

**2017 Re-inventing Japan Project (Short-term)
International Students Summit, RJP Internship**

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The 2017 International Students Summit (ISS), that took place on September 25th and 26th at the National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan, included conversations about several topics related to the implementation of projects in the food, agriculture and environment fields in the new century. This year's theme was "Students Taking Action to Address Inequality through Greater Access to Resources and Knowledge in Order to Promote Sustainable Agriculture" as an attempt to diminish the problems caused by the current sustainability crisis which the world had faced these days.

My purpose in participation of the 17th ISS was to learn more and keep updated about the issues related to agriculture, food and environment, as I've had the opportunity to share experiences and discuss with people from different countries about global issues. As a student, I believe it is very important to acknowledge what other universities from different countries are doing to combat their problems because through those ideas we may be able to propose new alternatives for our own country and share projects which may help countries with issues similar to ours.

Having in mind that the agricultural science plays a fundamental role in problem solution in food production and safety, environmental conservation, energy and human health, it was possible to observe that the International students summit aims to work in a dynamic way, highlighting the importance of youth in the face of society's current issues, and to urge all the student to explore new frontiers, in order to make the alternatives developed by each country accessible to all.

All of the event was conducted in an excellent manner, with a multidisciplinary approach and very interesting propositions. About 100 students, coming from different origins and realities joined the summit this year, with that it was possible to interact and know different cultures at the same place, exchange knowledge and learn from different opinions about ISS' theme, thus contributing with one of the main goals in the summit participation – to promote and enhance knowledge of the students from this generation so that we may be able to help in the solution of current and future issues of our world.

In Taiwan, amongst the activities that happened in a field trip, one of the most interesting and enriching was the visit to the experiment area related to the development of a technique which aims to contain the erosion process, which is executed with the help of many students and professors, thus reinforcing the influence of developing technique that might influence in the agriculture, food and especially environment performances.

Since one of the purposes in participating in the 17th International Students Summit was to present a project as an alternative to the current issues related to agriculture, food and environment in Brazil, the discussion groups were also activities occurred in the ISS which largely contributed to the enhancement of projects and personal growth, as a student and as a citizen.

The discussion groups' structure was quite organized. In the first moment, the students were divided by sessions named as Agriculture 1, Agriculture 2, Education 1, Education 2, Development 1 e Development 2, and the students were located in each session according to the line to which the project developed in their country was more related.

The Agriculture 1 session was formed by students from three different countries – Brazil, Thailand and Taiwan – in this group I've represented Brazil and along with other students from Thailand and Taiwan we talked about big aspects, such as the individual results to each one of

our projects, and during the discussion we pointed out the common challenges among them, and how we could solve them, and we also presented our future plans.

In this context it was amazing to observe that, in Taiwan, students develop work related to the recycling of food residue through the black fly and that in Thailand they're trying to assist growers through a new theory which aims to build a bridge between the rich and the poor diminishing the existing social inequity. To complement the conversation, I had the pleasure of sharing the project of biofertilizers produced from a fungus which has helped small growers in the amazon region, promoting development in a sustainable manner, improving quality of life and food safety. At the end of Agriculture 1 session, we prepared a PowerPoint presentation to expose at the end of the event at the conclusion session of our group, after the individual presentation of our particular projects.

In a second moment, we had the general discussion session, which gathered students from all participant countries in the summit, aiming to identify the main challenges in each country and which measures could be utilized to solve them, with the purpose of, at the end of the discussion, defining the theme for the 2018 International Students Summit. This activity was based on 3 questions asked at a conversation table related to problems, challenges and alternatives that could be applied to each country at the fields of Food, Agriculture, Development and Environment. In face of those questions each student had the opportunity to expose his/her point of view and compare it the other countries' reality. At the end of the discussion session, five themes were proposed for the 18th International Students Summit and by voting the chosen theme was "Students taking action to increase youth involvement in sustainable agriculture and to close the gap between altos in the food system".

The beginning of both discussion sessions was a bit difficult due to the difference between projects and realities experienced in each country, which made the discussion longer and in a way demanded more from each participant, but I believe that discussion was quite important to help us understanding the challenges and opportunities in other countries. As a student of Forest Engineering I was able to understand that my course shouldn't be limited to just a few environmental factors, and I also was able to understand the role of contributing to the development of sustainable agriculture.

Getting involved with all those activities made me remember we are more than students, we are leaders of youth and today's future, and our generation is capable of solving this global crisis, as long as we motivate other students to join us and invest time in activities as mentioned.

