

What I gained in Turkey

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Duration of visit:

What I gained through activities during the program

It was my first time that I visit Turkey. I think that Turkey has a lot of special characteristics. First of all, in terms of geography, it belongs both Asia and Europe. There are a large number of Byzantine style buildings, while the religion of Turkey is largely influenced by Islam. Most of Turkish believe that they came over Central Asia. For me who had gotten away from East Asia for the first time, everything in Turkey was fresh and novel. Their appearance, culture, architecture were so amazing and impressive that i could break stereotypes of Turkey I have had so far. Especially, nowadays it is often said that Turkey is dangerous because it belongs to Islamic country. On the contrary to this, my experience was totally different. I found it was only a prejudice derived from a very small minority of strange people. Turkish are absolutely kind and humorous.

When I made up my mind going to Turkey, English is a big challenge for me. I needed to prepare the presentation and poster about my research using English not Japanese. Moreover, It is necessary that communicating with students and professors from a broad variety of countries. I found it tiring to begin with, but i soon got used to it and gained confidence.

A schedule in Turkey was mainly workshop in ITU. The representatives of each laboratory had a presentation about their research. I believe that it is very rare and priceless experience. There are some of laboratories having similar research title, and the others had completely different ones. However, I took notice that we all used similar method based on engineering department, and it helped us to take communication each other.

Next, it was priceless experience that I listened to lecture of professors taking active in variable areas. Although some of the lectures were quit far from my major area, it was absolutely interesting and valuable. I think if it had been a little bit longer and had contained a wider variety, I would have had a chance to ask questions to the professors and to have far more helpful time.

The most rewarding thing that I had was to have confidence that I can study abroad. Especially, in terms of my major, although I was not fully capable of English speaking, I could have good communications with the students and professors just using some of main technical terms and

graphs. Before going to Turkey, I had thought it is impossible for me to go study abroad. This experience changed my mind, and I came to believe that listening to the lecture in English and researching would be possible thanks to the nature of Engineering.

Suggestion for improvement / any other comments

First of all, I think that much longer lectures by the professors could help student to understand thoroughly. Having a lecture only a 10minutes felt too short to discuss about it. Also, it would be much better to have a chance to ask questions to the professors in person. Only students participating in poster section could ask and answer questions each other. Moreover, in addition to the Workshop, I believe that listening to the actual lectures Turkish students taking would be far more interesting and helpful. It may be possible to have study and take lectures in Turkey for one semester as far as they have same major area.

Taken as a whole, the schedule in Turkey felt little bit long only for workshop, and too short for taking lecture and making progress for our research. If we can stay longer and can get a unit of graduation in Turkey, this experience will be a much more attractive chance for japanese students.