

Activities and impressions at Anna University

Y.S

We held various activities at Anna University in Chennai for 9 days from March 1st to March 9th. At Anna University, I participated in classes and received lectures mainly on Raman spectroscopy using PowerPoint in a huge classroom like an auditorium. At the end of the lecture, when the teacher asked, "Do you have any questions?", about 10 students started asking questions on the spot, and I felt that they were highly motivated to learn.



In addition, we exchanged opinions with students at the chemistry laboratory, I talked about the research we are doing at Yokohama National University and listened to their explanations about the research content while looking at the posters on the walls of the laboratory. All the students were very enthusiastic about explaining their own research and learning about the research of others, and it was a good opportunity for me to drive myself on my own research.

We also visited the Anna Centenary Library next to Anna University. It is a very large library, with 8 floors, and I felt that it was very useful for learning and research because I could read so many books. It was quiet and well cleaned, unlike usual libraries in India, and surrounding landscape helped students to concentrate on their study.

Sightseeing in Chennai took us to temples, cathedrals, shopping malls, beaches, museums and local shopping areas. I traveled by auto-rickshaw or bus. Although the bus was inexpensive, it was difficult to understand the operating time and route, and I felt that it was difficult to use it without being guided by a local Indian. Auto-rickshaw is as frequent or more frequent as taxis in Japan, but

it is necessary to negotiate the price when riding, and Japanese tourists are often charged more than twice as much as locals.



The most impressive was T. Nagar, a local shopping area. There were many shops selling watches, bags, fruits and sweets on the street, as well as clothing including fabrics and saris. It was very crowded, and I could fully feel the atmosphere of India.

However, T. Nagar was not only a good thing, namely, there were always women with babies in their arms and children in the lower grades of elementary school selling picture books and toys in front of large stores. They were targeting rich people that came out of large stores. Though there were some parts that I couldn't understand, they seemingly tried to sell by appealing they were in need of money because they had to bring up a small child. In addition, there were many elderly people, too old to work, stretching out their arms to tourists.

In this way, I could recognize the gap between the rich and the poor in India at T. Nagar, and noticed the fact that there were rich students attending the well-guarded girls' junior high school next to T. Nagar on one hand and poor children trying to earn daily money by coercive on the other hand, both co-existing at the same time.

In addition, at the museum, we were able to see many statues and animal specimens with Indian god motifs, and we were able to learn about the local

creatures and history because of explanations from local students. There are many statues with a specific pose or composition for a single deity, and I was able to feel the purpose of creating the statue to pass on a part of the myth.

Throughout my study abroad, I had the experience of being in an environment where English was mainly used, getting used to foreign cultures and food, and it was a very good experience to learn about the kind and long-minded nature and harsh current situation of Indians.

**Report on activities at Anna University Yokohama National University,
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I visited Anna University in India from March 1 to March 9, 2023, on the Y-SXIP program.

In the first half, we visited Prof. Sivakumar's laboratory, where research on the production of films and fuels from food waste was going on. During this period, I took classes with students in the laboratory, visited several chemical engineering laboratories, and introduced my research.

In the second half, we visited Prof. Rajendran's laboratory, where he was conducting research on artificial bones. During this period, I was allowed to tour the laboratory and introduce my research. In addition, lab students took me to the library of Anna University, the museums of Chennai and the beach.

On the last day, Prof. Rajendran took us to a professor's restaurant at Anna University and we had Indian beer and food.

On my days off, I visited temples and churches in Chennai, and shopped at T. Naga shopping street and Phoenix Mall, which I learned from students at Anna University.

Through this dispatch program, I was able to learn more about Indian culture that I had not known much about before. In addition, I was able to deepen our understanding of each other's research through interaction with Anna University

students and local people. It was a very meaningful experience to practice communication in English in English speaking environment.