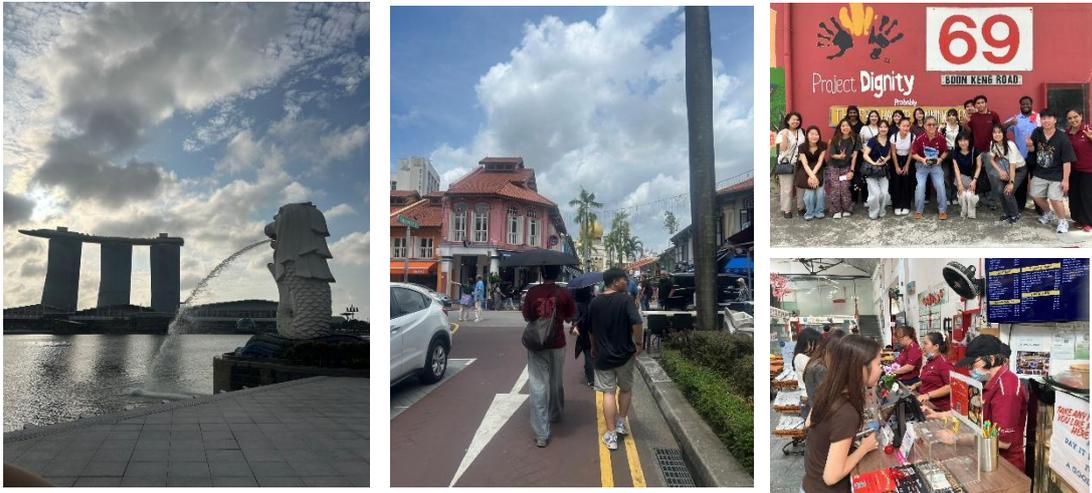


Campus Asia field study in Singapore

Day1



After arriving at Changi Airport, we headed to Merlion Park. On the way from the airport to the city center, I noticed that many plants and flowers were planted along the highways. Most of them were tropical plants that are rarely seen in Japan, which made me realize that I had arrived in a different climate and cultural sphere.

I was also surprised that it took only about 30 minutes by bus to reach the city center from the airport which is known as one of the leading airports in Asia. This made me realize how small Singapore is as a country. However, despite its limited land area, the skyline around Merlion Park was lined with enormous buildings belonging to global financial corporations. Seeing the Merlion next to the modern skyscrapers made me realize how Singapore is developing its city while working within its limited land area.

For lunch, we visited Dignity Kitchen. It appeared to be an ordinary food court, but it is actually a social enterprise that trains and employs people with disabilities such as hearing impairments, intellectual disabilities, and mental health challenges.

Rather than simply providing financial assistance, Dignity Kitchen offers professional training so that individuals can earn their own income and live independently. Watching the employees work confidently made me strongly aware of the importance of inclusion. By creating a workplace where people with disabilities work alongside others, society begins to recognize them not as passive recipients of support, but as independent individuals.

I came to understand that this represents social innovation, as it transforms society's perception of people with disabilities. It creates value not only for individuals but also for

society as a whole.

During our free time, we visited Little India and Arab Street. Walking through these areas felt as if I had stepped into completely different countries. The vivid colors, distinctive smells, and various sounds blended together to create a rich multicultural space. Singapore is often described as a multi-ethnic nation, but experiencing it in person allowed me to understand the meaning of that description more concretely.

I also noticed that food culture reflects Singapore's diversity. During our free time, we visited several food courts, and each of them offered not only Singaporean dishes but also Chinese cuisine, Malay cuisine, and various fusion dishes that blended different culinary traditions. These spaces embraced multiple food cultures within a single setting.

Day2



At NTU, we learned about economic expectation and the history of the purges carried out by the former Japanese military. In particular, the lecture about the former Japanese military left a strong impression on me.

As someone who was born and raised in Japan, I had learned in school that the former Japanese military occupied various parts of Asia during World War II. However, I had rarely learned in detail what actually happened in those regions or what kinds of damage were inflicted on local people. Through survivors' testimonies and historical photographs, I came to understand how severe the violence and purges had been. I was deeply shocked and saddened.

In Japan, when we learn about World War II, the focus is often placed on the damage Japan suffered, such as the atomic bombings and air raids. On the other hand, when discussing what the former Japanese military did in other countries, the debate is frequently framed in terms of right-wing or left-wing ideologies. As a result, historical facts themselves are not always sufficiently conveyed or shared.

However, I believe that this is not a matter of ideology, but a question of how we confront historical facts and pass them on to future generations. Rather than turning away from what happened, it is important to learn the facts accurately and continue telling them so that the same mistakes will never be repeated. This lecture made me reflect deeply on the way history education should be conducted.

During the campus tour at NTU, I was particularly impressed by the design of the buildings. Unlike many buildings in Japan, which completely separate indoor and outdoor spaces and rely heavily on strong air conditioning, the buildings at NTU are designed to incorporate natural airflow. Instead of depending on extremely powerful air conditioning, they create a comfortable environment through the use of fans and open architectural designs. This approach reduces electricity consumption and reflects an environmentally conscious effort. Even in such details, I could sense Singapore's attitude toward valuing and conserving resources.

The campus was surrounded by abundant greenery, creating an open and sustainable atmosphere. I found it interesting that consideration for the environment is naturally integrated into students' daily lives.

Day3



At the Singapore City Gallery, I learned that the country has pursued urban development in a long-term and strategic manner despite its limited land area. While promoting growth through greening policies in the 1960s and land reclamation projects in the 1970s, Singapore has also placed importance on carefully managing water, energy, and waste. In the 1990s, efforts were made to preserve historical and religious buildings, demonstrating a commitment to balancing economic growth with cultural preservation. I understood that

this careful planning and sense of balance are among the reasons why Singapore is regarded as a model of sustainable development.

This coexistence of economic development and preservation could also be observed on Sentosa Island during our free time. While the island offered beautiful beaches, the sea beyond was filled with large cargo ships engaged in international trade. The contrast between the tranquil scenery and the dynamic commercial activity was particularly striking and thought-provoking.

Despite the short duration of only three days, I was deeply impressed by Singapore and was able to gain a great deal from the experience. I feel extremely fortunate to have taken part in this program. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Campus Asia office staff and professors for organizing and providing us with this valuable opportunity.

