



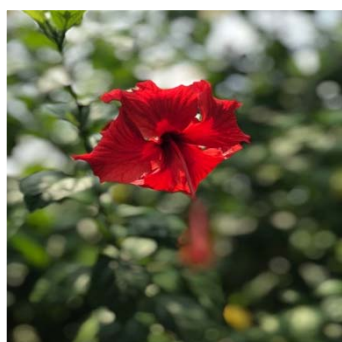
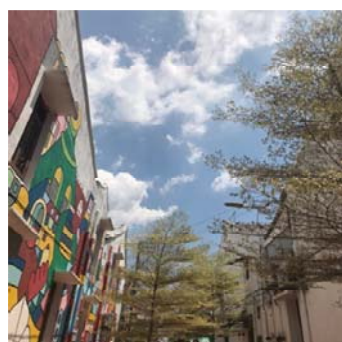
Globalization
Office

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO
JUNIOR DIVISION, FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



RoboCon: BASIC ROBOTICS AMID A MULTICULTURAL ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT IN MALAYSIA

2018 THEMATIC COURSE: GLOBAL PRAXIS
ACADEMIC YEAR A SEMESTER COURSE REPORT

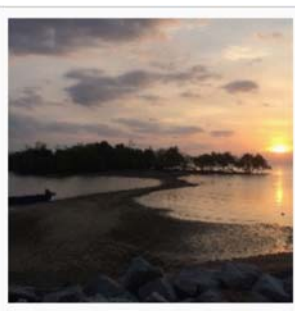


Edited by
Akuru Urayama and Yusuke Sakurai



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Basic Robotics amid a Multicultural Academic Environment in Malaysia

FEBRURARY 17 – MARCH 3, 2019 (15 DAYS)
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY MALAYSIA (UTM)

Foreword

Yusuke SAKURAI, PhD.

Project Lecturer, Center for International Exchange

The Thematic Course, Global Praxis— “RoboCon: Basic robotics amid a multicultural academic environment in Malaysia”— was offered to UTokyo undergraduate students who were enthusiastic about working on basic robotics in a multicultural international environment, Malaysia. The project this year was the second round after the huge success that we achieved in the previous year. Students from UTokyo and Malaysia–Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIIT) in University of Technology Malaysia (UTM) gathered again and collaboratively worked together intensively for two weeks.

“Global Praxis” courses at UTokyo, initially established in 2015, are short-term international courses. The numbers of courses and enrolled students have steadily increased since then. Roughly 15 courses are offered, and 150-200 students participate in them annually. The students in the courses engage in highly intensive and international learning experiences in which they acquire academic knowledge, equip themselves with intercultural communicative skills, and reconstruct their worldview through experiencing daily life in unfamiliar environments. Based on the university educational policy for the internationalisation of undergraduate education, the courses were designed to help students have global intellectual experiences, broaden their horizons and expand their knowledge, and cultivate their awarenesses and mindsets to examine various issues from a wider perspective.

The counterpart institution, MJIIT, was originally jointly established by the Malaysian and Japanese governments to educate students according to Japanese professional values, skills, and ethical principles. This year, again, Senior Lecturer, Jun Ishimatsu, PhD closely worked with us and took care of everyday workshop, lab visits, and UTokyo students’ lives in Malaysia during their stay. His efforts and understanding of both Japanese and Malaysian educational systems were definitely of significant help for the successful arrangement and operation at all levels of the course. I also wish to point out local students’ contributions to the UTokyo students’ experiences in Malaysia. They developed a friendly atmosphere and rapport with UTokyo students. Their flexibility and support should also be highly appreciated for this year’s success of the course.



Lab visit at UTM

Course Information

The objectives of the course

The course:

- offered students the opportunity to develop essential skills for robot creation;
- enabled students to develop their English language communication skills through class tuition and robot creation activities with local students;
- enabled students to experience life as a university student at Malaysia's leading university, University of Technology Malaysia (UTM); and
- provided an enriching cultural experience for students interested in learning more about Malaysia.

Student responsibilities and course requirements

Credits were given upon the successful completion of the course requirements. The students were required to:

- develop a good relationship with UTM students;

- work on robot creation with UTM students;
- write six short reflection journals (more than 200 words) about what they learned based on lab work and academic studies of the day (in terms of knowledge, skills or attitude) (onto Edmodo);
- actively engage in organising the robot competition event; and
- write a post-course learning report: "Summarize your study experience in 500 words in English about to what extent you achieved your pre-set goals you submitted upon your application for the course"

People

UTOKYO LEADER

YUSUKE SAKURAI, PHD.



GLOBALIZATION OFFICE,
FACULTY OF ARTS AND
SCIENCES, THE UNIVERSITY OF
TOKYO. PROJECT LECTURER

Yusuke Sakurai received
his PhD in Higher

Education from the University of Helsinki,
Finland. His research interests focus on

assessment and measurement of students' learning, and teaching & learning in higher education. He has worked in Thailand, Australia, Malaysia, Egypt, Finland, and Japan.

TEACHING ASSISTANT (TA)

AKURU URAYAMA



UNDERGRADUATE (3RD YEAR)

FOREST CHEMISTRY LAB,
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

LIST OF COURSE PARTICIPANTS

Team	Name	
A	Sharul Anuar	Maizatul Shafiqah
	Muhammad Hatta	Ainul Farizah
	Uchida	Sota
B	Echigo	Nozomi
	Azhari	Nur Hazirah
	Tengku Jamil Iklil	Tengku Ahmad Muzil
C	Hiyama	Aina
	Hafid	Ayoub
	Eng Joo	Tan
D	Nor Bahtier	Rahlia Farhana
	Soon	Ailin
	Otsuka	Takeru
E	Yong	Sheue Yee
	Okada	Daigo
	Suhardi	Nurul Izzati
F	Abdul Halim	Muhammad Haziq
	Ariff	Rose Izzati Liyana
	Urayama	Akuru (TA)
Leader	Sakurai	Yusuke, PhD
	Ishimatsu	Jun, PhD

