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**TEEP Intern at Nanhua University**

### **My Taiwan Experience**

*“Life might be difficult for a while, but I would tough it out because living in a foreign country is one of those things that everyone should try at least once.”*

*— David Sedaris*

One of the benefits of residing overseas is the opportunity to meet new people and learn about their cultures. They have distinct ideas, views, and histories, which contribute to the essence of a place—a nation and its people are inseparable. If living overseas allows us to properly understand them, we can certainly learn a bit or two concerning ourselves as individuals in the process. Our education, more than anything else, has the potential to develop excellent change and progress in our lives. Receiving such an opportunity is quite overwhelming for me. Studying abroad makes my dream come true. Opportunity knocks once, and the decision I've made for myself is not that easy. There are many what-ifs popping up in my mind, like, what if I can't sustain my living? Who will be my anchor as I start my journey as an intern in a foreign land? What if I can't adapt to the things that are new to me? The what-ifs are there, but the eagerness I have for myself to make my dream a reality has led me to this foreign land. The learnings and experiences will always be a part of me, and Taiwan will be cherished.

## II. Course Subject

*“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” – Benjamin Franklin*

My 6 months as a TEEP Intern here at Nanhua University make me undergo different course subjects in a semester. When I arrived at Nanhua University as an intern of the Department of Green Technology for Sustainability, I was engaged in the classes of Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture and Apiculture under Professor Chen Shih-Shiung; Dendrobium and Phalaenopsis Cultivation under Professor Simon Lai; and lastly, Organic Agriculture I and II under Professor Yi-Sung Chen.

### 2.1 Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture

Technologies for sustainable agriculture taught me many things about how technology helps reduce work. This class taught me that the use of artificial intelligence (AI) can change something when it comes to work. Professor Chen Shih-Shiung taught so many well that AI can be a great help in adapting to learning and work.



*(TEEP Interns)*

### 2.2 Organic Agriculture I and II

As a graduate of a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture in the Philippines, it quite excites me to have Organic Agriculture I and II as my course subjects under Professor Yi-Sung Chen. I've learned new methods of applying organic fertilizer to a desired crop. Thus, the course taught me how to control pest infestations in crops. I've also learned how to grow microgreens. Learning

new things in this course is fun as it adds to my knowledge and understanding of how organic agriculture has impacted the world.



*(Professor Yi-Sung on practical class)*



*(My microgreen produce)*

### 2.3. Dendrobium and Phalaenopsis Cultivation

My Dendrobium and Phalaenopsis Cultivation class taught me how to properly manage and take good care of orchid cultivation. Professor Simon Lai, teach us thoroughly all the ideas about orchid management that are new to us. The class made me experience the tissue culture and quality control practices of orchids in one of their laboratories at Dacun. The learning subject is interesting, and learning something new is fun.



*(TEEP Interns with Prof. Simon Lai and Sean)*

## 2.4. Apiculture

Apiculture class made me interact with the perfect insect, as they say—the bees. This course taught me how to make sugar water their drink and bee bread their food for consumption. Professor Chen Shih-Shiung made this subject as interesting as it should be. He told us so many things about how to properly manage the production of honeybees.



*(Perfect insect interaction)*

### 2.4.1. Honey Harvesting and Processing

Honey harvesting is quite challenging for me because I've experienced getting stung by bees while feeding them sugar water and bee bread. Being stung by a bee, for me, is an experience that I should remember every time I hear the term "bee". Nonetheless, working with bees provides an opportunity to gain an understanding of their production. The first honey harvesting is my first experience at Nanhua University, and that experience is great not because I've tried it already but because the harvesting we have done is such a success.



*(Honey harvesting)*





The practice of honey post-harvest and packaging experience resulted in the production of 24 bottles of 300 cc and 3 bottles of 700 cc of honey for the first harvest. During the second harvest, we produced 19 bottles of 500 cc of honey. Indeed, we have had great success in production and harvesting.



*(Produce Honeys in bottles)*

*(Post-harvest Practice)*

### **III. Seminars, Workshops, and Conferences**

*“The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.” – B.B King*

This semester I was engaged in a workshop, the Bamboo Weaving DIY Workshop held at Nanhua University and was initiated by the International Office. My experience is that weaving bamboo is really hard; it takes a lot of time and patience. The weaving steps are quite complicated, but if we follow them correctly, we will undoubtedly have a good outcome.



*(Lecturer: Miss Hsu Chiuhsiang)*

Being new here in Taiwan as an intern student, Miss Amy Huey-Ling Shee conducted a



*(Lecturer: Miss Amy Huey-Ling Shee)*

seminar about gender equality at work: law vs. culture. In this seminar, she shared the pros and cons of the differences in laws and culture. She also shared with us how important it is to know how Taiwan's laws govern the country. In this seminar, I'm thankful for the learnings I've gathered because they make me aware of the consequences if somehow we break the law.`

Engaging in different activities as a foreign student is quite fun. Last December, the international office held an event about the International Cultural Festival. This event made us reunite with our fellow Filipinos who graduated here at Nanhua University. We also got to experience how to prepare Filipino dishes to be sold during the event. The Filipino team, together with our Nepali friend, made a stall named Mommy Leila's Stall, which sold adobo, lumpia, and buko pandan.



