## Report on the "Ise and Japan" Study Program

I am so grateful for Kogakkan University for granting me this valuable opportunity to participate in the Ise and Japan Study Program. I have always wanted to study abroad in Japan, so when I was informed about this study program, I decided to apply it without hesitation. Japan history and mythology is my most interested field, hence, my previous research topic was about the political significance of the Kojiki in the past. The Kojiki is closely tied with Shinto, and Ise has been regarded as a significant location of Shinto, which makes me looking forward to the study program even more. I have been travelling to Japan for a couple of times, yet, I have never been to Ise. I hoped, through this chance, I could learn more about Shinto and the Kojiki, at the same time enjoying my time in this new unvisited place in Japan.

In three weeks' time, we had lessons on the history of Ise and Ise Jingu, language of Ise, and more. It was far beyond my expectations that the program included so many aspects rather than limiting to the religious perspective, I could have a more thorough understanding of Ise. The program also allowed me to experience what usual tourists could not, such as dressing in the uniform of a Shinto priest, visiting the timber factory that prepares the timber for Ise Jingu, et cetera. I like the arrangement by Kogakkan University very much, with a balance in lectures and field trips, making the lessons more lively and anticipating. We even had a study tour to Kyoto and Nara, allowing me to revisit my favourite places in Japan, as well as knowing more about the relationship among the three places.

What I enjoyed most was not the lessons nor the field trips, instead, it was the opportunity the meet so many great people. I am thankful for the student staff that assisted us throughout the trip. I am glad that I could have the opportunity to communicate with people who devoted so much time to Shinto,

Ise Jingu and Ise. Most importantly, I am grateful that there were many supportive teachers from Kogakkan University, explaining everything to us patiently. And of course, I am pleased to know my tour mates that had been accompanying me the whole trip. It was a rare occasion that we could share the views and opinions on a similar interest field with people of different cultural background.

In short, I have learnt a lot from the study program, I enjoyed the lessons very much. It was surely an experience that I would never forget. Ise is defintely a place that I am revisiting in the near future.

クウォック・チュンワイアーロン

今回「伊勢」と日本スタディプログラムに参加させて頂いたことに、深くお礼申し上げます。この機会を与えて頂き、今は感無量の思いでいます。日本に留学することは私の夢でしたが、今回その夢が実現しました。私はずっと日本の歴史と神話に興味を持っており、大学の卒業論文も古事記の政治性をテーマにしました。古事記と伊勢、そして神道は深く関わっているので、このプログラムに期待していました。私にとって、未知の地の旅は大変楽しく、神道についても大変勉強になりました。

この三週間、伊勢と伊勢神宮、伊勢弁などを勉強しました。このプログラムの授業の幅広さには驚かされました。また、普通の観光客では絶対体験できない様々なことを堪能しました。皇學館大学の日程は、授業とスタディツアーがバランスよく配置されていて、充実していました。その上、京都や奈良での実地学習もあり、盛りだくさんの内容でした。

私にとって一番有意義だったのは、このプログラムに関わる多くの皆さんと出会ったことです。このプログラムの為におもてなしを尽くした皇學館大学と伊勢市の職員の方々と、各神社、伊勢そして伊勢神宮に関係するすべての皆さんに感謝します。皇學館大学の先生が丁寧かつ親切に講義と指導をしてくださったことにとても感激しました。そして何より、このプログラムを共有した各国からのツアーメイトはありがたい存在でした。様々な文化・環境で過ごしてきた人々が揃って、神道をはじめとする日本の文化を語り合ったことは非常に貴重な体験でした。

重ねて「伊勢」と日本スタディプログラムに参加させて頂き、本当に勉強になりました。わずか三週間だけでしたが、このプログラムを私は一生忘れないでしょう。将来、必ず伊勢に戻って来たいと思います。

以上