

Krishan Pareek

Experience in Taiwan

When I was doing my bachelors I always had the plan to pursue my masters from abroad but I was not sure about the country, In the end, days of my bachelors, I came across a wonderful opportunity of pursuing my masters from Nanhua University, Taiwan. After going through details, of course, offered i.e Masters in Green Technology for Sustainability and talking with Prof.(Dr.) Yao Ming Hong, I was sure this is a course which I wanted, but the main challenge was going into more of Chinese (Mandarin) speaking country and not having initial background was a big question to answer. But the biggest support to me was given by TEEP (Taiwan Experience Education Program), who pushed me and gave me support to take up Chinese (Mandarin) challenge. Therefore I started taking Chinese classes in India for one and a half month to get an initial background of Mandarin.

After receiving the acceptance letter and scholarship letter, I started to prepare for my visa and flight booking, searched the entire internet about the culture and food of Taiwan. There was again a major setback for me while searching the fooding habits of Taiwanese I came across pork which was a default type meat in Taiwan and being a vegetarian I don't even eat egg. So the thought process was again active can I do this because this was my first time in Taiwan, in a country totally different to mine, and with a language that I was not very well acquainted with and fooding habits were totally different, that was indeed quite challenging. On the other hand, I was feeling excited also new people, advance technology, new culture, and a smooth system.

When I arrived in Taiwan my first impression was very good, everything was very orderly and surrounded by beautiful scenery, clean roads, well-managed traffic etc. I also felt shocked with the language, because the Chinese (Mandarin) spoke quite quickly and with a very strong accent, thus I could not understand very much of what they were saying. But we got student volunteer from Nanhua University who have arranged a bus for us to go to University dormitory.

Nanhua University is situated in Dalin Township, Chiayi County. Township life is very quiet; people basically do dinner at 5 o' clock in the evening whereas in my country India we have a habit of eating dinner at 9 o' clock. The thing that I loved about Taiwanese people is their will to help other, Taiwanese are very very kind hearted and helpful people, they are bit shy but they don't run away from the problem but try to solve them.

Nanhua University is often praised as Forest University as vegetation coverage rate at university is up to 73% and also because university campus is situated at foot of the hill with roads surrounding the mountain and broad prairie. Green Technology for sustainability is a new program started at university

but the system is very smooth and quite clear. Course director Prof. (Dr.) Yao Ming Hong is a very supporting professor on the very first day of our class he briefed to us about the culture, technology, education, and research in Taiwan. The director and other professors that I had were very good, they knew a lot about the subjects, that they taught and were always very respectful and friendly. It was easy to see that they enjoyed teaching the classes. The students are encouraged to participate in the classes and most important thing we use to get presentation every week on the work we perform in the past week that not only develops our speaking language but also removes our stage fear. The subjects that I had studied here are climate change, soil and water conservation, sustainable agriculture etc. the importance of this course can be known as this one of the major issues that the world is facing now like climate change, climate change is happening at the rate of 1.62° F which is a very serious threat for upcoming years and which need to be studied in details for and by the next generations. Climate change not only affects human but also affect soil and water properties, therefore, change in the properties of basic earth materials is a very important thing to learn so that we are preparing for the worst case scenario. With decreasing food quality across the world organic farming is the only solution to be fit and to revive Mother Nature. So studying these important topics from well experienced and knowledgeable professor's was like a dream come true. Professors here not only teach us but allows us to use our creativity and imagination for enhancement of our limit. Professors tell us about different competitions that take place all around Taiwan and one such event was CTCIEF and CCS conducted "2018 winter action corporate social responsibility" competition in which I participated and bags 4th place, university, and professor helped as well as supported me through ever single phase from registration to completing the paper work. I was so mesmerized by the enthusiasm they had related to competition. I was not only engulfed in class room learning but the professor allowed us to meet researcher and professor of the different international university at "2nd International Conference on Sustainable Development and Green Technology (SDGT 2018)". It was a 2-day conference where on the first day I presented my technical paper in front of highly knowledge full researcher and got to know from them about the loophole of my study and think I can do to improve. I got to meet Professor Lieh from Wright state university, USA and Professor Kaimin Shih from the University of Hong Kong who not only explained their research work but they also told us about the importance of research in upcoming time. On the second day of the conference, we went to visit gold joint industry, a company known for construction and design consultancy with environment friendly products, I learned about a different green method to be adopted to prevent soil erosion and landslide in a specific area.

Apart from academic I also enjoyed a few trips organized by our director at Caisancho Island and butterfly valley. Both the trip were different altogether as the lessons were different from both. The first trip at Sea beach and mountain teaches me about height and enormity here as the second trip at maolin valley teaches me about calmness in small being also. On my first trip, I went to Caisancho Island on the first day and on the second day, I went to Alishan Mountain. On my second trip, I went to see a butterfly that comes to maolin, I learned about a different butterfly in Taiwan, how to mark them and the most important thing how to protect them in this industrial era. The butterfly is one of

the most wonderful creatures I have seen their life from being a caterpillar to cocoon then finally getting transformed into butterfly shows us the journey and hardship of life. Butterfly teaches me that size doesn't matter but the thing that matter is your will to do something, you will to succeed and how hard you try.

To conclude, I would like to thank to everyone who support me to come here and everyone who was part of this great experience, which allowed me to know a new culture, and meet people from all over the world. I especially want to thank TEEP for funding me so that I can see this wonderful country; secondly, I want to thank our director prof. (dr.) Hong Yao Ming who has supported me whenever I get struck with the problem, for teaching us, for keeping me as his child.



Figure1: Explaining about India at culture festival



Figure2: With prof. Lieh at SDGT 2018



Figure3: With Prof. Kaimin Shih at SDGT 2018



Figure4: 2018 CSR Captain Winter action program



Figure5: With instructor at Maolin Trip



Figure6: With director at Caisancho Island



Figure7: At gold joint industry during 2nd day of SDGT conference



Figure8: With Instructor's at Maolin Scenic Administration Area