

Report on Participation in Germany Field Trip

GONG Can
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Faculty/Graduate School of: Economics
Kyoto University

I have gained a lot from this field trip in Germany. During the trip, I saw how scholars and specialists were contributing their professional knowledge and wisdom for the common benefits of society, how one could apply what he/she learned in academic fields in reality. I felt inspired in pursuing for further study of Economics and other related social science subjects.

It was also my first time visiting Europe, which appeared to be so different from Asian area. For the first time, I could directly face with and feel vivid western civilization, more exciting than the information on papers or screens or electronic devices. This was another culture shock after the first culture shock I had experienced in Japan. Both Frankfurt and Heidelberg had an atmosphere of culture. At the beginning I did not expect too much for this trip, however in the end, I began to wish that I could have a chance to continue studying in different countries in future.

We joined lectures/the workshop at local universities, visited NGO, a government department, Stock Exchange, local enterprise, library and museums. Communicating with people from these institutions was really impressive and enlightening. Many practical issues in society need the application of expertise in Economics. This trip provided me with an opportunity to watch closely how Economics and expertise in other academic subjects were used in reality.

During visit to IG Metall, a trade union founded in 1891, we had a meeting with representative of IG Metall. IG Metall is the largest single trade union in Germany. It has a mature organization structure and has rich experience in collective bargaining. Thanks to our fellow participants, we asked many practical and interesting questions in the interview, through which I got to understand how the trade union fights for their multiple aims. First aim of IG Metall is seeking for a political solution for better political influence. Meanwhile, when bargaining with capitalists, they would compare inflation with productivity and measure the balance of political power issue. The whole process could be really subtle and interesting.

We joined the workshop in Heidelberg University and I was lucky to have a chance to do a presentation there. I was very nervous when preparing for it. However, through preparation, I gained experience and courage. And it was really nice to enjoy presentations from fellow participants of both Heidelberg University and Kyoto University; topics were diversified and interdisciplinary, including from Economics, Education to History and Culture. Communication among people from different counties and different academic fields helped me broaden my horizon.

During the visit on Ministry of Economics, Energy, Transport and Regional Development of State Hessen, I got to know the economic situation in Hessen and the prospects of energy use in Germany. Germany is planning on abandoning nuclear power and promoting use of solar energy, wind and bioenergy.

Visiting SMA Solar Technology AG was very exciting. SMA is a top photovoltaic inverter producer in the world. The presentation of SMA showed how solar energy technology had been improved and how it could be used widely in future, while there are still barriers from politics or recognition of civil people. I am from Tibet, an area with abundant energy from sun. In 2011, the local government in Tibet started a household-heating project for urban citizens, using natural gas instead of solar energy. At that time, the cost of solar energy was higher than using natural gas piped from

neighbor province Sichuan. SMA showed us the trend of energy source, predicating that the widely use of solar energy over the world. I hope that in future solar energy could benefit local people in Tibet more than we could imagine today.

After graduation from Kyoto University, I am going back to my job as a staff member in Tibet branch of central bank of China. However, what I have learned during my Master's period would not fade out. They are very beneficial for my work in central bank. My job requires me to keep on updating knowledge in Economics and Finance. The academic research methods and ways of thinking are very important for my daily duties.