



The International Internship
In Malaysia, TATI University
19th September — 16th October ,2012

Faculty of Engineering, Dept. of
Information Engineering, Mie
University

By Hirotaka Oikawa

Purposes and Introduce

In the beginning, the purposes of this passage were an international internship. I wanted to get working experience and to know how Malaysian people think about their working. But because of some circumstances, I decided to change my purpose of this passage from an international internship to studying abroad. So, I went to Malaysia to study English as an exchange student. Of course, I also wanted to improve communication skills, to talk each other about our life and customs, and to eat a lot of Malaysian foods. Fortunately, thanks to TATI University's arrangement, I could achieve my purposes. In addition, other four Mie students went to TATI University with me.

Then, I introduce TATI University's cooperators.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

I'd like to introduce one TATI University's staff (Fig. 1). Her name is Ms. Suhairah. She cared for our class and made program for weekend. I was always obligated by her in not only TATI University but some tourist resorts. She can speak English, Malay, and some Japanese and she knows some Japanese culture: TV drama, songs, and comics. So, we talked about each other about mutual cultures in English, sometimes in Malay, and in Japanese. I think that it is my precious experience.

He is a TATI University's volunteer student, Azri. He is my good friend. He has a lot of friend in TATI University. Everyone said hello to him. He mainly taught us about TATI University, and helped us anytime when I was in trouble. I couldn't live without him. The person who went to eat the most number of times with me was him. He is a very

smart man because he had his own opinion. And he is polite and gentle. So, I used to depend on him.

These are my friends' picture. They are kind to me too.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

Fig. 3 shows Emi and Amin. They brought me a lot of place. Especially, I often go to the beach near ITC hotel with Amin. He often invited me to dinner to the beach. In the first week, Emi brought me a graduation ceremony. There are few chances for me to see it. Emi has a custom to go for jogging. Not only him, but almost Malaysian men like to play sports: football, badminton, and so on. But I heard that they don't tend to play baseball in spite of they have large space in TATI University. I wondered why it is.

Fig. 4 shows Mad. He loves Japanese culture, so he knows a lot of thing about Japanese, sometimes better than Japanese. I surprised his knowledge. We talked each other about Japanese songs, movies, animations, and comics. Japanese should keep and

improve these cultures taking into account effect to other countries. He also invited me to dinner. I enjoyed talking with him.

Fig. 5 shows computer faculty's classmates. I went lunch with them after our computer class. They talked to me friendly. I could come in contact with them at ease. They sometimes showed me a textbook.

Fig. 6 shows Safuan (the left man) and Mr. Dabwan (the right man). Safuan belongs to the faculty of chemical engineering. So mainly, he treated chemical faculty's students, but I met him several times in some events. He was very friendly to us. He took us to a night market (Fig. 7).

Mr. Dabwan is in charge of us. He invited us to dinners several times. And he introduced me a lot of people.

It was helpful for me.



Fig. 7

I cannot introduce all of their pictures and their episodes. But I could get many friends in this journey.

