

## My School Life at TCUS

### From Dream to Reality



Sunset Beach in Tainan

It was September 2017 when I first entered in Taiwan, and the dream came true. The dream of becoming a research scholar, the dream of experiencing the international environment, the dream of learning new style of life. I was very inspired by the quotation: “DREAM is not what you see in sleep, DREAM is something which doesn't let you sleep”–Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam. The dream that triggered me work hard was to be an international research scholar. After my graduation in Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta city, Indonesia, I started compiling the necessary documents required for getting admissions in a renowned abroad. The hope of achievement keeps you alive at difficult times, just like the day comes when night overs. I was in similar kind of situation waiting for the result of my admission in National Chung Hsing University (NCHU). All the tension released the moment I saw the email form OIA; approving my application for admission as a PhD scholar in the department of Forestry. It is one of the high ranked universities in Taiwan and also a considerably better university in the eyes of international community. Every year hundreds of international students from all inhabited continents come here to enjoy study and life here. An honourable moment is that its department of Forestry is oldest department and recently this university has celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The glorious part in that celebration was the representation of my country that we (all students from Indonesia) jointly did in a satisfactory way.



A group photo of Indonesian Students celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NCHU

NCHU and three other universities in central and southern Taiwan have made a nexus that has developed the best university-educational network system in Taiwan. This network is called TCUS (Taiwan Comprehensive University System) consist of four national universities, including NCHU. Students connected to this system get more academic and research benefits. This system provides a fabulous atmosphere for the national and international scholars to excel in academics. Although much of the success depends on the intensity of the effort it takes to achieve a set goal, but when it comes to the studies it also depends upon the standard of the institute and the quality of study environment that the school provides. This is the advantage of scholars of the TCUS that this collaboration has come up with magnificent study and research environment. All the international students in TCUS are controlled by one administrative body; the Global College that helps in integrating services related to the foreign student, sharing research resources, held activities for international students and many more. This collaboration has accomplished some wonderful projects together and one example is the 'International Summer School 2015' is an encouraging project arranged by TCUS Global College. Moreover, this is an exemplary collaboration in Taiwan that four of its national universities of international standard working as a unit that supports both the faculty and the students. The number of activities for students in these universities is higher than rest of the universities in Taiwan. This is helpful particularly in developing team working and leadership qualities and support the students to explore their hidden abilities. These are some reasons that pushed me to join the TCUS educational group. After getting admission at NCHU, I feel a sense of fulfilment as my dream was no more a dream it transformed into a reality.



Cultural trip to Miaoli: Organized by OIA NCHU

After being a member of this outstanding collaborative educational system, I realized the benefits of this collaboration. The cooperation of the member universities of TCUS not only benefit the teachers the research resource among the members but also extends the benefits to the students and the faculty. At students' corner, students can take courses, contribute in the activities for the students held in any of these universities, take lectures and borrow books for the library. The interest enhances with the improvement of the provided facilities and services that's what we feel after getting admission in TCUS. The stimulating activities the TCUS provides for students includes the cultural trips for international students; focus on giving exposure of ethics Taiwanese communities and preserved cultures of indigenous people. On one hand, these trips enhance the interest of foreign scholars in Taiwan and on the other hand it also helps in booming national economy as international students play a role in advertising Taiwan to the world; promotes tourism in Taiwan. On the research side, students of TCUS most of the time gets additional finances from the research projects this not only strengthens their research abilities but also improves their financial status. When it comes to the environment, these universities of TCUS provides a high standard international environment to their scholar with moderate interactions interpersonal interactions. This is particularly helpful in studies where students can share their ideas with one another to refine their original ideas. Moreover, this kind of atmosphere tremendously increases the social circle of the students and provides as opportunity to make friends from other countries. Additionally, this nexus gives students the opportunity to take the required courses form any of these universities, and even change the university if necessary. For the students care the medical facility and free transport is also an additional benefit. The advantages list could be a long one but above

mentioned are those that I myself have experienced after arrival in Taiwan. I hope next year I will complete my PhD; a milestone of my life will be achieved. At the end I am thankful to the OIA for giving me admission in this august institute where I have learned a lot and am now being praised as a good researcher.