

Exchange Learning Report



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Host Institution: Nanyang Technological University

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“An enlightening trip.” This phrase is more than enough to summarize my gains from my exchange program while studying in Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Through this trip, I have gone through deep self-reflections on different aspects, leading me to develop myself holistically.

My exchange schedule

After I received the teaching schedule, I planned my schedule for my exchange study in Singapore. I had class from Monday to Friday at the beginning and therefore I planned to stay in NTU on weekdays to study and sometimes explore different places near NTU. Of course, there were not many things to do at the start of the semester, so I focused on meeting some new friends at that time. That was also one of the reasons which I come to exchange -- as I would like to practise my English through talking to some English-speaking people. Since I just went alone and missed the orientation before the start of the semester, I did not know any person at the beginning. Luckily, I read my time schedule wrongly one day and hence met another exchange student at the tutorial room. We became friends and he even invited me to join their group. Therefore, I met my first group of friends and we shared a lot regarding our feeling to Singapore and our own countries. Having this chance, not only could I open up to speak English more confidently, but also knew more about other countries' culture.

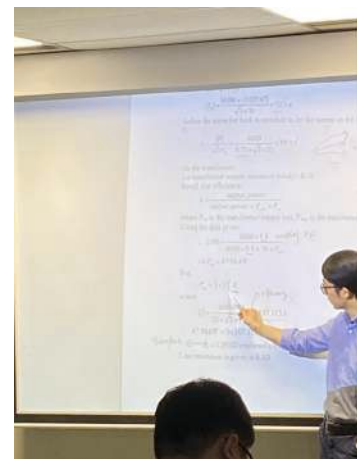


As we all know, due to the situation of the COVID-19, face-to-face teaching was cancelled and was replaced by the online classes after week five. However, this did not change my study schedule and I could also save the time of travelling on bus. Also, I could feasibly plan my time for longer events, so I could sometimes go for a long trip with my friends from Friday to Sunday. Therefore, except that there were some places closed, the COVID-19 situation did not affect much regarding my schedule in Singapore. I could continue my study at my hall. It was somehow more fortunate that my roommate had taken some courses that were same as mine, so we could study together.



Academic aspect and Career development

One of my expectations before I went to Singapore was to see the reason which Singaporean developed their country in such a rapid way. Having this question, I tried to observe how Singapore students studied. To be honest, although I agree that students in Hong Kong are very smart, we can see that most students in Hong Kong do not spend much effort in lessons. This can be observed when lecturers finish their lesson and ask if there are any questions. However, it is observed that students are more interested in their lunches rather than the lecture. Most students just pack their belongings and leave the lecture hall immediately



after the lecture is ended. More importantly, you would surely feel shameful to ask questions as you might be blamed of wasting others' time. However, the learning culture is different in Singapore, as students are more willing to ask and share their opinions. We can see that the lecture is not just taking everything from the teacher, but students and the lecturer are exchanging their ideas. The lecturers can receive timely feedback from the students and therefore they can revise their teaching to ensure most students understand the concept. This will also sometimes initiate some innovative ideas from both the lecturer and students. More innovations can be made, and more misunderstandings can be reduced. Hong Kong education system is always being said to be 'Spoon-feeding Education' and it is very easy for us to blame the school and government regarding this issue. However, as a university student, if we just make this an excuse for not paying attention in class, it will only make the problem more serious and result in a vicious cycle.

