

# **Chasing My Dream on Sea of Knowledge --All the Way to London**

## **Foreword**

It's been over one month since I came back from London, U.K. --from my unforgettable experience and memory of the foreign apprenticeship project.

Now, I am still wondering if it was my excellence in study or my family's financial support that I could win the chance to attend the foreign apprenticeship project subsidized by MOE. I could attend the project partly because my grades were good enough, and partly because the cost of a round-trip flight ticket to U.K. and staying in London for a month was not affordable for almost all other students and their families in my department --even though there was 40% subsidy. Consequently, instead of three students as planned, I became the only one student stepping my adventurous steps to the great unknown foreign environment.

## **City Impression**

It's my second time staying in London.

Two years ago I first visited London with my cousins for a three-week international fair. At that time, my language ability was relatively poor, but it didn't stop my curiosity to explore the interests and beauty of the city.

With limited communication vocabulary, I got around all great London area by bus, by underground or even on foot while my cousins were busy promoting products of our family industry. To me, the whole city was pretty like a big playground, with all kind of toys for me to try them out. I learned to take the bus, traveled on underground, ordered meals in restaurants and by food stands. . . . Though frustrated sometimes, I felt all the experience was great, and I learned a lot.

The previous experience is, in fact, a great help for me to survive the London apprenticeship this time.

The city is still the same --busy, noisy and dirty. Londoners are the same --polite but sort of indifferent. With beautiful buildings and green belts decorated among the busy city blocks, I can always find my relief from the hectic schedule.

## **Apprentice**

Where are all the Londoners during the summer? On vacation somewhere

other than London, I guess. The person in charge of my apprenticeship was on vacation somewhere in Africa when I arrived in London, so I was not really an apprentice by definition, but more like a visitor. However, I still had to do something more than a visitor. I had to learn the SOP of the job, get to know how to deal with different situations, figure out simulated solutions to problems they confronted, and got myself familiarized with the British ways of doing things. Aside from the agency, I was also assigned to go to British Museum and other institutes on an apprentice-oriented tour to learn how these organizations work.

During the whole process, I was busy but happy because I somehow saw a way to fulfill myself with my gradually improved language ability, with my better communication skills and with a broader view toward the world.

### **What They Can't Take Away From Me**

I think, projects like this can really help my growth , mentally and spiritually. Before I went on my grand tour to London, I thought I could see all the way of my life to the end --getting a job in my family industry, trying to make some contribution with my foreign language proficiency. . . .

However, I think differently now. Each individual is unique, and I am no exception. On seeing a different corner of the world, I know that life is not so monotonous or aimless as most of the students of my age experience in Taiwan. There many more, and I know I have access to them!