

## Exchange Program E-Paper 4

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It was my first time living in non Asia countries. Europe looked like a new world for me. Europe is very different from Asia. One thing I like the most is the free move within all European Union (EU) countries. I found myself enjoy travelling and strolling around new countries and cities. During my exchange period, I could go anywhere in EU area. I can use my exchange program visa (Schengen Visa type D). I learned new things by seeing and being in new places. I enjoyed this different way of learning. I am very grateful for this chance.

During my exchange period, I visit other countries either with friends or families or even alone. I challenged myself to do solo travelling. People said that during travelling, you can understand yourself better. It happened to me. There were many unexpected problems that I never faced before. Travelling also forced me to go out from their comfort zone and find solutions for any problems happen as soon as possible.



I visited Toulouse, the fourth largest city in France, with an Indonesian friend I met in Paris. We joined ski activities to Midi Pyrénées area with the local Indonesian student association there. It was very wonderful and fun time. I have chance to meet many Indonesian students, who studied there. I even met a lecturer, who happens to be my undergraduate's program director best friend. What a coincidence! I also met a friend who happened to married with a France man and moved there. We met during summer holiday French course in Surabaya, my home city. Then we met again in Taipei when she was travelling to Taiwan. What a luck that we could meet again in Toulouse.



Toulouse is also the centre of the European aerospace industry. The airbus headquarter is in Toulouse. I had a chance to visit Airbus museum which located nearby the Toulouse Blagnac airport. I had not much knowledge about airplane but this visit was so memorable. I had a chance to look around inside the airplane, including the pilot cockpit.

I visited Bordeaux, the sixth largest city in France, with another Indonesian friend. I met him there. He was very nice. He welcomed me with an Indonesian food homemade cook. He also accompanied me strolling around the city. We met for just short time but we talked a lot and we still keep in touch up until now. We met a few months later when he come to visit Paris, just a few weeks before I flight back to Taiwan.

I visited Lille, the fifth largest city in France, with an Indonesian friend I met in church



and his university friends. Lille is located at northern of France and the border between France and Belgium. This city has the old city and modern city area. The old city area of this city with many canals is very similar with Amsterdam. I experienced strolling around during dawn time with many men around me. Going in and out between bars and doing nothing in the middle of cold winter wind, just like a homeless. What a memorable and unexpected experience!

On the beginning of April 2019, my brother visited me in Paris and we went travelling for 10 days. We visited Geneva, Rome, Munich, Frankfurt, and Luxembourg. Then on the next day I continued doing solo traveling for 2 days to Bruges and Brussels in Belgium. On the beginning of May 2019, my sister and her friend visited me in Paris and we went travelling for 7 days to Netherland, Salzburg, Halstatt, Zurich, and Lucerne. Each city in Europe has its own uniqueness and characteristics. These travelling experiences opened my mind, give me a new way of thinking, and make me learn something new. The previous me who has a very limited knowledge about Europe now change to be someone who eager to explore and know more about Europe. This exchange experience did change me to be a better person.