

JAL Scholarship Program 2017 (25 June-18 July)

Hello my name is Muhammad Imran bin Shaharuddin, a first year Japanese Language student. On June and July this year I have participated in JAL Scholarship Program 2017 which is a program conducted by the JAL Foundation. JAL is an abbreviation for Japan Airlines. This program invites all university students from all across Asia and Oceania to Japan every year and provide them with opportunities for workshops and cultural interchange also experiencing Japanese culture. Through these activities you were expected to enhance your understanding beyond national borders and to broaden your mind. This program also aims to develop leadership in young men and women for future purposes.



I participated in this program because I wanted to experience Japanese culture and meet new people and know about their culture too. Furthermore in this program you will be asked to make a group discussion and do a presentation about what you had gain from your discussion and research. During this program you will also be asked to use Japanese language only and you cannot use English or your native language. So in order to challenge myself and to improve my Japanese language speaking skills and vocabulary I decided to participate in this program.

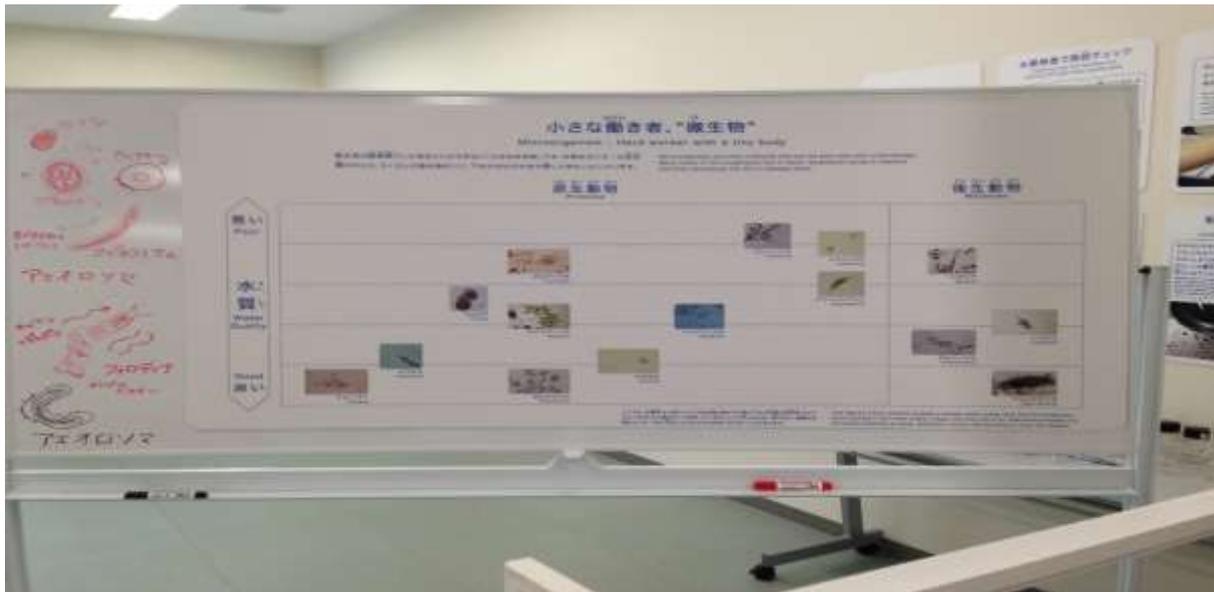


A lot of experience and memorable moment I have gained throughout the program and activities conducted during this 23 days program. First is during introducing your own country session. I have gained a lot owing to this session because before this very session the only country I really know about is only our neighbouring country which is Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and The Philippines. Now I know a lot about countries in Asia and Oceania. During this session the thing I like the most is the proudness in the eyes of every participant introducing their own country to other people and during my turn I am very happy to introduce Malaysia to them and feel proud because Malaysia is liked by all of them. And the people who have not been to Malaysia after hearing about it feels like visiting Malaysia one day. That make me really happy because I never thought that people would like Malaysia that much. Second one during the '*Kokusai Matsuri*' which means International Festival in English. During this festival each participants are ought to wear their traditional attire representing their country and culture. During this event is the when I got to see a lot of traditional dresses and clothes from all across Asia and Oceania. During this event also I got the chance to see a '*taiko*' performance. '*Taiko*' means drums in Japanese. This was the first time I saw a live *taiko* performance and although it is kind of loud but it is still enjoyable.



Every year this program will come out with one theme to discuss. This year, the theme was about the environment in Asia and the world. For me this is a great theme and so grateful this year's theme was about environment because I am very fond of the world's environment. During this 3 weeks program I have gained and learned a lot of new things about the environment in Japan and the world and how they overcome with pollution and the way they prevented pollution and also the way to conserve energy. For instance we visited the Chiba Prefecture train station and witness the technology they use to conserve energy and prevent pollution. My personal favourite in Chiba Prefecture train station is they planted trees on top of the roof so the plant can absorb the sunlight and will make the building less hot and at the same time lessen the use of air condition thus saving electrical energy and reduce the cost of electric bills.

Apart from that, in Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture we got the chance to visit an eco-house which is a house that uses a solar panel and all of the electrical appliances in the house is eco-friendly. In *Odaiba* my team and I got the chance to visit the *Nijinogesuidoukan* which is a water piping system museum. There I have learnt a lot about how water system in Japan works and how they treat water. Interesting thing about my trip to this museum is I got to know how to determine whether a water is polluted or not by observing microorganism living in the water. I did not know there is such a way to determine the quality of water and I am glad that our team chose to visit this museum. There's a lot of new things that I have gained throughout this 23 days program and every single one them are useful and valuable lesson.



In a nutshell, this program had given me a chance to see the world and explore them. I hope that next year a person that will representing Malaysia will be a Japanese language student from our faculty too. A message to my juniors: learning Japanese language is not easy and never take it easy. But if you work hard and keep your pace you will find it easy and you will get used to it. The key of mastering language is you have to use and apply it in your daily life if you don't use it you will not improve and will find it hard learning Japanese language. *Ganbatte kudasai!*



By,

Muhammad Imran bin Shaharuddin

JAL Scholarship Program 2017 Scholar