

REPORT AND EXPERIENCE

My name is Dipo Tulus S, I am going from Indonesia to Taiwan for exchange student in spring semester for one semester to National Dong Hwa University in Taiwan, I am with two of friends from Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta in Indonesia which name is Jennifer and Wildan, and it is a good experience for me and my knowledge in here and also because the program from our collage and National Dong Hwa University which name is Sister School. Because, it is the first time i am studying abroad and it is also wonderful to know what the differences between Indonesia and Taiwan in culture is? How they study and learn in their daily life.

Why I am choose Taiwan for my experience? Whether you're interested in studying abroad for a semester, year, or summer, or if you're looking for internship or volunteer opportunities, Taiwan might have just what you're looking for. Taiwan is an attractive option for those who want to learn or strengthen their Chinese skills. Taiwan primarily speaks Mandarin, though unlike mainland China, utilizes the beautiful and more complex characters of Traditional Chinese instead of Simplified. Taiwan is also a religious and culturally diverse country, with notable representations of Taoism, Confucianism, Muslim, Buddhism Chinese folk religions, as well as Christianity.

My first experiences in Taiwan is the weather because the first time I am in here it's so cold and from Indonesia I am just used a sweater with a shirt and long pants, after arrived in airport it was a freezing and after that i tried to find my jacket in the suit case.

After arrived in Taipei Mainrail Station I am found my volunteers in their which name is Lisa and Rebeca and we are together used a train too went to Hualien it is need two until three hours to arrive in Hualien, after that i am and my friends went to a hostel for sleep near Train Station because we are arrived in midnight and also we don't have an equipment for sleep such as blanket and matrass for sleep in dormitory.

In the next day, I am and my friends went to National Dong Hwa University in Sunday it's a great feeling, I can't believe I will study in here for one semester. I am got my first problem in this campus, I can't speaking Chinese and the first person who I am meet also can't speaking English so we just used a Google translate from application but hopefully he can understand what I mean.

Illiteracy. Very little is translated into English, so even ordering at a restaurant is impossible because the entire menu often is entirely in Chinese and has no pictures. Fortunately, as part of the study abroad program, we had a constant Taiwanese companion (volunteer) to help us navigate through daily life, but not being able to read anything was intimidating and could get frustrating. It was also the most rewarding mark of progress, however, as by our first day we could start recognizing words. 你好! Which I now can read as "hello!" ("ni hao!) And yigong duo shao qian? Which mean to ask a price if we buy a lot of stuff.

On the other hand, I got another problem is the food is almost have a pork in their cuisine, that is problem for me because I am a Muslim and we don't eat pork, so I need to find a restaurant to find which place their don't serve a pork in their menu, but one more time I am found it in zhixue street near the back gate I am found a restaurant to serve the menu by fish. The other beverage is Danbing is also my favorite one in breakfast I am usually eat this food with a glass of chocolate milk before I start my day in National Dong Hwa University.

In the room i am meet with my first friend from Czech Republic the name is Vladimir and he is an easy going person and can talking English clearly. In the first night we talk to each other about our culture and behavior but it was just a couple of days because my friend Wildan want to get a same room with me so I meet with my new friend in here the name is Teng Allen he is so friendly and helpful and he always give a traditional food to us and told me about the best part in Taiwan, in the first time he help me to bring our stuff from other building and it was a nice until now almost the last time I am in here I feel so sad because we will go back to or home town in Indonesia.

In the first I am went to school for study in National Dong Hwa University, I felt a different feeling because this my first time study abroad and I don't know about the habit locals in here, but in the next time I am do not worry again because I can handle it, but It is need a month to understand this country.

The locals in here are so polite and helpful, if we got some problem in campus their will help us to fixed our problem. For example, I went to library to find some article but I cannot find it, so I asked to some people how to find a book by computer, and there were help me and give some sample how to find

a book in there, and also show me the way to get those book and journal and that is so helpful and I can more easier to find a book for the next time.

My first time traveling in Hualien is went to Taroko National park with OIA and all of international student and exchange student National Dong Hwa University, we went to Taroko by bus, that place is so beautiful and so naturally, in there it's a lot of mountain and so fresh, with a high mountain and dangers side of hill, but I was enjoying and I can stay in their long time to enjoy the nature, I hope I can go back to Taroko because I want to explore all of part of Taroko and enjoy it for a long time than my first time in there.

I am also happy in National Dong Hwa University, because in here a lot of Indonesian student (PPI) who help us to adaptation in here so we don't worry about that and their also help me if we got a problem in here and some advice from them, we also always take care of each other in here because we have a some feeling from each other.

Taiwan is much, much safer than I was expecting. Knowing that we would be in a large city on the other side of the planet conjured images of seedy streets and human trafficking. At no point in the entire three weeks did I ever feel even remotely unsafe or find myself in a sketchy situation, I wish I could say as much for three weeks in the US! Also, I was surprised to learn that Taiwan has a thriving night culture. Students are at school until 4 or 5pm, and then attend cram school (voluntary classes in important skills, like English or piano) until 9 or 10pm it is really only after school for the day that people have time to socialize and unwind. Most stores are open until well into the night hours, and night markets thrive in most cities. The toilets were also something I was not expecting generally it is BYOTP (bring your own toilet paper) ha-ha~.

Moreover, in this campus also had a place for us our Muslim to pray (mushola) and some of student in here there are just to campus to provide a mushola for prayer in Taiwan, but I'm forgot what is the other one. The Muslim student is also friendly there are from different country which are Gambia an India there were also polite and we also sharing about Taiwan and National Dong Hwa University.

The last word for this campus is I believe this is my best experience and I want to say thank you to National Dong Hwa University to give us a some opportunity to study in here and also can learning and acknowledge me as well it is the best part of my life to study abroad for the first time and I am so enjoy

to stay in here, and hopefully I want to take my master program after I am finished study in Indonesia and I hope can continue my master program in here because I am enjoyed to stay in here and can recognize my knowledge, I want to stay more time in here to provide my Chinese language and I hope can understand that with clearly and better again.