

Report on Participation in Field Research Trip in Germany 2016

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Year level: D1
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Organizer: Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University

Date: from November 26th (Sat) to December 5th (Monday), 2016

Country: Germany

Host Universities: Heidelberg University (in Heidelberg), Goethe University (in Frankfurt)

Research Goals & Objectives:

- To observe and interview German how they think of refugee problem
- To understand German how they make a decision on the human right issue
- To understand Sustainable Development Goals

Academic Contributions/Originality in Research:

- To include refugee topic as a case study in my doctoral thesis which I study transboundary public goods game under the scope of experimental economics.
- To refer my research to Sustainable Development Goals

Outline of My Works:

- To make a visiting plan in Bonn on November 28th
- To contact United Nations Bonn and the Bundeskartellamt
- To make presentation in Hei-Kyo (Heidelberg-Kyodai) Workshop
- To guide the direction during the visit in Bonn

Reflection and Milestone:

Addressing Real-World Problem

1. Sustainable Development Goals

On 28th November 2016, we visited United Nations Bonn Campus. Mr. Harald Ganns gave us a lecture about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 17 SDGs cover the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. The new Goals are universal and apply to all countries, including developing countries and developed countries.

Through the lecture, I learned what the role of the United Nations in implementing SDGs was. Also, there was no incentive system to encourage countries to participate. Therefore, I would like to use my research result to explain why countries are inefficient to keep their contribution and how the United Nations can do to increase the participation rate.

2. Refugee Problem

On November 30th, we visited a refugee center "Der Laden" in IG Metall in Frankfurt. We interviewed a staff and a refugee about what services did the center provided to the refugees. Also, the refugee shared his experience about how he adapted to the German society, and he found a job.

Through the interview, I learned the German's attitude towards refugee problems. The staff explained the reasons why we needed to help. With aging society, they were the important labor force for economic development in Germany. The crimes did by the refugee were exaggerated by the media. It brought me reflect what is the rational thinking towards the refugee problems. Information given by the media to the public could largely alter people's attitude and way of thinking. It would be interesting to investigate how SNS (e.g. facebook, twitter) is changing people' mind.

Interpersonal Communication

On December 2nd, I made my presentation in the Hei-Kyo (Heidelberg-Kyodai) Workshop. This workshop aimed to facilitate active interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration between researchers from Kyoto University and Heidelberg University. My presentation topic was "Introduction to Experimental Economics." I explained the importance of experimental economics and how to design an experiment. Then, I introduced my research.

Through the workshop, I learned presentation skills and research techniques from professors and students in Germany. Also, I received comments from German professors that solving free rider problem is vitally important in the world.

Multicultural Collaboration

This field trip aimed students to design their schedule. There were eight students in the field trip research team: 3 Japanese, 3 Chinese, 1 Filipino and 1 Vietnamese. Through several meetings, we discussed and compromised the final version of the schedule. Moreover, I was responsible for contacting with the United Nations Bonn Campus and the Bundeskartellamt Bonn, to organize lectures and meetings during the trip.

I learned how to communicate with other cultures. For example, I feel German are efficient, disciplined and well-organized. Therefore, when I sent an email to German, I wrote it simple and clear. Also, I showed respect to all members to avoid misunderstanding during the discussion.