

Host University: VIT

Duration: December 7, 2023, to December 17, 2023

1. What I learned in terms of training and language at the host university

University

- Vellore, shaped like a city center with multiple campuses, including VIT, is three hours away from other cities by car. Traveling to multiple cities, I learned about the vastness and inconvenience of India.
- I primarily delved into the equipment for separation and purification in chemical engineering. There was a serious water issue, to address the problem, research employing various separation and purification techniques was going on.
- In the lab at VIT, students join the lab from their second year, engaging in research activities early on. As a result, there are far more students coming in and out of the lab compared to Japanese universities. Additionally, I felt that the connections within the research labs were stronger than those in Japanese universities.
- I visited a leather factory to observe a water recycling system, and attended a joint conference where I observed research on water recycling and waste utilization. Thanks to the preceding visit, I could understand better.
- Studying in India was overall enjoyable. Particularly, this year featured an environmental conference called TECHNOSCAPE. Unlike Japanese paper presentation events, the day before the conference involved everyone having dinner together, with recreational activities and dances resembling a cultural festival.

Language

- The English proficiency of students in the lab was high, leading to instances where expressions were unfamiliar. However, in the latter part of the training, I was able to understand, contributing to learning in expression methods and conversation.

2. What I learned about the lifestyle, culture, and society of the host country

- I was surprised by the widespread use of electronic payments. Indians used something similar to "PayPay" not only in the university cafeteria but also at fruit stalls in town, making electronic payments more common than in Japan.
- In terms of food, spicy dishes were predominant. The prevalence of spicy food in India can be attributed to several factors, including the tropical and subtropical climate. Spices and spicy flavors serve to prevent food spoilage in hot and humid conditions, stimulating appetite even in intense heat.

3. For students who are thinking of participating in next year's program

- Reflecting on my experience in the SXIP program in India, there is something I regret. That is, I did not actively initiate conversations with the local people. If you are considering participating in the program, don't hesitate to engage in conversations. Make the most of this opportunity without fear.
- For students considering participation in the program next year, I strongly recommend going if you are even slightly hesitant. Engaging with people who use English regularly can be a motivation for English language learning, and experiencing different cultures is genuinely enjoyable.
- Since opportunities to go to India are not common, I strongly encourage participation. There were no unpleasant odors in the city areas of Vellore and Chennai, and safety was comparable to other countries.



