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IAP Experience

Learning at MIT was one of the greatest moment in my life. 200 students over 48 countries joined kick-off ceremony at Room 32-123 on January 8th 2018 with Scale Network Faculty members conducted by Prof Bruce Arntzen. They came from 6 different programs, SCM, LSCM, GCLOG, ZLOG, 3C and MSCM. It's so amazing that students of different location, race, culture, religion, educational background and work experience were teaming up together to discuss supply chain matters intensively at Cambridge. There would be no place like this in terms of diversity and scalability.

In Leadership workshop, I was so inspired by VELD concept. VELD is the abbreviation of Vision, Emotion, Leadership and Description. It's said that people having technical background tend to convince others by explaining logically. But in real world where many people from different background live together, vision and emotion would be a critical factor to convince others. Decision for releasing injured honorable baseball player is a good example. Fans would never be convinced by just explaining monetary benefit. Rather than that, they may need team vision and emotional incentive to release him. Although my result for VELD analysis was not so much unbalanced, I often tend to convince my colleagues by numbers and logical approach. Looking back now, they would pretend to be convicted because I was a boss and actually the project did not go well. VELD concept made me aware that I needed to change way of communication. At the end of the class, Prof Bruce introduced us to Mr. TE Lawrence as a symbolic icon for make-change-happen, saying "You still have: no authority, no budget, no acquaintances, but you now know tools".

I had played Fresh connection at MicroMaster session about a year ago but this was a first time to collaborate with team members from ZLC and GCLOG. Unlike previous challenge, there were lots of discussions and negotiations inside team members. My supply chain role is to manage safety stock, lot size, freezing period, warehouse location. The roles of purchase, sales and operation have other different parameters which would dynamically linked with those of other roles. Although our team took assumption and try-and-error approach, we could not get profitable number for 6 rounds. First two rounds, our team missed the balance between plant capacity and customer's demand. The key take away of this class was that collaboration and sharing the information for each role were critical element to run the business.

There were 10 speaker sessions in total. The sessions I really enjoyed were innovation by Dr. Yossi of MIT and data science by Mr. Holger of Adidas. Dr. Yossi explained that how Nokia management could

not make a decision to compete iPhone and the difference between sustaining innovation and disruptive innovation. Disruptive innovation would be cheaper, easier to use and underperform the established solution but NPV would be greater than the established solution in the long run. It's very challenging for a management to change corporate strategies for disruptive innovation. Mr. Holger gave us some insight about data scientist role. I did not know data scientist is one of the sexiest job of the 21st Century according to Harvard Business Review in 2012. The importance of data scientist and data translator who supports data scientist has been increasing more and more.

Tours for Walgreens distribution center and Locus Robotics gave me opportunities to see real business operation for logistics and venture company. Warehouse operations such as de-trashing, put-away, picking, packing and shipping were automated and integrated. They said the implementation of IoT was still in the discussion due to security issue. I realized again the importance of security when it comes to IT infrastructure. The future of warehouse automation was ambitiously described by chief marketing officer of Locus Robotics. The concept of Locus Robotic and Amazon Kiva was totally different in terms of business operation. Locus robot is more like humanoid moving toward the target bin location for picking, whereas Amazon Kiva is huge computerized system with frame structure. I'm very interested which concept will dominate future warehouse solution.

After IAP, my network expanded dramatically to the world. I am so excited that students joining IAP in 2018 will start working as a SCM professional and collaborating together to make change happen, and hopefully some of them will change our world by disruptive innovation.