

Voices from Participants 2024

Visit to Anna University

Visiting period: September 24-October 1, 2024

(This text was translated using Google Translate.)

What I learned in terms of training and language at the host university
In terms of training, I was able to grasp the current state of Indian industry. By visiting factories and research facilities, I was able to experience not only the differences and similarities with Japan, but also innovative ideas and advanced current situations. In terms of language, I was able to get used to the pronunciation of Indian English to a certain extent.
What I learned about the lifestyle, culture and society of the host country
Socially, there are some challenges due to the large differences between Japan and India, but I felt it was also a good stimulus. Especially eating with your hands and other social manners. In terms of culture, what I felt most strongly through visiting ruins and museums was the commonalities and similarities with Japanese culture. I was able to feel the commonalities in many areas, such as language, religious events, and customs.

What I learned in terms of training and language at the host university
I learned that, as part of their education, students in India study both the language of their local region (such as Tamil or Hindi) and English, and that English is commonly used as a means of communication between people from different regions. I also learned that Tamil has an SOV sentence structure, which is the same as Japanese – a structure that is rare among the world's languages, as most follow the SVO pattern like English – and that Tamil may be the origin of the Japanese language.
What I learned about the lifestyle, culture and society of the host country
The hospitality shown by the Indian people was wonderful. Many professors requested to meet us and talk to us, which gave us many valuable opportunities to communicate. In addition, we were transported almost every time we moved around the university campus in an EB (electric vehicle), and snacks were prepared for each lecture, so the hospitality was abundant. One thing that I felt was different from Japan was the number of beggars. Perhaps because the gap between rich and poor is much greater than in Japan, there were many of them near tourist spots. Speaking of the gap in poverty, the difference in the level of development between urban and suburban areas was also much greater than in Japan. I was also impressed by the fact that many students stayed at the university until around 9:00 p.m. even though there were no events, they were devoted to their studies. Unlike Japanese university students, Indians do not have much of a tradition of part-time work, so they can concentrate on their studies.

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

- At the host university, I was able to take lectures in a variety of fields, including marine, mechanical, and information, and visit laboratories, broadening my perspective that will be useful for my own research in the future.
- I also visited research laboratories and factories outside the university, and was impressed to find that the technology was more advanced than I had imagined.
- Some Indian people speak with pronunciation similar to the American English I am used to, while others have pronunciation that is difficult to understand the first time, which was confusing at first. But having to communicate in such an environment strengthened my listening skills.

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

The biggest difference I felt with Japan was the difference in religious views. I was impressed by how Hindu-oriented meals were the standard at every restaurant, and how every Indian had a good understanding of the history and precepts of the religion they believe in. I got a real sense that religion is deeply rooted in Indian life.