

I CALL IT "YOUTH"

Time flies so fast. It's been a week since we left Surabaya - Indonesia. A lot of memories still stay in my mind. Right now, I am going to tell you about my trip to Indonesia - as a student who participated in the "Student Exchange Program" from the School of Economics - Can Tho University.

Let's start first with how I can approach the program. As a student, I always find for myself as many chances as possible to participate in the international programs in college; especially, the "Student Exchange Program" is my goal. Taking part in the international program helps me to develop myself, and to enhance many useful skills, which are essential things for my future orientation. By the way, I want to express my gratitude to my school for giving me this opportunity. That is so precious!

Honestly, I never thought that I would visit Indonesia. When I heard the announcement that Indonesia would be the country where we visit, I was so surprised and excited also. My trip started on the 18th to 24th of September. Although it is just 7 days, there are a lot of experiences that I have gained. Moreover, I have had different thoughts to turn myself into a better version.

On the first day in Surabaya, we visited Airlangga University Campus B. The first thing that surprised me was the thoughtful preparation of the committee. Although we had breakfast at the hotel, we also received one box of cake and water from the committee. Then, we had a chance to hear the Indonesian Anthem, learn about the Indonesian economy, get to know each other, and visit the campus. Right on the first day, I could really feel the professionalism in the way that the committee had organized the program. This is also something that I think I should learn from them on the very first day in Indonesia.



In the following days, we gradually got on well with each other. We talked and shared many things. There are a lot of new things that I believe I would have never known if I hadn't had this opportunity to visit Indonesia. To begin with, that is culture. In my opinion, because Vietnam and Indonesia are two countries in Southeast Asia, there are not many different points. In Indonesia, I enjoyed many dishes that I had never tried before; of course, all of the food is really delicious. One special thing which I want to tell is about the first time that I used my right hand to eat. That is such an interesting experience, by using right hand, I had a chance to really feel and understand more about the eating habits of the people there. In addition, I also got to know about Batik - a technique of wax-resist dyeing applied to the whole cloth from the island of Java, Indonesia. Through Batik clothes, I can see the meticulousness and ingenuity of the people here. I believe that each pattern on the clothes has its own meaning. Besides, I can feel that the people there love their traditions very much, and they always try to preserve and promote these good traditions to their friends from all over the world.



Telling about Airlangga University, this is the first university that I have had the opportunity to visit abroad. From what I observed, Airlangga is a modern university from every campus to a good education system. To me, it is an honor to visit Airlangga University. I also want to say thanks to all the lecturers from the Faculty of Economics and Business for giving me and my friends great lectures on this trip.



Also, it will be a deficiency if I don't say thanks to the lecturers and staff from the School of Economics - Can Tho University; especially Mr. Phan Anh Tu and Ms. Nguyen Thuy Ngan and my Vietnamese friends for accompanying me on this trip. We had a very successful and meaningful trip together!



Finally, to all of my friends from Indonesia. This trip wouldn't be complete without you guys. I am very glad to know you guys. There are many memories from this trip for me. We took a lot of photos, videos; we talked about everything, and we really love each other. You know what? You guys are very talented. To be honest, I truly admire you from the way you guys organized the program; your preparation for us; your devotion and enthusiasm touched me and my friends very much. At the moment, I still remember every single thing from you guys; the hugs; the smiles; the tears on our faces... Once again, thank you so much for seeing each other. I really hope to meet all of you guys again. From the bottom of my heart, I respect this friendship so much!



What have I learned from this program?

"The more you go, the more you know."

I believe that this sentence is totally true. In my case, from this trip, I have learned a lot of things. I have realized that my knowledge is still limited, and the world is very big. I have learned how to manage my time; how to keep everything on schedule. I have also learned about Indonesian culture, people, etc.

Last but not least, now, I can proudly say that I have a more open mind - a mind that is always ready to come to the world.



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Trinh Hoang Nam