

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

姓名 Name	Miroslav Feige	國籍 Nationality	Czech Republic
學號 School No	W10235001		
交換系所 Host Department	Information Management		
原學校 Home University	University of Hradec Kralove		
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When I found out that I have opportunity to study in Taiwan I immediately apply and thanks to the good grades I have in my University I was chosen and could choose from five or six different Universities in Taiwan. At first I was little scared. After all Taiwan is pretty far from Czech Republic. But I spoke with some friend who studied in Taiwan before and all of them told me that it is wonderful experience and If I can I really should go. So I decided that I leave fear at home and just go. But before that I had to decide which University I want to study. In past years almost everybody who studied at west coast lived in a flat in Kaohsiung and all the time they went to party and night clubs. It sounded good but also expensive. Also in my country I live in village and I am very happy there. I love nature. So because of nature I chose Dong Hwa University.

When we arrived to Taiwan nobody picked us up. But It didn't matter because we wanted to stay in Taipei for few days. So we could get familiar with Taiwanese style of life and also visit some great places in Taipei like Taipei 101. And luckily my buddy sent me an email while we were in Taipei so we could arrange where we meet after we arrive to Hualian and than help us to get to campus and get some stuff done which needed to be done.

Campus in Dong Hwa is really huge. So we decided to buy a bicycles so we can easily move around. Without a bike I think it would be very difficult, so I'm glad that we bough it. Campus is also one thing I really like. We don't have campuses in our country so this is new for us. It is wonderful that I don't even have to leave it. Everything is there. Dormitories, food, classes. So within 10 minutes I could be anywhere around campus and had what I needed. I lived in masters old dormitories. So I had room just for myself. I was very glad because I didn't disturb anyone and I could go to sleep and wake up whenever I wanted. But sometimes I found I was little lonely. Luckily I was my friends lived really

near from me and we could go together to lunch and dinner. Even there is small kitchen in the common room of my dormitory I never used it. I would had to buy my own equipment so in the end we found out that the easiest way to get the food is in the street right out of a back gate. Food there is delicious and compare to Czech Republic it is also very cheap.

According to our University we had to choose at least three classes, but in the end I chose five. It was Fundamental Chinese, Languages and Culture in English movies, Introduction to Taiwan, Table Tennis and Badminton.

Fundamental Chinese

In this class we try to learned some basic characters and some rules in Chinese Language. But because the class was only once a week I think we didn't learned much. I mean we didn't learned much everyday Chinese, so even now I cannot understand and I can't order food in restaurant without English menu. But still I liked to learned Chinese, because It was fun. Especially when some word sounds like word in Czech language but has totally different meaning.

Introduction to Taiwan

In class of Introduction to Taiwan we had a lot of fun a we had a great opportunity to learn many things from other countries and other cultures. Also it was great place to actually meet people from other countries, because in campus there is many thousands of students, but most of them are Taiwanese, and sometime it's hard to find somebody who is from different country and chat with them. So in this class I had a pleasure to meet people from Belize, Nicaragua, Mongolia and of course lot of great people from Taiwan.

Language and Cultures in English Movies

That was actually my favourite subject. Not just because we watched four great movies, but it gave me totally different perspective on movies. We learned what is style, theme, how to describe characters, what is premise and so much more.

Table tennis and Badminton

Another great subjects. I am very glad that I could attend because I like sports and I feel that I improved my badminton and table tennis skills. And because my brother and father used to play table tennis I am looking forward to get home so I can beat them. If I'll be lucky. Also the teacher was great. Vincent Chu is very nice person who treats us like friends, so I always looked forward to those classes.

Life in Dong Hwa

All of us we had some troubles with mold. I actually had to throw away some thing because it was destroyed by mold. Like my blanket and pillow for example, so in the last few weeks I slept in my sleeping bag just on sleeping pad. Also the weather in general was little strange for us. We was little bit tired from everyday rain. Mostly at the beginning. Once it was afternoon the rain began and the pavement is very slippery then. And in the end of our staying we were tired from all day heat. Sun is very sharp here. It is so powerful. And the most strange thing is that temperature is so high even in the night. In Czech Republic we have big difference between day and night temperature. Another problem is English level in Taiwan. Taiwanese people mostly don't speak English or just very little. So sometime we had a problem with communication. But great thing was swimming pool and gym. I visit both of them many times. Especially in the early morning. It is beautiful relaxation. Too bad that pool and gym bot close around noon. Little strange for us was strictly boys and girls dormitories. We don't know that from out county and It surprised me a little bit. Especially how strict it is. I couldn't even visit my friends. But luckily my dormitory has common room where we could sit and talk together or just watch TV.

Travel

Since it was our first time in Asia and in Taiwan we wanted to travel as much as we could. So we rented a scooter. Sadly in Kaohsiung because in Hualian nobody wanted rent us a scooter for two month for a reasonable price. And with scooter we could visit lots of beatiful places like Kenting, Sun Moon Lake, Taroko, Yilan, Green Island, Kaohsiung and more. And also we visited another countries in Asia. We went to Thailand before Taiwan for twelve days and during our stay we visited Malaysia, Cambodia and Singapore and after school we went to Bali for eight days. So we saw different countries with different cultures

Conclusion

I'd like to thank National Dong Hwa University for giving me this opportunity. I could explore some Asian countries and their cultures and also meet many new friends from different parts of the world. If now I should choose which University to study in Taiwan I would choose Dong Hwa again. Beautiful nature around is just something so relaxing that I will recommend anybody if they want to study in Taiwan to go to study to Dong Hwa.