

## **Report on Participation in Germany Field Research Trip**

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### **A. Academic Outcomes**

During this overseas field research trip, in Goethe University, we attended a lecture which focused on institutions and innovation. In this lecture, Prof. Storz introduced how changes occurred in institutions and what happened as a result of those changes. She used the changes in financial market in France, Italy and Germany as examples to explain in details that the changes in routines of institutions were so important and there was considerable room for change, also within paths.

Besides, a joint academic seminar between Kyoto University and Heidelberg University was held for students to show their research themes. The topic of the joint seminar was about "the past and present of Asia and Europe". In this seminar, 9 students had their unique presentations such as Development by fiscal aid in Tibet, sustainable or not. Japanese economic history of electricity industry and nuclear and renewable energy policy in comparison to Germany and so on. These interesting presentations benefitted me a lot as they widened my horizon and provided me different views to understand the diversity between cultures.

### **B. Experience In Germany**

In Germany, although we cannot speak German, our team member worked together and helped each other during the trip. The team spirit always inspired us during our trip. The members of our team were from different countries and we could hold heated discussions during the trip. For us, it was a great opportunity to make a better understanding about each culture.

### **C. Content of the Program**

There were mainly three parts in this program. First of all, it was the academic communication with Goethe University and Heidelberg University. There was one lecture in Goethe University and one joint-seminar with Heidelberg University.

The second part was visiting companies, an organization and an official department in Germany. We visited the head-quarter of the largest labor union in Europe---IG Metall. IG Metall is one of the most powerful labor unions in Germany and we had a clear image about how the labor union had tried their best to protect the rights of workers. Also, we visited to SMA, the pioneer in solar industry, which now holds the largest market share in the world. We learned the development of solar industry during the past century and the bright future of the solar energy. Besides, we called on the ministry of economics in Hessen. They kindly introduced the development of renewable energy in Hessen and the policy they made to promote the use of renewable energy.

Last but not least, we could also feel the history of Germany. We visited the Frankfurt Stock Exchange which is the largest in European continent. The staff in the stock exchange gave us a fantastic presentation and showed us how the stocks are traded in the market. Also, they paid attention to be more environment-friendly during the trade such as energy saving and other strategies.

### **D. The impact of the program**

My present research is based on the international input-output tables. After talking to professors in Heidelberg University, I have found that it could also be used for environmental economics such as CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and other climate

problem as the trade in value-added could reflect the real trade balance between countries. This field research trip provided me a chance to broaden my research interest and gave me more possibility in the further study.

It was my first time to visit Germany and I have been so grateful to Kyoto University for giving me such an opportunity that I could have gained so much new knowledge and learn new opinions from different perspectives. Also, I appreciate the team members and professors in charge of this field trip, it would be the precious memory in Kyoto University.