

## After staying in Istanbul

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### What I gained through activities during the program

What I did in Istanbul at first was cruising through Bosphorus. While cruising, I could see landscape and understand overview of Istanbul. Especially, by watching heavy traffic on two bridges across over Bosphorus, I really understood how it is important to make road to connect the European side and the Asian side. Moreover, some of Turkish students joyfully explained us that one of the bridges was constructed by Japanese company. I felt happy to know contribution of Japan to other countries and good relationship between Turkey and Japan.

In 2<sup>nd</sup> day and 3<sup>rd</sup> day, workshop was held. In that workshop, I listened about Japanese and Turkish young researchers' research topic. Because it was first time to listen to presentations about topics which is different with my own, it was very interesting and I got inspired. After the presentation, we did poster session. I got a lot of opinions from a lot of researchers who major in other discipline. That experience was so fresh that I got more motivation to make advance in my research.

In 4<sup>th</sup> day, we went to a large manufacturing company and construction site of a tunnel through Bosphorus. At the company I saw large scale machines for mining. It was first time to see the places like that, and I got excited. At the construction site, because I major in civil engineering, it was very interesting. It was really large scale construction and it was very important road for Istanbul. I felt development of Turkey and I got big motivation to work in the future as civil engineer to construct such important structure for a lot of people.

In 5<sup>th</sup> day, we went AFAD Disaster Management Center Technical Facilities. I was surprised at its abundant equipment. I got a lot of knowledge about how the management part deals with emergency situation. After that, we visited a nuclear reactor laboratory and a vibration generator in ITU. I was so surprised at that both of equipment are larger than ours. After some explanation, I really understood the differences in sizes and concepts of experiment between Japanese universities and Turkish universities. I felt that Turkish universities play a much larger and much more important role in technological development in its country than Japanese universities.

In 6<sup>th</sup> day and 7<sup>th</sup> day, we visit some sightseeing spots. In each spot, I felt differences in culture and history. Especially, when we went to an Island, there are so many houses along

shoreline, and the port was very simple. That situation was not usual in Japan, especially area facing the Pacific Ocean because there is risk of tidal wave.

Through all of this program, I got a lot of knowledge about characters of other nation, Turkey, and got large motivation to make progress in my research by interacting with other students and professors. Moreover, because I had not have enough experiences to interact with foreign students, this program gave me a fresh experience. This experience will be helpful in my future.

Suggestion for improvement / any other comments

It is true that, through this program, I got a lot of experiences to know about Turkey and other discipline. However, as more opportunities, for example, attending some lectures in ITU or doing experiments together may improve our mutual understanding. Moreover, in this program, the size of group was so big that there were no so much opportunities to interact with Turkish students. So, I felt more smaller group may be much better for interaction between Turkish students and Japanese students.

Through this program, I got wonderful experiences and made good friendship. I'm eternally grateful for everyone's support. Especially, professors and students in ITU helped us a lot. Then, professors and the staff of UT also supported us. I really appreciate it. If next program starts, I want to apply for it.