Accommodation

Business and Advanced Technology Centre (BATC) Lodge

15a, Jalan Maktab, Kampung Datuk Keramat, 54000

Kuala Lumpur

+603-2180 5319/5315



Accommodation Lodge



Students' room

Timetable

Wk1	MON 18/02	TUE 19/02	WED 20/02	THU 21/02	FRI 22/02	SAT 23/02
8.00	Breakfast			UG Japanese		FREE
9.00			Statistics		Reflection meeting	
10.00	City Tour KLCC & Pudu (UTokyo) Lunch		Robotics	UG Japanese		
11.00		PG Japanese				
12.00				Control engineering		
13.00						
14.00		Control engineering	PG Japanese	Explore the city with team members (and get robot parts)		
15.00	Campus Tour (UTokyo)		Meeting with Dean		Rin-koh2 Chemical or Mechanical engineering	
16.00						
17.00	Orientation Getting to know	Robot workshop	Robot workshop		Robot workshop	
18.00	Robot workshop					

Wk2	MON 25/02	TUE 26/02	WED 27/02	THU 28/02	FRI 01/03	SAT 02/03
8.00					Control engineering	
9.00						Check out 9.00
10.00	Lab visit		Robotics	UG Japanese		
11.00		PG Japanese			Rin-koh1	
12.00			Lunch with Japanese language teachers			
13.00	Exchange event with MJIIT					
14.00		Microscopy lab visit	PG Japanese	Competition		
15.00		Robotics laboratory visit	Control engineering		Rin-koh2	
16.00						
17.00	Robot workshop	Robot workshop	Robot workshop		Course evaluation	
18.00					18.30 Departure	



Photo after class

Students' perception of learning outcomes

AILIN SOON

Today is the very first day I will be meeting new friends from Japan. I never thought that I can make friends from other country. I am glad to be able to join this program and the opportunity to learn about Arduino. At first, I thought it will be difficult to talk to them because of our different language but thankfully we all use English to communicate. After getting to know each other, I felt very happy because it was very comfortable to talk with them. I am usually a shy person and hard to approach people, but this meeting has made me feel confident to talk to them. They also welcome us openly and it was better than what I have imagined.

My teammates are Takeru and Rahila. Takeru is the same age as me and Rahila is my senior in UTM. We were able to get along with each other's despite it was our first-time meeting together. After getting together with our teammates, our lesson for Arduino started. This was my first time learning about Arduino and it surprised me that using Arduino we can program anything that we want and upload it to our model. Our model for this program is a robot car. The language for using the Arduino is quite similar with C++ that I have just learned in UTM, so it was

quite easy for me to understand how it works, but for Takeru it was his first time learning this language. Me and Rahila helped Takeru whenever he has difficulty to understand what we had learnt. Besides that, I also get the experienced to buy our robot car parts ourselves. I thought that everything would already be prepared, and we just have to install the robot. I was very excited to go shopping for the robot parts because I really like doing things that involve with robots.

During our trips to get our materials, I had a chance to get to get along with the other team members. I felt that our bonds were closer through this trip. We also got the chance to visit the National Mosque. It was very pleased to see my Japanese friends get to know about Islam and also our culture. They were very open minded and interested in getting to know about Islam better. After having all the fun during the trip, we were back on learning about the Arduino. Unfortunately, Takeru was unable to attend the class for two days because he was not well, so left only me and Rahila. We tried our best to complete our robot and show it to Takeru when he gets better. We also explained and thought him what we had learned for the past few days that he was absent. Later then all of us were busy

completing our robot car and try to make it the best we could. For me, assembly the robot parts were not that difficult, instead the programming was the most challenged parts. It was quite hard as we have to code it in our own styles such as coding your own choices of song, the sequenced for the bulb to lights up and also how much speed would you like to input in the programing for the robot.

In this lesson, I also learned that the key point in winning the competition is how we arranged the sensor on our robot and also the speed that we had programmed it in the arduino. The highest speed may not be the best choice as it could be too fast and cause the robot to be out of control. In order to get the best result, all of us try to do as much experiment as we can. Even though we did not win the competition, I was very happy and having lots of fun within two weeks. I have learned a lot of things and I am sure the things that I have gains will be very helpful to me in the future. I also gain new friends and felt very sad to see them going back home to Japan. We all enjoyed and have fun till the very last day we spend time together. It was one of the best memories in my life and I never felt regrets getting to know them and also joining this program. Lastly, I am very thankful to Yusuke sensei and also Dr Jun for making this program happened and choosing me to be a part of it!

AINA HIYAMA

The Robotic Workshop started 18th February, when I became the first student to greet UTokyo students and guide them around UTM KL campus. I was very nervous talking at them because it is not usual for me to meet Japanese students plus with lack of confidence in speaking English. The situation was quite difficult for me handle but it made me out comfortable zone. I know that it is important for my own growth.

In the first workshop all the participants played a game for ice breaking. It really helped me remembering names of all participants including students from UTM and UTokyo. Then we started to learn about the robotics.

Every day I met everyone in the workshop. The content of the lecture and instructions became harder day by day. While trying to understand and doing the tutorials, we talked many things inside the class. My teammate is Ayoub who came from Morocco and currently being a student of UTokyo. I asked him about his experiences in Japan. It gave me motivation to further my studies in Japan in future. Eng Joo (E.J.), the senior in our team also shared his experiences.

In Day 4, 21th February, we all went to Pasar Seni to search for components to create our robot car. For the first time I visited electronics shop and I was excited seeing all the electronics components that I have seen and never seen before. We also went to National Mosque that amazed me by the beauty of the structure and design. Then we also went to Central Market where we bought clothes as souvenir. I was happy as it was the first time, I could chat with all members other than my teammate in workshop.

During the weekend, I went to Malacca together with UTokyo students and some other UTM students. Even though I had been to Malacca many times, but I never walked around the city, so it was a new experience for me too. We went many places there. It was very hot day, but we all made unforgettable memories.

On the workshop, we started to assemble the parts to make the robot parts. It was quite complicated it uses many wires. Our instructors showed their example robot car that followed line perfectly. We had few days to finish the assembling and coding of the robot for competition. We all shared ideas to make the robot car. At first our robot did not function, so we felt worried,



Students working on robot workshop activities

but we did our best to resolve the problems. When our robots started to move, we all exited. Now, I know the joy of creating a robot.