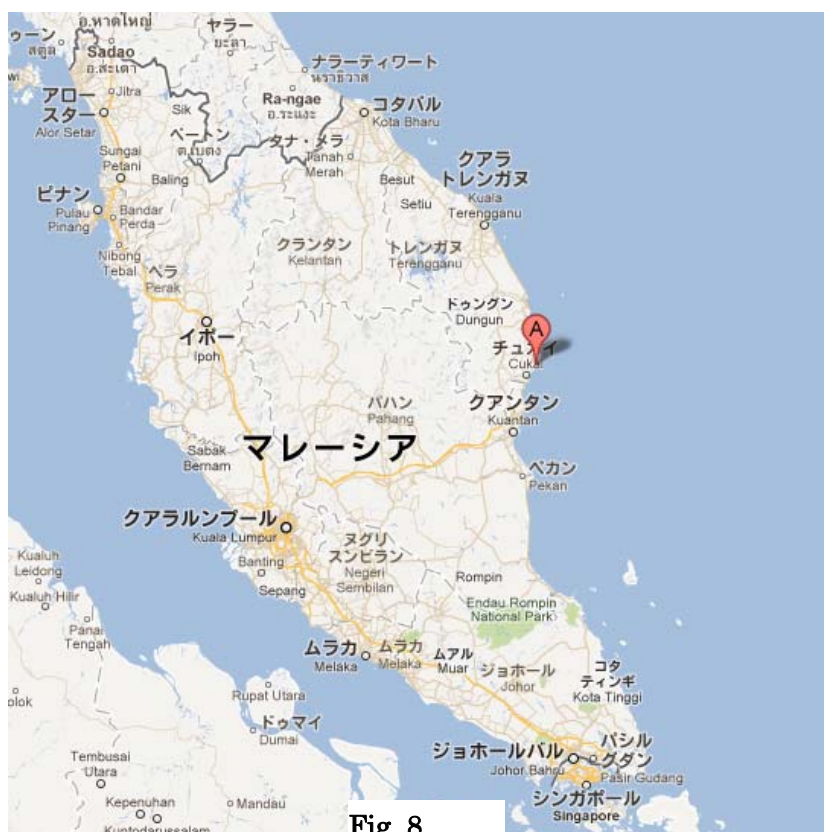


Fig. 8

This is a map of Malaysia. I visited TATI University (Fig. 8.A).

TATI University is located Kemaman, in the South of Kuala Terengganu. I stayed ITC hotel near the TATI University for a month. That hotel is close to the sea. I could look at the sea from my room. That view was very beautiful.

I often went to Mesra mall in Cukai to go shopping with friends by their cars.

Program

Day	8 ⁰⁰ 9 ⁰⁰ am	9 ⁰⁰ 10 ⁰⁰ am	10 ⁰⁰ 11 ⁰⁰ am	11 ⁰⁰ 12 ⁰⁰ am	12 ⁰⁰ 1 ⁰⁰ pm	2 ⁰⁰ 3 ⁰⁰ pm	3 ⁰⁰ 4 ⁰⁰ pm	4 ⁰⁰ 5 ⁰⁰ pm	5 ⁰⁰ 6 ⁰⁰ pm
Sunday (FGE 1212(FIT) Communication Skills (PPPA 2)		CORE SUBJECT			CORE SUBJECT			
Monday	CORE SUBJECT	FGE 1212(FE) Communication Skills (L4)		CORE SUBJECT		CORE SUBJECT			
Tuesday	CORE SUBJECT			CGE 2223 Basic Communication Skills (TH B)		CORE SUBJECT			
Wednesday	CORE SUBJECT			CGE 2223 Basic Communication Skills (L9)		CORE SUBJECT			
Thursday	FGE 1212(FIT) Communication Skills (HND 1B)		CORE SUBJECT			CORE SUBJECT			

Fig. 9

Fig. 9 is our basic schedule in TATI University. In Terengganu, they work from Sunday to Thursday, so Friday and Saturday are holidays. Core subjects are our own classes which suit for our faculties. In my case, I took five classes: Human Coputer Interaction, Marketing, Computer Programming, Final Year Project, Asas Seni Foto, and Local Area Network. But some programs were changed later.

First week, the School festival (Fig. 10) was held in TATI University. So, I took part in that festival. The festival looked like Japanese one. There were a lot of stalls. Some sold some foods drinks, souvenirs. Others displayed many products which were made by them. There was a novelty. That was a car. The car was made by TATI University excepting of its engine. I met this car again after two weeks.



Fig. 10

Second week, I went shopping. I went to Mesra mall. If you want to see or to know it, you can get the detail about Mesra mall with searching by web. One Japanese movie was screened in that mall, its name is Sadako3D. Every TATI University's students know about that ghost, Sadako. Not only that movie, but also Japanese culture is spreaded by TV, book stores, and so on.

Third week, we had a lot of plans; English carnival, Industrial visit, and boat festival in Kuala Terengganu. Kuala Terengganu is a capital of Terengganu State. I'd like to introduce each event.

