

You are my Turning Page, Taiwan!

Autumn scents
Glazed in vivid remembrance
Bittersweet it scratched
As fast as that train passed
The grasses danced
The journey was short
And the sunset was cold
On that locomotive, I stood
One lone glance it should
To the silhouette of closure
The new chapter had me assure

Have you ever thought that a season could inspire you to do something beyond your capability? Years ago, I have dreams to study Master Degree. But somehow there were few things I needed to consider. Should I just continue working? Should I just get married and have kids?

In the Autumn of 2019, I felt so low and at the same time had my enlightenment about things I should do next. Once ever said lost someone you love is the most unpleasant thing in the world. It's like you have to reset to the new habits of yours that you already spent together for some years. You have to re-do all the written plans you arranged together. You have to be prepared to replace the term "with" becoming "without" in your future dictionary.

Entering the year 2020, the year of Metal Rat in Chinese culture, I decided to apply for a Scholarship abroad. I somehow chose Taiwan and give it a try. A country that never crossed my mind I would like to visit and stay. And I didn't even know why I was so sure that I could be offered the Scholarship. It was still at the beginning of the year when suddenly a very serious virus emerged and spread all over the world. Therefore, it was not easy to prepare for my scholarship application. I managed to get my application done.

I still remember it was May 13th, 2020.

"Are you sure want to go abroad in this kind of situation?"

"How will you manage after you got there? You know that the situation right now is unpredictable."

"Do you think it is really safe in Taiwan?"

All those questions came to my ears right after I told my parents I got the MOE Taiwan Scholarship for my Master's Degree and had to travel to Taiwan during this COVID 19 situation. They were happy but at the same time, they worried. Then I successfully convinced them and I promised them that I would be alright.

Taiwan's government didn't open the Visa for Students in High-Risk Countries even until August 2020 at that time. I felt so hopeless that I couldn't come to Taiwan in Fall Semester 2020. The COVID 19 situation was bad in Indonesia. I was about to defer my arrival to Spring Semester 2021 as the representative of the MOE Taiwan Scholarship in Indonesia has suggested.

The miracle finally has come. Taiwan government allowed students from High-Risk Countries to enter Taiwan. It was already September as I recalled. I remembered how difficult the process and complicated it was to get to Taiwan at that time. Despite that, students also needed to be in quarantine for 14 days in the designated hotel. The process took almost 1 and half months from Visa application until the departure date.

During the COVID 19 situation, the arrival procedure needed good cooperation between the students and OIA from the University. Luckily, the OIA NCHU helped the foreign students to get the most updated information related to entering Taiwan. Students and OIA kept in touch via email and LINE group.

The process and procedures were remarkably complicated and if we made the wrong strategy students could be really late to attending the courses. After the Visa has opened, we had to wait for news from OIA regarding the student approval letter to enter Taiwan. Later on, after OIA has got the approval letter from MOE and MOFA, the OIA informed to finish the Visa procedure and suggested the arrival date for students to come to Taiwan. When the Visa has issued, we needed to confirm to OIA the Visa number and flight number. Thus, needed to get the Entry Permit letter from MOE and MOFA Taiwan, and the Entry Permit needed to be printed out and brought during the flight.

The awaiting day has come. China Airlines CI762 Aircraft 359 was the flight that took me to Taiwan. Before the flight, we kept in touch with OIA NCHU and they assisted us after the whole arrival procedures were done. The OIA has arranged transportation and also the quarantined hotel. It was a whole new experience for me to stay for 14 days in a room and can't even get out anywhere. I had to take online classes called Study-Ease Project during my quarantine time because I wasn't able to come to class yet. The professors were very supportive regarding the Study-Ease Project. The 14 days quarantine was passed quickly.





Finally, I am able to experience so many new things during my study at NCHU, Taiwan. I feel blessed that I came to this country to study. Even though it was not that easy to come here. But when you got the right supports from parents, friends, and the University, everything became so much easier. And I figured out what my future will be. You're my turning page, Taiwan!