*(TEEP Intern with Marilyn)*



*(Food frying)*



Last March, I got to experience making and tasting the traditional food of Taiwan, which they usually have during tomb sweeping day, the "run bing". I am grateful and thankful to the international office for having us experience the food that is so traditional to them. The food is delicious and tasty.



*(TEEP Intern, together with Miss Cheska, NHU Staff; Palija from Nepal)*

On April 27, I got to experience being the master of ceremony for the memorandum of understanding between NHU and SLC. Being a host is not easy, and that experience made me realize that being the one to assist the flow of an event is really challenging. Nonetheless, the experience is really worth to tell. I'm thanking the international office for trusting me to be part of that historic event.

*(As Host of MOU)*



Education is a lifelong endeavor. The process of learning never ends and there are always fresh things to learn, new methods to grow, and new problems to face. The conference made me experience more and encouraged me to never be afraid of trying something new outside the four corners of the classroom. The first conference I've attended is the Workshop Towards Carbon Neutral Agriculture, which was held in Nanhua University Conference Hall. The conference tackled a lot of things about neutrality, so lots of professors shared what they knew about it. The conference also reflected its goals for carbon neutrality.



*(Conference Hall)*



*(Together with Professor Yi-Sung Chen and Miss Sunny Lin)*



The second conference I've attended is from IFOAM and it was held at Ming Dao University. The said conference tackled the topic of agriculture and how the world changes, and Miss Jennifer Chang of IFOAM showed data of changes and improvements in one place that showed how agriculture changes everything if it follows according to its goals.



*(TEEP Intern with Miss Cheska, NHU Staff)*



*(Miss Jennifer Chang & Prof. Yi-sung Chen in the middle)*

The 7th International Symposium for Sustainable Development and Green Technology (ISSDGT) 2023, held at the Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum, was my third international conference I've attended as a TEEP intern. I had the chance to listen and learn about the research of the delegates that came from different countries. It was also an honor for me to present my paper conducted at Nanhua Permaculture Farm to some delegates in a room. The experience was great. I'm thanking the Department of Green Technology for Sustainability, especially Professor Hong Yao Ming, for the opportunity. Thank you so much.



*(Group Photo, ISSDGT 2023)*



*(Presenting my paper, ISSDGT 2023)*



## IV. Internship

*“Study what you love and intern in what you want to do.” - Eva Chen*

### 4.1. Nanhua Permaculture Farm

Being a TEEP Intern at Nanhua Permaculture Farm under the Department of Green Technology for Sustainability made me experience more knowledge about sustainable agriculture, and the practice I have enhanced my skills and capabilities to do more things that I can do. Some photos below are of the things I've experienced in my stay at Nanhua University as a TEEP Intern.



*(Bee Frame Making)*



*(Planting of Spring Onion)*

I've shared my experience with honey bee production with various visitors at Nanhua University who wish to visit the bee farm of the Department of Green Technology for Sustainability. Sharing what I've learned in my practice is a relief, and even more, I can give visitors a brief introduction and be able to show them or lift such bee frames just to introduce them to the different types of bees found in the colony.

*(Discussion about bee colony)*





## 4.2. City Bear Farm

Learning new things is really quite challenging, and taking care of bees is also challenging. Being at City Bear Farm taught us things or new learnings, especially on how to do the queen breeding. Professor Chen Shih-Shiung made us experience the queen breeding for bees. At first, we look for a bee frame that is fully covered with larvae. Then his nephew, Mr. Mike, taught us how to do the queen breeding process. Doing the queen breeding is challenging, specifically on the part where we will get the small larvae from the bee frame and transfer them to the artificial queen cell, which has royal jelly inside.



*(Queen bee breeding practice)*

#### 4.3.Taida Horticultural Co. Ltd.

I've gotten to experience my second tissue culture at Professor Simon Lai's orchid laboratory at Dacun. I can say that the tissue culture practice is not really that easy. It will take time to transfer orchids from the mother plant's bottle to another bottle. Though it's quite hard, it is also challenging. Looking forward to learning more about Taida's horticultural cultivation.



*(Tissue Culture Practice, hands on)*



*(My finished Tissue Culture)*



I've got to visit the Taida Company of Professor Simon Lai, as our practice class was held there. The practice class is really a good experience for me, as I've experienced watering the orchids as they practiced it there. Thus, the class also taught me how to do the rooting method for orchids, and I was assigned that time at Garden 37-6 in one of the greenhouses of Taida.



