

## **My School Life during Pandemic Era** **8106031001\_Sipayung\_English**

Hi folks, let me introduce myself first. I am a student in the Agronomy Department of National Chung Hsing University (NCHU), Taiwan. You can call me Herta. I am Indonesian. My hometown is not in Jakarta or Bali. It is in Riau Province, one of the Province that is located on Sumatera Island. Here, I want to share some of my study experience during Covid-19. Well, as we know everyone faces the same situation, especially for student life all classes are online. Yep, for the first time in my online class experience, I was feeling so excited. It was nice. I don't need to wake up early to prepare to go to class. I don't need to attend the class physically. To be honest, I can wake up ten minutes before class starts, open the laptop, turn it on then connect to Google meet. The conference was also online and I joined the webinar with Zoom. I didn't have to travel anywhere. It was effective and efficient, but after three times I got super bored. I felt something was missing, for example, I only can see my friend through the screen. I can't meet them and greet them physically. It looks crowded on the screen but in reality, I was alone in my room. It feels sad when I realize it. It is not good for our mental health. Somehow we need support with the physical appearance of our friend.

As a graduate student instead of attending the online class, I need to do research or experiment in the laboratory. My routine, I wake up in the morning. Prepare me for going to university. The special thing in this pandemic, I need to make sure I am in good condition, wear a mask properly, social distance from other people. I also bring a hand sanitizer with a 75% alcohol base in my school bag. Before entering the building I need to pass the screening camera that checking our body temperature to make sure we are in good condition, no fever. Tap the student ID, rubbing hand with alcohol then be ready to enter my laboratory. Every fourteen days I need to register the data of my travel record. This data is used for tracing data due to covid-19. This tracking data amazed me. As a foreign student, I appreciated Taiwan for using technology such as big data, all information data are integrated, it is wonderful. It makes sense how Taiwan can beat or control the outbreak of Covid-19 quickly. On the other hand, here people are disciplined to wear a mask and obey the health protocol. The thing that made me had goosebumps was when the government announced level three in all locations. People stay at home. All road is calming, no vehicle in the main road. All is silent. I never forget that moment. It is not lockdown but people here are amazing. I also have a field experiment. Since the outbreak, I need to wear a mask even when I am in my field. Even though It is difficult to breathe when I am working in a field such as cutting the grass and cleaning my field experiment under sunshine, I am grateful for everything. Thanks to God.



*Photo was captured during Pandemic era*

During this pandemic era, I learned a new thing. I learned not only how to survive but also how to sacrifice. I remind myself every day. This life is worth it. Happiness is our choice. I don't need to wait for my life to reach the peak of success to be happy. Smile and say: all is well, pray for all people that infected by covid-19 and for the family that lost their family member during this pandemic. Pray for a scientist that makes vaccine and pray for the vaccine equity in this world. Exercise at home, care for our family and friends by calling them and asking about their health. I can also learn how to play ukulele, listen to the music: classic music, read a book and, watch dramas and movies.

We hope this pandemic will end soon. We can freely travel to meet our family and friends. I know this pandemic shall pass soon too.