

Nothing Great Comes Easy

By Seah Kah Yee / Cary (Malaysia)

I came to know about GIST I remember it was six and a half years ago, I took my very first step out of my own country traveling a few thousand miles to this land of South Korea. At that moment, I had completed my undergraduate course and decided to conduct industrial training or internship, which is one of the graduation requirements in my university (University Malaysia of Sabah), under GIP program hosted by Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST) during summer of 2013. It was full of excitement. I am pretty lucky to be able to join the GIP program and get to know those lovely fellows and friends who I am still keeping in touch with until now. Through the GIP intern program, I gained a lot of experience and it has open my mind more broadly

GIP is the intern program especially open for selected graduate and undergraduate students who are interested in further education of science and engineering in GIST. It opens the opportunity for students who are interested in science and technology to get to know about this school before they really get into this new environment. GIST was founded 26 years ago, which is one of the world-class science and engineering universities situated in the heart of the Jeolla province embracing with culture, art, and diverse cuisine. The city has always played the role of being light in the history of Korea, that's how it is named – The city of light.

I was very certain about pursuing my education further in science and engineering, therefore I enrolled as an integrated Master and Ph.D. degree in GIST right after the internship. I came back to GIST in Spring 2014. Nothing great comes easy. Understanding myself as a foreigner standing in this foreign land, I have to cope with a lot of challenges not only in terms of languages and cultures but also as a student to my academic advisor and as a foreigner to laboratory members. The Korean language is the national and official language of Korea and hence, it is understandable that English is never common here. I

know I have to work hard on their language so that I can communicate more with the locals. The thing is you have to walk before you can run. I remembered many Korean friends of mine used to laugh at my Korean at the beginning. Fortunately, GIST provides us a very professional Korean language professor who is not only our teacher but also our counselor. She took care of her students just like a sister of her own.

I am so proud and would like to express my gratitude to GIST for building up and prepare me for my future in this field. For me, **GIST is not merely a school. It is a mother who nurtures me and teaches me a lot of lessons that I could never learn in other countries.** At the same time, **it is a shelter for many foreigners and Koreans.** You could find everything you need on GIST campus which makes it perfect for students to focus on their research and study.

“Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education”

– Martin Luther King Jr-