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## THE SCALE CONNECT

My trip to SCALE CONNECT was unexpected, especially when I only got my visa after the third interview. This program is capable of extracting your best. It was my first time in the US. I was the first student from MISI who arrived at the Residence Inn Hotel as I came from a different country than my colleagues. I woke up when I heard my roommate's voice telling me that they have arrived the next day. I was terrified of the cold weather due to my allergies, but surprisingly our first day was so warm. We started the first day by taking a tour in the beautiful city of Boston and got ready to start the classes the next day.



We started us every morning by having breakfast together at the big table at the restaurant of the hotel, which was later known as the Malaysia table. It was the first year to have this enormous numbers of the student from the whole scale network, which were 175 students. One of the best things that happened during the program was the competitions. They had a lot of that each week, and you will find yourself in a new group where you can meet new people. In general, each week, we study the main subject, leadership skills in supply chain, and SCALE CONNECT speaker session. In the first week, we got the chance to research Llama soft, where you can learn optimization for massive data and created different scenarios and compared them between using graphs and maps. You can also simulate the final network on a real map using latitude and longitude. It was terrific, and we got our certificates at the end of the course. One of the main SCALE CONNECT speakers of that week was Michelle D. Livingstone from Home Depot and Karl Siebrecht from Flex.

One of the main advantages of the program is that it was not all about studying, but you also had the weekends to enjoy it. On our first weekend, we went on a trip together to New York City. What makes it unforgettable is that it was the first time to see the snow. We took a lot of pictures and visited a lot of famous areas in New York, like the Empire State Building and Times Square.

The second week was memorable. We had the Shark Tank competition. I suggested an idea to develop a solution from the supply chain that could also solve a problem in the humanitarian supply chain. We recommended the purpose of developing an application for Refugees where they can use machine learning technology of face recognition to search for their lost families plus providing them with a platform where NGOs can be a user in the application. By using this way, they can reach more than one NGO at the same time. We didn't win any prize, but I gained great friendships with the team. We started Python classes this week also, and we learned how to analyze data using Python. One of the main events this week was our visit to Walgreen, and it is also one of the main advantages of the program that you can see the practicality of supply chain concepts and different innovations that companies are using to manage their system. On the second weekend, we got the chance to visit Harvard Boston and Quincy Market, where we got to try amazing food and visit the Italian street and Boston Harbor. We also celebrated the Chinese new year together.

In the final week, we had our last competition of the Supply Chain Game, where you got the chance to plan for the complete supply chain process from manufacturing until distribution to the customers. We also had great sessions about the main strengths of your personality and interview preparation. We got the chance to visit Dell and learned about their supply chain process. The most exciting event was the research Expo, where all students presented their thesis projects to industry leaders and faculty from MIT. My thesis had won the best poster presentation.



**Main Points:**

- Friendship and network with other students.
- More knowledge (Python, Llama soft), experience (Industry visit, SCALE CONNECT speakers), and I got the chance to know my strengths from the soft skills workshops.
- Presenting our project and getting feedback as well as advice from the faculty and industry leaders.

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