



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA
FINAL EXAM SEMESTER II, 2019/2020

UKQE3001 - SECTION 02
EXTRA-CURRICULAR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

REPORT 1
GLOBAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

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REPORTING

During my first semester of Degree in Computer Science, I was invited by a friend, Hidayah, to join a program where we had to be mentors or facilitators to 2 groups of high school students, from Fukuoka Itoshima High School, and also Nakamura Gakuen High School Japan. This event was held by the Tourism Planning Research Group (TPRG) Universiti Teknologi Malaysia for 2 days, on the 8th of December 2019 till the 9th of December 2019. It was held at the Faculty of Built Environment and Surveying, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Skudai. Since the event was short staffed and short handed, 6 of my friends and I joined the program as facilitators.

A day before the actual event, all of us were informed to attend a meeting where we were to discuss the itinerary of the program. The 6 of us arrived by bus at the venue. Preparations were already being made at the Faculty of Built Environment and Surveying, UTM. It only took us 5 minutes to arrive the venue from our respected colleges. As soon as we got in the hall, Our programme advisor, Dr Noorhazliza Abdul Halim, greeted us and thanked us for our contribution to help the event run smoothly. We sat with a few other students who will also be facilitators. Dr Noorhazliza started the meeting by checking the list of facilitators attendances. Dr Noorhazliza briefed us on the itinerary of the event. She told us that when the buses carrying the Japanese students arrive, the students will be broken into groups of 10, and that there will be 2 facilitators each group. I was separated from my friends, since my partner was someone I did not know, but it was okay.

We were to show the Japanese students all around Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. But no where far, as we had to guide them only by foot. We only had an hour to show them around and they had to be back in the hall for the official event ceremony. Dr Noorhazliza even gave us a list of places for us to visit with our group of Japanese students. After that, she broke out the news that they were short staffed and they needed a few students to volunteer as entertainers for the event. Long story short, after a long debate and a short discussion among ourselves, the six of us had to perform a traditional dance, the 'Poco - poco' with 2 other students.

After the meeting, we straight away went to practice the dance so that we won't embarrass ourselves on the day of the event. To my surprise, I was the only one who actually knew the steps to the dance. Dr Noorhazliza automatically put me in charge of teaching the others how to dance the 'Poco - poco'. I and Aimi, who gave me a lot of help, spent the next hour practising the moves of the dance and teaching the others. We were coached by 2 other students from the Faculty of Computing and surprisingly, the practice went smoother than I thought. After practice, we helped Dr Noorhazliza prepare the hall for the students' arrival.

We arranged the chairs, the tables and also the staging area for the performances, the podium for the 'Master of Ceremony'. After an hour of practice, we went back to our respective colleges and prepared ourselves for the event. Since we were not all from the same course, we didn't get to find the right time for us to practice more even over the weekend. We planned out what we were going to wear on the day of the event. We decided to wear our traditional 'Baju Kurung', that will be paired with 'Kain Sarung' for the performance.

On the 8th of December, at 6.30 a.m, the 6 of us gathered together once again, for a bus ride to reach the venue together. When we arrived, Dr Noorhazliza quickly distributed breakfast to us. We each had a bread and a box of drink and we had our breakfast before the students arrive at 8. After breakfast, we practiced our dance for the last time. We suddenly had an idea to invite the students and their teachers to join us on stage. So we planned out when and how to approach them to ask them to join our dance.

Finally, at 8.00a.m, the time had come to greet the students. My partner and I, Hafiza, were in charge of group 10. All the facilitators had to line up in pairs and had to greet our students respectively. When the students got down from the bus, we immediately took them on a tour around campus. My group consisted of 10 girls, aged around 15 - 18. Only a few of them were able to speak English. The most fluent was Rio, and she was the translator for her friends. It was hard for us to communicate with them in the first place, but with the help of Google, we were able to communicate with them well.

