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University	Bandung Institute of Technology (Indonesia)
Duration	2018/09 - 2019/2
Graduate School	Engineering
Academic Advisor	Professor OKUMURA Makoto
Research Theme	APPLYING SYSTEM DYNAMICS APPROACH TO IMPROVE PORT RESILIENCE
IRTLab	3 (Fall Semester) - (Spring Semester)



Reasons for choosing COLABS

To be honest, I was not directly choosing COLABS. My strong willing to study abroad leads me here. Since I adore Japan life, I started surfing daily to the international relation website of my home university and found the chance to participate in COLABS, a student exchange program at Tohoku University. Since I have a dream to study in Japan, so why not I apply this program? Then, I was told by officer in my home university that I enrolled this program and fully funded by JASSO. It was really fascinating that my dream finally came true! One year already passed, I think my decision is definitely right back then to apply for COLABS. COLABS offers us, a master program student, not only to take a research-oriented training in the laboratory we choose that relate to our major and research theme, but also much experiences to life to the fullest in Japan, especially in Sendai, a very neat and comfortable place to life. And for student who worry of being left behind of any important information, the Student Exchange Division is there to help us with updated information provided for foreign students.

COLABS Experience

Basically, COLABS is determined to the students who want to participate as a research student in one of the most prestigious universities in Japan and grasp the opportunity to learn a brand new experience there. Plenty of activities we can choose freely but of course should be under regulation: we can choose the laboratory and which IRTLab we are ready to take, choose the classes you want to study and join the club you are curious about! I joined in Disaster Area Support Laboratory supervised by Prof. Okumura. By choosing IRTLab 3, it means that I should at least participate at laboratory project for about 60-70% or spend up to 8 hours/day in the lab doing my research. There was a "zemi" (seminar) twice a week in which the member of the lab should present the progress of their research in front of all of the laboratory members. For my research, I mostly worked under my professor's assistance since another members in my lab don't know much about my research. I also joined one of my professor's classes once a week and it was taught in bilingual, both Japanese and English. One obligation class that I should join was Japanese Language, twice a week. Yes, for every foreign student should take this class at least in our first semester. And for the club, I am not participating in any of the club since I have many enjoyable activities in PPI (Persatuan Pelajar Indonesia or Indonesian Student Association) Sendai, my friends from Indonesia really back me up when I feel a bit frustrating in laboratory project.

Overall experience through COLABS

I could highlight that my life here for only 6 months is very precious. I know what I should have focused in Sendai is doing my research, but no, I learn so many things here and what I grasp is: I know myself better than before. It sounds cliché, but life a brand new experience especially when you are apart from your hometown and family thousands miles is not a piece of cake. So here I am: I become more responsible, determined and always try my best not to disappoint myself. I come this far and I am not only doing this for my research, but also for the better me. I thank my professor who gives me such opportunity in his lab and also for member lab who fully support me. And of course all my friend who accompany me there through thick and thin

Experiences at TU, in Sendai and Japan

TU is one prestigious university in which supported by facilities and human resources that both of them integrating their students to the fullest. Lists of the good facilities are: Aobayama Station, Aobayama Dorm, cafeteria that sell halal menu for Muslim, campus shuttle bus, etc.

And Sendai! Well, I will never miss to put a smile whenever I hear "Sendai". Thank you Sendai to allow me exploring this beautiful and greenish city.


And last but not least: Japan. I had a great holiday for 8 days, exploring Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, Kyoto and Osaka with my husband. For Muslim tourist like me, halal menu is reachable but what I found difficult is the place to pray. But basically what obstruct the most is the language which most Japanese people can't speak English. However, I definitely want to come back to Japan in the next future.

Future Plans


My professor offers me if I have a plan to continue my Ph. D study there he will help. It is really an honourable offer.

For me now, I have another plan for my future. But if the time comes that I finally decide to go back continue my study, I will not be hesitant to come back to TU.

Schedule (Japanese classes)

6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			Japanese Classes					IRT Lab										

Schedule (without Japanese classes)

6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			IRT Lab					IRT Lab										

