**AUA Students Week Sumer Program Essay**

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During the whole year of my first undergraduate studies I often thought about my future plans on summer. My goal was to spend my vacation period as much effectively as possible contributing both to society’s development and self-improvement. For the first time I heard about UN 17 goals for sustainable development when I planned volunteering in one of the projects of non-commercial youth organisation AIESEC which integrates students from different countries sending them to various regions worldwide to solve problems of education, environment, poverty etc.

Due to certain circumstances I was not able to apply to those projects this summer but still having a desire to gain new experience I became a volunteer in one of the largest national projects in Kazakhstan – international recognized exhibition EXPO-2017. One month of work on the territory of the exhibition was an unforgettable time that was full of new impressions and acquaintance. Touching with various cultures, communicating with people coming from around the world and witnessing the significant achievements in the field of science and technology undoubtedly was useful. However, hosting such events open for people for all ages and participating in academic program abroad are quite distinct things.

AUA Summer Program this year held in Indonesia has a purpose to mobilize scholars and students from the leading universities in the Asian region to discuss problems of the future development. I immediately saw this as an opportunity for me to be acquainted with the new perspective on solving global issues and explore new culture. Furthermore, I always was fascinated about travelling around the world and the chance to visit such exotic country as Indonesia seems to me very exciting.

Indonesia is one of the leading developing countries in the Asian region with fast-growing economy and large population. I can highlight many points common for Indonesia and Kazakhstan including the fact that both of them are main exporters of oil and gas and that majority of the population are Muslims. Both countries have a unique culture and their own language survived through the period when Kazakhstan was a part of Russian Empire and later Soviet Union, and Indonesia was a colony of Dutch Republic and Netherlands.

Despite the similarities there are still many things my country can learn from this Southeast Asian country consisting of different islands and populated with various ethnic groups. Severe climate conditions and natural disasters in the recent years did not prevent Indonesia from economic growth with more emphasis on the service sector though agriculture and industry still play a huge role. In addition, Indonesia is one of the regions attractive for investors along with such leading countries as USA, China and India. Moreover, Indonesian people pay a great attention to a qualitative education since they understand that this is an only way to social prosperity, especially when there is a relatively high income inequality in the country.

AUA Students Week is an unique program in Asia aiming to help members of the association exchange ideas in the fields of engineering, science and math, social sciences and culture through organized lectures, field studies and cultural sessions. Indonesia shows notable achievements in the fields of agriculture and marine technologies, aerospace, robotics and Internet. The last ones are close to my own area of study, to Computer Science so I can integrate my academic knowledge with first-hand experience.

It is worth to mention that this year I took one of the courses offered to engineers by my university called Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety. During the course we discussed many issues related to hazards in workplaces, industry and minimization of negative effects of human being on the environment. Through this period I realized that it is quite important to ensure the safety of every human activity and engineers do not have to only learn how to create things, which make the life easier, but also to study social sciences in order to be aware of consequences of their investigations. The same is applicable for my own major, because nowadays computers are developing rapidly and involved in almost all aspects of our life. I believe that this program will help me to submerge myself into the academic environment where everyone cares about the sustainable development, when people do not only consume depleting natural resources and destroying the planet.

I also know that one of the long-term purposes of AUA is to raise the level of education of Asian universities and to attract students to study in the region. Honestly, I was planning to continue my education abroad in western countries, but probably participation in this program will change my mind towards eastern universities. Even though many students still prefer to pursue their education in American and European institutions, such programs play significant role in improving the quality of higher education in Asia and enhancing research opportunities.

So far my knowledge about Indonesia was limited to the information accessible on the Internet. I hope that attending in different events during the program will help me understand better the life conditions in the country, cultural traditions and the way of thinking of Indonesian people. I am very interested in learning foreign languages, so I am looking forward to explore the features of Indonesian language so different from English, Kazakh and other languages familiar to me. I will have an opportunity not only to talk with native people but also to communicate with other students and faculty from the best Asian universities. I expect to become more experienced, open-minded, improve presentation skills and English proficiency, and to bring new ideas for development into Kazakhstan. It undoubtedly will be a great honour for me to be a representative of my country during the program.