

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

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Thanks for this trip, I could broaden my horizon to many international issues as well as energy policy. If I stayed in Japan and never had a chance to get to know with other participants who are exchange students from our neighboring countries, I might get and keep a negative impression on people from those countries. In Japan, TV media reports that there have been some diplomatic and historical issues and Japan has conflicted with neighboring countries. Throughout many conversations with the participants in this trip, who have various cultural back ground, I confirmed my feeling of solidarity to people in our neighbor countries. I've already noticed this feeling since the last exchange program to Australia in 2012. In last exchange program, I had a chance to get to know with students from other Asian countries. And in this trip, it became even stronger. Some people dream of "Asian Union" like EU to solve the economic and energy problems and so on with overcoming our historical conflict. But other people object this idea because of negative feeling or mutual distrust among us. Now, I think it will be possible and worth investigating its advantage and disadvantage.

My presentation at Heidelberg university was the first opportunity for me to present my research. Many people showed interests to my presentation, so this experience made me confident to deepen the research and publish it. I would like to challenge to write my thesis not in Japanese but in English in the future so that many people all over the world could read my thesis.

Through interview with Ministry of Hessen, I realized that it was difficult even for German civil officers to grasp the mechanism of electricity market, because the know-how is closely tied to practical experience. The most surprising fact I learned was not about Germany but Finland. In Finland, at least two cities raised hands to accept the final waste disposal location for business tax. I didn't imagine the economic incentive exceed the safety concern. I wondered how much revenue they expected. He said the price discrimination giving cheaper electricity to industrial sector was justified to protect domestic employment. They are under the international competition which should be supported by low production cost. In other words, he said that citizens needed to accept what would come after introducing renewable energy because they agreed to do so in spite of the transition cost. Capacity market is just a temporary measure because Germany wants to stop coal power plant in the future for less greenhouse gas emission.

At Goethe University, we took a lecture about Institutional economics. I was surprised because the professor introduced 3 academic articles in the 90 minutes lecture. It was more informative compared to typical Japanese university class of reading one chapter of the textbook per lecture. I also noticed that the types of questions/methodologies to reveal the difference between countries in Institutional economics are similar to my ways of research.

At IG metal, a German big labor union, I learned it collected 1% of income from each member so that the revenue could be spent for them during strike. I think it is good idea to increase the bargaining power for workers. It should be one of the reasons why the labor unions in Germany are relatively stronger than those of Japan.

At Benz museum, I learned engine, as technology, had a very wide potential for multiple uses after Benz tried to put it on the all transportation such as ships and airplanes. But they didn't imagine such a business success caused pollution

from SO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and CO<sub>2</sub>.

Unal, one of the participants from Turkey, told me a meaning of croissant. It is a moon printed on Turkey's national flag. Western people invented to celebrate the victory over the Turkey. I think it is better expression to model the rival nation into a food than burning flag because everyone can eat the taste. It is better and more humorous; we eat food implicating our rival country rather than burning flag of the country.

Lots of research questions came up especially through discussions with German people as well as participants such as;

Q. Why are there no parties in Japan that claim to reduce the working hours? I think this manifest must be popular among workers.

Q. It is said that most Japanese companies agree to nuclear power is necessary and best as the energy policy. For what reasons do Japanese companies regard it as the best? In Germany, some industrial group agreed to stop nuclear power plants. How many Japanese companies think the nuclear power is safe and not risky? I came up this question after student workshop in Heidelberg University.

There is information about this question (<http://jp.reuters.com/article/poll-nuc-idJPKBN0090ZS20150524>)

Q. Which is the better option for economy, to increase the wage to increase the marginal consumption ratio, or decrease the wages to keep the production cost low so that the companies can win the competition and increase the sales in the market as German? Piggue says poorer people has higher rate of marginal consumption than rich people so if workers are poorer than capitalists, they tend to spend more if their wage was increased.

Q. I also became interested in bi-lateral relationship all over the world. I learned that Laos and Thai were in a good relationship in spite of past colony experiences. It is surprising that apparently Lao people have friendly feeling toward Thai people even though there is the fact that millions of people have been killed in a few centuries ago. On the other hands, there are many cases where two neighboring countries are conflicting each other over land or natural resources such as Pakistan and India, Japan and China, and China and Vietnam. So my question is what determines their relationship? What factor is needed to improve the relationship? It will require international comparison research.