

Our Future is Up to Us

Hello! My name is Selly Maisyarah. I am from Indonesia. I was graduated from Sebelas Maret University with Bachelor of Soil Science. During the time of my previous study, I began to develop my interest in environmental health and sustainable agriculture. While the world is growing, the environment constantly degraded, and we can not deny that food production won't be able to keep the pace with the increasing number of human population. That was my big concerns and that's how I made the decision to continue my study. I have realized that it was not only my country that been facing the issues, but it is becoming a global issue. With that, I set a goal to study abroad. To meet professionals and peers from all around the globe, to be together to find the best solution to overcome these environmental and agricultural problems.

My journey begins as I started to look for the country that have good management on environment and agriculture, which leads me to Taiwan. A beautiful country with agriculture as a very important role in the country's economic development. After decided to choose Taiwan as the country I am going to continue my study for, the next step is looking for which university I am going to enroll to. I did many research on universities in Taiwan, including searching for top universities, top agricultural universities, living costs and scholarships. Until I found out about National Chung Hsing University, a university that began as an agricultural college and stay with a well-known reputation on agriculture among other universities in Taiwan.

Talking about study abroad, it is indeed a big decision to make. To be away from family, to live in a country that speaks foreign language, to survive on our own. But thinking about all the worries, it will be a never ending list. All we need is to be brave and believe in ourselves. I still remember there was a time where I almost give up on my dream to study abroad, because I lost the faith on myself. And one day I just casually walked by the alley on my previous university, I saw a big NCHU poster promoting an agricultural program called Internatioal Master Program of Agriculture with a joint scholarship called Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF), I read that information over and over again. I built myself up, I regain my confidence and then I came back home and started to prepare for all the requirements to apply for the program.

It was June 4, 2019 in the afternoon when I got the email from NCHU that I am admitted to the program and awarded with NCHU Foreign DS Students Scholarship. I can still feel the joy of that day until now. And to double the joy, just a week after that, I got another email that my application for ICDF scholarship has been approved. All of my hesitation were gone at once and I knew that as long as we were brave and have faith on ourselves, everything is possible.

I arrived in Taiwan on August 30, 2019 and the story of my study began. First or two months was hard to adapt, but we will get through it. With all the facilities provided by NCHU, studying here is very convinient. NCHU has pretty much everything we need to support the study. Professional professors, kind and humble staff worker, adequate lab facilities, sport facilities (to

mention a few, a gymnasium, field for basketball, football, tennis and volleyball), student center, a big library, a lake and river where you can spend time to relax after a long tiring day, and many other facilities that help the study easier. As an International student, NCHU provide many sholarships and we can also apply for work permit and work here while study, so finance won't be a problem. NCHU also provide many fun activities for International Student to participate, such as field trips, an annual parade and some competitions. Internships and exchange student opportunities are also easy to find here in NCHU. Taiwan citizens are very kind and welcoming, so we won't feel left out. And overall, Taiwan, especially Taichung is a very comfortable place to live on. Going around Taichung is very easy because there are so many public transportation, and the bus fare is free for under 10km. There are so many great places to visit in Taichung and many delicious food to try.

To take a glimpse on how it is like to study in NCHU. Classes are always interesting and professors are always open for a discussion. I meet friends from all over the world, and learn many different culture. Study in Taiwan also give you the opportunity to learn Mandarin, as it becoming a global language. As a science student, I work in lab and my advisor is very supportive towards the ideas of my research. The lab facilities are very adequate with proper work safety and lab mates will help each other to run the experiment. So, even though it is going to be a long process to finish the study, it is worth to fight for.

NCHU and all the beauty I felt while studying here, eventually make me feel like I am home.