

Collaborative Design Workshop: New Ways of Learning Through STEM/STEAM Approach

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Place : National Cheng Kung University

Workshop Duration : March 5th to 8th, 2024

Stay in Taiwan : March 4th to 12th, 2024

This program was a workshop with students from National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU). I feel this was very meaningful for me. Not only was I able to communicate in English, but I was also able to experience firsthand the education and the city of Taiwan.

I had never been out of Japan before this program, and it was my first time to get a passport. I was not confident in my English, and the amount of discussion required during the program made me anxious, something I would not have felt on a mere sightseeing trip. However, I did not need to worry about the language. I used English as a basic language, but some of the Taiwanese students were learning Japanese, so I was able to make up for unfamiliar words in Japanese, and when I still couldn't communicate, I used a translation app. I gradually broke the ice. I noticed that my English was not just words, but sentences. It may have been at a low level, but I think it was a step forward for me, who had a poor command of English.

At the same time, I was surprised at the high level of education in Taiwan. First, most of the Taiwanese students who participated in the program were fluent in English, and many of them had already learned a great deal of Japanese. This seemed to lessen the pressure on me to learn the language. I was also surprised at the facilities of the school. Since this training program was related to education, we visited an elementary school and a high school in Taiwan. Both were well-equipped for learning, and I felt that their content was advanced. Furthermore, NTNU's laboratories and library were so large and varied that I felt envious that I could receive these types of education. I felt that the most important thing in education is perceived differently in Japan and Taiwan.

There were also many very interesting aspects of the city. The thing that made the strongest impression on me was the smell. There was a smell that I was not accustomed to until the last day. Although the buildings were unfamiliar, there were many familiar convenience stores and other stores, which made me feel safer than I had expected.

The training itself lasted four days, but I was able to stay for nine days, including before and after the training, and enjoy sightseeing. Despite the short training period, we were able to book our own flights and hotels, so we were able to adjust our schedule to suit our own convenience. I thought we would be doing sightseeing with only members of Kyushu University, but all the Taiwanese students were very kind and guided us around the city. It was a very enjoyable experience because they took us to things we could not have done on our own, such as climbing a mountain to see the night view and entering a local

restaurant. We became friends enough to exchange SNS and chat with each other after returning home.

I feel that these experiences have broadened my new knowledge. I feel that I have lowered my hurdles to study abroad and made my decision to study abroad more concrete.



Drinks in Taiwan and night view from Xiang shan



NTNU School Building