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As many people know and gain the stereotype of, vocational education is often considered as the last option. Me myself won't deny the fact since I ended up in my current study because I receive many rejections for my college application. Regardless, I do believe that all things that comes, come for a good reason. The thing I love about the vocational study is we get the chance to learn applied sciences, meaning that we learn about skills that in demand for the industry. The ministry of education finally saw this unique form of vocational education, giving it the first chance for vocational students to experience the overseas industry through IISMA edisi Vokasi 2022. That's why IISMAVO has three schemes that allow the students to choose between the study and the industrial experience proportions. When I saw this opportunity, I began to prepare myself and search for a possible host university while looking for their industrial partnerships company. I wanted to pursue my professional career to have as many opportunities as possible. Hence, expanding my relations through international activities sounds perfect.



Taiwan is not recognized as a sovereign country by the Indonesian government. The reason behind is the One China Policy that acknowledge People's Republic of China (Mainland China) is the rightful government of Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau. Nevertheless, the relationship between Indonesia – Taiwan stands unique. Visa for Taiwan is obtained through the administration process in Taipei Economic and Trade Office. The process is confusing at first, but with assistance from the IISMA Committee many obstacles for visa administration are waived.

The fear of an exploding war between Taiwan and China is also arising. I'm not bluffing when I say war because the tension between them is increasing at the time. Many military vehicles both from Taiwan and China are operating and perform war drills. However, I start to calm myself as my mother who is working in Taiwan said that the situation is not to be worry about, even the IISMA committee said so.

Upon arriving in Taiwan, I immediately notice the technology gap compared to Indonesia. The civil infrastructure is well developed especially the transportation infrastructure, even in the rural areas. However, the development of the infrastructure is still taking place in recent days. This leads to the rising demand in civil engineering related fields. In fact, I met a handful of people who come to Taiwan to pursue their professional career in civil engineering such a structure engineer, BIM engineer, and surveyor. Most of them also get their extension degree and/or master's degree from Taiwanese university as lot of universities in Taiwan offer scholarship in many forms.

Industrial experiences I got from the scheme provided by my host university are several industrial visits to some construction sites, a precast concrete factory, and a short internship in an engineering consultant as a BIM engineer. I gain many knowledge and connection to the Taiwan's civil infrastructure industry.

About Taiwanese culture, since Taiwan was occupied by Japan, there are many remains such as building, infrastructure, and social mindset. In Taiwan, I don't have to be concerned about my safety since Taiwanese people really obey the law and making it as one of the safest countries in the world. I am also fascinated by how good public infrastructure participated in bringing people together since all cities of Taiwan are walkable.

After experiencing Taiwan, I know how Indonesia could be a better place to live. The advanced technologies used in infrastructure development can much be adopted in Indonesia. Much knowledge regarding civil infrastructure and society fills my jar. I found a more specific disciplines in civil engineering and begin to pave my career into that topic by learning and collaborating with both my colleague and connection in Indonesia and Taiwan. Since exploring Taiwan especially Taipei I'm interested in development of urban mass transit especially when it comes to underground tunnelling and specifically tunnels that need to cross a body of water. I discuss this topic with my international colleague in Taiwan and my professor in my department in order to obtain information for my thesis. Collaborating often make a satisfactory output, hence by combining my knowledge and resources I gained from industrial experiences, I want to pursue a graduate degree and begin my international career in Taiwan. Seeing that there are many opportunities lies ahead, I'm looking forward to share my future dispatch to others.

