

## My daily life of spending at National Dong Hwa University

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Time flies. Spending all the days in Hualien is too fast for me, really fast.

It was the wonderful days I spent this about 5 months. When I came to National Dong Hwa University, I did not guess that I feel really sad now because I was not good at speaking English and Chinese then. I also think it is doubt whether I make friends or not because I am really shy (maybe some of my friends do not consider such as a person). However, I did not need to think about it. I could make certainly not many, but surely precious friends. Furthermore, thanks to their help, I could spend a life better than I guessed. If not, I cannot miss them. Anyway, such a term is important for me. From now on, I would like to write about my precious days in Dong Hwa University.

There are 4 important points in my Dong Hwa's life. Firstly, my main purpose is to make the plan that Japanese people temporarily move to Hualien (at least 1 or 2 weeks, at most the term when we do not need visa), and the economy in the Hualien will be revitalized. It is a recent concept, and says "Longstay". It is different from general "immigration" and "emigration". I came here to research whether it can be achieved or not. There are 2 things I studied during staying in Dong Hwa: "Why is the try researched in Hualien?", "How is the relation between Japan and Taiwan?" Even now I cannot answer about it, but I will have been researching after coming back to Japan. In Japan, I will investigate not only them but also other things. It looks a too big plan for me. However, I think this is an exciting theme for me. I got a precious chance to know about history of Eastern Taiwan because I am curious about it and most Japanese people don't know. Of course they know roughly flow of the history. I think we Japanese should learn the people that stayed in Taiwan in the World War 2. Anyway, I consider the history and researched any information which is related to Fengtian. Now the amount of information is not enough. After coming back to Japan, I will continue to study

them, and finally I am going to write a graduate thesis during this year. Although all I have to do about this is still many. but I have no way except doing. I hope I contribute Taiwan's something or Hualien's something through this project.

By the way, I like taking pictures, especially architecture and nature.

One of my goals is to take such photos in many spots in Taiwan, and promote my Japanese friend that Taiwan is a really great country. As a result, I could travel to many places in Taiwan and take many photos and uploaded my SNS. I went to Taipei, Yilan, Taichung, Tainan, Kaohsiung, Pingtung (Kenting) and of course including Hualien. Although I cannot show any pictures in this passage, I want to introduce some impressive spots for me. The one is about Taichung National Theater. The most favorite place in it is a café like an open space. Its original role is to watch concerts, but it has many spots to take photos. That's why I decided to go there. Then I took many pictures of my friend. I was a lot of fun. The other one is in Kaohsiung. It is just Formosa Boulevard Station. Its appearance is special and beautiful. It was really moving for me because I didn't guess it can be seen in the station. Another one is Jimmy Park in Yilan. I really

like that design. I have been there 3 times for this 2 months. I think it is such a wonderful view. Taiwan is surely fascinating me.

The third point is about Taiwan's culture. I have been listening to songs of Taiwanese singers(C-pop) to get used to Taiwanese culture and to talk with Taiwanese friends about that since I came to Taiwan. As a result, I came to love their music, and it gave me chances to talk with my friends. Especially I was influenced by Mayday. Their lyrics make me sometimes excited, and sometimes nostalgic. They are extremely popular in my mind. After that I applied for a ticket of their concert, and I got it. Next month I am going to join the concert in Tokyo. I already had heard from my friends that it is really difficult to get their ticket. So I was really happy when an email about it told me the good news. Mayday, thanks to them I could contact a part of Taiwanese cultures.

Also, through studying relationship between Japan and Taiwan, I was interested in the architectures at the time when Japan governed Taiwan. It is just an old one. There is in Taiwan, also in Japan. Especially there are some Japanese immigration villages in Hualien like Fengtian and Ji' an. Then I could see the view

of paddy fields and some old Japanese houses. When I went to those places in a school short trip, I felt surprised, strange and nostalgic as if I go to my grand parents' house to play. Although I'm certainly a Japanese, I could get the knowledge that I have not learned when I was in Japan.

Furthermore, I experienced memorial days in Taiwan like “中秋節”, “冬至節”, “聖誕節”, “跨年”, “新年” and so on. All of the days also exist in Japan, and seem to be almost the same, but the habits are different from Japanese ones. They make me attracted. I was also curious about the difference of other habits in Taiwan. For instance, I want to explain the difference of “冬至節” between about Japan and Taiwan. In Japan, Japanese usually eat pumpkin and take a hot citron bath. However, in Taiwan, I heard that people don't eat the vegetable and take such a bath, but eat “湯圓”. Although I don't know the exact origin, it was an interesting experience for me. Moreover, I have felt a serious feeling a ceremony. It is just 中秋節. I could join a party of my friend's relatives' being held. We enjoyed BBQ and eat meats and vegetables. The moment I feel strange is that an adult (maybe father or grandpa) put Pomelo on a child's head. Then I was really

surprised. After the party, according to a Japanese website, it seems to be a play by children. I don't know why Taiwanese do such a thing. I hope someone explain it someday.

The last point is just about friends. As I said, my English and Chinese is not good, I was really worried about whether I can communicate with Taiwanese people. Fortunately, All the Taiwanese friends I make has kindness. They often have supported me anything. For example, sometimes some of them taught me Chinese and Taiwanese culture, some of them told me how to buy a ticket in a movie theater, and some of them took me to Taipei, and I could experience New Year with my friends. I have countless and precious memories. Moreover, most of my friends said within several years will go to Japan, and then are sure to contact with me. I was glad to experience such a cultural exchange between a person and a person. In the future, when some of them come to Japan, I will welcome the people to take them somewhere, and want to do “Omotenashi (おもてなし) ”. Next time I will help them.

This about 5 months is a really important part of my life. In other words,

I do not want to leave here and I will miss my friends soon. I cannot still believe a week later I will be in Japan. Looking back now, there are many encounters in my life. I can say that my decision which I studied in Taiwan is not wrong, and the life surely gives me a great impact. I came to love Taiwan through spending these days. It is really tough to leave from here, but I believe I surely can go to Taiwan and Hualien again. I want to keep the connection I got in this chance. I have the only regret about these days. It is that I cannot experience Lunar New Year. However, originally Taiwanese people with their family spend the term together. So maybe I don't need to join. Anyway, in the future, I hope to come to Taiwan again, and do my job. At last, I really thank to my professor, my volunteer students, and any staffs. Without them, I would not get over tough things. Thank you guys. And see you again, Taiwan!