

Global Study Program

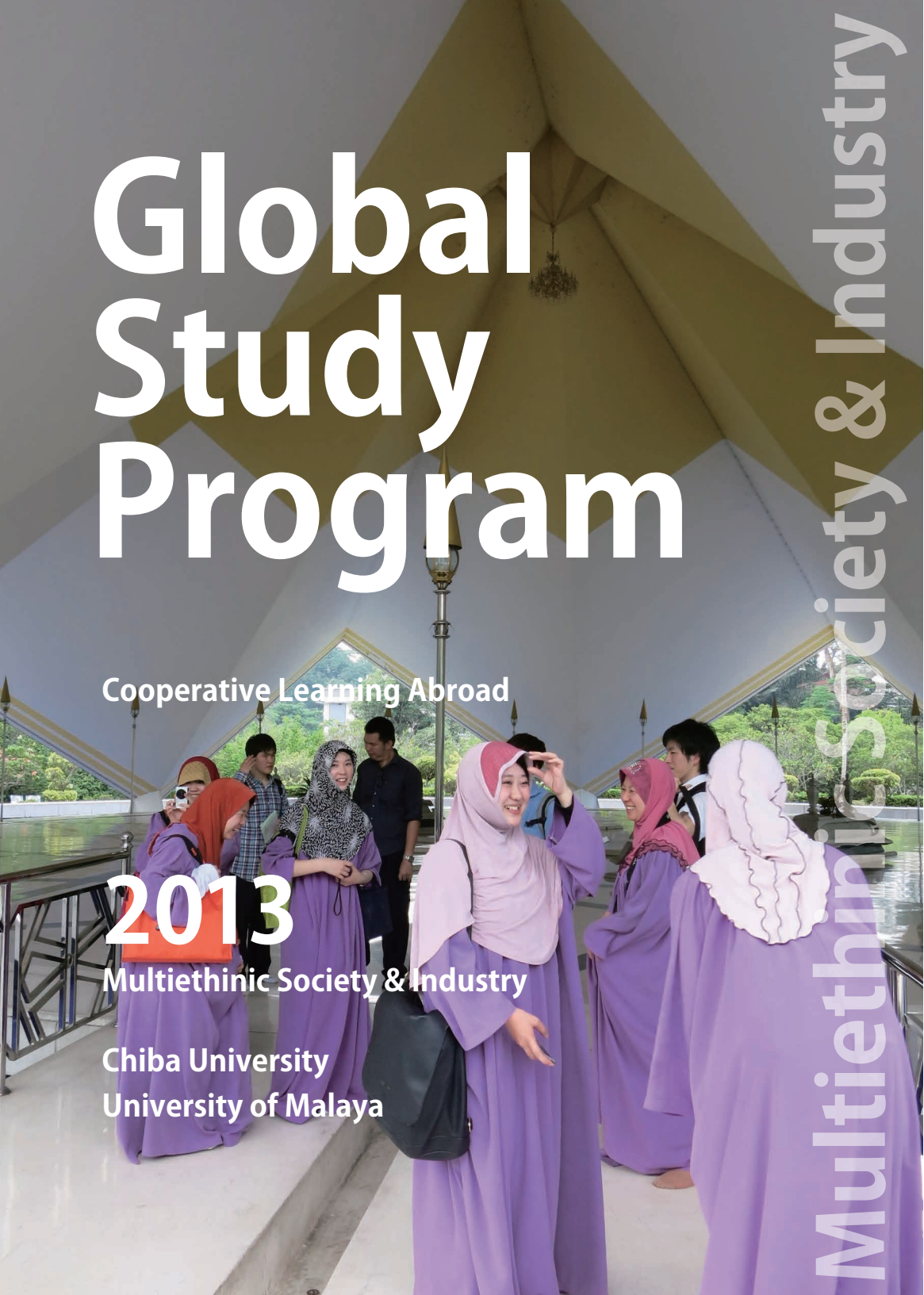
Cooperative Learning Abroad

2013

Multiethnic Society & Industry

Chiba University
University of Malaya

Multiethnic Society & Industry





Multiethnic Society & Industry

This course explored the tolerance and challenges associated with the multiethnic society and industry of Malaysia, in order for the Japanese participant students to understand the importance of learning from difference and to experience the human bricolage of such a plural society.

Fourteen students from Chiba University participated in Global Study Program, a joint education program with the Department of East Asian Studies, Faculty of Humanity and Social Sciences, University of Malaya. The theme of the program was "multiethnic society and industry". Chiba University students learned and discussed how a multi-ethnic society meets the various needs and demands of people with culturally different backgrounds. We divided students into groups and each group studied and discussed different topics from a Malaysia-Japan comparative perspective. 1) fashion and self-identity in Malaysia and Japan, 2) halal industry in Malaysia and Japan, 3) bilingual education in Malaysia and Japan, and 4) religious education in Malaysia and Japan.

Moreover, this program aimed to lead to the de-construction of cultural assumptions and generalizations and to the rediscovery of contemporary Japanese society and culture. By struggling with differences, as well as discovering similarities of culture and custom between Malaysia and Japan, students examined and questioned what they believed to be "common sense" in their everyday lives.

In this course, Chiba University students researched and prepared a group presentation about the current situation of Japan regarding a theme in pre-educational sessions. Ethnographic fieldwork at various sites began on their arrival. After the opening ceremony, Chiba University students made a presentation and offered discussion points for collaborative learning with University of Malaya students.



