to study plant protection in Tokyo NODAI).
- Provided me with the opportunity to create strong bonds with people of vastly different backgrounds that I otherwise would not have met.
- Provided me with the opportunity for future collaborations with aforementioned people of vastly different backgrounds.

#### 6、Thoughts and Suggestions

I am grateful to have been a part of this semester's student exchange program, and I believe that this program can be highly beneficial to anyone who is interested in learning more about other countries. The experience of living independently can also help one become more mature and understand the importance of taking care of oneself. Overall, I highly recommend this program and would like to express my sincere thanks for NCHU for making this possible.

\* 請於返國二個月內將本報告繳交至 oia@nchu.edu.tw