

2019年度 神戸大学男女共同参画推進室 ユネスコチェアサマープログラム 感想・報告書
2019 Kobe University Gender Equality Office UNESCO Chair Summer Program Reflection Report

学部・研究科 Faculty/School	学科・コース Course
Law	Politics and Law

(1) 見たこと/What you saw; (2) 考えたこと/What you thought; (3) 感じたこと/What you felt; (4) ジェンダーに敏感な災害対策はどのようなものだと思いますか/What you thought about gender sensitive DRR support

Between 18th and 31st of August I attended the 2nd session of Kobe University UNESCO Chair's program in Yogyakarta in Indonesia. The project was about gender and vulnerability in disaster risk reduction. The program required me to carry out field research by interviewing disaster team members, officials, people in vulnerable communities and people who have suffered from disasters. Most of the days I had to work in groups with other students from Indonesia, Taiwan and Japan, and had to report our findings and try to provide recommendations for developing new technologies or improving disaster management and recovery processes.

By sharing our experiences of disaster I learnt that, across cultures, people may react in different ways. Based on the location we came from we might have experienced one, several disasters or none. I personally have never experienced a disaster and, hence, by listening to the others' stories, I managed to understand how people feel when such an event takes place. Being raised in different cultures makes a difference too. For instance, people in Indonesia who are Muslims and pray 5 times a day will need a prayer room in the shelters they go to in the aftermath of disaster. The people from Taiwan and Japan would not need such a place. I lived most of my life in countries in which the main religion was either Orthodoxism or Catholicism and people there would not ask for a prayer room either. So I learnt that I need to consider something like religion when discussing about organizing the shelters. Another main difference was the use of military in the case of disaster which was unheard of in Taiwan, Japan or the UK. People in the countries I lived in would feel very anxious and afraid if the military came to take charge of the disaster management process. Additionally, when it came to the people who refuse to leave their homes even though they know a disaster is approaching, the students in Indonesia said that the military can force these people. Some students from Taiwan and I were shocked when we heard this. We could never accept the use of force in many possible situations amongst which we can find the case of a disaster.

I enjoyed working in teams with students from other countries. By working together and attending the field trips and the workshops, we managed to develop transferable skills such as critical thinking, practical skills, ability to collaborate internationally, communication skills, and leadership skills. After graduating and even when looking for jobs as students, we can use this project to prove many of the skills those jobs will require. Attending exchange programs and working and studying abroad started to show up in many job descriptions.

Apart from the practical skills we learnt, the program was beneficial in another aspect too. The project brought together students from different cultures and became the platform on which these students became friends. Except for the lectures, workshops and the assignments we had together, we decided to organize our own trips to explore the city and the Indonesian culture and to know each other better. We also talked about our own cultures and shared different aspects of them. For instance we went to Borobudur and Prambanan and hear the stories of these magnificent temples. We attended a Ramayana performance. Even though Ramayana is one of the two major Sanskrit epics of Ancient India along with Mahabharata it was performed thorough a ballet which was specific to the Indonesian culture. I learnt about the Sanskrit epics of ancient India a long time ago through the writings of Mircea Eliade who opened the Oriental and

Indian studies to Europeans and Americans and I always wanted to see such a performance live. I also discussed about the Mid-Autumn Festival how the Chinese and Taiwanese celebrate it in different ways. The Taiwanese students told us about one of their traditions during this festival. They burn fake money for spirits and gods so that when they go to the otherworld, they will have money to buy something they want there.