After two discussion sessions, during the two days of event, the students presented their particular projects according to the following sessions: Student's Action in the field of education, Student's Action in the field of Food Security and Student's Action in the field of Agriculture, in the 7th floor of the National Chung Hsing University's library. Each student had 10 minutes to present their project in PowerPoint and 5 minutes to answer questions and clarify any doubts. After that, we had some poster presentations, all of them very interesting.

At the end of the 17th International Students Summit, during the closing ceremony, it was possible to know a little more about the Taiwanese culture, through the amazing presentations of fights, music and typical food. The 17th ISS was truly incredible in every aspect.

After the International Students Summit, along with other students from Latin America – Brazil, Peru and Mexico – I participated in the 2017 Re-inventing Japan Project (short-term) executed and sponsored by the Tokyo Agriculture University from September 28th to October 4th in Tokyo, Japan.

Re-inventing Japan Project (RJP) included academic and cultural activities, and through this program we had the opportunity to enjoy a tour in the Nodai campus and get to know the university's structure, some student, watch classes, visit labs and their experiments, library and the university's history museum.

One of the first classes we had was on comparative technology of food production, and then we had a basic Japanese class, taught quite creatively by the assessor Naomi Yamada, which

was amazing, we learned basic phrasing used for greetings, buying food, shopping in general, introductions, days, directions, love, among other phrases involving short questions and answers.

In the inaugural class of Edo Aesthetics and Environmental Resiliency to the long term study abroad programs' students, we introduced ourselves, answered some personal questions and in a creative way got to meet some students from different universities as Taiwan, France, Mexico, Peru and Japan too. Besides, it was possible to observe that specific subject will be discussing topics related to the concretization of the students about the way people handle the environment.

With the subject Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, offered by Professor Sakata, it was possible to reinforce knowledges and the importance of phyto-hormones, especially in species as tomatoes.

Besides the classes, the visits to the Laboratory of Plant Molecular Genetics and Laboratory of Landscape Botany and Arboriculture were quite incredible. Through the explanation of Dr. Sakata, responsible for the Laboratory of Plant Molecular Genetics, we learned about many equipments used in the production of tissues culture, extraction and DNA sequencing, tests applied to seed germinating, amongst other experiments executed in the campus. Dr. Suzuki, who works at the Landscape Botany and Arboriculture, talked to us about the Agriculture University's landscape architecture as well as Tokyo's, highlighting that one of the most used trees in arborization are the famous Sakura species, because they can change the scenario in the country with their beautiful flowers.

On the last three days of the program, we started our activities in the RPJ Internship, with the Environmental Rehabilitation and Conservation Institute (ERECON). On the first two days the internship took place at the Global Festa Japan, in Odaiba, Tokyo. The aim was to obtain information and learn about the several projects related to natural resources and the sustainable agricultural production in different place of the world such as Africa Thailand, Brazil, Japan, Nepal and others.

During those days, we observed several projects executed by several international collaborations in different places in the world. At the Global Festa Japan we asked question to the presenters and at the end of the day we had a brief discussion, pointing out the most interesting projects.

The last day of activity took place at the ERECON office in Onojimachi, Tokyo. On that day, based on the interviews and discussions we had during the Global Festa Japan we had to elaborate a project in order to promote sustainable agriculture in our country so that such project could be adapted to other places as well.

During the morning we talked and discussed about the construction of this project and in the afternoon, we had 10 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes to answer questions.

In general, I found the three programs well-succeeded, because these experiences enabled my academic, personal and social growth. The making of friendships, practicing English, the contact with the Taiwanese and Japanese cultures, and with no doubt these experiences contributed to my personal e professional development, and I got to open my minds to fresh ideas. I also learned about challenges and actions all over the world in the fields of agriculture and environment, and from that, I was able to notice the importance of students in the sustainable development of agriculture and reinforce my commitment to keep on working on that and incentivizing others.

Although the 7th International students summit and Re-inventing Japan are programs with amazing potential and very enriching, I believe both need to revisit small aspects as mentioned below:

In some occasions the discussions became quite repetitive, which made the event a bit exhausting, but still it was very productive; however, I believe it could've been better if the questions made both in the General Session and in the themed sessions as Agriculture, Food and

Development weren't so repetitive, and more specific, reducing the hours of discussion and still achieving the main goals.

Differently from the ISS, Re-inventing Japan could have a more elaborated week with an specific programme for the short-term students, with minicourses and speeches. However, I believe you could send the flight ticket with an advance of at least two months, because since the ISS was held in Taiwan this year and we needed a visa impossible to be obtained in my city, I had some trouble – we needed to wait a week or more to get each visa, meaning any emergency could've prevented the students' flight from my university – UFRA – to either the ISS and the RPJ.



Figure 1. 17th International Students Summit



Figure 2. 2017 Re-inventing Japan Project (Short-term) and RJP Internship