

My Term Abroad in Hong Kong

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I spent my last night in Hong Kong at Tsim Sha Tsui strolling along the Avenue of Stars with the lights from the skyscrapers of Hong Kong Island painting a magnificent sky. This scene may not be new to most people who have visited this place known for shopping, the Peak and the newly opened Disneyland. To me though, the breathtaking sight was a fitting conclusion to the best four months of my life. It encapsulated the experiences of my finding myself, learning independence and self-value, and gaining true friendships from all over the world.

What I remember best about Hong Kong are waking up to mornings with Alex, my French roomy greeting me, "*Good morning Yan.*" In my mind, I am walking down once more in the bustling night markets of Mong Kok with my best mate from England, Pat. As I hear hip-hop beats, the music takes me back to heating up the dance floor until 3:30 am with Queenie at Lan Kwai Fong. Or the simplest thing such as memories of my good friends and me in McDonald's sharing stories over a \$2.00 sundae cone. Each morning there beckoned to me with something new and each day ended filled with fulfillment, happiness and a drive that made me just want wake up to live the rest of my life the best way I could.

There are so many experiences and fond memories to relive. I treasure them for they transform Hong Kong and its landmarks from a tourist spot to a home. I have to admit that coming back is tough and still I am trying to adjust to the life here in Manila. I reminisce over the past four months and feel, as it was a wonderful dream. In a way, it was, but the difference is that Hong Kong, I know has given me so much strength and hope to actually make my personal dreams come a step closer, way closer, than that of the Ian of four months before.

I left a part of myself in Hong Kong and it will always have a special place in my heart for me.