During the competition, we had three trials to run our robot cars. Many groups did very well. We also had confidence because our robot car could run well in some test runs before, but when our robot went out of the track for all three trials, E.J. Ayoub and I was quite disappointed. We tried to resolve the problem but failed. Our instructors who had experiences in joining some robot competition said that something like that could happen, and that is one of the challenging part in making robots. We did not win this competition, but we surely learned many things. My dream is to be an engineer and this course was a big step for me.

Last day before UTokyo students went back to Japan was precious to me. We took many pictures, danced and sang together. I hope I can see them again.



Inside the Central Mosque

AINUL FARIZAH MUHAMMAD HATTA

As this course, Basic Robotics ends many thought flows into my head. There are just so many things I acquired during these 2 weeks.

The first week was more to adjusting the new schedule, that's is the robotics class from 5-7pm, usually I would go back to my dorm early for somedays. I still remember the nervousness from entering the classroom for the first time, getting to know new people from another university and maintaining a good relationship with everyone. Actually, the other reason I joined this program was to overcome my anxiety with new people as I don't really engage with people I don't know. One of the problems I faced is making a person with different native language understands some words that I don't know in English so, I constantly had to search the words on google, use simpler words and hand gesture order to have conversations with them. Another problem that I faced was understanding the robotic class as I am not really good with electrical subjects but when I saw the instructor's enthusiasm when teaching us, I challenge myself to ask them the things that I didn't understand so, that's a first for me.

In these two weeks, I had lots of sweet memories that I would cherish such as when the MJIIT students and UTokyo students first met we played the game where we need to remember everyone names and thanks to that game, I remembered everyone's name as I'm the kind of person that hard to remember many people's name. Another was when we went to the Online Component shop at Jalan Pudu to buy the components needed for our robot car, we were waiting for the uncles to complete our order when someone had an idea to buy an ice cream as the day was really hot so, eating a rm1 Malaysian ice cream

together was a nice memory. The sweetest memory that I would remember until the end would be winning the competition. At first, I wouldn't even dared to think that our group could win such competition, then when our group had the shortest time to finish the route, I was so excited thinking that we could win the competition but then during the final round suddenly one of the groups managed to finish the route faster than us, so my hope for winning the game plummeted to the ground. But when the instructors announced the winner, I was so shocked but happy at the same time.

The things that I wish to improve myself in the future based on what I learned these two weeks would be to have better knowledge about my own country so that when anyone asks anything about our country, I could answer it easily with the correct facts. After learning robotics, I became more interested in those areas such as how all those robots out there operate. Therefore, I would really want to develop my skills on robotics. I'm very thankful and grateful that I had the opportunity to join this program and develop myself to become a better person.

AYOUB HAFID

Having the chance to go to Malaysia and study with MJIIT students and interact with them has been a great experience for me, helping me develop my social skills and know about the customs, food and

life style of culturally rich country, while learning basics skills in robotics.

First, after practicing how to cope with new environment on our own in the first day (where we went to KLCC), in several occasions and almost every day we have had the chance to go out under the guidance of Malaysian students to discover Kuala Lumpur and its surroundings, which showed us first the hospitality of Malaysians, gave us the chance to discuss with them and get explanation about the places and customs we encountered (for instance discussing Muslim customs with Haziq...) ... Indeed monuments, shops districts... provided a variety which reflected the cultural variety, as in the case of the Hindu Batu caves, the Chinese districts and restaurant, and the Muslim mosques. While places such as Malacca were rich in historical information which really got me interested, as it gives insight on world history. Furthermore, the students showed us their university campus and shared with us their university life by sharing lunch with us on several occasions and telling us about their extracurricular activities.

Second, we had the chance to attend several classes, visit several labs, take a look at the equipment, and attend to seminars. This gave us a view on what students learn at MJIIT, and what research is done there. For instance, Professor Ishimatsu's classes gave me insights on how techniques such as the Laplace transform can be applied to engineering. The visit to machinery and the explanations by Professor Ishimatsu showed us how can politics affect universities, but also, on the other hand made me think that research can be conducted more smoothly and easily in some cases in developing countries (than in developed countries) as safety measures are sometimes



Group work



Cruising Malacca River

relaxed. Furthermore, the seminars we attended got me interested in several issues about tribology and left me thinking about how to model the phenomena involved mathematically (as the result presented were mostly experimentally). Japanese classes reminded me of how I learned Japanese, although I think that avoiding the use of other languages such as English may improve the learning.

Third, we gained knowledge and experience about Arduino but also and most importantly we improved our teamwork during the workshops. As we had good relationships within my group, trying to socialize during free time, and sharing the tasks between us. In particular, during the day of the competition, as we were lacking in time we worked during the morning, taking turns as in different timings we had classes, and keeping in touch through line, which showed me how enthusiastic and reliable Malaysian students are.

In the future, I would like to reflect my learnings in this course whenever I have to work in a global environment, such as is often the case if I am able to become a researcher. I would like also to visit Malaysia again in the future if possible.

DAIGO OKADA

First of all, my goal in this program was to improve my communication skills in academic field, so I am going to start with the experience I had when I tried to accomplish this goal. The main activity in this program was a robotic workshop. In this class each team made a car using Arduino, which was supposed to follow the black line in the final competition. This activity required me to have a lot of academic conversations with my teammate. Overall, I feel like my goal was successfully completed, at least, I realized the level of my speaking skills in terms of "academic" field, which is obviously huge for me when I take a next step after this program. I do not mean to say like "Now, my English is good enough even in academic field!". In fact, I always felt struggle when I try to explain to my teammate about my thought, for example, on how to arrange connections or how to code. However, in the end, I managed to explain about my idea with a lot of pauses. My teammates were always kind and patient enough to listen to me even when it took me too long time. The good thing is we finally managed to reach the goal in the last run in the final competition.