*(Orchids watering)*



*(Orchids rooting)*



#### 4.4. Winter Camp at Nanhua University

The internship I had at Nanhua University for a short time made me experience winter camp. In which I've had a chance to assist both elementary and junior students coming from different schools around Taiwan, I must say that the experience I've gained in that event has enhanced my socialization and communication skills with the students. I am thankful that my team is so cooperative and that they help one another in each task. Indeed, I was the happiest assistant they had during winter camp. Looking forward to the next winter camp.



*(Winter Camp Team)*



*(Group Task with Miss Amy Shee)*

The Winter Camp experience gave me the opportunity to visit the Taiwan Enzyme Village,



where I learned a new skill about making drip coffee. Watching the students in my team is quite fun and joyful, as they also listen and participate in the activity on the trip to Enzyme.

*(Enzyme Village Trip)*

## V. School Tours

*“In the end, we only regret the chances we didn’t take”*

Taiwan is known for its beautiful scenery that catches foreigners’ hearts, and educational tours are an exciting part of the experience for a student like me who has hectic schedules. We took an exciting first tour of Hsinchu City, specifically Hukou Hakka Creative Park and Hukuo Old Street. Wandering around makes me appreciate the beauty of the place even more. The first tour in Hsinchu City made me experience my first DIY persimmon dyeing at Jin-HanDried Persimmon Educational Farm. The experience is quite fun.



*(Filipino Students with Miss Christina)*



*(TEEP Intern with Miss Cheska, NHU Staff)*

My second tour was held at the City Bear Farm of Professor Chen Shih-Shiung. This tour made me experience and explore City Bear Farm for the second time around. Professor Chen Shih-Shiung introduces us to his bee farm. I get to hold a bee frame full of a bee colony this time.



*(Bee Colony)*



Xizhuo Park is a wide park located in Changhua. Many people went to Xizhuo just to take photos and be engaged in the celebration of the Flower Festival in celebration of the year 2023. This tour was initiated by our Taiwanese friend Chen Er Syuan; she managed to bring us to different places in Changhua. We are amazed with the botanical garden in Changhua; the tall cacti are everywhere, and we are amazed with the glimpse of its beauty. After roaming around the botanical garden, we went directly to the Xizhuo Park, where we met Professor Yi-Sung Chen. The Professor, together with Chen Er Syuan, made our trip to Changhua full of fun and learning about some aspects of Taiwanese culture. Indeed, it was a blast.



*(TEEP Intern with Chen Er Syuan)*



*(Professor Chen Yi-Sung and Chen Er Syuan)*

Our course subject of Dendrobium and Phalaenopsis Cultivation gives us an opportunity to witness and be part of the Taiwan International Orchid Show, in which different orchid varieties with their distinguished colors are mirrored in the place in Tainan. Professor Simon Lai introduces us to a broader range of information about orchids. Thus, the show made me experience and appreciate how orchids change the beauty of a place. I've always been thankful for new learning.





*(TEEP Interns)*



*(Orchids Show)*

Never have I been happier than to tour around the famous Buddha museum in Kaohsiung. At first, the Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum was just a dream of mine, which I'd just seen through various creators online. Never did I dream that one day—just an hour or more tour I've experienced wandering around the Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum and taking a glimpse of its beauty and how attractive it is to foreigners. I must say that the experience is really something to cherish, and with that, I'll be thankful to Professor Hong Yao Ming for this short visit at the Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum. It was a blast to tour in this scenery.



*(Glimpse of Buddha)*



*(TEEP Intern with Philippine delegates, Miss Mariam & Miss Corazon)*



*(Group Photo)*

The trip to Alishan was my second international multicultural activity trip as a student. The trip made me mesmerized by the Alishan forest mountain scenery as it was covered by fog. The giant tree was so good for the eyes. The trip also taught me how to feed deer. 'twas really a good experience as it is so fun. I am so thankful to the international office for facilitating this one-day trip.



*(Group Photo)*



*(Me in woods)*

## **Conclusion**

I study about various cultures and languages, particularly about Taiwanese living. In addition, the program assisted me in gaining more information and abilities with which I am able to use when I return to my native nation, the Philippines. To express my heartfelt gratitude, I'd like to thank Taiwan's Ministry of Education for having such a wonderful program, the "Taiwan Experience Education Program (TEEP)," to welcome foreign students to short-term professional internships, which helps numerous learners such as me make and experience their aspirations come true. Thankful also to Professor Hong Yao Ming for having the Philippines as one of the delegates in the TEEP program under his department at Nanhua University. I would've had so much regret if I didn't take this opportunity. Officially, my six months as a TEEP intern student at Nanhua University just ended, but my journey will still continue, as I'm eager to pursue finishing my Master's Degree at Nanhua University. I will always be grateful for the journey I've experienced.