

## Graduate Exchange Program Kyoto University

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I've gained many experiences from becoming one of the participants in Graduate Exchange Program at Kyoto University, Japan. It was a valuable experience for me, from which I could learn a lot. This program gave me a broader perspective on the science of economics, and gave me value added during study. During this exchange program, I choose to study the following courses: Comparative Industry Policy, Cross-cultural Management, Qualitative Research Methods, and Field Research. These were all insightful and raised my competencies. This program also gave me an opportunity to meet and have discussion with other student friends from different countries, which can also enhance my knowledge and social network.

On the first day in Kyoto University, we got a warm greeting from campus staff and lecturers. We had a meeting with professors who gave us an overview of our activities during this exchange program. After that, we enjoyed a tour around the main campus, so that we could know where the library, canteen, international student support office, etc., are located.

During this exchange program, I attended four courses. The first course I took was Comparative Industry Policy Studies. This course is about understanding concepts and key issues in industrial and agricultural policy development. We learned a comparative and international perspective which is necessary to comprehend the future direction of sustainable development in East Asia.

The second course I took was Qualitative Research Methods. I learned about how to develop research design using qualitative methods. In this class, there's an explanation on how to choose the topic for our qualitative research, how to make research questions, how to carry out interviews, and how to interpret data. In this course, I also learned how to combine two methods: qualitative and quantitative. This course enriches my knowledge and helped me with my own research. Going forward, I would like to combine quantitative and qualitative methods to enrich my findings.

The third course I took was Cross-Cultural Management, and this was an intensive class in January 2019. This course required us to read several articles before we attended the class, but this course was fun. The cross-cultural management course was about management and the interaction of people from different cultures. In this era of globalization, there are no longer boundaries between countries to cooperate with each other. Many businesses are finding that they can expand their business with, for example, mergers and acquisitions, across the world. In so doing they have found out that an effective management across cultures is an important factor for them to obtain their corporate goals. On this course we also had several interesting discussions in class. Since we came from different countries, our discussion was about how to do several things in our country, compared to the other. This course was so interesting for me because my major in my home university is human resource management. This course increased my knowledge about human resources with cultural differences, and how to manage them to achieve company goals.

The last course I took was Field Research in Japan. In this course, we visited some innovation centers in Kyoto. The first innovation center we visited was Kyoto Makers Garage. This place was an incubator for people in Kyoto with innovative ideas. Anybody can come to this innovation center, and they can even get funding if their innovation is in accordance with the requirements of Kyoto Makers Garage. But, people can also get the opportunity to try some machines in Kyoto Makers Garage for free (for several trials) to make a prototype of their product. This place was not only for students, but also for people who has desire to learn and make some kind of innovation. How this place works is that persons come with an idea to solve a real problem, then they learn how to make a prototype, then they test and adjust the prototype (does it work well?). If it does not work well, then you try again, but if it is work well, you can continue to sell it. Kyoto Makers Garage will give funding to someone who has a creative idea and doesn't have enough money. The other place we visited was Keihanna Open Innovation Center Kyoto (KICK). This innovation center has many facilities to support creativity and innovation. There are some collaboration projects at KICK, for example: experiment of highly efficient solar power generation system; research and development of next-generation solar power storage device and next-generation battery for highly efficient idle stop system; experiment of new vegetable production system in fully artificial plant factory; etc. By visiting this innovation center, I was motivated to innovate something, or at least able to manage and organize some innovation for a better future.

Staying in Kyoto for two months was really fun and gave a lot of experiences. This was my first experience studying abroad. Besides learning on campus, I also learned many things outside campus life. I had to adapt to Kyoto's lifestyle, meeting new people, learning a new language, etc. Learning inside and outside the campus has made many impacts on my current study, it also gave value added to my own research. Actually, I have the desire to enroll in a PhD program after I graduate from my master program, and I have the desire to continue my PhD program here in Kyoto. Finally, I would like to say thank you to Kyoto University for giving me the opportunity to join this exchange program.