In addition to robotic workshop, we also attended to Japanese language class in which we introduce Japanese culture to Malaysian students and joined their group work. Our mother tongue is Japanese, so we are like teaching assistants there. It was a first experience for me to teach my mother tongue, so it was a bit weird and I was nervous at first. I was so shy that I relied too much on Japanese teacher back then, but after I realized the fact that students cannot speak comfortably if I show my nervousness to them, I tried to be more friendly and talk more with them in group work. I am not sure if I was a good teacher there, but I was really happy when students

asked me to take photos with them. I felt like I was needed there. In addition, one of the students gave me a beautiful Kakashi, one of the popular characters in Naruto, drawing to me. I never felt that warmth before. I became really emotional and almost started crying at that moment. Being a teacher was a fun and interesting experience. It is said that teacher also learns from students. I was not quite sure about it before such thing actually happened to me. One student asked me the difference of usage between “ga” and “wa”. I had never thought about it. I had used “ga” when it feels natural, and I had used “wa” when it feels natural. I did not have any logical explanation for that. That made me realize my lack of knowledge about Japanese, and how hard it is to teach Japanese language to non-native speakers.

From now on, I would like to improve my speaking skills so that I can talk with less pauses, and I would like to know more about Japan so that I can give right answers when I am asked something about Japan.

MUHAMMAD HAZIQ BIN ABDUL HALIM

For the past 2 weeks of this event it has been a roller coaster ride filled with emotions for me. I would say I have achieved the objectives I set when I chose to join this program. Not only did I learn more



Botanical Garden

on Arduino and robotics but also, I have gained a lot of things which I did not expect. Firstly, the most important lesson I have learned during this program in my opinion is the importance of global networking. During the program, I have to communicate with the Malaysian students and Japanese students in order to synchronize their plans as well as to bring them out to explore Malaysia. I am really grateful that everything went well as both Malaysian students and Japanese students can contribute to make the plans succeed. We took them to many places such as Malacca, Batu Caves, Danau Kota, Botanical Garden, KL tower and etc. Going to these places have made me a Malaysian, appreciate the culture of my country more as how I enjoy seeing the Japanese students smile during our short escapade into Malaysia's wonders. While we Malaysian students share some of our culture, the Japanese share theirs as well. It has really made us feel closer to each other like lost separated siblings who have finally just met because behind their stories and laughter, I have realized that even if we came from different places and different backgrounds, we are not all that different. Nevertheless, I learn to appreciate people more now because of this program as everyone is unique and beautiful in their own way and we are all equal to one another just as how it was stated in the Holy Quran. Furthermore, this program has also made me appreciate my peers more now. In the beginning, I do not know the UTM students who joined this program well because I rarely/never interact with them. After spending time with them, cooperating together to bring the Japanese students to explore Malaysia, it has made me become closer to them. I am quite impressed on the amount of contribution they put for the Japanese student as how they were able to come up with big plans even with their busy

schedules. When I heard they wanted to bring the Japanese students to Malacca, I was very impressed. If it were just me, I do not think the Japanese students would have enjoyed the Malaysia's experience as much as they would with them. Even though most of them are my juniors, they were able to make good and hard decisions very maturely. During the Malacca trip, I did not make it in time to buy tickets for the same bus (8.30pm) and I had to go on a separate bus at 9pm. I was really grateful that there was still a bus for me to ride but at the same time pretty sad that I would be going home alone. To my surprise when I reached KL, there were 3 UTM students still waiting for me at the station even though I was an hour late! I was so touched that even words cannot describe that current feeling I had felt and the amount of gratitude I had for them. To conclude, this program has affected me a lot in terms of character, skills and knowledge. I am really thankful to Sakurai and Jun Sensei for planning this program out because I would have not experienced this wonderful journey without them. My future plan now is to apply and further my studies for Masters in Japan and hopefully travel the whole world so that I am able to meet all kinds of people to improve myself as a person and at the same time contribute towards the society so that everyone can live a better life now and at the afterlife. Insha'Allah.

NOZOMI ECHIGO

This global praxis course was mainly held in University of Technology in Malaysia (UTM). Through the course, I wanted to speak a lot with the Malaysian students to improve my speaking and communication skills and learn about Malaysian education rather than get some science knowledge. That's because I'm a student from faculty of education, not science. In the robot creating

workshop, I worked like a robot as following what the other members saying, because I did not understand an electric circuit and programing at all and never have a confidence. As a result, I had a frustrated experience in the robot competition at final of the workshop. Before the competition, we prepared and took an experiment on the circuit many times, but the robot only turned right or left and never returned to the circuit way. I thought that was caused by some mistakes of programing, however I could not insist my opinion clearly to other team members. At last, an instructor checked our programing and rewrote it, and then the robot could run smooth on the circuit. If I had insisted my opinion enough, we could have accomplished to make it without any difficulties and someone's help. Through this experience, I reconsidered that it was important not be afraid to say something, even though it would be mistaken in fact.

On the other hand, I experienced some interesting moments in the course. I could learn Malaysian education system, its advantage and some problems through talking with students. My most impressive theme was the problem on investment to UTM. When we visited a mechanical laboratory in UTM, Mr. Ishimatsu explained it to us. According to



Eco Forest in Kuala Lumpur

his explanation, most machines were made for mass production, so they are hardly used by the researchers and students. What is worse, they lack the staffs to maintain them partly because the organization such as JICA provide some specific machines but not man power. It emphasizes on what they have provided them as an input rather than how it effects as an output. As a result, the researchers have to choose their research topic only by the provided stuffs. The situation opposites an ideal style of learning that they can do what they really want to do. When I asked to some graduated students about the advantage and disadvantage of UTM, they also took these problems. UTM has some problems related to not only mechanics and science but also educational investment.

Through these experience in Malaysia, I rethought about the importance of having a confidence enough to insist my opinion. Also, I got a new viewpoint that we have to observe the situation in any different angles. In order to realize them, I want to study hard not only Japanese education in my faculty but also Latin-America and Spanish as my interest, until I have a confidence to tell them in detail.



Students' interactions at a Japanese language class

NUR HAZIRAH AZHARI

First and foremost, I still grateful to part of this precious program and valuable program between UTM students and UTokyo students. This is really a golden opportunity as I said before because it is the right place and right moment for me to enhance my essential skills in communication and learning process. Before I attended this program, I was zero information about robot and coding thing. Even though I am electronics engineering students but I still lacking some of the useful knowledge like this.

