

Participating in the Y-SXIP Program Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) Dispatched U.S

This was my first trip to India. Before my trip, I was very worried about whether I would be able to adapt to a lifestyle and food culture which are different from Japan.

On the first day of the activity, when I took a taxi from Chennai Airport to VIT, I saw the streets of India for the first time, and I was shocked by the traffic situation that was different from Japan, and I was even more anxious about life in India, as there were stray dogs and cows everywhere in the city than I had expected. However, in the end, thanks to the very kind support of VIT students and teachers, I was able to spend enjoyable and fruitful days.

One of my most memorable activities was the CHEM-A-THON event. This was the chemical engineering version of a hackathon often held in the IT field, where teams (5 people per team) came up with a solution to a given problem within 36 hours and competed to see which team could propose a better solution. I joined the "heat exchange" category and teamed up with four third-year undergraduate students at VIT. Until now, I have experienced many situations where I have daily conversations with people from overseas, but I have not had many conversations about chemical engineering like this one, so it was a very valuable experience. I was very happy to work with the members of the team and came in second place. On the other hand, through this program, I became keenly aware of the lack of basic knowledge related to chemical engineering and the lack of English vocabulary related to chemical engineering, and I felt that I need to study in the future.

In participating in this program, I tried to communicate actively and was able to have conversations with many students and teachers. Most of the students at VIT said they met Japan people for the first time and raised a lot of questions about Japan culture. I was very happy that they showed interest in Japan culture. Although it was a short period of activity, I was able to make a lot of friends, and in the second half of the activity, I missed parting ways and said, "I will miss you very much, because I will definitely come back to VIT again." When I told them, they said, "You are always welcome, so be sure to come back." I decided not to end my encounter in this program only this time, but to keep in touch with them and do my best in research so that I can go to VIT again.

