

# Sopanha Khan

Electrical Engineering  
KNB Scholarship Awardee  
*Kamboja*



First of all i want to thank you for giving me this great opportunity to share my story. It started when i was in 2nd year of engineering degree at my previous university. That was the time i realized why make it simple when i could be a special one. I saw almost of my seniors who graduated at that time started to find jobs and didn't even have an idea to pursue their higher degree anymore. I told myself that i'm still young and as a new generation, **i need to step outside the box to see what is it looked like in the outside world.** After that, i was so motivated to keep doing on what i'm dreaming for. Until one day, when i was in fifth academic year i realized one again on the engineering degree that i suppose to get at the end of my final year. Every year, there are a lot of engineers who graduated with the same degree as me. So, it would be a tough challenge to find jobs. So, **my motivation gained in to another level.**

Well, i first arrived in Indonesia in the late January 2022. It was during the covid 19 pandemic. We, all cambodian students, did our quarantine at a hotel in Jarkarta. That was not a really good time since we only see the city view through the hotel window. After 1 week, we left Jakarta and was heading to Surabaya by plane. We landed at around 3 pm and there are GK's volunteers who were waiting for us at the airport. That made us comfortable since it was our first time here. On the car, i sat next to window so i could see all the view along the road. **My first impression was "Wow, It's so Green".** I've never seen alot of trees like this in the city. Until we reached ITS campus, **my impression remained the same, "It's so Green".**

Since the beginning of the semester, i **haven't had any notable problems** during the study here. But there is a bit weird for me for changing the study environment from using my mother tongue to different language. In here, even my study program is international (using english), but the lecturers sometime give their lectures and explanation in bahasa indonesia. They occasionally didn't realize that there are international students in the class. But, everything is okay now.

Until now, there are a lot of things, and activities that i've done inside and outside ITS. Meeting new people, making friends from different cultures, been on trips together etc,. One among these experiences i consider as my favorite is a trip to Malang. On September, 16th 2022, we had a trip to Sitarjo village. It is call "**ITS International Student Cultural Camp**". That was a most memorable trip i've ever had. We spent time with local people, slept in their house, eat their homemade food. Moreover, we visited local high school and make interact with all the students there. All those activities really **remind me of my childhood life** since i also was born and raised in the rural area. **Thank you ITS Global Kampong for making that trip happened. I really appreciate it.**

Actually, i don't have any advice on studying activities to the future international students. But i just want to remind them, **Indonesia is a beautiful country**. Don't come here and just sit in front of your laptop. Come here, pack your stuffs, open the door and travel. There are a lot of thing to do and places to visit.

In my opinion, **ITS is mostly for those who have majority in engineering**. Moreover, it is for who ever interest in Indonesia and especially for people from other region who want to experience a new life style and culture.

More than 1 year living here, many things happened as i mentioned before. So, this time i am going to **point out my worth experience instead**. That happened since the first day i arrived Indonesia. It was about food. The food taste was a bit different from my home country but a big deal was spiciness. It was already spicy even i didn't add any extra chilli. So, this situation force me to make my own food. But It is a good way for me to start cooking by my own.

**Sopanha Khan**  
Electrical Engineering  
KNB Scholarship Awardee  
Kamboja