Throughout this program, I have learned a lot and achieved a lot. I learned on how to make and assemble the robot. I also learned on how to do the coding to the robot, I learned how to use some of the electronics components and many more. Furthermore, it is not only that I learned about robot, I also managed to learned on how to communicate to the UTokyo students and develop our English language communication skills through robot creation workshop and some other activities that we did together. Moreover, the task on Edmodo also helps me to engaged more with the UTokyo students and MR. Yusuke. Even though, Edmodo is quite unfamiliar platform for me, but this is one of an amazing achievement that I had made so far. Next, when were allocated into groups which is three persons in groups, this really helps us to strengthen our teamwork skills. It helps us to have a better experience on how to play a good role when you are working in groups. to work with someone who we called strangers at first then it becomes good friend until the end. This is how I managed or regulated my learning with other UTokyo or MJIIT peers successfully.

To be honest there are so many moments that kind of happy, interesting or successful moments I



Fortress in Malacca

experienced with other peers. The most makes me happy is when we went to Malacca or we called it as Malacca Trip that I have with some of the UTM students and UTokyo students. Actually, it was an impromptu idea to us (UTM Students) to bring the UTokyo students to the southern state in Malaysia which is Malacca. It took about 2-hours journey from Kuala Lumpur by bus. When I asked the UTokyo students where is the place that they want to go during the weekend, most of them wanted to visit Malacca. So, me and few friends decided to bring the UTokyo students to have fun at Malacca in one day long. Therefore, we went there on 8am and got back to UTM on 11pm. During the trip, we showed the UTokyo students the history and cultures about Malacca and Malaysia itself. We also taught each other languages during the trip. we exchanged our thought about music, culture, languages, movies and many more. All of us enjoyed the trip so much which

makes me really happy about it. Other than that, the interesting one is when we were having our dinner at “Gerai Mamak” which is one of the famous restaurants in Malaysia. I am so excited to see the UTokyo students loves to try Malaysian foods. They tried various type of foods such as Roti Canai, Roti Tisu, Roti Naan and more. Moreover, the successful moment that I can feel is when we managed to bring the groups to explore the KL city on the first week. We bring them to visit the National Mosque, Central Market and buying robot components in Jalan Pudu. They were so excited because most of the UTokyo student was their first-time visiting mosque, so they can experience the culture of Malaysia and know how it feels to be in the Muslim country. Next, the successful one when my group achieved the objectives of the course which is to develop essential skills for robot creation. As a prove, our group named TRIPLE Z GOT 3rd places in robot competition. We managed completed the task and get the robot completed the track successfully. Last but not least, we (UTM Students) managed to organize a small farewell party for UTokyo students which we did some dance and singing performances. WE also did the cultural dress photography session for them. Those times are really unforgettable moment for me.

How I wish to develop myself in future based on what I learned is that I would love to study hard on my Japanese language communication skills. Even though I have some basic of Japanese language but I still unable to speak fluently in Japanese. I hope that one day, I am able to speak Japanese fluently to the native speaker and I able to read and write smoothly. I do realize that languages are important in our lives. The more languages that we learnt, the more knowledge that we can get. Other than that, I

want to develop more my self-esteem and confidences. I want to be brave and get rid of my fear when I was in my learning process. Confidences is the key for anyone to step forward on his or her way. to be successful, one has to keep moving forward and be faster or advanced than other. So, I wish to have more confidence in me which helps me to be more successful in future. Besides, I want to gain more knowledge and be more expert in electronics and robotics field. As these two fields are really connected to each other, so I think it is important for me to master in both areas. I also want to travel and gain more working experiences in other countries as well. I would love to experience on how MR. Yusuke share his experienced that he has been worked in various countries before. I would love to travel to other countries because I want to have a global connections and global knowledges because it helps to widen up someone view and mind. I am really hope that I can achieved all my hopes and dreams one fine day. I will study and work hard from now on.

In conclusion, I can say that all the objectives for this course have been achieved. I already used the opportunity to develop my skills on robot creation workshop. All students also enabled develop their English language communication skills through the



Japanese language class event

program. The UTM students and UTokyo students also managed to exchange our cultures to each other throughout this joint program. This program really helpful and need to both universities. I bet all the students will hoping that another global program like this could be happen soon. Maybe we can do the joint program like this at UTokyo in future.

NURUL IZZATI BINTI SUHARDI

I was very excited to know that I got accepted to the program when there are many of my friends who applied because I was very eager to learn how to make a robot and meet new friends and I'm happy I was able to achieve that eventhough I couldn't managed my time for the program very well. I kept being involved with extra-curricular activities that I couldn't join the participants with their trip to Malacca, Batu Caves and Rimba Eco Park. I feel bad for others that I couldn't join them much but I made sure to get to know what they did and what they love during the time I couldn't be with them. I am amazed with other participants that they willing to go for lengths to entertain UTokyo students. I wish next time, I will be more stable and healthy to entertain other overseas students that will soon come to MJIIT.

I think my team is a great team and can work together eventhough sometimes we are not complete during classes. As in, sometimes me or Yong couldn't come to class because of classes and when I am not well to join the discussions. Eventhough we lost the robot competition but I think we all learnt the most from the program. We learnt how to code, how to build a robot and how to be neat in robot components' arrangement. Maybe next time, I will remember to make sure the wirings are neat and proper but also be considerate on the

wiring connections so that the robot will still functions eventhough the wiring is tied up together.

The most memorable event that happened was during our trip to buy our robot components and the trip to Central Market. It is my first time to Pudu and to an electronic component store so it was very exciting to me. They are so many components I never knew existed but since the instructors didn't follow us along, so I have no idea how the component works. So we all waited outside until the clerk found all the components needed. While waiting, I bought the UTokyo students some Potong Ice Cream. I'm glad all of them find it delicious. After that, we went to National Mosque and Central Market. I'm happy to introduce to others about Islam and Malaysian arts and crafts. I chose the Batik Shirt for Daigo and I'm glad he liked it. I'm also very much attached to Nozomi, she's funny and our conversations were interesting. We talked about Pokemon and her life in Tokyo and she willing to accept my shenanigans with her and I'm happy for that. Eventhough others said she's quiet, I think she's just as interesting but maybe due to language barrier, she couldn't bring it out much.

To summarized it, this program was very inspirational for me and open my eyes on other countries' culture and education. I hope next time, I get to be more innovative and interesting in my future engineering creations and achieve my dream to be a mechatronic engineer. Other than that, I also want to travel the world and meet more people and friends that I have create a bond with when I'm in MJIIT. I hope I can put to use my social skills that I have gained here. I will be sure to make my priorities much better next time.



