

國立東華大學
National Dong Hwa University
姐妹校國際交換交流學生心得報告
International Inbound Exchange Student Report

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Me and Dong Hwa

September 3rd, 2015 is my first arrival at National Dong Hwa University. Two days before, or September 1st, is my first arrival to Taiwan. Fortunately, Dong Hwa gave me so many friendly and kind volunteers. One of them, picked me up at Taoyuan International Airport. The others, picked me up at Hualien Station. Since my arrival at Dong Hwa University, I have three main points for my report. First is about Dong Hwa's facilities, second one is about Dong Hwa's learning system, and the last one is about Dong Hwa's activity for international student.

First of all, I will reporting about facilities in Dong Hwa. I divided into six points. Volunteer, dormitory, prayer room, class, library, and facilities in general. Before I came to Taiwan, Dong Hwa has been given me list of my volunteer, include their personal contact. I'm very excited when I knew that I have volunteer to help me. Usually in my home university, the volunteers of new comers are really volunteer, not officially from university. Fortunately, all of them are really friendly. To give volunteer is very useful for me and may be for others new comers, especially for international students, because usually we have no idea about Taiwan or Dong Hwa. All of them (volunteers) gave me useful suggestions or many information of anything, such as vegetarian food and restaurant or how to survive in this university.

Then, my comments about my dormitory. I stayed in dormitory 6 (new dorm). I have three roommates. One is my friend from Indonesia and the others are Taiwanese. All facilities in this dorm are perfect except the kitchen. I'm Muslim and we really have so many rules for what we eat. What we eat almost totally different with Taiwanese or even other religion. Because of that, we cannot buy and eat any food or drink. But, the new regulation rules us to cook only in our room. The main reason why we (Muslim) always cook is because we have to make sure that what we eat is really permitted. If we buy our food, we have to ask the seller many things, such as did you use vegetable oil? Or is the food contain of pork? Or did you use alcohol for this food? I hope dormitory guardian will erase this rule or for Muslim, we have exception. It is really nice if we (Muslim) permit cook in the kitchen use our own tools.

Furthermore, I really excited that Dong Hwa has prayer room inside the school. It really helped me as Muslim, because we need to pray 5 times a day. It is a big room and there is wudhu's room inside the prayer room, really convenient for me as a girl. Also it located in strategic place. Near lakeside restaurant, library, and Bus 301.

Then, about the class. Dong Hwa's facilities for the class is great. But sometimes the internet connection has in trouble. Overall, all facilities in good condition. Such as the board, air conditioner, chairs, desks, computer, lamps, etc. All those facilities supported us as a student to learn inside the class.

I like Dong Hwa's library. Such a nice library. I can used computer inside library when my laptop was in trouble and it really helped me. I can feel real university atmosphere in here. Especially in 6th floor. I can found almost all book that I wanted. I shouldn't to buy book because I could find it in library. But, one thing that make me disappointed is I cannot found e-journal about human resource management or training evaluation.

In generally, best facilities served Dong Hwa are water dispenser, bus 301 (to go to Hualien/

downtown), and print quota. I didn't find those all facilities in any university in Indonesia before. I like it but not my ID card. I thought I would get student ID card like other student, but, what I got only temporary card. It made me cannot enter my dormitory, and I should spoke to dormitory manager about my ID card. Final, they gave me another card to enter dormitory.

The second main point is about learning system in Dong Hwa. I will reporting about my account, the teachers, class schedule, and the courses. In Dong Hwa, I got one personal account to use all facilities inside Dong Hwa, such as Wi-Fi, e-learning, campus's mail, library account, print quota, downloading software, etc. I don't have to register for those facilities. All of them are really convenient to my study. Before I started my study, I could choose any courses what I wanted. The good side is I could see syllabus and other information about the courses before I clicked them. So, no doubt about the course. Dong Hwa also gave me a chance to sit in the class before I take the class. If I didn't like the course or the teacher, I could drop the course out. For me, this regulation is great, because I can choose what courses I like.

E-learning and campus's mail are very friendly to use and also it's very useful. All teachers usually used e-learning and campus's mail to communicate with all students. They gave us points what we will learned before the class begin. By this way, I could prepare my brain and anything before enter the class. My teachers and I also can use campus's mail to ask or to tell personally. Campus's mail (mail.ndhu.edu.tw) gave privacy to communicate between teacher and student.

About the teachers, I think Dong Hwa recruited those who really capable as a teacher. All of my teachers are great to teach me. Their English are great. All of them didn't give me difficult homework. They are really opened for all student. If I have question, I can asked them immediately. I appreciate for teacher who respond my mail fast. I love when the professor gave us different ways to teach us. For example, watching movie. The moment that I unexpected but lovely to do is dinner time with our adviser. Such a wonderful moment in here. I can refresh my brain from all study activity.

I'm happy joined Introduction to Taiwan Class. I wish Dong Hwa will open this class with the same teacher every semester and recommend this class to all international student. We learned by many ways. The professor teaches us in many variant ways. So, we can enjoy the course and while in the class.

Actually, I feel unconfident with almost all courses schedule. Totally different with Indonesia. It is about praying schedule. Usually, in Indonesia all activity follow Islam praying time, so easy for us to do worship, but not in Taiwan. As long as I can pray and Dong Hwa didn't forbid me to pray in their campus, I think is enough. Sometimes I prayed in the empty class room when break-time class, not in prayer room because it is too far from my class. Anyway, I appreciate that Dong Hwa still give student break-time while the class.

The last one is about university's activities, such as orientation day, field trip, and international student event. My first activity as a student in Dong Hwa was joined the orientation day. Everything is great. Especially the welcoming dance. Even though the dean spoke in Chinese (so I cannot understand), but my volunteer explained to me what the dean said. I'm very excited joined the orientation day.

Dong Hwa also offered many field trip programs for international student. So, my knowledge about Taiwan increased. And the important thing is I have new friends while the journey. From Thailand, Germany, France, etc. I think slogan "thousand friends zero enemy" can adapt Dong Hwa by this event. Unfortunately, I don't know the students from Mainland China. They just keep going on with their group and there is no conversation with Indonesian, Thailand, German, or France students. For next field trip, may be Dong Hwa can create moment that we can know each other.

The most favorite event in Dong Hwa is International Culture Night. For me, by this event, we can introduce our culture to Taiwanese. This is the big chance for us to show what our nation have. And

not only performed our culture, but also we can see the culture of other countries. Nevertheless, this event still has mistaken. I cannot found Indonesia's flag in their room decoration. Honesty, me and other Indonesian student feel disappointed.

Thank you Dong Hwa, the teachers, and all Taiwanese student. I will miss this country especially this university. Taiwanese are the friendliest people, I think. I'm very enjoy studied in Dong Hwa. But, 5 months is a short time to know more and explore Dong Hwa and also Taiwan. The big problem as long as I stay in Dong Hwa or Hualien or Taiwan is only the food. The reason is because we are Muslim. We really care about what we eat. I wish Dong Hwa, especially dormitory manager, allow us to cook on our own in the kitchen with our own tools.