

Reflection Journal

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The cultural exchange course provides me a memorable and unique experience to understand the cultural diversification of Ling Nan customs and practices to my own live experience, and gain some new insights on Chinese literature and art industry, as well as the responsibility to heritage and praise our own culture. The distinctive and valuable historical ruins, handiworks, and language differentiate my perception of “Ling Nan” and “Hong Kong” or any other place that speak Cantonese. And what amaze me the most was our ancestor’s intelligence to think out of box and brainstorm brilliant ideas to make their life modern and advanced. More importantly, it let me aware that modern youth’s values are constraints by standardization or westernization, which let us ignore our own glory cultures. Take me as an example, I could easily state plenty US and European specialty, brands, cultural traits; and in most of time, I rather chose so-called “fashion” trend original from western countries. And a twisted monetary value which makes me rather paid more for western mainstream brands to satisfy my perception of affiliation within my social hub. But right now, I am passionate to introduce the exquisite detail on the handmade fan, Guang embroidery and porcelain to my foreign and Taiwanese friends. Surprisingly, all of them embrace and shown great interest on Chinese antiquities and traditional opera.

The scale and geographic size of Chinese campus had impressed me a lot. Especially in our short tour to Panyu campus, which let me understand why there are so many bikes in mainland campus. It’s alike a mini mountaineering lane which I believe student there do not need an extra gym to work out. Course experience on campus with Jinan’s professors was quite different from my majority education life, which was taught in Chinese and the presentations were acceptable to break the words limits restricted by our professors. It also encourage my passion to learn Chinese, and really do practice my listening, reading Chinese skills. The only disappointment was that we do not have a chance to experience or visit what a real Jinan university student ‘s course and dorm environment will be. Because by chatting with the volunteers and invite them to visit our rooms, they describe a relatively different setting in their daily classroom and living dorm.

Also, this study tour also breaks my rootedness mindset to pursue on high technology, mechanization in production, innovation and high quality. It is still an undeniable fact that machines or artificial intelligence will gradually replaced manpower, but this trip provides me a new insight towards the underestimated market opportunity on traditional handmade craftwork. As the rise of Chinese economy and global exposure, promotion on our own culture will absolutely increase youngster’s belongings and proud to our own countries. The embroidery show had raised greatest interest of mine, even though I couldn’t understand even one words and the subtitles fades away like a bazooka. But it’s like a symphony, that trigger my sympathy to understand the whole storyline. And this provides me an extra live show choice besides western opera, western dance or philharmonic.

However, the food containers used in the school canteen was the only things that shocked me and failed to accommodate till now. It’s an iron pan where you fill all dished and rice, or one

roundness iron plates for all your breakfast food items without separation. Without any contempt on iron products or pan, but this is a huge cultural barrier for me to overcome. Beside this, the food price provides me great cost performance satisfaction which is almost one tenth to my expectation. The take-out services in China of wide range of cuisines in discounted price with free delivery had become my favorite services which I am going to miss the most.

Overall, I really do love and enjoyed this study tour. The amazing new friends, our responsible leading professors, volunteers and Jinan's professors of different backgrounds were my greatest gain. And all of them utilize my brilliant learning and live experience in these five days. Moreover, a great thanks to Kate for all the notifications and information provided. I really do appreciate that you even called to confirm my jacket size. Thanks to everyone. :)