

Report on Participating Special Exchange Programme at Kyoto University Anggraeni

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December 2018 – February 2019

I am grateful to have been selected as one of the students who had the chance to join this exchange programme. Kyoto University has taught me several new things. Studying in Kyoto university made me realize that economics is a broad field which includes several topics such as agriculture, industry policy, and cross-cultural management. I have no doubt that all of these things which I learned about in Kyoto will benefit me in the future. The atmosphere at Kyoto University encouraged me to learn actively and has increased my curiosity towards my studies. I took three courses including qualitative methods, cross-cultural management, and comparative industry policy. Besides three courses, I also joined field research to Kyoto Makers Garage, Keihanna Innovation Center, and Uji city. Kyoto Makers Garage truly encourages females to pursue their ideas, to be an entrepreneur, and to do what they really want to do.

Most of the courses are very different from my specific major. At Kyoto I became accustomed to appreciating many perspectives rather than accepting just one. This came from both the insights taught in all of the lectures and also the experiences I had during the field research. All of them enriched me a lot providing new insight, and an appreciation of how the economy is not only limited to business parties, it also includes the environment, society, and human life as a whole. In this regard I recall something said in the cross-cultural management course I took, “we have to be aware of the individual’s culture because culture is complicated and can shape your behavior. When I am alone, I cannot see the other things you see, but when we are together, you can tell me the other things you see. Learning other cultural differences makes us eliminate our blind spots”. Wherever you go especially in the workplace, notice how we act, speak, and behave.

In comparative industry policy, we were taught about issues and concepts of both industrial and agricultural policy development. I learned about many global issues including the evolution of food policy, about Monsanto and biotechnology politics by the company. Before I came, my theses used mostly quantitative methods, then I studied qualitative methods here which has made me want to do research using qualitative methods. All of the lecturers were really helpful. Even if my English language skills are limited, they always supported me and helped me to learn. The facilities of the campus were really good! There are lots of libraries, and the classes have other supporting equipment. I made many friends from other countries, each of whom gives me new insights. In class each of us gives our own experiences from our countries and relates it to the course material so that we can learn each other from each other’s country. Hopefully, what I learned from these precious discussions can be implemented to related cases in Indonesia.

It was my dream to go abroad and study, and it really was a fascinating experience. I could also see how wonderful Japan is. The further I go, the more I learn. As a city, Kyoto offers more than just a beautiful natural environment. I fell in love with Kyoto city as it is so clean, fresh, and rich in culture. In my spare time I visited many cultural places like Kiyomizu Dera, Fushimi Inari, Kinkakuji, Kyoto imperial palace, Yasaka shrine, Byodin, Ginkakuji,

Nanzenji, Eikan-do Zenri-ji and etc. Someday, I promise to come back to this city. I didn't face many obstacles because everything was well-planned. Lastly, my short-term planning is to get a job in an organization where I can contribute to it. Then my long-term planning is to look for a Ph.D. Scholarship. This programme has made me aspire to become someone who makes a positive impact on my surrounding environment and society. Thank You Kyoto University!