

**Toyohashi University of Technology,
Institute for Global Network Innovation in Technology
Education
News from Penang
(Vol.4 2015/3/9)**



■ Reports

Understand a different culture through a homestay

Ryushi Kimura, National Institute of Technology, Kochi College

I write about my feeling through a homestay in Malaysia for two days on 14-15th February in this time.

Contents of the homestay

This homestay was arranged by vice president of PSP (Politeknik Seberang Perai) and eight KOSEN teachers participated. Original purpose is that students experience Malaysian local life. However, the vice president encouraged us to experience the life in advance before we recommend the experience to students.

On the first day, we were introduced four host families after welcome ceremony on 3 p.m. After we made 4 pairs and were allocated each host family, we went to the host family's house to put our luggage in the house. (Pic.1 shows that I made pair with Yoshi of Toyota College). And we played game and traditional dance with local dancers until 11 p.m.

On the second day, we experienced some activities such as taking sap from a rubber tree, visiting apiary and workshop for making traditional cookies

Understand the culture through the homestay

Local people chatted away smiley wherever we

visited. So, their behavior made me relax while we stayed there.

I always try to adapt to local atmosphere when I visit the place with different culture.

Then, I talk to local people and exchange our opinion such as local character, culture, manner and custom. A part of these information and experience is useful for my study. I have studied about energy conservation for buildings in south-east Asian countries. Especially, I propose new lifestyle which occupants contribute reducing energy consumption. As part of the study, I stayed with various families. I learned a lot of culture, custom and thought through the experience and met people who understand well my study (Pic.2).

These resulted from our relationship based on positive mutual understanding on our cultures.

I hope that this experience will be the motive to understand deeply on different culture for us.

Again, it is a necessary for global human resources to understand different culture positively with our different perspective related to the comparative culture, thought and custom.



Pic.1 With host family and Yoshi



Pic.2 With Malaysian urban planner, Mr. Liew

Issues about Water - Penang -

Yoshitaka Matsumoto, National Institute of Technology, Toyota College

I wrote issues about water in NY as a QC letter last time. So, in this time, I write them that I've experienced through lectures in USM, Universiti Sains Malaysia, or PSP, Politeknik Seberang Perai, in Penang, Malaysia.

Taste of Water

When I teach the hardness in a class; is one of the indexes of water quality and the combined value of Calcium ion and Magnesium ion, I let students drink different types of water containing higher hardness or lower hardness. I prepared four different types of water; two Malaysian, one Japanese and one French mineral water to let students drink in PSP. The hardness of tap water in Malaysia is soft as same as Japanese. The students, who had never drunk higher hardness water, looked uncomfortable when they drank, and they said, "I hate this". One student said "Taste like a hospital water.", when he drank Malaysian one. In addition, they don't have any hesitates to drink Japanese mineral water, so, I hope they have a feeling to be familiar with Japanese culture and custom through a water.



Photo 1 Water tasting at PSP

River Water Environment

I lectured the nitrogen dynamics in the environment in USM, not only engineering but also scientific knowledge, biogeochemistry and microbiology; denitrification and nitrogen mass balance between the atmosphere and hydrosphere. In this lecture, I introduced an experiment to measure nitrate ion in a river water using Pack Test, which is a simplified assay to check the water environment. I collected four waters from the stream running through Penang Botanical Garden where I sometimes run for an exercise after work at TUT Campus. The nitrate concentrations were lower where I collected waters from the garden, but the water collected from out of the garden that was contaminated by living drainage discharging from houses were extremely higher. They need to take a policy to improve the river environment in Penang. By the way, students were interested in my lecture and the experiment, and I realized that this active-learning teaching style we learned in QC was more effective as teaching a class and attractive to students than passive-teaching style.



Photo 2 Explaining sampling points at USM

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