

Report on Participating Special Exchange Programme at Kyoto University

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I have a passion and a great interest in the economic development of the region, especially how to improve the quality of local business. Studies in Field Research in Japan, Comparative Development Studies, and ASEAN Economy & Sustainable Development proved insightful and helped raise my competence in economics and decision making which I hope to use to raise the local economy. This study will enhance my ability in the integration of statistical data on local business, to make recommendations that can be implemented effectively.

Moreover, participation brought me new insights which will help to make my research better. My interest is in the field of regional economic development which requires an insight into the economic conditions at the local, national, and international scale. Here it was not only the academic insights taught by lecturers that were useful for me but also their experiences during their research in the field. For me, learning from the experiences of others is just as important as learning from theory because they have implemented their science into the real world and from this experience I could also understand which theory could be applied to my research and which theory is not applicable.

The learning environment at Kyoto University is very supportive, allowing me to think critically due to lecturers teaching with two-way interactive method. In this way, I also got insights from students who come from other countries and share the experiences of their country related to the material given by the lecturer. This is a very memorable experience that I got from Kyoto University about cross-country discussion.

There was much from the discussion and the lectures that I hope to implement in my case study in Indonesia. Many areas in Indonesia are being transformed into new urban areas raising new challenges for the government and its expertise. The increasing population will increase the need for job opportunities. Local governments are required to provide the right solution and implement it properly and sustainably. Poor policy decisions hamper public services for all, and thus the services provided by the government require the support of professionals who are competent in their field.

Experience of working in the Department of Manpower and Transmigration has given me a real picture of the condition of economic development in this country and how it's connected to the ASEAN countries. Having real life experiences coupled with further study on the economy will improve my ability as an expert in realizing the fourth *Nawacita* agenda of Indonesia: rejecting a weak country by reforming the system. Ultimately, this study will contribute to the country; especially where I recently work (I will continue to be employed by the organization) in the form of a basis for taking appropriate decisions, act effectively in compliance with the rules, and through the management of integrated information system that could maximize the quality of services provided to the community.