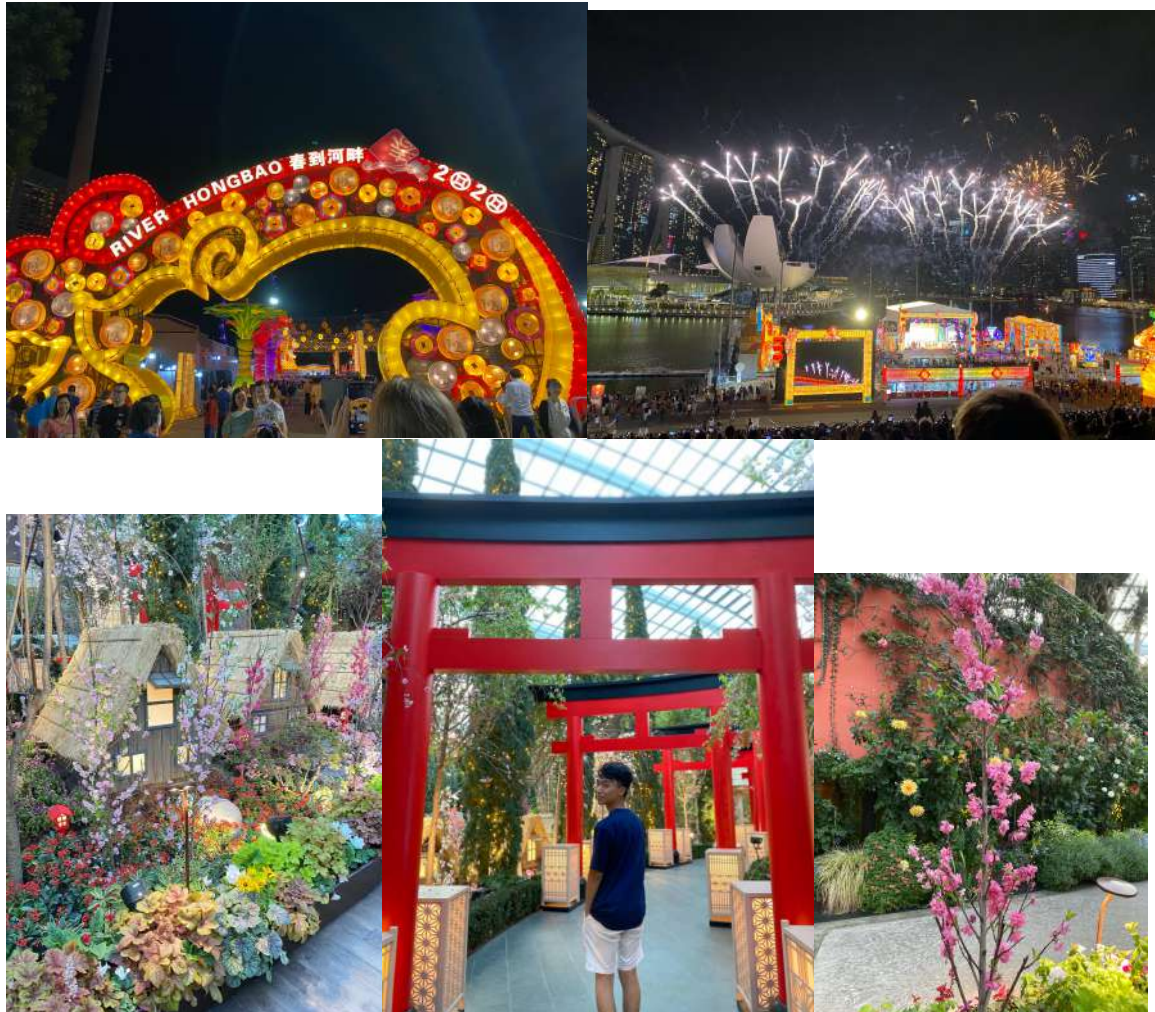
Apart from meeting some new friends, another thing I planned to do was to take some renewable energy courses. As an Electrical Engineering student, I planned to be a power system engineer in the future. Therefore, having a deeper understanding on the new technology is important to my career. Singapore is a similar place to Hong Kong so I would like to understand the application of renewable energy in Singapore which can be a reference for Hong Kong. Therefore, taking these courses enabled me to have a deeper understanding on renewable energy. I have also tried to use different simulation tools to simulate the use of renewable energy and design a commercial solar panel system. I was therefore given a chance to know more about the details when using renewable energy in a place to strengthen the foundation for my future career.

