

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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交換系所 Host Department	Management Science and Finance Department		
原學校 Home University	University of Muhammadiyah Surakarta (UMS)		
原系所 Home Department	Management International		
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Start new experience with difference lifestyle and culture in foreign country is not easy. We have to adapt with the society, learn about the language, living cost, learn about the norm in foreign country, we also have to adapt with the food. Other best thing is we can get new friend from the same country. I think Taiwan will make my new experience become more fun. The societies are friendly and very kind, the city and its tourist attractions are very easy to navigate and safe, Taiwan is peaceful country, the first time I decide to take an exchange in here because the total number of crimes in here is really lower than the other country, the facilities are generally very modern and advanced, but the cost of living there is still relatively cheap and affordable. I feel very lucky having an opportunity to study in Taiwan as exchange student in National Dong Hwa University around more than 5 months, This program is a collaboration activities between my University (University of Muhammadiyah Surakarta, **UMS**) And University in Taiwan (National Dong Hwa University, **NDHU**) to support the students that really want to get a new experience to study in Taiwan, I think the other purpose of this program is to make a strong relationship between home university (**UMS**) and host university (**NDHU**). I was chosen my home university as a student who get opportunity to have exchange program in Taiwan for 2019 in Spring Semester.

My main purpose to come here is for study, so I try to focus on my study. I took several courses, in National Dong Hwa University, and I choose Management Science and Finance as my department in here because I come from Management International Department in my country, so I think it more related. There are rule to take course for exchange student from foreign country, we have to take one main course that related with our department in home university and we also have to take minimum, one Chinese class. We have to pass these two courses so we can get the certificate as exchange student from National Dong Hwa University. I took several credits in here, more than 5 class. During study in here I face a lot of problem, also I got a lot of homework and project. Some problem came from the student in the same country with me. I prefer to do and to have a group with foreign student rather than having a group with Indonesian people. Because when I talk and share about my opinion about the project other foreign student will also share their point of view, and it's easier to cooperate with foreign student in working on group projects. They also always have a great idea solve a project, iso I can learn many things from them. Other hand we can find a new friend from difference country! really love this place I think National Dong Hwa University is the place in Taiwan to study, the atmosphere of this

university will make you more relax to study, more focus on your study.

Exchange program is sponsored by National Dong Hwa University for the tuition fee, so I didn't need to think so much about the tuition fee during study in here. I just need to pay accommodation, living cost also the airplane ticket from Indonesia to Taiwan. The first impression when I arrived in Dong Hwa University, it is really amazing university for study, they have many facilitates to support the learning process. For example, if you're feel tired to study and want to get an exercise, you can go to gym, playing basketball, swimming, jogging. Dong Hwa also have so many minimarts near every dorm, if you need to buy something in hurry you can easily get your stuff. There is also some restaurant not only in every department but also near every dorm and in the lakeside. Lakeside restaurant have vegetarian food that means Muslim people can enjoy their meals and didn't to worry about the ingredient, the best moment in here you can get your lunch, dinner or breakfast while seeing a beautiful lake in Dong Hwa University. As an exchange student in Dong Hwa University, it is required for me to take minimum two courses. The first one is Chinese course; you can choose Chinese class that suitable with your Chinese ability. I took fundamental Chinese because I don't have any background of Chinese education. This is the unique experience for me because Taiwan still using Chinese traditional as their language and they also have many tones for their *pinyin*. The laoshi (teacher) teach us very quick but still interesting for us, in his class we have to practice with our partner in Chinese language, that may improve our communication skill in Chinese language. And the second is one main course that related with your major, for example; My major is Management Science and Finance so I took Intermediate Financial Management. The total credit that I took in here 21, one Chinese course and 6 main course from my department.

When I'm bored, I will take a short trip go to Hualien city, maybe to buy something, to get a dinner, or just walking around the city. Hualien is small city in Taiwan, the city is not really crowded, almost no traffic in here. The society very obedient to the rules applied by the government, you can also hike mountain, go to beach, and you can find some wonderful tourism place. You can also bring your laptop when you go to Hualien city, go to a café: Starbucks or Louisa and finish your assignment while enjoy a coffee, most Taiwanese student prefer to do it. Not only when study but also when traveled, I met various Indonesian groups in Taiwan, not only from the government and students, but also from the Indonesian migrant workers community in Taiwan. Sometimes they will share their experience work in here, I was very inspired by the perseverance and enthusiasm of Indonesian migrant workers who worked hard for their families and better lives.

In Dong Hwa, most student prefer riding a bike cycle that ride a motor because they want to minimize the pollution in campus area, they really care about their environment. You can easily find many eco-friendly products in Taiwan. My friends introduced me to the eco-friendly lifestyle that was mainstream among young Taiwanese. They have very good trash and recycling system so I can learn to reduce and sort out garbage (recycle, bottle, paper, kitchen trash). It's made me feel easy for to buy eco-friendly goods that are more sustainable. Other hands, my Taiwanese friends also introduce me about the conditions of socio-cultural life in Taiwan, including their beliefs or religious systems of the local community, the conditions of indigenous Taiwanese people. When I traveled around Hualien in weekend as exchange student in Dong Hwa, I learn many things from local people start from their

culture and also the unique way of life of local people. I also tried to eat Taiwanese foods in night market in Hualien, “**Dongdamen Night Market**”. I really like Taiwanese foods that served in the night market, such as Milk Tea with palm sugar, Taiwanese fried chicken steak, and various kind of noodle with cheap price.

The problem study in Taiwan is some student claim claimed having difficulties in worship because there are only several places of worship around the campus. Halal food is also an obstacle for Muslim students whereas more than 80% Indonesian students are Muslim and they feel the difficulty getting halal food around the place of study. Other problem is when you are only Exchange student only for 1 semester, if you are in a bad condition, and you go to hospital or doctor, the hospital will charge you a little bit expensive because we don't have Taiwan Insurance, these insurance will be issued if you stay at least one years in Taiwan. But, generally, I enjoy my experience in Taiwan because get the good quality of life. The connectivity among every region, even to the small cities, is well-supported by modern and safe transportation, but it still has cheap price. Tourism support systems for foreign tourists are also very helpful to facilitate travel. The trip is also very convenient because there is almost no traffic, even in big cities like Taipei. In my point of view Taiwan is one of study destinations for students from Indonesia. Taiwan has a pretty good education system and complete research facilities. In addition, the Taiwan Government also gives special attention to the fields of education and research. So that many Indonesian students are interested in studying in Taiwan. Until now, many Indonesian students are studying in Taiwan for bachelor, master, PhD programs and for language learning. Taiwan also very clean countries and you can find convenience stores almost every corner of the city, especially in Taipei. The convenience stores provide a variety of services, ranging from paying bills, buying credit and internet packages, buying transportation or show tickets, to printing and photocopying services. These stores are open 24 hours, so it will very helpful because it makes us feel more secure when getting lost or if we are in other emergency conditions. Although there are not many local people who can speak English, very friendly local people will try hard to give their best answers to help foreigners. These really make me feel like I want to stay in Taiwan for a long time.

