

## **BECOME A MINORITY IN CHAOYANG WITH DELIGHTED**

I decided to become a doctoral student and continue studying in Taiwan with all the consequences of something new. Taiwan is a country that is relatively familiar to me. In 2017, I already participated in a training activity program under the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture, and then in 2019 set foot again in Taiwan, more precisely in Taichung, to continue my studies at Chaoyang University of Technology. While continuing studies at Chaoyang was an extraordinary experience with all the diversity, we learned a lot from this diversity and gained new things. Being a minority as a Muslim in a non-Muslim country is a diversity and a challenge in itself, especially for Muslims who have to pray five times a day.

Islam does not limit cooperative relations and social interaction based on differences in religion and belief. Islam teaches its followers to build harmonious, tolerant, collaborative relationships based on humanity. Our identity as Muslims is essential. It becomes an excellent example of Islam and how to be a Muslim to the outside world. All religions respect the relationship between humans and their gods and also the relationship between humans and each other based on goodness.

Every year, we have to do fasting for 30 days in the holy month called Ramadhan, one of the holy months for Muslims. Currently, Ramadhan is just a few days starting. Do I feel worried when fasting during Ramadan? of course, not at all..... Being in Chaoyang makes me feel safe and comfortable, even though I have to fast for 30 days, where I have to endure hunger and even thirst every day for 12 to 14 hours a day is something I don't feel at all. I can simultaneously carry out everyday activities such as reading and reviewing journals, making research frameworks, and writing. Because studying abroad is an aspiration that maybe not everyone can get extraordinary opportunities, especially to continue their studies in Taiwan. I face everything with happiness and gratitude for all the conditions encountered, including one being far from the family we love. There is no doubt that the weather and environment will affect fasting abroad. During the fasting month or Ramadhan month, everyone has a different way of going through this holy month.

Various activities carried out by Muslim students at the Chaoyang University of Technology, such as Eid al-Fitr celebrations and congregational Eid prayers and breaking the fast together in the month of Ramadan, were attended by Muslim and non-Muslim students. This event was organized and held in dormitory 3 of Chaoyang University of Technology; This will be shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3. This activity was held to strengthen friendships between

Indonesian students at the Chaoyang University of Technology. Several Muslim students at the Chaoyang University of Technology also joined as Taichung mosque volunteers, where the volunteer members consisted of various Muslim students in Taichung, Taiwan.

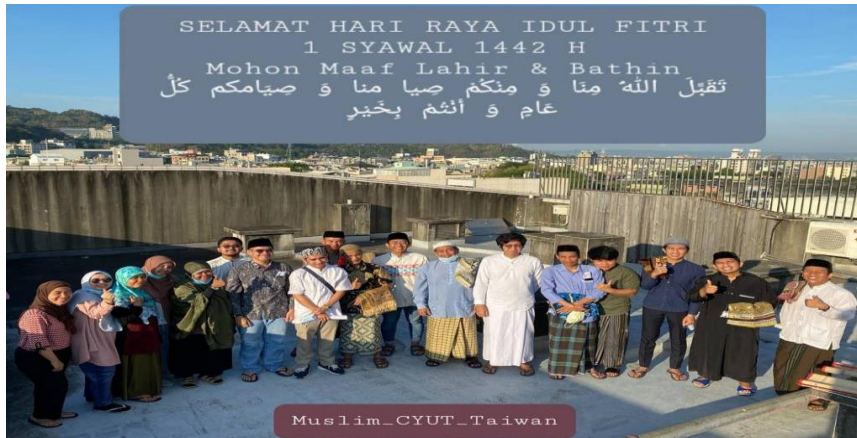


Figure 1. Happy Eid Mubarak in CYUT



Figure 2. Breaking Fast together in the Month of Ramadan



Figure 3. Indonesian Students Celebrate Ramadhan Month

The Chaoyang University of Technology is a private campus in Taichung and was founded in 1994 and has experienced rapid development. The facilities provided by the Chaoyang University of Technology campus to us as Muslims by providing two places of worship for both Muslim men and women is something I have never thought about before amidst my worries when deciding to study in a non-Muslim majority country. This facility makes it easier for Muslims to carry out our regular worship, including looking for food where we can quickly get vegetarian food options that we can consume due to limited choices and some rules we have to run as Muslims. Places of worship can be found not only on campus but also in dormitories where many Muslim students live. In the dormitory, there is also a separate kitchen for Muslim students.

The Muslims Students in Chaoyang University Technology, really appreciate and feel grateful for such kind of tolerance given by the Chaoyang University of Technology to Us. Every religious person has beliefs concerning the harmonious relationship between the individual and his god. Chaoyang has provided it, so choosing to study in Taiwan by choosing the Chaoyang University of Technology is very appropriate for Muslim countries. So we enjoy studying at the Chaoyang University of Technology and know that the Taiwanese are very tolerant of us because their culture values freedom, including freedom of religion.

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