

**Toyohashi University of Technology,
Institute for Global Network Innovation in Technology
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■ Reports

Lectures in Malaysia

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1. Outline

In the third part of the FD program, we gave lectures at universities in Penang, Malaysia. We visited PSP (Politeknik Seberang Perai) and USM (Universiti Sains Malaysia). We also had some opportunities to give some presentations about our research at a conference, IGNITE 2016, PSDC (Penang Skills Development Centre), and USM. However, unfortunately, our research talk at the PSDC was canceled due to insufficient number of participants. According to the coordinator, the reason was that the talk was scheduled after Chinese New Year week.

I gave two lectures for 90 minutes at PSP and 120 minutes at USM, respectively. At the USM, we were requested to include active learning, and actually, we needed to coordinate our lectures by ourselves. We discussed with professors who are in charge of the related courses and took over some regular classes. We had a look at the classroom and talked with the professors in advance and they were helpful for us to prepare for the lectures. It was really useful for me to grasp an atmosphere of the classroom and students.

2. Lectures in PSP



I gave two lectures to the students in semester two (the second semester of the first year). The student participation was very active and I enjoyed the classes. I succeeded eye contact with the students sitting in the half front of the classroom; it was not enough to communicate with the students sitting in the back row though. In the second lecture, exercise was effective for their understanding. When the students didn't understand well, they expressed me the sign of confusing on their face, and I could respond them by adding more detail explanation. It was well worth the effort. I was glad to get a warm welcome.

3. Lectures in USM

I gave two lectures for two hours each in the class for the third year students at school of Electrical and Electronics Engineering. I took over the third and



fourth sessions in the course titled “Advanced Power Electronics.” I revised some teaching materials and emphasized the connection to the power electronics. The number of the students was about 30 and the size of the class was comfortable for me to communicate with them. It was very helpful for me that I could discuss with the lecturer about the course and teaching method. After the lecture, some students who are interested in my lecture came to my room and talked more about advanced power electronics. I was satisfied with the experiences at universities in Penang thanks to the faculties and students there.



The minimum wage in Malaysia

Tomoki Takezawa, National Institute of Technology, Maizuru College

We stayed in Penang, which is a state in Malaysia, for about 50 days to give lectures at Politeknik Seberang Perai (PSP) and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). We also visited the Panasonic Automotive System Malaysia Sdn. Bhd., the Toray Industries (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd, and the SONY EMCS (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. to talk about an internship program. We had many opportunities to come into contact with the daily life of Malaysian during our stay. I will write about what I felt about the economy which directly relate to their daily life in Malaysia and us because I sometimes wondered at it.

We always had to eat at a restaurant or a food

stall because we couldn't cook at our accommodation. There are a lot of food stalls in the town. When we pay only 4-7 ringgit, we can eat one meal at a food stall. 1 ringgit has the value of about 28 yen in Japanese currency, so the price of one meal is only 112-189 yen. However, in Penang, there are many



The food stall in Penang

luxury Japanese and German cars which typical Japanese cannot afford to buy and many luxurious houses which are built in a wide site. According to what I heard from the Japanese employee of a Japanese-affiliated company, the minimum wage (monthly amount) in Malaysia is 900 ringgit (25,200 yen). I think that the Malaysian employees in these companies receive the minimum wage as first salary. When we take account of only the price of the meal in Malaysia, the minimum wage might not be low. The companies can obtain manufacturing labor force by paying the salary on which Malaysian can live in Malaysia. When I visited the factories of Japanese-affiliated companies, I have realized that the quality of the manufacturing labor force in Malaysia is almost as high as that in Japan. It means that although the manufacturing labor forces in Malaysia and Japan have almost the same quality, those prices are different. Usually cheaper one is chosen to reduce the production cost, so we have to lower the price of the manufacturing labor force to produce in Japan. However, of course we cannot live by the

Malaysian minimum wage in Japan. We need the wage which is decided as a minimum in Japan to live in Japan. I think that we didn't wish the production in foreign countries but we had to begin it to compete with foreign companies. Even if the wage for the manufacturing labor force in Japan is reduced because of the difference between the value of the currencies in Malaysia and Japan, the decrease in the wage might be canceled out if we reap the benefit of higher value of currency sufficiently. Of course, I can never buy a luxury car, and furthermore, the professors of the USM seem richer than me. I don't know whether it is better or not for me that the Japanese currency has the higher value. Both in Japan and in Malaysia it seems that the wages for the simple production work are quite inexpensive. I hope that the production in a foreign country by a Japanese company contributes not only to the company but also to all Japanese and foreign people.

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