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# Great Experiences of Academic and Cultural Exchange

An overview of 11 wonderful days in Japan

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*Figure 1. Eating sashimi - Group picture in front of Chiba University Gate - Group picture on the top of HSE Laboratory building – On the way to the university*

**Abstract:** Before coming to Japan, my expectation was to have a great academic and cultural experience during the program. After coming to Japan, I have impression that this program is too short, although I found it still very useful for my character development, especially to enhance my ability to work in a group and in international atmosphere. Several programs, which are laboratory work, workshop on internship, and cultural experience were really exciting. Learning

about academic and cultural aspect in Japan is one of my greatest experiences in my life.

### **Narrative of experience**

There are many experiences I gained from TWINCLE Program in Chiba University, Japan. The experience is not limited to academic, but also includes cultural aspect. Firstly, laboratory work and experience helped me acquired knowledge related to Health and Safety Environment field of topic. I have learned about removing pollutant with activated carbon extracted from many types of natural resources, such as bamboo, wood, etc.

Secondly, during an activity so called “workshop on internship”, I have learned the topic of Japanese students group to be presented in Indonesia. In September 2013, those students will come to Indonesia to teach the Indonesian high school students. In this program, we basically have to give critics, opinion, and suggestion about what is lacking from their material.

Thirdly, we have a cultural program, including the free time to visit several touristic places in Tokyo. In the cultural program, we visited the National Museum of Japanese History and Chiba Museum of Science.

Afterwards, the last program was the final presentation and farewell program on the day of our departure to Indonesia.

### **Impressions**

There are many impressions I have, regarding to Japan and TWINCLE Program in particular. During the wonderful 11 days in Japan, I found that Japan is such a developed and civilized country in Asia. Moreover, Japanese people, in terms of character, are quite different than Indonesian people. However, compared to Indonesian people, Japanese are strict and not so expressive, although in general they are very friendly and helpful. Therefore, learning the culture and habit of Japanese people was very interesting.

Related to Chiba University as the host of TWINCLE Program, I found that the university has a good academic atmosphere. Moreover, the study facilities and infrastructures are also very good.

### **Insights for Future Research**

After taking this program, I have been very optimistic that the student exchange will open the door for further collaboration between Indonesia and Japan, specifically between Universitas Gadjah Mada and Chiba University in terms of education. Several extended programs could be planned, such as joint research and education projects, which will bring good advantages in the development of education in the two countries.

Since this program is aimed to promote academic and cultural exchange in Japan and Indonesia, therefore it would be great to have additional activities, which will enhance the quality of the program. Several additional activities that can be considered are outside activity, cultural performance from both countries, and scientific conference or consortium.