

Report on Participation in Germany Field Trip

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I really appreciate this precious opportunity to participate in this Germany field trip with other researchers. We managed to conduct over ten interviews with various public and private organizations in a limited period, and have obtained many thought-provoking findings.

First I would like to recall our visit to United Nations Campus Bonn. A senior advisor was very kind to give us a lecture concerning Sustainable Development Goals 2030. Sustainability contains economic, environmental and social aspects, and these three aspects are further developed into seventeen goals such as No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Gender Equality, Climate Action and Life on Land. Most of the goals are within social perspective, although in reality public or private organizations would prioritize economic goals instead of the other two. Everyone can help promote this idea and achieve these goals. Someone may question its measurability, while actually there is a well-established measuring system with over a hundred of indicators is maintained to monitor the achievement of goals. I am very glad to see how the living standard of human beings has improved through the detailed figures updated regularly.

In the visit to Frankfurt Economic Development GMBH, we learned about the advanced technologies of renewable energy in Germany as well as the State of Hessen. Although Hessen is not much blessed with wind or solar power, its ratio of renewable energy has increased to 15%, doubled in recent five years. Hessen aims to achieve 100% renewables before 2050. We also received a brochure written in Japanese, indicating their welcome for Japanese companies to enter German renewables market. In the national level, Germany has a long-term strategy energy and climate named Energiewende, which is started in the 1990s and reaches as far forward as 2050. Wind energy and solar power are the backbone of this strategy and flexibility is the new paradigm of the power sector. We also learned that a structural change is needed to bring new challenges and opportunities in energy sector. Many other countries in Europe and beyond have also set ambitious renewable energy targets. I wish China could import their advanced technologies more and shift to sustainable energy in the near future. The root is to make citizens more aware of and care about renewable energy.

Meeting with members in Business and Professional Women Club in Frankfurt may be the most inspiring moments for me in this trip. We had the opportunity to talk with three wonderful women employees with different background and experience. I was most impressed with the member from Romania, who pursued one more degree of economics and came to work in Germany ten years ago. We can tell that she truly loves studying and working here in this highly diversified and free society. In fact I was also very surprised by the diversified population here, for there are much more foreigners and foreigner restaurants than in Japan. The women club has overseas branches, aiming to help women with family and career issues. The members told us that they have found a better position and built a clearer future after joining in the club. I learned that nothing can stop your dream if you do not create barriers yourself nor get trapped by external judgements.

We had an opportunity to visit to Yokohama City representative office in Frankfurt. Although it is merely a small office with two members, they take in charge of attracting German and other European nation companies to operate branch office in Yokohama. We can imagine their busy schedule and hard work to approach to target companies. Excellent transportation access, rich human resources, and reasonable rental costs are some examples of the

advantages of Yokohama. Many global companies have established R&D centers there, such as Apple Japan, Continental Automotive Corporation, and Samsung. The city government would provide tax incentives and subsidies for the first few years. This opened port city since 1859 has already seen a highly diversified culture and population, which would facilitate to operate a business there.

As IoT and Big Data have become hot words these days, we took this opportunity to visit SAP, a German IT giant, and participated in its inspiration pavilion. We learned the history of SAP in the context of the development of information technologies, and also experienced some awesome solutions to how to make it smoother to watch a game in a stadium. More detailed contents are within several postcards, while you can put one above the scanner and enjoy videos on the touched screens. I will be working at a similar company to SAP, so it is good to know about the advanced technologies of a top business.

In the Heidelberg-Kyodai Workshop, we exchanged ideas in a total of nine presentations, with topics ranging from globalization, industrial revolution, immigration, business associations, and female employees in Japan. All participants were quite active in raising questions and giving comments, and we also got to know each other better during the break time.

Presenters from our university focused on the topics of immigration policy, business association, and women employees, while Heidelberg counterparts talked about issues on a more global scale. The Voyages of Discovery to the world economy has a long-run importance for it generated a transfer of capital, technology, and labor on an enormous scale never seen before. There were also more active trade of silk and silver after China reformed tax on silver. Most silk was traded to the final destination of Japan and the US, while Europe was more in a role of middlemen. The domestic quantity of silver in China was low, and the price was higher than overseas. The increase in demand drove down the price and shifted the equilibrium to the right in the demand curve. After accumulating sufficient capital and wealth in the global trade, England began its industrial revolution in the eighteenth century. New technologies eventually developed into factories. Industrious revolution is designed to supplement it by addressing this belief that the overwhelming desire for more goods directly preceded industrial revolution. During industrious revolution, there was an increase in demand for goods but supply did not rise as quickly. Next there is a report concerning slave trade and industrial revolution. A traditional theory states that profits from slave trade takes up very little in the whole GDP of the Great Britain, so it is not an important trigger to the revolution. However, a revised study shows that the contribution of slaves in both market supply and demand side is huge, providing the necessary infrastructure for a sustainable revolution.

During this trip, I have acquired so many academic and practical findings from universities and organizations in Germany, and at the same time also realized my lack of knowledge and experience. I enjoyed the international atmosphere and would like to study or work abroad in the future. Thanks to the hard work and devoted efforts of all members, we had a successful academic trip with so many unforgettable memories.