We brought them to show the #IAMUTM in front of the library, the 'Tasik Ilmu', the deer farm and the Mosque. They were incredibly fascinated by the squirrels as in Japan, squirrels are not common at all. After the tour, it was time the students had to go back to the hall. The Master of Ceremony, Hidayah, started the event with her charming voice. She announced the programme's aim, which was to enable the students of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and Fukuoka Itoshima High School to exchange unique cultural traits of the Japanese culture and also the Malaysian culture. This programme also exposes students to the smallest variety of cultures in the world.

After the introduction, Dr Noorhazliza Binti Abdul Halim, as Programme Advisor, delivered her speech and was followed by a speech from the Principal of Fukuoka Itoshima High School. Shortly after the speeches were made, It was time for us to shine! We quickly put on our 'Kain Sarung' and made our way to the side of the stage. The students gave us a shocking gasp when they realized that we were about to perform for them. After our performance, it was finally time to say goodbye to them.

From joining this Global Exchange Programme, I got the opportunity to experience facing my fears of being cold feet. I got to communicate and learn about a new culture. It might not be easy at first, but it grew easy and it was fun knowing that we actually had the same interests despite our nationality and age gap.

RESPONDING

When my friend first told us about this programme, I was actually scared that it would affect my daily schedule. It was my first time participating in such a programme, and I was nervous to participate alone. Thankfully, my friends decided to join to. We finished our assignments earlier and helped each other throughout the programme. They even helped out for the Traditional dance even though they did not know the steps, because of me, they were willing to learn. Besides that, I was always nervous of meeting new people.

But as I approach them, the nervousness fades and I was able to gain new friends. I'm incredibly delighted I got the chance to be friends with others from another country. I'm also glad that we were able to exchange our culture. Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Skudai campus is an amazing place that completely symbolizes Malaysia. The Japanese students were already impressed looking at the Mosque, what would they have felt if they finished touring the whole campus? Sadly, because we ran out of time, we were not able to show them the entire campus.

RELATING

It is actually an interest of mine, to know about more cultures. I have loved to learn new languages since I was much younger. When I was in high school, we had a similar programme held where more or less 50 Japanese students came to our school and I was also a facilitator during that time. I really enjoyed myself then, and I extremely enjoyed myself when I joined this programme. Not only did I get to meet new friends, I also got the chance to bond with my older friends. None of us knew that we could dance well even after 4 years of knowing each other. This lead to us being closer than what we had before.

REASONING

To highlight this part of the report, let me stress again the fact that it was hard for us to communicate with the Japanese students. Because of our differences in culture, it was extremely hard to even say Hello. Thankfully before the event, Aimi, a friend of mine, helped us all. She had to make a speech for the event, and she helped us study a bit of the Japanese language. Also, Rio, one of the students, was fluent in English. She was officially picked as the translator for group 10, which was my group. Even though she was fluent in English, she still didn't know a few things that we explained to her. Thankfully, we had Google. We searched online about deers, lakes, and also mosques, to explain to her so she knows what we're trying to tell the group.

RECONSTRUCTING

As an answer for this part of the reflection, I conclude, that I would love to join more exchange programmes in the future. It was an outstanding experience. As I have stated before, it was amazing getting to meet new people, both Malaysians and foreigners. What I would like to do this event differently is that I would like to extend the length of the programme. It was too short. The poor Japanese students did not even get to take pictures properly. They were rushing to go to the next attraction spot. Extending the time of the programme will help them be more relaxed. Not only them, but also myself as a facilitator. I am sure that with more time, the students would not only be able to discover a part of the campus, they would also be able to try our amazingly delicious food. That was the only one thing that I thought could be improved. This programme has taught me about managing time well and being punctual.

APPENDIX



A group of Fukuoka Itoshima High School students that were involved



My friends and I receiving our certificate of participation



Certificate of Appreciation

GLOBAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

UTM – FUKUOKA ITOSHIMA HIGH SCHOOL

Awarded to

AQILAH HANIM BINTI MOHD TAUFIK

980830025212

In recognition of participation, support and contribution towards the
success of the event

Date: 8th & 9th December 2019

Venue: Faculty of Built Environment and Surveying, UTM



TPr. Dr. NORHAZLIZA ABD. HALIM

Programme Principle
Global Exchange Programme
Faculty of Built Environment and Surveying
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

The certificate of participation awarded to me.