

A little introduction of myself, my name is Reynaldo Purnomo Putra. I'm an undergraduate Business Management student from University of Muhammadiyah Surakarta (UMS). In this semester, my 6th semester (3rd year) to be exact, i decided to go to Taiwan, to do exchange program with National Dong Hwa University (NDHU), that our university held every semester. As an introvert, i think this will be hard to do, but i wanted to try something that would improve my ability as a student and as a future businessman. This is my story, the introvert, that goes abroad.

In my 5th semester, i receive email from my academic counselors sent me news that there will be another exchange program to NDHU. It is no surprise since i already planning to go exchange in 5th semester. I already made some preparation to register the exchange program, even though some things were different from the year before that i take reference from. The preparation going smoothly and at 21 February 2018, i finally go to Taipei, Taiwan from Denpasar, Bali with my friend Dimas Kuncoro.

Arrived in Taoyuan Airport, i instantly searching for my baggage and try to go out and take a rest at the hostel because i cannot rest during my 5 hours flight to Taipei. Good thing is, my volunteer, Ching-en, help me via online messaging to where to go, what transportation should i take, otherwise, i will be resting at the airport. Taking a train to the main station from the airport was an easy part. Taking a taxi to our hostel was something because we cannot speak Chinese. Surprisingly, the taxi driver call someone and ask for a help in translating the chinese. Things were about going smoothly after we calling the help, but the driver seems to be confused where to stop at the road. That is when i found a foreigner that chilling outside the hostel, i call him and ask if this is the hostel we are looking for. The foreigner, confirm it and we finally got to rest.

We spent a good time in Taipei for 3 days even though we only wandering around the town for the first two days. The third days, our volunteer come into Taipei and we meet with Polish student that take exchange program in Dong Hwa University too. In 24th February, we finally left Taipei to go to Hualien.

Arrived in Hualien we hire a cab and continue our trip to the university. When we got to the university, we immediately, check-in to the dormitory, assisted by the volunteer. When we check-in, we have to make sure that everything is alright in the room, no broken stuff or something wrong like that. After we make sure that everything is fine, the dorm manager give us temporary keycard access into the dormitory. After that, they let us to go take a rest, because we plan to go shopping for our needs while we were in Taiwan in the nights.

Night arrives, and all foreign exchange student gather at the Jixian. Our first destination is bicycle club near dormitory 1, to rent a bike. We talk a lot of stuff in our way into the destination, surprisingly, i can chat just fine even though i think i really asocial. Waiting in line, filling the form, choosing bike, and after all that we finally got the bike we wanted and go to our main destination, the yellow shop that near the backgate of the university. In that shop we bought all of the needs that we think we had to have. Me and my friend ended up buying a lot of

stuff like mattress (the dorm did not provide the mattress), blanket (it was really really cold back then because it's still winter), a wifi router (because the dorm only provide the internet plugs), and a lot of other everyday stuff. How do you get your stuff back to the dorm you may ask. Well, thankfully, the shop manager kind enough to transfer our product into the dormitory. Afterwards, we have a dinner together in Noodle Soup Restaurant, in this kind of noodle restaurant, you can pick your own noodle, meat, veggies and all other thing by yourself. Its really cheap, so be careful that you might be carried away by it, and ended up not finishing the meal.

Two days afterwards, 27th February 2018, we have welcome ceremony to attend to, at lot of official things to do. In the venue of the ceremony, they told us everything that we should know to survive in Taiwan, even they told us what should we do if there are earthquake or typhoon. When the ceremony finished, the volunteer guide us in order to fill the re-registration form. To fill this registration form, you had to go to the respectable building. Since Dong Hwa is really really wide and vast, and we might get lost in it, I definitely don't want to separated by the volunteer. We spent about 3 hours to complete the re-registration, in our way, we met other exchange student, and we even met a fellow Indonesian!

After all the boring stuff, we finally got to lunch, they introduce us into lakeside restaurant in Dong Hwa University. This restaurant is located beside the lake in NDHU, therefore the name lakeside restaurant. Lakeside restaurant is a buffet restaurant, so you can choose what kind and how much you want to eat and you will pay according to it. Of course if you don't want the buffet, there are other thing you can order at the counter. I find it easy to look for food inside and around the university, since almost every department has its own canteen, but as a moslem, it's kinda hard to differentiate between beef and pork meat and its even harder when you can not say it to the seller or if the menu is not in english. And, that is another reason to learn chinese as soon as possible.

Back to the dorm, i had to fill what courses should i take. Since i am only exchange student here, i can choose whatever i want, even though it is not my major. Unfortunately, according to the agreement to my home university, i cannot take another course outside my major (related is ok), because it is inconvertible. So i ended up choosing Fundamental Chinese, and English for Business (Chinese language and one of your major course is a must to get the certificate), and the rest is from Management Science and Finance (MSF) Department, because International Business (IB) only have a few english class.

From here, i am not going to tell day by day like before, i am just describing in general how it is in Taiwan, and how to study effectively.

There are a lot of facility that the student can use in order to fulfill their needs. While in opening ceremony, they gave us a map and hinted to us important facility that this university have, so make sure to take a note while they are doing it. Oh, they even have a dedicated room for moslem people to pray in it.

National Dong Hwa University have a modern library and facilitate the student in it to study in person or even in group. They have a room to borrow for group purposes, so people

who want to study in tranquility can have their time. Not only in the library, there are other study places like in Jixian.

The class system are different in here than in my home university, or my country in general. Usually 3 credit class is full 3 hours of study in my home university. But in here, they have break time for 10 minutes in every hour. That rule is really helping me out as a student not only to rest my mind a little bit, but i can regain my focus while the break time come. I think our university should implement that rule so the student can study better.

The exam system is different from one teacher to the other, but all of them had mid-exam, and final exam. But of course, the value of the exam is different from one teacher to the other. Some of the teacher even value more on the assignment, rather than the exam. So take a note!

It is easy enough to satisfy your hunger in here, you can even live only by convenience store. The term convenience is really suit them. As i already said, finding food is easy inside the uni, but its only apply in the morning, since most of the canteen or restaurant are closed in dinner time. So, you have the option is go outside, cook by yourself, or go to convenience store. If you want to go outside looking for food, there are a lot of food restaurant in Zhixue. If you want to cook, you have to had your own stove, and other cooking utensil to cook, since the dorm only provide rice cookers and microwaves.

Vehicle is a must in Dong Hwa, even if it is just a bicycle. Dong Hwa University is extremely wide and spacious. To go one point to the other while take so much time if you walk, so make sure to contact the volunteer to request a bike rent beforehand. To go to the city, you can take a train from Zhixue station, or take a bus.

There are something that i will not know if my friend did not tell me. Your student card can be used as a payment tools. But of course you have to top up to use it. It is really convenient for student to use. Not only that, you can also get a discount from it. The card can be used to take a train, bus, pay at convenience store, metro train, and the other. To top it up, you can go to any convenience store and talk to the shopkeeper, and they will help you up.

Other thing that people that want to come here should probably know, is that not everyone in here can speak english, so it is better if you learn some chinese words before come in to Taiwan.

That is all my report from me. I have a wonderful time in Dong Hwa University, even though it is only one semester. Hopefully, i can go back to this beautiful country, someday.