

Anupama Mridul

Program- Masters of Science in Supply Chain Management

Malaysia Institute for Supply Chain Innovation

My IAP Experience at Massachusetts institute of Technology

The 3 weeks program at MIT was a lifetime experience. The IAP being an integral part of the course is a like a 'jewel in the crown'. So it had been , standing in front of the MIT Great Dome, with our chins up , pride hovering in our chest and eyes filled with excitement and enthusiasm for a group photograph , it was one of the most thrilling feel to be felt as a part of the great Institute.

The program started with lot of activities, there were students from around the MIT Global Scale network –MIT SCM, ZLOC Spain, Luxemburg, Ningbo China, GCLOG Latin America and us MISI Malaysia. We met the MIT faculty from whom I had learned through online courses in Micromasters and they had inspired me to pursue this course.

We were divided into various groups for different activities , the organiser had made sure that each one of us were in groups with other centre students making sure to keep in line with the essence of IAP (interact and network globally).

Almost every day we had a renowned speaker series from across the globe, enriching us with their experiences and knowledge on practical aspects of managing supply chains and where the future is heading in supply chain field. One of the speaker series I really enjoyed was by Joseph F Coughlin from MIT Age Lab, where he talked about who are the future consumers and where are the future scope of innovations. I also enjoyed Mr. Sanjay Sharma VP, Open Learning & Prof Yossi Sheffi.

We also had no of series on Leadership workshop where we learnt about various approaches required to convince various kinds of audience on our ideas and issues. This was a very enriching workshop as we actually did some roleplays, presentations and videos. I learnt the VELD (Vision, Emotion, Logic & Detail) approach. I also understood how important are 'Human faces and figures' to get the audience connected during presentation and various tactics to get things done when we enter fresh into a company with little power.

Along with above we were also grouped in teams to play a Supply Chain Simulation game, 'Fresh Connection' where 4 members of the group had to role play as VP of one department in an organisation and together make decisions to get our company from negative ROI to profitability.

APICS Shark Tank contest was another challenge where as a team we had to present an idea with complete cost model and profitability that would help solve some current Supply Chain issues. Our team presented the concept of 'Share Box' , a supply chain model for reverse logistics of packages that can be reused no of times by ecommerce company in order to minimise package waste.

With all the above we had some interesting Industry Tours at Walgreens Distribution Centre and Boston Scientific. There we saw real supply chain in action to meet customer demands and company's profitability.

Juggling between so many activities I also learnt Python and took some short courses on Future of Retail and Block Chain. The short courses were very basic, and the content could have been more elaborative and interactive, keeping in mind that we were already supply chain students and had basic knowledge.

The program closed with Research Expo, where we got a chance to showcase our research thesis to other supply chain students, faculty and industry people. I showcased my thesis on 'Reduce Lead

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Time and Improve On Time Delivery' , where we are developing a supply chain model to help our sponsor company improve on time delivery to its customers.

There were lot of great experiences for me , but 3 of the most memorable ones were some of the IAP speaker series, Leadership Workshops and Research Expo.

Amidst all the parallel activities going on along with heavy snow and cold breeze at Boston, I also found time to explore Boston and nearby places like Salem & New Hampshire, made few great friends and enjoyed the American culture.

