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Peking University & Yokohama National University Exchange Program

Short Stay (P2Y-short, Y2P-short)

Duration: 02/18~02/26

Affiliation: Peking University, College of engineering

Grade: Junior

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It was really a great experience for me to attend the P2Y short exchange program, which gave me a chance to travel to Japan, where I have never been before, as well as set up a platform to understand Japanese culture and education. Though it was a very short visit, I felt the enthusiastic and carefulness from both YNU professors and students. There are many words stuck in my minds but I can only pick up part of them, from which I hope you can see my learning and pleasure in this program.

#### **PART 1 General Introduction Of My Stay In Yokohama**

. On Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, we , ten PKU students with no one who can speak Japanese, arrived in Japan. Surrounded by unfamiliar voices of pronunciation, however some same writing words, my nervous and worry for a new place partly gone and I was more curious to see Japan. Two YNU students pick us up and accompanied us to our hotel. I have to say that our hotel is fantastic, which is much beyond my expectation. I always heard that Japanese house is small and Japanese meal is little compared to our Chinese ones. Because I had no idea how small it would be, I even wondered about living in closet like Doraemon! The moment I entered the room, I realized how silly I was! The room was comfortable and

clean, it even had a massage chair. What's more, the meal is not little at all, I had a big dinner that evening. The dinner is specially made by ourselves, which add more fun to it. By the way, I finally tasted the original octopus ball (takoyaki), so delicious that I couldn't help eating like I was hungry for hundreds of years.

Actually, the wonderful first day in Yokohama not only left big room or delicious food in my mind, but it also gave me a truly new way to understand Japan. When I'm in China, I can only learn Japan from other's words, which always give me images from others' eyes, never the real Japan. But now, as I came to Japan to build my own images, things changed and I understood this country better than just from pictures and books. Not only Japan, I think this kind of feeling applied to any countries. As the old Chinese saying, "Man who travels far knows more", I believe that global understanding cannot gain just from books or papers, we need to travel, to see, to feel by our own. Only in such way can we understand global culture and different living styles truly better.

The following days, we went to YNU for lectures and visit the beautiful campus. This part might be the main body of the program, building an academic atmosphere but not boring at all. Since we are all undergraduate students, the professors kindly adjusted their lectures to be easy to understand. With introductions about their researches, I found that engineering had many branches to choose but almost based on the same mathematic and physical theories. For me, after learning those theories, it's time to choose what I'll dig for in the future and these lectures give me some ideas about major choosing. Following the lectures, it's time for us to know the real working environment for these researches, the lab

tour. I was impressed by the stuffed laboratories with so many machines in order to find out the results. I remember Pro. ARAKI 's lab, where the machines were almost made by himself, really simple but creative. Why must we use the expensive and complicated machines? Let's make them simple and useful by ourselves! When it came to the practical ability, I have to say that I love the cars made by YNU students! It's a good way to learn knowledge better when apply it to daily life. I wish I could join them and made my own car! The excellent practical ability impressed me a lot and I think it's a good advantage for future career.

What's more, we also visited the Shiseido factory as well as the Toyo Seikan Group. The serious and polite attitude convinced me of the high quality of their products. Japanese factories are different from Chinese ones in some ways, for example, Japanese factories have fewer stuff but left more to machines, which is much more efficient but might miss small mistakes.

The last two days, we went to Tokyo to see the bustling part of Japan. Like other countries, Japan has its peaceful historical part, like the temples, as well as lively modern part, city Tokyo. The two part combination made Japan a rich and colorful country. Like the saying in the airport "Endless discovery of Japan", I believe that every time discovery a country, a new understanding will be gained with pleasure, thus endless discovery means endless pleasure.

## **PART 2 YNU & P2Y Program In My Eye**

As I mentioned in part 1, I had a academic as well as relaxing tour in this program.

I like the campus, surrounded by plenty of trees on the hill, tranquilly seeing students continue their studies and lives. I like students here as well, though we didn't see the ten students in Y2P program much, their warmhearted and friendly accompany impressed me a lot. Most of them are graduate students and older than us, but we still chatted like friends and exchange each other's feeling about different culture, life style and hobbies. I remember the first day that Sasaki pick us up and told us the famous China Town in Yokohama; I remember Asumi's painting and her great Chinese pronunciation ; I remember them gathered waiting for us in the hotel hall, with friendly smile.

I felt lucky to attend this program, it gave me a chance to communicate with YNU students, to understand Japan better, to renew my view of study aboard, to develop my experience. In addition, I don't take activities in YNU as the main part of this program, as far as I concerned, viewing out of campus gives us multi angles to see one problem, which means the quality of teaching is not only based on school but also the whole society. Thanks to the program, I saw the campus as well as Japan and I hope this program helps more students to see the different culture and communicate with each others.

### **PART 3 Some Thoughts About Oversea Study**

When talking about oversea study, though I know the importance of exchanging experience, the language and culture barrier, living expense and loneliness made me put the abroad plan aside. In the short stay, I met two Chinese YNU students, talking with them gave me another way to think about study

abroad. The advantages of overseas study is easy to point, experiencing different culture, accepting a better education and so on. As for the disadvantage side, take it as a challenge and make a living on my own may strength me. To be honest, actually seeing the interesting culture and curious to find out more about a different country is the best motivation for me to give overseas study a try!

Though it might be hard to study abroad, I'd like to give it a shot, to give myself a chance for farther understanding of the world.

To summary, I hope I can have another chance to go to Japan again and really thank you to YNU professors and students for the wonderful visit.