UNIVERSITI MALAYA

20 14



Schedule

1st week

- Fri.** Arrival at UM 10th College
- Sat.** Campus tour, National Museum, Guest speaker
- Sun.** Field work (Brickfields)
- Mon.** Opening ceremony, Group discussion 1&2, Lecture 'Look Malaysia'
- Tue.** Field work (Tadika Universiti Malaysia, TANAMERA), Group discussion 3, Cultural exchange
- Wed.** Lecture 'Halal industry', Visit Japan Foundation KL, National Mosque
- Thu.** Field work (OMAKANE, NESS, Putrajaya)

2nd week

- Fri.** Lecture, Batik Canting, Cultural event, Visit KLPAC (view dance performance by Nibroll)
- Sat.** Parit Bugis homestay program to Muar, Johor
- Sun.** Field work (palm oil plantation, coconut sweets and tempe factory, craft making factory)
- Mon.** Group discussion, Group work for final presentation
- Tue.** Final presentation, Closing ceremony, Departure
- Wed.** Arrival at Narita





Group discussions and lectures:

I. Team Around 20 conducted a comparative study of fashion and identity and how industry influences the lives of the people in “homogenous” Japan and multiethnic Malaysia. The team discussed how the fashion industry keeps changing and is continuously transnationalised, while sustaining styles that are culturally specific and which have symbolic meaning for people’s identity.

II. Team Girly studied the emerging Halal industry in Japan and its interrelation with Malaysia. This team examined how Japanese industry attempts to meet Muslims’ needs and provide services through the development of a specialized Halal industry. The team also suggested areas of improvement for a better, more global future society.

III. Team Generous considered English language education in Japan. The team suggested that it is not “bad” but not sufficiently appropriate. This team studied what is the most effective teaching style for enhancing communication skills through discussion and fieldwork in multilingual Malaysia.

IV. Team Wine argued that it is necessary for Japanese youth to learn more about religion in school. The team found out how to attain religious literacy in order to eliminate prejudice and to respect other religions in the case of multicultural Malaysia.

V. Lectures: 1) Halal tourism in East Asia and 2) ‘Look Malaysia’ in Japanese tourism-related transnational mobility.





Cultural events (Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Language and Linguistics): While staying in UM, our group participated in a couple of cultural events with the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Language and Linguistics. Students brought Japanese sweets to accompany tea, performed dance with Japanese popular music, and introduced Chiba University's exchange program and classes at CIRE.





Fieldwork: Learning from the cultural mosaic of Malaysia

I. Brickfields: Known as Little India, this area is not only a commercial center for Indian immigrants but also a place in which various religions including Christianity and Buddhism co-exist.

II. Tadika Universiti Malaya: It provides early education to the children of the staff of the University of Malaya.

III. National Mosque



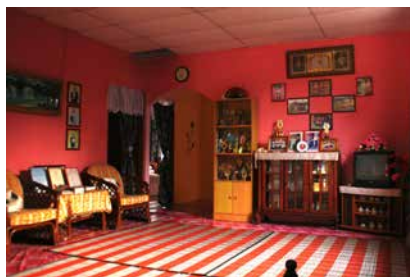


Fieldwork: Observing transnational assemblage of knowledge and technique

- I. Tanamera (organic spa & cosmetic products)
- II. Omarkane (producer of Halal fish sausage; joint venture of Malaysia and Japan)
- III. Ness Technology (manufacturer of measuring instruments; Japanese multinational corporation)
- IV. Japan Foundation (a non-profit organization fostering mutual cultural exchange between Japan and other countries and promoting Japanese language education)



Parit Bugis Homestay in Johor: Our group experienced homestay for two days, in Bugis village in the state of Johor. While staying with a host family individually, the students learned traditional Malay-Bugis culture and had the chance to compare the local everyday life with their own. Our group visited local industries such as a palm oil plantation, a coconut sweets and tempe factory, and a craft making factory. They came to know that not only men but also women, especially middle aged women, are the major human resource in the local economy.







Books
written in
English



Final presentation and post-hoc lecture & feedback session: After collaboration and discussion with UM students, Chiba University students made a final presentation about what they learned during the program on each theme. Through their learning about multiethnic society and industry, Chiba University students found that it is indispensable to know more about religion, to respect both religious and non-religious people and to be tolerant with other cultures in order to live a life as a member of global community.



After coming home, Chiba University students participated in a post-hoc lecture and feedback session. In the feedback session, students found out that they were able to gain a perspective to understand differences and acquire respect towards other cultures as well as to know themselves reflexively.



Participants

Chiba University

Minami IKEJIRI (2)	(Team) Generous
Shun ISHIHARA (1)	Wine
Chinatsu UMEDA (2)	Around 20
Naho KIKUCHI (2)	Around 20
Akiko KINOSHITA (2)	Girly
Nami SUZUKI (2)	Girly
Ami TAKAHASHI (2)	Girly
Satoshi TSURUTA (1)	Generous
Keiko TOMII (2)	Wine
Maki NOGUCHI (1)	Girly
Manami HARA (2)	Around 20
Hidehito FUKUDA (3)	Around 20
Akari YAMASAKI (2)	Wine
Mika YAMADA (2)	Generous



