

Student Name: Sofia Shazlin Salleh
Program: MSCM

THE SCALE CONNECT

My overall experience at SCALE connect can be summarized as a once in a lifetime opportunity. Unlike many other SCALE connect that I have been, this is the only event where I sat and gathered with the most talented people in the world in the field of logistics and supply chain for three weeks.

Realizing the hard truth that I will not be experiencing this kind of opportunity again, I set up my mind to appreciate and be grateful for every single minute, hours, and days that I will spend at MIT.

Throughout this amazing journey, I had been disciplining myself to record my everyday routine on top of writing my daily journal. For every single day that passes at MIT, I asked myself three questions before I went to bed:

- What are the three profound/awesome things I learnt today?
- What are things that I didn't know and should be doing in future?
- What am I grateful for today?

These questions made me reflect on my day to day experience at MIT. I will be sharing my experience at the SCALE Connect weekly, as it makes it easier to follow through.

WEEK 1

During the first week, we had the SCALE Connect kickoff event where we are assigned to team up for the ice breaking. I was selected to be the team leader for team 8. I accepted the role that was given to me with an open heart. The assignment that we had to do was producing a testimonial video. Since I enjoy documenting my experience, this assignment was a piece of cake for me. Even though I have 18 members in my team, it turned out easy to delegate the task and lead the team. Perhaps it was due to having people in my team that are mature, professional, and committed. Despite the huge age gap, I had with the rest of my team, they were very supportive and kind.



Figure 1: Team 8



Figure 2: Rafael and Sneha

In the same week, I also met with my Shark Tank team. There were four of us; Sneha, Gerald, Rafael, and me. We all came from different centers. Thus it was really fun getting to know them—four different continents, life experiences, the perspective of the supply chain; all in one team. We scheduled our first meeting at CTL, and from there on, we started to build up our ideas for the shark tank competition. I learned so much from the three of them after spending more than 3 2 hours

meeting. In my team, there were experts in consulting, project management, as well as vendor management. The combination of these skills made it easy for us to come up with a ton of ideas.

Week 2

This week is the week that I named it “the Python Week.” I struggled slightly during the first week of python class, but eventually, with the help of my classmates, I made it through with flying color score of 91%. My professor named is Dr. Inma Borrella, a young and bright research scientist at CTL. She was very patient in teaching us python step by step. I was very grateful to learn python with her.

We had a networking session where I had the opportunity to get to know other supply chain professionals from the scale network. On top of having delicious food being served during the event, I spent my time exchanging business cards, sharing my stories, listening to people’s work experiences, and many more.



Figure 3: Team 8 at networking session

Apart from that, we had a visit to Walgreen Distribution Centre. It was a fantastic DC with lots of automation. I met the worker there named Kaily, who has been working there for almost 11 years. I interviewed her on her experience working at Walgreen, and she seemed to enjoy the time she spent there. On the weekend, James, Tan, Chang and I, took a trip to the New England aquarium. On the way there, we figured that we should visit Boston Harbor, which was located nearby the aquarium. It has one of the amazing views that I have ever seen.



Week 3

Week 3 was the last week of our SCALE Connect, which mean that I had to present my research poster at the research festival on Wednesday. The presentation went well with many supply chain professionals that came and visited our poster. I had the chance to speak with the VP of Global Supply Chain of Bank of America for almost 20 mins during the festival. We discussed the difference in the supply chain in Asia and the United States. It was a very stimulating and interesting conversation we had. We ended up exchanging cards.

- (i) Three positive Key highlights that you will take away from your three-week SCALE Connect experience.
 - I have to keep learning Python as companies are increasingly demanding the need of having the skill to code.

- Learning about myself through the Strength Finder session by Colleen Murphy was eye opening.
- Interview prep was very useful in guiding me to prepare for interview.

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