Reflection on ANCT Outbound Trip, 11 to 21 December 2014
Written by Tu Li Chuan, Diploma in Aerospace Electronics, Year 1

The trip to Fukuoka for the student exchange program is truly an eye-opening experience for me, as I understand more about how does Japanese school looks like and the way lessons were being conducted. By comparing ARIAKE NATIONAL COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY (ANCT) with Singapore Polytechnic, I realized that the school is much smaller as it is not a government school and the courses offered by the school are also very limited as it has to be in more general, in order to contribute to Japan’s industry. Furthermore, the school does not really have a lot of cafeteria or studying places to provide students with conducive environment for discussion and revision.

Although the school has adequate of facilities to train their students but the school system is not really effective to provide a holistic education to every student. The ratio of a lecturer is about 1 : 35 students. Sometimes, it is impossible for the lecturer to answer every single question that students are in doubt with. Hence, some students may not be able to cope with their school work or simply lose their interests in learning.

One of the things that surprised me, was that the first year male students have to greet very loudly whenever they see their seniors. It is part of the Japanese school culture as it symbolizes the position of a person. Generally, the Japanese were very friendly but it is really difficult to make a genuine Japanese friend due to language barrier and different cultures.