Culture aspect

During these four months of exchange study, I had explored different places in Singapore which enabled me to know more about the Singaporean culture. Singapore is a multi-cultural country. There are multinational people in Singapore. In order to group these people together, the Singapore government developed places like little India and China town. Within these places, there is a unique feature of Singapore, the hawker center. We can enjoy different food there. There was some remarkable food I have tried like Teh Tarik, Meat and Bone Tea and Hainan Chicken Rice. They were all made by people from their own countries. We could therefore try the original tastes.



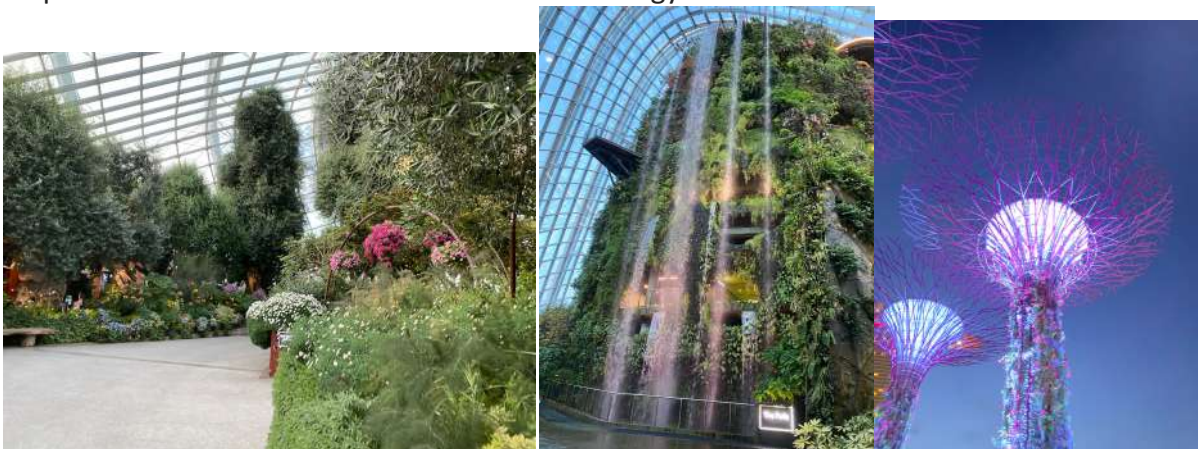
There are also different events organized according to the seasons. The Singapore government tried very hard to reproduce these events so people could enjoy different cultures in Singapore. I have visited the Chinese New Year Festival celebration and seen the fire work in January. I have also seen the Cherry blossoms in April.



Apart from the above events, I also visited some local tourist spots. The first place highlighted is Sentosa. It is located at the southern part of Singapore and it is one of the main tourist spots in Singapore. I tried different games there like the Mega climb, Mega zip and Mega jump etc. To be honest, I am a person who fears height. Therefore, before that day, I could never imagine I would try these activities. However, I would like to give it a try to step out from my comfort zone. When I was playing the Mega climb, I had to pass all the obstacles at a 15m height. It was actually a very huge challenge for me, and I did want to give up several times during the journey. However, there were still people behind me and I had to continue so I would not have hindered them. I cheered up myself several times and I finally did it. I thought it was a very great success as that was the first time I successfully faced my weakness. After the Mega Climb, I tried the Mega Zip, the longest zip line in Asia, and watched the view of the beach. That was one of the most unforgettable days for me.



Another place I visited was the Garden By the Bay. The Garden presents wide-ranging floral displays. There were different artificial natural elements to watch. I also visited the Flower Dome and Cloud Forest there. The plants and flowers were very beautiful, and the waterfall was very spectacular. More importantly, there were some tree-like buildings named 'Supertrees' which were full of senses of technology and the future.



From the above places that I visited, we could see that the Singapore government was trying to develop a multi-national country which people from all around the world can live there with a sense of belonging. These places have created an attractive environment for people all around the world.

To conclude, this trip to Singapore has developed myself holistically in terms of cultural, career and academic aspects. I explored different places and communicated with different people. I have had a deeper understanding for my future career and a different view on studying.