English carnival (Fig. 11) was one of the school events. Students sing songs, play dramas, and so on in English as a part of their English lessons. Many people came to see their friends' presentation. I could understand how TATI University's students improve their English skills. There were many chances to use English. We visited the singing part. Fig. 10 is the picture of this festival.



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

I went to Kaneka Malaysia (Fig. 12) for my industrial visit. Kaneka is a Japanese company. So, there were some Japanese in that factory. Almost people speak in English well, and some people can speak Japanese. Kaneka produces polymer film which is widely used for electrical products. I couldn't understand what they did in their factory well because my major is information engineering. I could only

understand that they keep high security level. They don't permit outsiders to enter their factory. At the same time, there were security shutter at the gate not to enter when something danger happens in the factory.

After we finished industrial visit, we eat lunch with Kaneka Malaysia's employees. They prepared lunch for us. We talked each other with eating lunch.



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

In the weekend, Ms. Suhairah who was in charge of us made plan to take us to Kuala Terengganu. We saw the Cristal Mosque (Fig. 13). It was very beautiful. Fortunately, we could enter the mosque. That was the first time for us. Inside of the mosque is Fig. 14.

In the mosque, there were many prayers. Muslim prays in the fixed time, and same way.

What was impressive is what we had to leave our bags at the entrance of the department store. In such a place, there was a high security level.

On the next day, we went to the museum. We saw the history of Malaysia. There was the Petronas only exhibition area. Petronas is the biggest government managed oil company in Malaysia. Do you know Twin Petronas Tower in Kuala Lumpur? That is the head office of Petronas. Petronas is the sponsor of MercedesGP now.

At night, we went to see a boat festival. TATI University took part in that festival. Fig. 15 is a TATI University's boat. They decollated their boats and went down a river. It was not a simple decollation. Unfortunately, it was rainy, but those boats were very beautiful.



Fig. 15

After the festival had finished, we ate dinner, and went back to ITC hotel. It took about 3 hours from Kuala Terengganu to Kemaman by van. It was a long journey for us, but it was just a prologue. We were going to do more longer journey. Our back will scream. These are my long third week. There were so many events that we couldn't take an enough rest.

Forth week, we went to Formula held in Melaka. Melaka is historical place in Malaysia. Melaka is the place which Prime Minister declared independence in 1956.

First, we visited St. Paul's Church (Fig. 16). This place is famous by lying the corpse of Xavier in state for nine months because he went to this church at fixed intervals from 1545 to 1552, during his lifetime. This church was broken by fighting with pirates. And it was re-built when Malaysia was governed by Netherlands.



Fig. 16

Second, we walked around the Melaka town. There is a big shopping mall (Fig.17). It included many shops. There were a lot of stores around there. Some bazars opened from evening because it is hot during the day. We enjoyed buying souvenirs for friends and families throughout the day. Ms. Suhairah was fed up with us because she doesn't like shopping.



Fig. 17

Third, we attended to the racing GP that many university in Malaysia take part in that GP. Fig. 18 is TATI University's racing team. My friend, Azri is a member of that team. The center of the picture is the frame of a racing car. It was the first time for TATI University to take part in the racing GP. We cheered the team hard. In the result, they won first prize. Not only the racing game, but also the spec won first prize, and the design won second prize. We were very happy to see that result. That was the most memorable event for me. After that, we ate dinner and went



Fig. 18

back to ITC hotel. But it took seven hours by bus. It was the most painful time for us.

Class

Basically, I was treated same as TATI University's students. So, I took classes with the several kinds grades of students. I made reports to declare in classes as assignments, did programming with classmates, and researched in the library. . In those classes, the lecturers usually spoke in English to improve students' English skills. I heard that in Malaysia, the English education is given until entering a university in the almost same as Japanese one. From entering a university, they start using English.



In the class, they listen to the lecturers in English, and also speak in English. For this reason, first grade students aren't familiar with listening and speaking in English. So, with them, the lecturer and students sometimes used Malay. What the lecturers taught was not too difficult for me to understand, but I was very confused by listening to the conversation that was mixed of English and Malay.



