

Summer Program in NTUST

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Before I leave for Taiwan, I got very nervous with so much worry on my mind. The biggest worry was whether I could arrive at Taipei and the designated dormitory. In fact, I have been to Korea, Guam and Sri Lanka, so this was the forth time I have been abroad. However, this was the first time I have been abroad alone. I had a poor sense of direction, so I worried about getting lost. The second biggest problem was whether I could make Taiwanese friends and have fun. I didn't have foreign friends and speak English except the class, so I worried about making myself understood in English.

The first problem I run into is that I didn't know the way to the dormitory. I knew only the nearest station and the address of the dorm, so I asked the local person. He couldn't speak English, but when I show the address, he told me the direction politely. As a result, I could find the dorm. The dorm was clean and had not only shower rooms, refrigerators and toilets, but also free Wi-Fi and water server. There was no problem except bed. The bed is a little hard, so I couldn't sleep deeply.

On the first day, we made groups of four. Our group members were two Taiwanese, Daniel (English name) and Asahi (Japanese name), and two Japanese, Kahori and me. Daniel was so considerate of everyone. Asahi had studied Japanese at the cram school, so he had a Japanese name. I also have studied Chinese in the class for about half a year. We taught our own language each other. I told him Japanese joke and he told me correct pronunciation. When I pronounced correctly,



he said that I looked like Taiwanese. Like this, we could come to get along with them. I understood that speaking local language often helps us a good relationship with local people.

About the summer program, there was a wide variety of lectures like chemistry, biology, art and design, and patent. About the lecture of bioplastics, I learned current situation of plastics and bioplastics. In Japan, most supermarkets give customers plastic bags for free. Even though there is a charge, one plastic bag is about 5 yen. To the contrary, it costs about 5 TWD in Taiwan, that is about 18 yen. there is a charge even in the convenience store. The effort about plastic in Taiwan is more improving than Japan. About the lectures of art and design, we made papercutting and take photos. Prof. Yanting Chen is famous for papercutting and taught us how to design using paper. We made animals, snow crystal, and so on by origami using the symmetry of square. Prof. Tsan-yu Hsieh is famous artist and taught us the art of mobile photography. We took photos using books, dolls, and so on. The

photos we took was a little funny, I thought they were also art. The most impressive event was the class of the wound dressing material. We went to National Defense Medical Center (NDMC) and took lessons and experiment. This class was different field from my major, so this was the first time I have made the experiment using mice. Before experiment, we put on the special cloth like cap, mask and glove. We also disinfected our body elaborately. About the experiment, we cut the skin of mouse, and change the artificial one. There were five steps. First, make mouse sleep by injection. Second, remove the hair. Third, put a mark of square on the skin. Forth, cut the skin. Fifth, put on the artificial skin. I did the forth step. It was like surgery, so I was afraid of making mistakes. My hands were trembling, so I couldn't cut clearly. It was my first and last opportunity to experiment using mice. I understood it took so long time to create a new medical treatment.



papercutting



the art of photography



the experiment of mice

Through this summer program, I changed my sense of value, idea, and bias. The lecture of creativity and cognitive told me that I was poor of the creativity of skill and how to train it. The lecture of art and design told me that we could create art easily. Before I took the class, I thought to create a new art, we needed talent. Actually, I'm poor of drawing and didn't like the class of art when I was in junior school. After the class, I understood we could create art without talent and also art was everywhere. I want to take the lecture of art and design in Tokyo Tech. Besides the lecture, I could learn many things through the everyday life. I felt how easy it was to make foreign friends. To become friends, we don't need perfect English. I thought that all I have to do was to communicate with them however bad my English skill was. I will go abroad in the next spring vacation, so I will try to communicate with local people and become friends.

This program was held from 20th to 30th August, that is, only for 10 days. However, it was one of the most impressive events in my life. I will never forget what I learned and Taiwanese friends.