

My Experiences during Exchange Study in Taiwan

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Hello, I am Yuki Nakagawa. I'm a student of the graduate school of Osaka Prefecture University (OPU), Japan and also an exchange student in National University of Tainan (NUTN), Taiwan. My exchange study was started on June, 2011 and finished on March, 2012. During the time, I had lots of wonderful experiences there. I would like to report my experiences here based on largely two purposes that I have had for the exchange study.

First, the main purpose of my exchange study is to do a collaboration research. I belonged to the Ontology Application & Software Engineering Laboratory (OASE Lab., <http://oase.nutn.edu.tw/>) of Dept. of Computer Science and Information Engineering. I learned the techniques of Fuzzy and Ontology there, and engaged in the research of the game of Go. Then, Professor Chang-Shing Lee (<http://myweb.nutn.edu.tw/~leecs/>), Miss Mei-Hui Wang, Mr. Yu-Jen Chen, and Miss Meng-Jhen Wu kindly welcomed and helped me to learn and develop the Go system. It was very helpful for me. I have not learned about the Go system before, but they had discussions and lectures in English with me very often. Thanks for their kind helps, so I could learn well about the Go system, and had rich experiences in using English for discussing academic issues. Professor Yoichi Yamazaki, Kanto Gakuin University, Japan (http://home.kanto-gakuin.ac.jp/~yamazaki/index_jp.html), also helped me to learn the devices for the research. Thanks for their collaborations, so I could publish the research performance to *The 2011 Conference on Technologies and Applications of Artificial Intelligence (TAAI2011, <http://taai2011.cse.yzu.edu.tw/>)*, *2012 IEEE World Congress on Computational Intelligence (IEEE WCCI 2012, <http://www.ieee-wcci2012.org/>)*, and my master thesis of graduate school of OPU. I also attended a class about Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) and advanced software engineering. The main lectured language was Chinese, but the teaching materials were written in English. Even I couldn't understand Chinese, but I could understand and obtain knowledge by reading teaching materials carefully. Students took turns to make and present slides about the contents of the textbook. I also had some opportunities to do presentation in English. I could feel that my classmates welcomed me in the class from their listen to my presentation and discussion with me.

The second purpose is to learn Chinese language. I wanted to learn Chinese when I decided to come to Taiwan because it is one of the languages which has a great population to speak all over the world and it is important to learn the local language in the foreign country. Thanks to the language center of NUTN, so I could join a beginner course of Chinese language class. The class had lectures twice a week and additionally, I also could learn Chinese with my friends in the laboratory or the dormitory in daily life. Thanks for everyone to make my Chinese improve so much. For example, my families and friends were surprised to see me speaking Chinese with the local people when they visited Taiwan. I was glad that I could help them enjoy their travel by taking them to sightseeing, restaurants, night markets, and so on. The Chinese language class was also good chance of making foreign friends. We could see many foreign students and communicate with each other in the activities or in the events held by NUTN. Through such events, I made very nice friends in Asia and I could learn not only Taiwanese culture but also other countries' cultures.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks for everyone in Taiwan, especially the OASE Lab. members. I could feel the kind heart of many Taiwanese people during my stay. Besides, from the internet, I knew that Taiwan gave a great deal of help for the disaster happened in Japan in March 2011, and the monetary donation reached more than 20 billion JPY. I thanked very much when hearing such news. I was very happy to come to NUTN as an exchange student, and I knew Japan is very happy to have Taiwan in neighbor. The distance is only two-half-hour trip by plane. After my coming back to Japan, I will never forget my experiences and Taiwanese people. I hope the relationships of OPU and NUTN to continue being stronger, and the ones of Japan and Taiwan become much closer and stronger than before.

Thank you very much and see you again. 我愛台灣!

Yuki Nakagawa March 12, 2012



Meet with Japanese in FUZZ-IEEE 2011



Eat 臭豆腐 in the night market



Presentation in TAAI 2011 conference



Learn Eye Robot with Prof. Yamazaki



Activity in 神農街



Certification of the beginner's Chinese class



Dinner with OASE Lab. members



Farewell presents from OASE Lab. members