Interaction in a robot creating workshop

RAHILA FARHANA BINTI NOR BAHTIER

Being chosen as representative from University of Technology, Malaysia to collaborate together with University of Tokyo was created great memories for me. It was a fortune because I can make friends with more people that come from different countries, cultures and religions. According to those two weeks together with UTokyo students, I have learned a lot and it was not limited towards the education only. Although everything was last-minute planned, but fortunately those last minutes' deals went smoothly. The UTM students managed to lead the way to various amazing places to explore together with UTokyo students. The best part was, we even learned to speak in multi-languages like English (for sure!), Malay, Chinese, Japanese and also Indian languages! Most of us could adjust the ratio of mixing languages flexibly.

Apart from that, I think the robotic workshop and competition should be happening regularly. It created good exposures for us to understand more about Arduino and maybe some of us will work as programmer or anything relates to this field in the future. Most of us come from different courses of studies and based on this programme, it has been proven that chemical students also can work on coding and robotic! When it comes to religions and beliefs, everyone will pay attention and showed their respect towards one another. As Malaysia is known

as multiracial country due to the mixed ancestry of more than 3 races, every ancestry has their own beliefs. We did also ask about Japanese cultures and religion, and now I already have some ideas about it. It was really amazing to talk about this because we could know one another better.

I think every moment that happened for each day in those two weeks was pretty amazing! We went to Malacca to know further and experienced ourselves about Malaysian heritage on the old days. All the historical places that we visited have their own uniqueness and values that can be learn. On the other hands, those short-escaped lead us to be more independent and strengthen our friendship, indeed. During the last day before the UTokyo students returned back to Japan, we managed to go to Eco Forest Park that located near to the KL Tower and after that, we went to Perdana Botanical Park. It was actually a little forest in a big city. Every moment that we had together was priceless and I enjoyed every each of it.



Wearing traditional Malaysian clothes

Based on this exchange programme, I wish that I could learn more about robotic. It was an excitement when it comes to see the result. Although it was pretty hard at first, but I believe if there's a will, there must be ways. If something that we want does

not comes out as expected, we should try many other ways including seek for help from anyone that has better knowledge and understandings about the field. For me, it is still considered as learning since it develops more skills through study, experience and being taught. I hope that I could join more events like this exchange programme for the next time. I would like to thank Ishimatsu sensei, Yusuke sensei, the innokai and my fellow Japanese and Malaysian friends to make everything happened. Thank you!

MAIZATUL SHAFIQAH BINTI ANUAR

Throughout this program, I learnt a lot of new thing in the class and from the Japanese student. I am really glad that I joined this program. I am sure that it was the first time for most of the participant in this program learning Arduino and robotics. Even though the instructor teaches us the basic of Arduino, it still a bit difficult for me as I am not familiar with the program and sometimes I get a bit confuse with other programming language that I have learnt. I also get hands-on on the robotics which I was eager to learn how to build it. I always wondering how most of the robot is build and how to make it to function to carry out specific task. The fun part of joining this program is I get to try a lot of function in Arduino like making a knight rider that is a LED that light up in a sequence using a loop and melody to produce a song. Then from what we have learn, we apply it on the line tracing robot like make the LED attach to it light up and produce a sound when it stops. I have so much fun throughout this process because I get to try a few functions by modifying the coding. I also do some research on the internet on how to do some of the coding part so that the robot can functioning well. My group encounter some problem while building the robot such as the IR sensor is not functioning, the coding is wrong and

wire on the robot that we already solder break. Thankfully we manage to overcome all of the problem by doing some adjustment and help from the instructor.

It is really great that we get to learn in a group because different people they have their own opinion and from this we can understand and see it from different perspective. We also get to be close with each other and solve certain problem more effectively. Next, I get to meet many wonderful people throughout this program. Even though we start as a stranger, we are very close with each other despite the short time at the end of this program. Despite the different culture between UTM and the Japanese students, I get to learn and exchange a lot of opinion among ourselves. We bring the Japanese students visit some of interesting place around Kuala Lumpur and try out variation of food so that they get to know Malaysia culture. We get to exchange and discuss a lot of thing during the visit like making the differences between Malaysia and Japan. I have been to Japan once last year, so it really good that I get the chances to engaged with Japanese student because I can voice out my curiosity about their country. There is a few of Japanese culture that I really like but we don't have it here in Malaysia. I hope that I can join a lot of program like this in future because from this program, I feel more confident when encounter and communicate with other people. I also planning to study in programming on my fourth year and I think I can apply what I have learn in this program during that time.

ROSE IZZATI LIYANA ARIFF

For the 2-week I joined the Robotic workshop, it gave me some unforgettable memories and knowledge. I've been in group with Akuru who was a teaching assistant for UTokyo students and Haziq

which was a student from MJIT with different courses of study. First of all, I didn't have any basics in making a robot thus I encouraged myself to join this workshop as well to enlarge my perspective and networking of friends from other country, Japan. For this workshop, I felt guilty for my team due to some circumstances that I have went back to my hometown at Johor Bahru therefore I didn't come to class for 2 days. Because of it, I study hard on how to pay back my absent with done the coding that was not in my major field. Somewhat I felt grateful for been in a group that supportive and gave out positive moral that helped me to finish the coding and as a gift for them. In this workshop, we used English as our communications language because I only know a little bit of Japanese language however, I didn't manage to use it due to my low of grammar. I learnt something from Akuru during the competition when I said that I'm nervous for it. Then, she taught me about Japanese like abbreviation which is *カクカクブルブル* that meant sound when of people tremble or when they feel fear or are overwhelmed and been shortened into *ガクブル*.

The successful moments that I got during joined this workshop was that I managed to build robot and coding it to follow the track. I managed to accomplish some of the objective when I submitted the application of this workshop. Congratulations to my team as we managed to get number 2 in the competition. Besides, it's been meaningful events and memories when we go to Uptown Danau Kota (like kind of night market), Forest Eco Park, Botanical Garden and do some performances on UTokyo students last day at Malaysia. However, it felt sad that we going to apart cause it's rare to meet Japanese people like them whom cheerful, noisy and

funny. When I finished my classes, I rushed went to the workshop just to meet them because at workshop it became a place that I forget some of my problems and laughed hard. I thought that I'm not going to had some memories or pictures with them because when they went to Malacca, I didn't join them. Hence, I got the golden opportunity when to some places with them. Even though, we had to walk around in a big place like Botanical Garden it still the best memories ever for me.

