

January, 2018

## #15 SSH Science Trip to Taiwan

From January 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 8 students from Kyuyo High School left for Taiwan from Naha Airport for the SSH Science Trip to Taiwan. In Taiwan, they had a poster session with students from two Taiwan high schools: Taipei Municipal Chenggong High School and the Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan Normal University. In addition, they made nature observations and visited some facilities related with science.

Students seemed to be nervous because it was their first experience to give a presentation in English, however, they demonstrated what they could do based on their efforts. Moreover, they had a lot of new experiences in Taiwan. Their comments are below:

It was my first experience to study abroad in Taiwan. On the first day of the program, I visited Taiwan Municipal Chenggong High School, which is one of the best academic high schools in Taiwan. We introduced ourselves and started our conversation. I was surprised that they were good at speaking English, Japanese, and Spanish. It was difficult for me to understand what they were saying. Since I got nervous for the first presentation in Taiwan, I could not do it well. For my final presentation on the third day, I was able to make a good presentation. I was able to answer the questions from the audience, and exchange our opinions with each other every time. Besides, I enjoyed listening to Taiwanese student's research. One thing I learned from this conversation is the importance of not being afraid of making mistakes, and trying hard. I will continue to study English and try to use it positively.

Reira YAMAUCHI

I had never visited a foreign country before I participated in this program. There are two reasons why I participated in this trip. First, I wanted to develop my SSH research further. Second, I was originally interested in Asian countries. What I am impressed by the most in this trip is visiting Chenggong Senior High School and the Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan Normal University. In addition to the poster sessions, we had time to exchange conversations each other in English. At that time, I was surprised by their English ability. What I noticed by looking at them is that they are not afraid of failures. I realized that it is necessary for me to make opportunities for listening and speaking English actively.

Suzuka HIGA



I went abroad for the first time in my life for the SSH Science Study Trip to Taiwan. I started practicing speaking English and writing our presentation script 2 months before going to Taiwan. Also, I made my poster and the presentation speech in English for the exchange with Taiwanese students, but I was worried whether I could communicate with others in English. When I went to Taiwan, I was surprised that the Taiwanese students spoke English more fluently than I did and their communication abilities were far higher than mine. Before going to Taiwan, I thought their English ability was about the same as mine. However, I realized that Taiwanese students were enjoying their study and they were pleased with what they discovered in their study. As Taiwanese students do, I also wanted to be able to enjoy my research.

Honoka YOGI

In the SSH Science Study Trip to Taiwan, I was able to challenge a variety of things and I had a very good experience. This was my first overseas trip, so I was excited from the previous day. I was nervous and could not make a presentation well at the school on the first day. However, on the second day, I was able to do the better presentation than the first day. After completing the training in Taiwan, I was able to learn Taiwanese culture by eating Taiwan food and communicating with Taiwanese people. In addition, by communicating with them in English, I realized the importance of English again. I thought I would study English harder. I want to use what I learned this time for the future.

Yuki NAKAO



First of all, I set three goals for this trip: to come into contact with cultures of Taiwan, to tell my presentation and to interact with Taiwanese students. There were a lot of new discoveries and surprises because there are many differences between Okinawa and Taiwan. I was a leader of the group during this trip. At first I felt anxious of being a leader, however, throughout visiting the representative of the group, I could gain confidence as a leader by degrees. I feel like I was able to grow up in this trip in many ways. I would like to tell many people how nice Taiwan is and what I learned in Taiwan.

Amika NASHIRO

I learned a lot of things in the SSH science study trip to Taiwan. When we had a poster session with the Taiwanese student, I was surprised at their fluent English. Through this exchange program, I realized that my English ability is not so good. Before going to Taiwan, I didn't know about Taiwan very much. However, I noticed that Taiwan has a lot of charm. I learned the importance of studying English and purpose for which I should try to communicate with others.

Aika SHIMOKADO

Through this SSH Taiwan trip, I found more fascination with science. At Yehliu Geopark, I was impressed by the great landscape. There were so many things that I have never seen before such as fossils and unique strata, which attracted me very much. In addition, I found the science field could be the most common topic in the world, so it is very enjoyable to talk with people from all around the world because we can share those facts. By the end of this SSH trip, I made many Taiwanese friends, could understand a part of Taiwanese culture, and learned so many things about science. I spent an invaluable and amazing time in Taiwan. I appreciate all the people who were involved in this trip and teachers who supported us!

Saaya Koja

I learned many things through the SSH Taiwan program. I am glad that I participated in this program. The reason why I participated in this program is because I was interested in communicating with Taiwan high school students in English. Also I thought that I could learn about other country's cultures by participating this program. We made presentations about our research in English at Taipei Municipal Chenggong High School and the Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan University. It was a good experience for me. Giving a presentation in English was very hard, but that experience gave me some confidence. Taiwanese high school students' English skill is so high that I was surprised by it. I realized that I must study English harder and that communication skill is necessary for communicating in the international society.



National Taiwan University



The Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan Normal University



Insect Museum at Taipei Municipal Chengong High School



Taipei Zoo



Taoyuan International Airport in Taiwan