

Report on completion of the short-stay study abroad program

Name: Chen Li

School: Life Science

Dept.: Basic Biology

Destination country: Taiwan, Republic of China

Receiving institute: Institute of Plant and Microbial Biology, Academia Sinica

Period of study: 2014.8.11-2014.9.21, 2014.10.11-2014.11.20 (12 weeks)

1. Academia Sinica

Academia Sinica (AS, 中央研究院) is the Taiwan government-supported research academic unit, which is quite similar as Sokendai. There are similar or same institutes in both AS and Sokendai in the field of sciences and humanities, such as The Institute of Information Science and Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics. There are also many collaboration and communication between these two research organizations so that we could easily find many Sokendai alumnus are working in AS right now. The Institute of Plant and Microbial Biology (IPMB), which established in 1929 in mainland of China and moved to Taiwan after 1949, is located at the outskirts of the metropolitan Taipei. IPBM currently has 29 professors whose research focus on mechanisms of plant development and plant-microbial interactions.

2. Preparation before leaving Japan

End of every year, Sokendai will announce this program to all students. We will have around one month to prepare all the document and apply the program. In my case, I noticed that Prof. Shu-Hsing Wu published a method paper and this method is very critical for my research work so that I sent an email to her to inquiry about collaboration work. She kindly accepted me to stay in her lab to learn this method. At that time, Sokendai just announced this short-stay abroad program. Both my supervisor and I thought that was a nice opportunity to apply the program to cover my expense so that I applied this program just follow guidelines.

After I got the approval of this grant, I needed a visa to visit Taiwan. Staff in AS asked me to fill out some documents and help me to get a visa as well as booking a guest house. Before leaving, I had to booking hotels, air tickets, and check the bus from airport to the campus.

3. Study and/or research during the stay

I didn't register any course in IPMB.

My main purpose to stay in IPMB is to learn a method and apply it to my research materials. At the beginning, I fully learned the method under the help of members in Prof. Wu's lab. Then I used my own materials to perform the experiments. Finally, I could finish most of the

experiment for the further analysis.

In addition of the collaboration work, I often attended seminars and discussed with researchers about my project and could get many useful advices from them.

4. Activities other than study or research during the stay

I was quite busy during my stay in IPMB but I still could find some time to go to the downtown to enjoy delicious foods in the weekend. People in Prof. Wu's lab are very nice and we went hiking around Taipei city sometimes. Taiwan is a small country that you could go to south form north within several hours.

5. Expenses

Living expenses are very cheap comparing to Japan, especially for the food and fruit.

6. Language at Academia Sinica

The languages used in IPMB are English and Chinese. IPMB is an international institute with many PIs and students from foreign country, you could communicate with others in English.

Outside of the campus, if you went shopping, most people cannot speak English. However, as a Chinese, I didn't find anything difficult.

7. Advice for future applicants

This short stay abroad program give us a good chance to visit University or research institute in foreign country. We could meet many researchers in our field and make friends with them. This will not only accelerate your own research work, but also broaden your networks with professors and researchers. I strongly recommend Sokendai students to apply this program to have good experience of working and communicating with researchers in foreign country.



Campus in AS



IPMB



Prof. Shu-Hsing Wu's lab