Last but not least, I wish to broaden my knowledge in robotics because I didn't know what going to happen in future whether I got job that included my major field of studies or not. Furthermore, by increases my knowledge it doesn't give any burden because it will remain and might be useful in the future. I hope that I got many chances to join a workshop like this.

SHEUE YEE YONG

After 2 weeks of study in robotic workshop with U-Tokyo students from Japan. I realize what I get is more than what I expected. In this course, I learnt additional knowledge which is what I cannot learn in my own course, chemical process engineering. I learn not only I terms of knowledge, but I learn how to work with each other to make my study more memorable and successful. Thank you to my teammates, named Izzati and Daigo. I am really glad to have met them in this course. They offer me not only the help related to robotic workshop, but they make me realize that teamwork and honesty is very important in a team.

Through these weeks, I learnt how to assemble the electronic line following robot, the coding, the connection of wire in Arduino. Last but not least, I learnt how to learn from my mistake and make

myself better to be helpful to others some day later. I am glad how Daigo san try his best to understand our language and answer to my question related to japan culture patiently. Through this learning course, I think Daigo San is very a very punctual person and always come to class early to prepare himself better. When we met some problem in the course, he will ask for our help sincerely and give thanks to us.

What I remember that one of the happy moments we having with U-Tokyo students where we went to Tapak, KLCC to have dinner after class at 7 pm. I remember how the U-Tokyo students reacted when they ate Malaysia's spicy food. Most of them cannot take it and smiled or laughed awkwardly with red skinned face after they ate our spicy food. Besides that, they also response politely although they are not used to Malaysia's food. Some of them even praise for Malaysia's food when they think it is delicious to eat. I remember once when we went to mamak food restaurant, I order Maggie goreng and ask Daigo San to try some. I felt happy when he said the Maggie is so yummy that he asks "Can I try more?". Although this is just a simple phrase that he wants to try more on Maggie goreng, but I felt so happy and proud when a foreigner student likes our food. Thanks for all the beautiful memories, it's of the amazing and special kind of interaction between Japanese and Malaysian.

In future, in my opinion, is not a must for me to work in job related to my course, Chemical engineering. But one of my wishes is that I hope one day I can master my Japanese language and work in Japan. One of my goal in Malaysia is to pass my Japanese Language Proficiency test with flying colours. Moreover, I hope one day I will meet all the U-Tokyo students again and speak to them in

Japanese Language. I hope U-Tokyo students will not forget us and one day if I come to Japan, U-Tokyo students can bring me for food hunt. I wish that I can visit Jinja Shrine, Tokyo Disneyland, Fujisan in future. I promised I will come, just wait for me, Japan.

SOTA UCHIDA

Even now, I can't believe that I became great friends with UTM students, who share only a little cultural background with me. I could change myself during this course.

Before the course, I wasn't good at opening up myself to someone. I often end up becoming superficial friends with others if we don't spend enough time together. But when I arrived at Malaysia, I thought that if I behaved like before, this course would be of no benefit. I wanted to change myself. I wanted to be lasting friends with UTM students. But I didn't know what to do. Two weeks were too short for us. I spend the first week struggling to make better relationships with UTM students.

Then I found that they were glad when I said "Terima kasih", thank you in Malay. In fact, I am interested in learning languages and I researched easy Malay expressions before the departure. I thought that showing interest in learning Malay, Chinese, and Indian could be a good beginning. Of course, I can communicate with people in Malaysia in English, but I think that I can express my interest or my respect to local people by using Malay, Chinese, or Indian. On Sunday, some UTM students took UTokyo students to Malacca. I asked UTM students a lot of questions like "How do you say, 'the sky is very beautiful' in Malay." I used these topics as a start of conversation, and we talked a lot about



Kuala Lumpur Tower

their lives, their religion, and Malacca and so on. Especially it was really interesting for me to talk about Islam because I had little knowledge. From these experiences, I think it may be important to research about a country I visit previously. It helps start conversation.

After I came back from Malacca, I had stomach ache. On Tuesday, I also had a fever, so I couldn't take part in the robot workshop. Thankfully, the other team members, Mai, and Ainul finished assembling the car and coding the whole program except the music part. On Wednesday, I fortunately recovered from fever and could join the workshop. I tried to code the music program by myself so that I could catch up with my team members. But I failed. I was not satisfied at all because I felt I didn't do anything for our team. After the workshop, I told friends that I really regretted not being able to do anything for my team members. Then they

sympathized with me. I got feeling well and found that I could do a lot on Thursday. And I also found that it was wrong to try to do by myself what I couldn't do and not to cooperate with my teammates. So, on Thursday I suggested to my team members that we should measure time changing the motor speed. We tried a lot, and finally, we found the best speed for our car. In the competition, fortunately, our time was the second. And amazingly, our team won. I couldn't believe that. I was astonished and really happy. I really thank my teammates. If I had been alone, I couldn't have achieved such things.

Through these experiences, I could change myself. I really thank all people who I met in Malaysia, UTM students, UT students, Mr. Ishimatsu, and Mr. Sakurai.

TAKERU OTSUKA

In this program, I met more people and learned more things than I expected. I had three major purposes for this program; understanding of Malaysian multiple culture, learning how to corporate with others who have completely different backgrounds and improving my English skills.

For the first point, the to coexist with other culture is difficult for us Japanese to imagine. And what I learned at school about Malaysian culture was only that Chinese people have dominance in economy and government adopts a policy which gives priority to Malay people. When I went to a hospital, I got to know that treatment cost is different by ethnic group; Chinese Malay have to pay more. Tax is also higher for Chinese Malay, and even entering university is harder for Chinese; the recruitment number for university is fixed by ethnic groups and Chinese Malay are not assigned enough.

At UTM, in class Malay and Chinese work together but out of class, they are together with same ethnic group. I found that this is the fact of Malaysian multi culture.