Of course, in English classes and the senior level classes, I could understand the contents of those classes clearly, sometimes by using my dictionary. I consider that they aren't able to use English completely, so we could learn by interacting with one another. From this point of view, I think that it is good for me to go to Malaysia which doesn't use English a native language.

By the way, in English class, the lecturers spoke intelligible English. I was often warned my pronunciation by them. Japanese tend to use Katakana pronunciation. Especially, "difference between r and l" and "pronunciation of [a, æ, ə, ʌ, ɑ]." They are very difficult to pronounce naturally. I always pay attention when use them. By this reason, Japanese were isolated from other students and received "special" classes to improve our pronunciation. Before this isolation, I attended the usual English classes. The contents of those classes were various kinds. One is a type that the lecturer distributes one print and we answer questions. One is a participation type that the lecturer and students talk each other in English and the lecturer make us make short scripts. We play the scripts just as dramas. One is an interactive type that the lecturers show the presentation to students with asking some questions. We don't only listen to the lecturers but also answer their questions.

Food

Despite the spice, I really like Malaysian foods. So, I want to introduce some of them.



Food. 1



Food. 2



Food. 1

Food.1 is Nasi Goreng. Nasi means rice. Goreng means fly. We often eat it with a fried egg. I like to eat it with black pepper.

Food 2 is Nasi Ayam. Ayam means chicken. But it was sometimes too spicy for me.

Food 3 is Keropok Lekor. This is what fried fish paste. It was very good for snack.



Food. 4



Food. 5

Food. 4 is Roti Canai. I like it very much. Roti means bread. Including an egg one is called Roti Telur. Telur means an egg. You can eat it with curry source. It has a crispy and glutinous texture. It looks like a thin nan.

Food. 5 is Murtabak. It looks like okonomiyaki, in Japan. Which I ate in Malaysia included chicken. It also eat with curry source.

Of course, as you guess, there is SPICY curry rice. I really want to introduce more foods, but there is no space and I can't introduce them enough. If you get interested, you should go Malaysia and try to eat them all.

Demand

I think that it can't be helped, but if some trouble happens in the hotel, for example, suddenly the light or sockets not available, we just have to tell Ms. Suhairah or Azri. If we could complain directly to the hotel, it will be improved earlier. In addition, they took us to many places as I wrote, but what they saying were changed each time when I confirmed. I want to fix the schedule exactly and move on it. It is the same at the daily class. The class sometimes cancelled suddenly and I got free.

By the side of class, I couldn't finish the report of Practical class because I don't have enough time to do it. If I've heard earlier, for example after I arrive at TATI University, I would finish the report.

Actually, I wanted to work in a company, but I'm by and large satisfied in this passage. I could know how the students coeval with me study and how they think in Malaysia. I also experienced a lot of precious events.

Conclusion

Through this passage, I could get one important skill with courage and confidence. It's solving problems on my own. I traveled an unknown place alone by plane, and by car. Then, I asked the staffs in English, not in Japanese. At the TATI University, I sometimes order a meal in the restaurant alone in English or in Malay. I was taught some Malay by many people. So, I could become to understand some Malay. It is limited just simple words and numbers (from one to ten). There were occasions when I asked passersby to take me to the restaurant. They accepted the offer willingly. As the result, we made friends. Of course, the favors I already wrote down, too. They are all important results for me. I feel the importance of communication keenly. I understand that it helps to improve our humanity.

As an advertisement for next exchange students, you should take every picture which you meet. I took many pictures, but I'm regretting that I should more pictures. And you should write diary every day. It will be useful to remember your memories, and to write your report.

If I have enough time, I want to visit Malaysia again.

Acknowledgement

I was supported by a lot of TATI University's people. I am deeply grateful to Mr. Dabwan, Ms. Suhairah, Azri, and my friends who helped me. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Center for International Education and Research in Mie University for their support.