

Report on Participation in Field Trip in Germany

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During the past ten days from Nov 26th to Dec 5th 2016, I was very honored to participate in the field trip in Germany.

During the trip, we visited different kinds of organizations and met various people in Germany. We have talked with officials in government offices, for example, Bundeskartellamt in Bonn, an organization responsible for regulating fair competition of companies; and Ministry of Economics, Energy, Transport and Regional Development in the State of Hessen. Besides, we explored the operations and possibilities for modern business by visiting local corporations, such as Fraport, a company responsible for the operation of the airport of Frankfurt and SAP, the world leader in software business. We also visited international and local organizations, like United Nations Campus in Bonn, Business and Professional Women Frankfurt, IG Metall the working union and Greenpeace and local environmental protection groups in Frankfurt. We went to research institutes like Frankfurt Economic Development GMBH and had lectures, seminars and workshops with professors and students in Goethe University and Heidelberg University. Finally, we tasted a little bit of Japonism by dropping by at the City of Yokohama Representative Office in Frankfurt and the Heidelberg Office of Kyoto University European Center.

During my staying in Germany, especially in Frankfurt, one of the deepest impressions is how international and global the city has become. While walking on the street, I could see people from various ethnic groups, speaking multiple languages. When visiting organizations, I could see people with different cultural backgrounds working together as a team. The city has been coated with the glory of multiculturalism, and most of people living in it seemed to be used to this vivid atmosphere.

Before going to Germany, I tried to contact local NGOs concerning the professional life of female in the country. We were very lucky to have the chance to meet and talk with the board members of the Frankfurt Branch of Business and Professional Women International. They provided me with many insights on the professional life of female. As two of the board members were from countries other than Germany themselves, I also got a chance to learn more about migrant female workers' experiences and how self-organized communities and sisterhood have contributed to their professional development. Besides, we met several nice ladies actively involved in the professional fields of different areas. All the interviews and encounters would be of great help for me to better study and take some new perspectives of my thesis with the focus female migrants' professional life in Japan.

After that, on Dec 2nd, we had a workshop with students from Heidelberg University. I did a presentation regarding the ideal type of female candidates shaped by internet navigation websites in Japan. The presentation was quite well received by the students and a professor from Heidelberg University gave me very inspiring comments on my research methodology and materials, which would also contribute to my later academic research.

This program has illuminated my views on future career plan as well. As a city with high level of integration of multiple cultures, Frankfurt has pointed out a possibility to me. I would like to have my own career built up in such a place, free and without many boundaries. I also hope in the future, both China and Japan can also transfer towards such a society with more openness and tolerance of transculturality so that it can attract more global talents.