For the second point, it was a difficult content for me to make robot from scratch because I don't major in robotics or electronics. So, it was necessary for me to collaborate with UTM students. I prepared myself about that beforehand. I was supposed to teach at each other difficult points, but actually, I was taught one-sidedly. In English, it was difficult for me to understand even easy content however easy in Japanese. And in my case, I had to made up for the lost time with sick. It may have been simple and easy for other members in my team to ignore me and do tasks by themselves. But they tried to involve me as much as possible, and for me, I tried to ask them difficult points for me to understand. It was glad for me to feel their kindness to help me understand.

For the third points, I'm sure this program improved my English skills and gave me a motivate to study English more. Malaysian students use English not only Malay and Chinese in their daily lives. So, they have no difficulties in oral English even if they use grammatically incorrect English. But for Japanese students, we use only Japanese in our lives, so our English skills were much worse than theirs. They sometimes have different pronunciations, so it was hard to understand them and make me understand in English. Simple conversation was easy to do because it can be helped by body languages and face emotions. However, when I tried to discuss more difficult things, such as political matters and religious matters, I couldn't express as I wanted to do. I had known that Asian students study hard, and through this program, I realized they go much further than me especially in



Playing Karuta with Japanese language class students

terms of language; Malay people can speak Malay and English, and Chinese people can speak three languages Malay, English and Chinese. This program taught me that I can't work with foreign people with poor English, so it is my challenge from now.

What I experienced through this program will help me prepare for challenging to abroad. I came to want to know much more about foreign country and interact with more foreign people.

TAN ENG JOO

Through "RoboCon! 2019" a joint robotic program organizes by University of Technology Malaysia (UTM) and University of Tokyo (UTokyo), I have learned a lot of new things and earn many precious memories with students from UTokyo. It is surprising that students from UTokyo are not the same as the typical rumours that say about Japanese. Somehow, students from UTokyo are surprisingly very friendly while the rumours said the majority Japanese would be very shy to talk to a foreigner. They were friendly approach us and start introducing their self to the Malaysian students. My UTokyo 's teammate was Ayoub, and I had learned to enhance my programming skills from him. His programming skills in Arduino are very excellent

and he could explain them very well to me and another teammate, Aina. Besides, determination and not to give up easily are able to learn from both of my teammates and with the spirit our team has, we were able to successfully code the program and run the robot car during the competition. During the preparation week of learning Arduino, we will help each other in trying the tutorial given by Malaysia's Teaching Assistants. In this course, I was able to perform my strength in the Arduino robot car as my major is Mechanical Precision Engineering while my weakness is in coding. However, I was still managed to enhance my coding understanding by the help from my teammates, Ayoub and Aina, because they were better in program coding. With the strength of our team has, I was giving duty more on physical of the Arduino robot car while Ayoub and Aina were more focus in program coding part.

The memories I had with my teammate where we were still able to laugh about the joke and have fun no matter what hardship we face for the coding and practicing of robot car. Next, I have a lot of happy moments when hanging out with the UTokyo students. There is a total of 6 UTokyo, which is Sota-san, Akuru-san, Nozomi-san, Takeru-san, Daigo-san and my teammate Ayoub. We had been to a lot of places together such as Alor Street Food Night Market, 24-hour sleepless Chow Kit Night Market, Batu Cave, Tapak Food Truck Bukit Bintang etc. Some place was also my first time to visit even I have lived in Malaysia for 23 years. We, Malaysian students, introduce Malaysia delicious food, tropical zone fruits, Malaysian lifestyle and culture to the UTokyo students. In other hands, UTokyo students will share about Japanese cultures and interesting thing that happen to them in Japan to the Malaysian students.

From now on, I would like to be focussing and study more about program coding together with my major in Mechanical Precision Engineering. This is because the trending for current technology will be Industries 4.0 where this generation focus on cyber-physical system and Internet of Things (IoT), which mean program coding are also very important beside machinery. While “RoboCon! 2019” is the platform that enables me to kickstart in this field that related to Industries 4.0.

TENGGU AHMAD MUZILL TENGKU JAMIL IKLIL

After two weeks participating the UTM-UTokyo Joint Program, there are many things that I have learned and experienced which I could not encounter outside of the program. I managed to face many types of situation where I had to deal with foreign students and also UTM students who initially I did know who they are and kind of person are they. Thus, I successfully can communicate with them. I am able to break and push my limit in enhancing my soft skills. To begin with, I am a not good communicator with other people who I am not used to. However, I finally can cope with it within a short time. Plus, participating in this kind of program really taught me to become a better person with a positive attitude with a positive mind. I had become a more open-minded person where I could accept others person opinion easily especially when sharing ideas or exchange cultural things with foreign students. Engaging in the joint program also help me improve my knowledge regarding Arduino microcontroller. At first, my knowledge in manipulating the Arduino on how to assemble or making some wiring are zero. Despite all of that, I managed to learn so much things regarding Arduino and how to program it properly. Also, my team



At the Central Market

members are giving me full commitment and guiding me about it.

Killing two bird with one stone, not only I learned about Arduino, I also managed to strengthen my programming skills when there is task given to my group during the program held. All of the knowledge and skills that I have the opportunity to learn are really precious where I can use it during my future career or in my assignments task. Joining the program with the UTokyo students had really taught me to appreciate the moment that we spend together getting to know each other from zero to something. The most moment that I found hard to forget is during the assemble of the robot where my team members and I give our fullest to complete our robot to a perfect competition for the final task which is for the competition. We faced hardship, a ton of failure in making the robot to be success but we managed to endure it with a lot of patient and honesty where me and team members almost giving up because we did not manage to complete the track for the first and second trial during the competition. However, before the third trial began, one of the instructors help us to repair our programming and miracle happen. We able to complete the track smoothly during the third trial. Henceforth, our group won the third place. The most important

lesson that I learned is that never to give your hope up because everything will be alright as God will help people in need.

As I got plenty of knowledge, skills and lessons that I learned during the program, that does not mean that I will stop developing myself to become a better person and a professional engineer in the future. I will continue to develop myself up. Not to forget, the things that I learned will always be implemented inside me even the program had already ended. Probably I will help the people in need to guide them based on what I learned if they are having same trouble when they are learning about this thing.

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