

Report on Participation in China Field Trip 2015

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i. Academic Outcomes

It was a fruitful study trip and as always, a program that I treasure so much for new knowledge and gaining different perspectives. This study trip was very relevant and is related to the East Asia Sustainable Economic Development Course. During the trip we attended an interesting and informative lecture titled "China's Growth Model" at Renmin University in Beijing. China is now a global important trading partner; hence understanding its international and economic situation is vital for us as a graduate student.

As a big country, China has a complex and very challenging economic, social as well as political environment due to its rapid growth. China's current growth model is described as aggressive developmentalism, which was a result of fierce competition for investments as well as due to the pro-business policy promoted by the government. This study trip had triggered my interest to learn about India and its governmental policy for developments as one of the emerging countries under "BRICS".

We also had a briefing by the Director of the Division of Integrated Operation at National Energy Conservation Center. Madam Director briefed us about the ten main policies and actions taken in promoting energy conservation in China as well as the progress thus far. Then, we attended a session at China Chengxin Credit Company an affiliate of Moody's Investors services. This information is new to me and we learnt how the company operates and gained a deeper understanding on rating services. Next, we visited Ninghua Technology Company, a private manufacturing company producing metal cutting machineries and tools. The company started with only ten workers 20 years ago and currently has more than 200 employees. At the company we learnt many aspect of business operation, management and market situations in China. Also, the support from the government has played a vital role in promoting small and medium enterprises.

ii. Experiences

In Beijing City we learnt about the challenges for the government to curb with pollution issues and social welfare. In my view; China needs more action to create efficient energy policy and further strengthen their effort on energy conservation. At the same time, Chinese government needs also to improve its legislation and enforcement capabilities as to improve the environment and air pollution problems. We experienced the subway transportation system and it is considered cheap for the public to use the services. This is one way to encourage the usage of public transport and reduce cars on the road. We had the opportunity to visit historical places namely the Great Wall of China-Badaling, Tiananmen Square and The Palace Museum. We had an exchange discussion about the knowledge on the history of China as well as the dynasty that was in power.

iii. Content of the program

The program was very brief and if only we had additional time to visit more companies it would be very interesting too. During the joint student workshop we had a good discussion but limited perspective as the student from Renmin University was represented by undergraduate students. Due to the different educational levels there were some limitations for deeper engagement and networking after the session.

iv. The impact of the program on your career plan

This experience from this trip provided me with the insight of a development policy, challenges and the role of China in global economy as well as new perspective for sustainable economic development in numerous dimensions as Beijing hosts more than 30 million people, while the population of China is about 1.3 billion. Of course, this knowledge is vital and will definitely add value to my career. Additionally, the networking established will also have significant importance for my global engagement in near future.